



whānau āwhina  
plunket

18 December 2024  
Justice Committee  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

## Submission on the Treaty Principles Bill

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on this important issue. Whānau Āwhina Plunket does not support the Bill and recommends it does not progress to a second reading.

At Whānau Āwhina Plunket we have walked alongside families for 117 years and are privileged to support whānau in their homes, in their community, and through our PlunketLine service. Te Tiriti o Waitangi underpins our commitment as a treaty partner to tāngata whenua; and more so to the health and wellbeing of our pēpi, tamariki and their whānau.

We know from our data that whānau Māori experience inequitable access to health services and inequitable health outcomes and that this includes during the first 2000 days. Whānau Āwhina Plunket are committed to the ongoing adaptation of our services to address this inequity. Kaupapa Māori interventions informed through mātauranga Māori are woven throughout our work and are essential for building and maintaining mutually respectful relationships with whānau. The proposed bill undermines the work Whānau Āwhina Plunket has undertaken to be a good treaty partner and deliver equitable outcomes for pēpi, tamariki and their whānau.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand and Whānau Āwhina Plunket treats it with the upmost respect and care. However, the Regulatory Impact Statement ('RIS') highlights significant concerns with the proposed Treaty Principles Bill ('the Bill'), including that the proposed Bill does not accurately reflect Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We share these and other concerns with the Bill which are acknowledged in the RIS, including damaging Māori-Crown relationships and limitations of the process in terms of a constrained scope of options, short timeframes and inadequate consultation processes, most notably with Māori.

The lack of consultation with hāpu and iwi regarding a Bill that primarily impacts Māori, undermines the existing principles of The Treaty of Waitangi. Any proposed legislative framework regarding te Tiriti must have adequate consultation with Māori. Partnership requires meaningful engagement and consultation, and we are concerned that this has not happened in the case of this Bill. Without genuine consultation, the principle of partnership has not been upheld, and the Bill lacks integrity.

Furthermore, the RIS refers to the urgent Waitangi Tribunal report on the Treaty Principles Bill, noting *"It found that the Treaty Principles Bill policy is unfair, discriminatory, and inconsistent with the principles of the Treaty and contrary to the article 2 guarantee of Tino Rangatiratanga. It also found that it will be significantly prejudicial to Māori."*

We want all tamariki in Aotearoa New Zealand to get the best start and we strive to be a strong Te Tiriti o Waitangi partner working with Māori to achieve Māori aspirations. Whānau Āwhina Plunket does not support the Bill and recommends it does not progress to a second reading.

*He huanui oranga mo ngā mokopuna whakatipuranga roto i ngā hāpori heke iho, heke iho.  
Setting the path of wellness in our communities for the early years, for generations to come.*

Ngā mihi  
Fiona Kingsford  
Manahautū, Chief Executive  
Whānau Āwhina Plunket

