

Te Tiriti o Waitangi: Foundation position statement



mas
foundation

Section 01

Our Intent

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā kārangatanga. Tēnā koutou katoa.

MAS Foundation will actively and honourably implement Te Tiriti o Waitangi, through its role, scope, and function, as a responsible ‘citizen’ of Aotearoa New Zealand.

The MAS Foundation recognises that Te Tiriti o Waitangi is a founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand. We also recognize that as a responsible ‘citizen’ of Aotearoa New Zealand, we have many obligations opportunities to implement Te Tiriti actively and honourably through our role, scope, and function.

Te Tiriti is interpreted via its Articles and the Principles. We agree that the Articles and Principles support meeting tangata whenua rights and needs.

Section 02

Articles

Te Tiriti o Waitangi has three Articles and the Ritenga Māori Declaration. These articles and the declaration underpin our obligations and opportunities.

Article 1: Kāwanatanga

This article reflects tangata whenua’s agreement to enable tangata Te Tiriti to govern in Aotearoa New Zealand. In return, there was a promise to protect Māori culture and to enable Māori to live as Māori in Aotearoa, Aotearoa New Zealand. This article can be practised through kaitiakitanga (stewardship) of systems¹ and practicing governance in honourable and Rangatira-to-Rangatira ways.

The Foundation, as a responsible ‘citizen’ of Aotearoa, can play a role as a kaitiaki of its philanthropy system and ensure positive impact for tangata whenua, and all New Zealanders. The Foundation accepts this responsibility and opportunity.

Article II: Tino Rangatiratanga

This article recognises the importance of tangata whenua authority and autonomy. This article can be practised through supporting Māori to exercise authority over their self-determined wellbeing. The Foundation can make sure it supports tangata whenua mana motuhake and tino rangatiratanga through its investment role and partnering approach. The Foundation accepts this responsibility and opportunity.

Article III: Ōritetanga

This article requires equitable outcomes for tangata whenua. This article can be practised by ensuring that roles and functions prioritise achieving equity of access, experience, and outcomes for tangata whenua. The Foundation can make sure it prioritises equity in its investment approach. The Foundation accepts this responsibility and opportunity.

¹ Ministry of Health (2020) Whakamaua Māori Health Action Plan 2020-2025. Ministry of Health: Wellington.

Section 03

Ritenga Māori Declaration: Wairuatanga

This declaration (sometimes referred to as the fourth article) upholds the importance of tangata whenua belief systems, worldviews, and values. The Declaration can be practised by supporting Mātauranga Māori. The Foundation can make sure it supports all forms of Māori knowledge as part of its investment approach. The Foundation accepts this responsibility and opportunity.

Principles

The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi have most recently been articulated by the Waitangi Tribunal². These principles are contextualised with respect to the health and disability system. However, the principles are applicable to other systems.

The principles are:

- **Tino rangatiratanga:** The guarantee of tino rangatiratanga, which provides for Māori self-determination and mana motuhake in the design, delivery, and monitoring of health and disability services. The Foundation prioritises funding initiatives and programmes that support Māori-led and genuine partnership approaches with tangata whenua.
- **Equity:** The principle of equity, which requires the Crown to commit to achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori. The Foundation prioritises kaupapa that seeks to address persistent inequities experienced by Māori whānau, hapū and iwi.

- **Active protection:** The principle of active protection, which requires the Crown to act, to the fullest extent practicable, to achieve equitable health outcomes for Māori. This includes ensuring that it, its agents, and its Treaty partner are well informed on the extent, and nature, of both Māori health outcomes and efforts to achieve Māori health equity. The Foundation prioritises kaupapa aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Māori whānau, hapū and iwi.

- **Options:** The principle of options, requires the Crown to provide for and properly resource kaupapa Māori health and disability services. Furthermore, the Crown is obliged to ensure that all health and disability services are provided in a culturally safe way that recognises and supports the expression of hauora Māori models of care. The Foundation supports the premise that all health and disability services are provided in a culturally safe way that recognises and supports the expression of hauora Māori models of care.

- **Partnership:** The principle of partnership requires the Crown and Māori to work in partnership in the governance, design, delivery, and monitoring of health and disability services. Māori must be co-designers, with the Crown, of the primary health system for Māori. The Foundation supports the premise that Māori are co-designers of the systems that impact on Māori wellbeing.

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²Wai 2575 Claim:

<https://waitangitribunal.govt.nz/inquiries/kaupapa-inquiries/health-services-and-outcomes-inquiry/>.

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