

CHRISTCHURCH HEART INSTITUTE/ RANGAHAU MANAWA O ŌTAUTAHI



COMMITMENT TO TE TIRITI AND THE UNITED NATIONS DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES.

Date	April 2021.
Last Updated	13 May 2021
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Status	LIVING
Approval	CHI Steering Group 17 May 2021

The purpose of this document is to formalise as an internal and public document that CHI as an organisation and its staff are committed to upholding the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and UNDRIP by engaging with and for Iwi and Māori.

What is the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) 2007

UNDRIP is a comprehensive international human rights document on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, consisting of 46 articles. It covers a broad range of rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination, culture and identity, and rights to education, economic development, religious customs, health and language.

The Declaration aims to “enhance harmonious and cooperative relations between the State and Indigenous Peoples, based on principles of justice, democracy, respect for human rights, non-discrimination and good faith”.

In 2010 New Zealand officially endorsed UNDRIP and now the government has committed significant resources to implementing it in New Zealand.

What is Te Tiriti o Waitangi/The Treaty of Waitangi

The Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 and was an agreement between the British Crown and a large number of Māori chiefs. Today the Treaty is widely accepted to be a constitutional document that establishes and guides the relationship between the Crown in New Zealand (embodied by our government) and Māori. The Treaty promised to protect Māori culture and to enable Māori to continue to live in New Zealand as Māori. At the same time, the Treaty gave the Crown the right to govern New Zealand and to represent the interests of all New Zealanders ¹.

There are two different versions of the Treaty of Waitangi. The English text which was signed by representatives of Her Majesty the Queen of England and a Māori language text called Te Tiriti which was debated by many Māori chiefs who later signed the agreement. There is also an official translation into English language of Te Tiriti by Professor Sir Hugh Kawharu which the Waitangi Tribunal recognise in addition to the Māori text of Te Tiriti.

¹ <https://www.justice.govt.nz/about/learn-about-the-justice-system/how-the-justice-system-works/the-basis-for-all-law/treaty-of-waitangi/>

Our Commitment to Te Tiriti

Christchurch Heart Institute/Rangahau Manawa o Ōtautahi expresses its commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti, the founding document of Aotearoa New Zealand. We acknowledge that Te Tiriti must be the foundation for our relationships with Māori and Iwi in the way we engage with our research, operate and govern.

Te Tiriti is the agreement which opened the door to and acknowledged tūrangawaewae, a place where one has rights of residence and belonging, for the first immigrants who represented the British Crown, and all those that followed. People from all cultural groups are included as Te Tiriti partners with Māori and, as such, all New Zealanders have a role upholding the rights and privileges of Māori as tangata whenua of Aotearoa.

To realise the promises of Te Tiriti, our relationship with Māori will continue to evolve. As an organisation we are committed to self-reflection, and how we can improve our understanding and commitment to Te Tiriti. This approach and commitment enriches our organisation.

Incorporating Te Tiriti into our everyday work will include:

- improving our understanding of Te Tiriti and what it means to all CHI
- learning more te reo Māori and using it when speaking and writing
- normalisation of tikanga Māori within the CHI
- identifying new ways to partner with Māori Peoples, hapū, rūnanga, Iwi and organisations within our individual roles

The principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, as articulated by the Courts and the Waitangi Tribunal, provide the framework for how we will meet our obligations under Te Tiriti in our day-to-day work.

We honour our Te Tiriti Statement through the principles of:

Tino rangatiratanga: CHI is committed to the guarantee of tino rangatiratanga, which provides for Māori self-determination and mana motuhake in the design, delivery, and monitoring of health services and research.

Partnership: CHI is committed to achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori by engaging with Māori in heart related research. We will through joint engagement, agree on a partnership approach and kaupapa that mutually benefit the partnership, to improve the wellbeing of Māori and all New Zealanders. We will ensure health services and research are provided in a culturally appropriate way that recognises and supports the expression of hauora Māori models of care.

We are committed to partnership with Māori and the protection of Māori culture and taonga (heart). We value the distinctiveness that Tangata Whenua bring to physical activity and our success on the world stage. We believe a strong bi-cultural foundation is critical to our identity and wellbeing.

Active protection: CHI is committed to the active protection of Māori tikanga, te reo, taonga, and matāuranga Māori. CHI is dedicated to working with and for Māori Peoples and Iwi to protect and nurture Māori taonga (heart health), and to support Māori self-determination through effective and mutually beneficial partnerships. We have committed to ensuring meaningful and genuine consultation and ongoing engagement.

Our Commitment to UNDRIP

CHI is committed to the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007 and that the Treaty and Declaration are strongly aligned and mutually consistent.

CHI honour the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples 2007 through the key themes of:

Self-determination: Through our Te Tiriti principle commitment of Tino Rangatiratanga.

Equality and non-discrimination: Through our Te Tiriti principle commitment of partnerships

Participation, underpinned by free, prior, informed consent: Through upgrading consent forms and providing Māori cultural expertise to Māori participants.

Culture: Through our Te Tiriti principle commitment of Active Protection

Resources: Through our Te Tiriti principle commitment of Tino Rangatiratanga and the well being and addressing equities with Māori in heart health.

Implementing Ōtāgo University Māori Strategic Framework²

Otago University's commitment to Māori development is articulated in the Māori Strategic Framework 2022, which serves as an 'anchor' for staff and students alike. CHI's commitments to the six principles of the Ōtāgo University Māori Strategic Framework are:

1. Te Ārahina – Leadership

Demonstrate strong, accountable leadership which contributes to whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori development.

CHI will do this by nurturing and working with the Kai Rangahau Māori.

2. Te Honohono – Partnership

Continue the ongoing commitment to engage with Iwi and Māori.

CHI will do this by continuing to commit to meaningful relationships with the identified Māori stakeholders in the CHI Māori Engagement Strategy.

3. Te Rangahau Māori – Māori Research

Develop quality research that contributes.

CHI will do this by continuing to understand and develop solutions to combat the health inequities of Māori with heart disease and acknowledge Te Ao Māori and the achievement of Māori development aspirations with Māori health.

4. Te Tipuranga – Growth and Development

Increase the recruitment, access, participation, retention, development and success of Māori staff.

CHI will do this by supporting the new position Kai Rangahau Māori and provide professional experience and scholarships to recent graduate Māori health students.

5. Ngā Whakahaerenga Pai – Quality Programmes

Integrate into existing programmes and develop new quality programmes in Te Ao Māori, te reo Māori and other robust kaupapa Māori options.

CHI will do this via establishing and normalising a high level of cultural safety within all aspects of CHI including patient interactions, genomic testing, and biobanks. CHI will also adopt a culturally safe Karakia for usage within the institute.

6. Ngā Taonga Tuku Iho – Language and Culture

Promote and support te reo me ngā tikanga Māori among staff and students on campus.

The Christchurch campus has weekly te reo Māori lessons that all staff are encouraged to attend. The CHI Steering Group are committed to excellence of cultural safety via its quality programmes.

² <https://www.otago.ac.nz/maori/otago667421.pdf>