



Tena Koutou Katoa

New Zealand Breastfeeding Alliance is updating their advice to services on being responsive to Māori with a focus on reducing inequities.

NZBA acknowledge work undertaken in the Waitangi Tribunal Claim 2575 and the recommendations outlined in the document “Hauora: Report on Stage One of the Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa Inquiry” (2019). Whilst the focus in this claim was on primary care the recommendations can be applied across the whole health system including maternity facilities.

Our obligations under the Treaty of Waitangi require all health providers to ensure that Māori health inequities are addressed and remain at the forefront of planning and delivery of care.

The claim found that the “3 P’s” of the Treaty of Waitangi (participation, protection and partnership) were being inadequately applied in the health sector and are now needing to be updated.

With the knowledge that there will be changes lying ahead in health sector policy and strategy in light of the Wai 2575 findings we encourage services to work towards making alternations in their breastfeeding polices to also include Te Tiriti O Waitangi, its articles and principles. It is expected this will happen by 2022.

As an example, the Ministry of Health have outlined Te Tiriti O Waitangi and its articles below.

“The text of Te Tiriti, including the preamble and the three articles, along with the Ritenga Māori declaration,¹ are the enduring foundation of our approach. Based on these foundations, we will strive to achieve the following four goals, each expressed in terms of mana.²

- **Mana whakahaere:** effective and appropriate stewardship or kaitiakitanga over the health and disability system. This goes beyond the management of assets or resources.
- **Mana motuhake:** enabling the right for Māori to be Māori (Māori self-determination), to exercise their authority over their lives, and to live on Māori terms and according to Māori philosophies, values and practices, including tikanga Māori.
- **Mana tangata:** achieving equity in health and disability outcomes for Māori across the life course and contributing to Māori wellness.
- **Mana Māori:** enabling ritenga Māori (Māori customary rituals), which are framed by te ao Māori (the Māori world), enacted through tikanga Māori (Māori philosophy and customary practices) and encapsulated within mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge).” (MOH, 2020)

There may be variance across DHBs in how this is expressed however seeking guidance internally from DHB Maori Directorate staff regarding any changes to their breastfeeding policy might be helpful for some. This might include keeping records of these emails is good evidence of the work that is undertaken for the purposes of BFHI audit.

Please contact NZBA’s Maori Advisor for further support if required, carmen@nzba.co.nz May 2020

¹ Often referred to as the ‘fourth article’ or the ‘verbal article’.

² Mana is a uniquely Māori concept that is complex and covers multiple dimensions.