

CROWN/MĀORI RELATIONS HUI NOTES

Date of hui:	22 April 2018
Venue:	Omāhu Marae
Attendees:	Approx. 130 hui participants. Hon Kelvin Davis, Minister for Crown/Māori Relations Deborah Mahuta-Coyle, Senior Ministerial Advisor to Hon Davis Te Rau Kupenga, Crown Facilitator Officials from: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• the Crown/Māori Relations Roopu, Te Tāhū o te Ture / Ministry of Justice;• Te Puni Kōkiri.

These notes provide a broad overview of the key points raised by participants and do not represent minutes of the hui. The headings used in this note correlate with the information contained in the pamphlet *Te Ara Whakamua ā tātou – Crown/Māori relations* (which can be found at <https://www.justice.govt.nz/maori-land-treaty/crown-maori-relations/initial-proposals-from-government/>).

Main issues and opportunities raised

- *Poverty* – Several speakers noted that generally people within the region are poor, many homeless and suffering with no money or food. The creation of jobs and strengthening education efforts is vital.
- *State Care* – A few speakers indicated that agencies such as the Police needed to put in procedures to ensure that rangatahi are safe when in their care. Two specific cases involving a son passing away in Police care and a grandson being shot by Police were noted. A few speakers suggested that the Crown should provide Māori liaison officers to manage relationships with whanau in state care based agencies to help manage stress and ease trauma.
- *Treaty Settlements* – a number of speakers indicated that the natural large grouping requirement creates division between iwi and hapū. One speaker indicated that the Treaty settlement process is a divorce from the Crown which enables tino rangatiratanga. Serious concerns about the Treaty settlement process for Heretaunga were raised by hui participants. A couple of speakers requested that the process be stopped, Minister Little establish a new regime and re-engage with iwi and hapū. A couple of speakers noted concerns about the ability of entities to manage settlement money and opportunities to support building capability in this area.
- *Institutional Racism & Bureaucracy* – Several speakers noted the constraints to lift health and wellbeing of Māori is made difficult by the lack of cultural capability and racism within agencies across the spectrum. Institutional racism needs to be called out and dealt with. Several speakers emphasised that agencies are unable to engage with Māori if they lack cultural capability and ability to communicate in te reo Māori.

- *Monitoring of Government Agencies* – A couple of speakers asked for Te Puni Kōkiri’s role of monitoring agencies needs to be re-established and efforts to build cultural capability across the public sector need to be increased to address structural and institutional racism.
- *Constitutional Reform* – A few speakers talked about how Māori rights need to be specifically expressed within New Zealand’s constitution to establish recognition and enhance democratic rights for Māori. Despite being a Treaty partner, one speaker indicated that while Māori make-up 25% of the region’s population - Māori are marginalised within the region. Another speaker indicated that the notion of New Zealand becoming a republic is an insult to Māori and the history of New Zealand.
- *Education* – Many speakers noted that the education system is currently failing Māori. One speaker indicated that by 2030 Māori will make up 30% of NZ’s workforce and 50% by 2050. Most hui participants thought the Crown needed to invest more effort in supporting Māori into the appropriate education in preparation. Several speakers identified that teaching New Zealand history in schools is essential for strengthening New Zealand’s identity, resisting negative stereotypes and eliminating racism. The same speakers also noted that Māori history and language within schools will also assist to keep Māori engaged in education and support rangatahi to reclaim their identity and strengthen whānau. A couple of speakers emphasised that Māori medium education currently provides the best education for Māori tamariki but they are not adequately funded and they often make do with dilapidated resources.
- *Local Government* – Many speakers indicated that giving effect to commitments and initiatives in treaty settlements often fails or is diluted when transitioned to local government. The partnership iwi have is with the Crown and shouldn’t be demoted to local government.
- *Economic Development* – Several speakers noted Māori have participated and contributed to the economic growth of New Zealand since 1769 yet this has not been acknowledged or recognised by the Crown.
- *Corrections* – Many speakers considered there needs to be more rehabilitation and anti-recidivism services provided within the communities and these services should be delivered by iwi, hapū and whānau Māori so rehabilitation is occurring within their own communities (ie. for and by Māori). Some speakers noted that increasing capability at the Department of Corrections on how to work with Māori is an option, but better to invest resources in hapū to work with their own whanaunga. A couple of speakers set out concerns about mistreatment of inmates by prison guards. Many speakers indicated that they do not support the Government investing any more money into the building of prisons. Instead they suggested the government allocate the associated funds to iwi/hapū who will keep their people out of prison.
- *Assimilation policies of the government*: Two speakers indicated that the reason Māori are represented in negative statistics is because of government administrations removing Treaty rights by forced assimilation [submitter referred to article titled “21 ways to Take Away Treaty Rights”].
- *Employment* – A couple of speakers indicated that there needs to be less opportunity for immigrants to be brought into New Zealand to fill roles when Māori are needing employment (Transmission Gully machine operators example).

- *Women* – A few speakers supported more equitable representation of Māori women on Government committees.
- *Drug Use* – A couple of speakers noted that the use of drugs is widespread in communities and impacts on employment opportunities. Communities are fighting a war against drugs but need help from government and NGO sectors. Drug rehabilitation centres are swamped, there are not enough centres to deal with the growing epidemic and these centres are not always geographically accessible. Nannies Against P is a local-led network which provides support to nannies and their whānau when they have whanau members on the drug P. They are seeking support for a safe-house. There was a request from one speaker to decriminalise the use of Marijuana because, unlike the use of 'P', Marijuana stays in the system longer and therefore acts as a barrier to accessing employment.

Crown's intent

- *Treaty of Waitangi* – Many speakers said the Treaty provides the basis for the relationship and this provides for self-determination.
- *Partnership* – Some speakers considered that currently there is no equilibrium in the partnership. This needs to be restored. Relationship and engagement needs to be undertaken by officials with appropriate skills and in senior roles (i.e., don't send out the junior staff to talk to us 'kanohi ki te kanohi').
- *Tricameral Arrangement* – A couple of speakers talked about how the Treaty partnership provides a tricameral blueprint – a Tino Rangatiratanga House representing Māori; a Kawanatanga House representing the Government; and a Tikanga House which allows for the two to join.
- *Media* – A few speakers indicated that the Government needs to influence media reports that deliver stories concerning Māori to reduce negative perceptions and compel mainstream media to use more te reo Māori within their broadcasting contracts.

Ngā uara: Values

- *Values* – people are looking for a Government that is repentant, and demonstrates empathy. The values underpinning the Crown/Maori relationship need to reflect this.
- *Tangata Whenua* – some speakers indicated that the Crown needs to acknowledge Māori as tangata whenua (rather than Māori) which provides a more accurate view of rights, interests and partnership.

What's the best way for the Crown and Māori to engage?

- *Engagement* – A number of speakers noted that the relationship with the Government stems from the marae, hapū and iwi who all have their own knowledge bases and is important that the Government engages on critical issues with all these entities.
- *Accessibility* – Some speakers indicated whānau find it difficult accessing and working with Government departments. Agencies need to operate more in communities, leave their offices and go and talk to the people directly.
- *Framing conversations*: Some speakers suggested that the Crown needs to change the language of Māori communities from being 'hard to reach' to reflect that it is the Crown that is hard to reach or difficult to access.

- *Timeframe* – Many speakers recommended that in any engagement process the Crown needs to establish a reasonable timeframe for rectifying issues and reporting back.

Possible Crown/Māori Relations Priorities

- *Statistics, Data and Reporting* – A few speakers suggested that statistics will assist to identify where there are system failures and significant pockets of institutional racism occurring. The Government also needs to establish a tracking and reporting system to reflect how the Government is realising the aspirations of Māori.
- *Treaty Framework* – A couple of speakers proposed that the Crown should regard the Treaty and engagement principles outlined in the Crown/Māori Relations pamphlet as obligations and not principles. Efforts to date have been tokenistic. The Government should refer to the work completed by Matike Mai Aotearoa (Independent Iwi Working Group on Constitutional Transformation) to establish a Treaty framework to guide all government institutions and policy development.
- *Bureaucracy* – Many speakers indicated that nearly all issues in the Crown/Māori relationship can be aligned with systemic agency faults and institutional racism. Efforts need to be focused on addressing this as a matter of priority as it will take some time to change behaviours/attitudes. Government needs to establish a super-agency like the previous Department of Māori Affairs that is responsible for all Māori-based Government led services. A single agency would eliminate duplicity, provide assurance and ease of access for Māori and assist Government to have a better view of successful regional initiatives that could be developed as national responses.
- *Devolution* – A few speakers noted the Government needs to dilute bureaucracy and invest in local communities and solutions. Māori know how to develop effective solutions for Māori and it is a more practical investment. One speaker indicated that Tikanga will never prosper within a colonial infrastructure – success will be achieved if policies are culturally grounded. If the Government is not willing to let go of the controls, things will never change. A recurring theme from the hui was - For the people, of the people, by the people. A couple of speakers noted that Iwi implement initiatives based on actual needs within regions. Government efforts should therefore focus on supporting and strengthening these initiatives to ensure that regional issues are addressed rather than developing non-regional specific policies and programmes. The example of 'Pua Te Atatū' was discussed – an initiative developed by and for Māori with enormous potential to effect change but it was never implemented. This initiative is still applicable today and should be the foundation of any new programme.
- *Racism* – One speaker noted that racism isn't inevitable and is a learned behaviour. Children by ages 8 and 11 mimic racist behaviours and values. There are a number of organisations and existing solutions which can re-programme parents and children to address this. Change can be achieved but it needs to be addressed.
- *Monitoring* – Several speakers suggested a Crown/Māori Relations work programme needs a mandated monitoring role to ensure it is effective and to hold government agencies accountable.

- *Local Government* - Many speakers recommended that Māori need to be regarded as a Treaty partner by local government (which means the law needs to change). To avoid commitments and policies collapsing when they are transitioned to local government the Government needs to monitor the commitments and hold local government accountable. Māori/iwi need to be represented at the council table – not be treated as stakeholders. One speaker noted that there is a collaboration of Māori relationship managers within local government (Te Pae Urungi) which would provide an avenue for the Crown to work with. Many speakers noted that Iwi/Hapū /Māori also need to be better resourced to work alongside local government.
- *Education* – Many speakers indicated that education is a key priority for whānau development as it provides a crucial platform for life success. Racism within the education sector needs to be addressed as a priority. Many speakers also recommended that New Zealand history needs to be compulsory in schools. The lack of Māori history in schools perpetuates racism. Education sector needs to adopt culturally responsive teaching as it enables students to relate to course content in their own cultural context. Iwi need support to publish their own stories and integrate them into schools.
- *Water issues* – Many speakers recommended that focusing on solutions to fix polluted waterways and resolution of the ownership of freshwater is a priority. Some local concerns were raised about the Havelock North water contamination issue, and the proposed chlorination of water.

ACTIONS:

- 9 written submissions received and entered into the submissions database.