

TREATY PRINCIPLES BILL AND EDUCATION resource collection



(26/1/2025). This is a collection of some selected external links related to the Treaty Principles Bill, Education and Māori.

'Whitewashing te Tiriti out of education

['Whitewashing te Tiriti out of education' - Newsroom](#)

Opinion piece by Jessie Moss (19/11/2024)

The Treaty Principles bill is a waste of time, resource and a massive distraction. Meanwhile, the National-led government has already de-funded te reo Māori and demoted and undermined te Tiriti o Waitangi, disabling tamariki and tāngata whenua in the education system. Minister of Education Erica Stanford has started the work of downgrading te Tiriti in the English Medium Curriculum framework, Te Mātaiaho, commonly known as the New Zealand Curriculum. Article 2 of te Tiriti o Waitangi guarantees Māori “the unqualified exercise of their chieftainship over their lands, villages and all their treasures” to which education is central. Since 2007, Te Tiriti o Waitangi has been central to the NZ Curriculum and the Māori medium curriculum, Te Marautanga o Aotearoa.

Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill diminishes Māori rights: NZLS

[Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill diminishes Māori rights: NZLS | NZ Lawyer](#)

New Zealand Law Society (NZLS) (21/1/2025)

The Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill diminishes Māori rights, the NZ Law Society said in a submission. The organisation said there were “strong constitutional, public law, natural justice and process reasons” to halt the progression of the legislation.

Key concerns:

- that the bill’s proposal to unilaterally impose new Treaty principles that differ completely from existing te Tiriti/the Treaty terms or principles; the new principles “appear to be improperly oriented by reference to the three Articles of te Tiriti/the Treaty”.
- restricting the rights of Māori under TTOW, the bill weakens the current Treaty principles’ stability and relative certainty
- general language in the Bill equates “everyone’s” rights with Treaty partners’ rights may drive uncertainty
- the bill creates complexity and uncertainty through the two “sets” of Treaty principles introduced
- the “deficient” process for such a significant bill would drive major constitutional change

Treaty Principles Bill: Seymour's allegations around students taking part in hīkoi 'inflammatory'

[Treaty Principles Bill: Seymour's allegations around students taking part in hīkoi 'inflammatory'](#)

Story by Bill Hickman (Dec 2024)

The leader of the ACT Party said several schools were formally endorsing the hīkoi against his bill, even organising buses to the gathering and allowing some students to miss exams. The Ministry of Education issued guidelines reminding schools and kura they were required to be politically neutral and that school boards determine whether an absence was justified or not. Secondary Principals Council head Kate Gainsford said schools had been bombarded with advice from the ministry, the NZQA and police about the potential for disruption related to the hīkoi. She said much of the information - about safety and how best to manage delays - was useful and timely, but Seymour casting aspersions over schools' neutrality on a political issue was unprecedented.

Devastating cuts to Whakaata Māori and Māori Teacher Training funding

[Devastating cuts to Whakaata Māori and Māori Teacher Training funding - PSA](#)

Public Service Association Te Kaihautū Māori - Janice Panoho. Posted on: 30/09/2024

The Government's decision to cut funding to Māori Television - Whakaata Māori - and Māori Teacher Training is another devastating attack on Māori, says PSA Te Kaihautū Māori Janice Panoho. "This is yet another breach of Article 2 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, which protects our taonga tuku iho, including the language and cultural heritage of Māori," Panoho says...we must oppose this government's agenda to exploit race as a political tool to undermine Te Reo Māori...it is a fact that Māori tamariki and rangatahi thrive in Kaupapa Māori education environments fare better than in mainstream schooling. We need more Māori teachers to inspire our young ones and to reinforce the importance and future of learning Te Reo Māori. Te recent remarks made by Education Minister Erica Stanford, where she claimed that maths achievement take priority over the revitalization of Te Reo Māori, are typical of this government's disregard for our culture. These comments ignore the reality that both academic and cultural success go hand in hand for Māori students...the Government must be held accountable for their actions and their disregard for the commitments of Te Tiriti o Waitangi," Panoho says.

'A step in the wrong direction': Students call upon government to restore te reo Māori teacher training funding

['A step in the wrong direction': Students call upon government to restore te reo Māori teacher training funding | RNZ News](#)

Layla Bailey-MDowell, Māori News Journalist (28/9/2024)

A group of Māori students from Te Kura Kōhine o te Rāwhiti o te Upoko o te Ika/ Wellington East Girls' College penned a "protest letter" calling upon the government to restore funding for te reo Māori teaching training. "Having strong te reo Māori kaiako (teachers) in our school is important to our learning in all subjects, because our te reo Māori- speaking teachers connect with us in a different way. We need people to pass te reo Māori on in every environment," they said.

Minister of Education Erica Stanford previously said there was no evidence that Te Ahu o te Reo directly impacted students and their achievement. Funding for Te Ahu o te Reo, a programme dedicated to supporting teachers in learning te reo Māori, has been cut by \$30 million. Stanford said this money was needed for math workbooks, guidance, and lesson plans for the 2025 school year, and the funds had to be sourced from somewhere.

Information campaign launched to support Treaty Principles Bill

[Information campaign launched to support Treaty Principles Bill - ACT New Zealand](#)

Press Release, David Seymour (7/2/2024)

At Waitangi, the ACT caucus stood up to defend a basic value: that every child growing up in New Zealand deserves the same respect and dignity, including equality before the law. This belief is a core principle or kaupapa for ACT. It's a belief shared by most New Zealanders, including Māori and it's a principle that has the backing of our nation's founding document, with Article Three of Te Tiriti promising the same rights and duties for all New Zealanders. Our belief in unity and equal rights underpins the Treaty Principles Bill. This law will unwind the divisive modern 'partnership' interpretation of the Treaty and restore its meaning to what was actually written and signed in 1840. Today ACT is launching a campaign to give Kiwis the facts on the Treaty Principles Bill.