



Te Whare Tohu Tapuhi O Aotearoa - College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc

Position Statement – Treaty Principles Bill November 2024

Te Whare Tohu Tapuhi -The College of Nurses Aotearoa is vehemently opposed to the *Treaty Principles Bill* generated by libertarian Act Party Leader David Seymour, currently going through the parliamentary process. The bill proposes to define and clarify how the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi are interpreted and applied in laws and decision-making. The bill's author would argue that it is about making all New Zealanders equal under the law, however, this intent is a thin veil for garnering further political support.

First and foremost, this divisive and unilateral action has been generated by the coalition government without consulting Māori. Secondly, it is dishonourable to the ancestors who signed Te Tiriti o Waitangi and who committed to a constitutional monarchy, who's right to govern rests on its obligation to recognise and protect the tino rangatiratanga of iwi and hapū.

The bill has subsequently embarked on an unrepentant, time and resource-wasting six month select committee process. The coalition government's 'deal' to pass the bill at first reading (although not the second) has activated tangata whenua and tangata tiriti nationwide and has ignited (inter)national conversation about affirming the place of the Treaty in our constitutional arrangements. A conversation that Te Whare Tohu Tapuhi - The College of Nurses Aotearoa is open to contributing towards.

As a professional organisation of nurses in Aotearoa, Te Whare Tohu Tapuhi -The College of Nurses Aotearoa remains committed to supporting the original meaning and intent of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The principles that we maintain as relevant to our work are premised on the most recent Waitangi Tribunal Claim – Wai 2575: the Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry. They are:

Tino Rangatiratanga: The principle of self-determination - providing for Māori self-determination and mana motuhake.

Pātuitanga: The principle of partnership - working together with each other in a strong and enduring relationship.

Mana Taurite: The principle of equity – a commitment to achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori.

Whakamarumarutia: The principle of active protection – being well informed on the extent, and nature, of both Māori health outcomes and efforts to achieve Māori health equity through the promotion of culturally safe nursing practices.

Kōwhiringa: The principle of options –ensuring that all College work on behalf of the nursing profession is provided in a culturally appropriate way that recognises and supports expressions of te ao Māori.

Te Whare Tohu Tapuhi - The College of Nurses Aotearoa will continue to uphold our responsibility to work with iwi and Māori and to give effect to and realise the promise of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. This is reflected in our enduring co-governance approach with an Aronuku (Māori caucus) and Arorangi (Pākehā caucus).