

Treaty of Waitangi Implementation Guidelines

Kia U Ki Te Pai

*As a mother's milk provides nourishment
Let us embrace all that is good*

The Treaty of Waitangi

The New Zealand Breastfeeding Authority is committed to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and will work with the principles through:

Partnership, by working with whanau, hapu and iwi to develop appropriate policies and procedures that will improve breastfeeding rates and services in New Zealand

Participation, by involving Maori in decision making, planning, development and implementation of the Baby Friendly Community Initiative

Protection, by working in a manner that will protect and preserve Maori traditional breastfeeding practices.

Background

"In its New Zealand Health Strategy, New Zealand Disability Strategy and Maori Health Strategy, the Royal Commission on Social Policy has identified three principles derived from the Treaty and relevant to Maori health. The Principles are Partnership (working with Maori communities at all levels to develop strategies for the community's health care), Participation (involving Maori at all levels of the planning and delivery of healthcare services, and Protection (working to ensure that Maori have at least the same level of health as non-Maori, and safe guarding Maori cultural concepts, values and practices)" (Medical Council of New Zealand, 2006).

The Treaty of Waitangi principles of protection, participation and partnership are an integral part of BFHI in Aotearoa New Zealand therefore all community services working towards BFCI accreditation must demonstrate standards of practice that indicate compliance to these principles.

Protection

Improving breastfeeding rates for Maori by respecting Maori cultural concepts and values.

- The breastfeeding policy incorporates the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- The breastfeeding policy (or abridged version) is available in Maori
- The Maori translation of the breastfeeding policy (or abridged version) is displayed in areas utilised by pregnant and breastfeeding women
- 80% of level 3 staff have completed education on breastfeeding for Maori women which incorporates the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi
- Ongoing education is in place in relation to breastfeeding for Maori women
- Staff have access to kaumatua support or culturally appropriate support if required

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Partnership

Involving iwi and Maori communities in all aspects of service provision to improve outcomes for Maori accessing the service:

- Maori have been involved in the development of the breastfeeding policy
- Consultation on the breastfeeding policy has been undertaken with Maori (refer to consultation guidelines)
- Relationships are developed with Maori health providers, community services and community organisations e.g Tamariki Ora providers, Maori Women's Welfare League.
- Appropriate referral systems are in place

Participation

Increasing Maori participation in decision making and encouraging active participation in the service:

- Maori have the opportunity to participate in service review, development and evaluation
- Whanau are actively encouraged to support the pregnant and breastfeeding mothers within the service

References

- Ministry of Health, 2002. *He Korowai Oranga: Maori Health Strategy*. Ministry of Health, Wellington
- Royal Commission on Social Policy, (1988). *The April Report, II*, Royal Commission on Social Policy, Wellington.
- Medical Council of New Zealand, 2006. *Best Health Outcomes for Maori: Practice Implications*. Mauri Ora Associates. Auckland.
- Durie, M. 2003. *Whaiora: Maori Health Development*. Oxford University Press. New York.



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Key Requirements for BFCI & Treaty of Waitangi Compliance

1. The Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi or protection, partnership and participation are included in the Breastfeeding Policy and are clearly identifiable.
2. Education records indicate that **80%** of all **Level 3 workers** have completed Breastfeeding for Maori Women, which incorporates the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.
3. Maori representation is recognized on advisory / consultation groups of the service.
4. Relationships exist between the service and relevant community based Maori Health Providers and community organisations, e.g. Maori Womens Welfare League.
5. Processes are in place for Maori to participate in the service review, development and evaluation
6. Whanau are recognised as an integral part of the care of pregnant and breastfeeding mothers within the service.
7. Access to Kaumatua support, a Maori Health worker or other culturally appropriate support is available, if required.
8. The Breastfeeding Policy or an abridged version is available in Maori.
9. A Maori translation of the Policy is on display.
10. As part of the education program, staff are able to report an understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi and the considerations they need to be aware of when caring for Maori women and their whanau.
11. The service fosters an environment that is both culturally appropriate and supportive.

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Documentation required for Treaty of Waitangi Compliance prior to Assessment

1. A copy of the Breastfeeding Policy (Refer Point One).
2. Education records verifying that 80% of all **Level 3 workers** have completed the Breastfeeding for Maori Women education program (Refer Point Two).
3. Evidence of consultation with Maori Health providers / community groups (Refer Point One).