

Te Tiriti o Waitangi / the Treaty of Waitangi and Health Promotion

"The **Treaty of Waitangi** has been identified as the founding document of Aotearoa and the key to health promotion in this country. The Treaty is a contract between two nations - Maori and the Crown. Today the Crown is represented by the New Zealand government and various mainstream institutions and organisations (eg. health funding authorities and many mainstream providers). These mainstream organisations are obliged to recognise and act in accordance with the Treaty.

The underlying aspirations of health promotion can be seen in the Treaty of Waitangi. The Treaty was partly developed as a result of concerns over Maori health. It can be seen as assuring the well-being of Maori and non-Maori by recognising the importance of such factors as social and economic aspirations which are actively promoted under the Treaty. The Treaty is, therefore, a key document, which provides a framework for Maori and non-Maori to exercise control over their health and well-being.

A key role health promotion can play is addressing the inequities in health status that have occurred as a result of dishonouring the Treaty in the past. This can be achieved through formal recognition of the Treaty and the application of it within health promotion. This also serves to identify health promotion in the context of, and in a manner relevant to, Aotearoa. Treaty principles and provisions of particular relevance to health are partnership, participation and active protection

- **Partnership** refers to ongoing relationships between the Crown and Maori. A drink-drive programme collaboratively delivered by a Maori and a mainstream organisation would be one example.
- **Participation** emphasises Maori involvement in all aspects of society within Aotearoa. Within health promotion this includes involvement of Maori stakeholders in the planning, delivery and monitoring of programmes that are relevant to Maori.
- **Active Protection** recognises that the Crown needs to be pro-active in health promotion and the development of preventative strategies. This may mean putting in additional resources so that Maori are able to enjoy equitable health status with non-Maori.

Together these three principles have a role in: understanding health and sickness; the development of health policy; and, the delivery of health services and programmes."

From: *Programme Evaluation: An Introductory Guide for Health Promotion* Andrew Waa, Francesca Holibar, Carla Spinola, Alcohol and Public Health Research Unit / Whariki Runanga Wananga Hauora Mete Paekaka, University of Auckland, Auckland, 1998 (in publication)

see also:

[The TUHA-NZ - A Treaty Understanding of Hauora in Aotearoa-New Zealand JANUARY 2000](#)