

Policy Statement in consideration of the Treaty of Waitangi in carrying out the Board's regulatory functions under the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003.	
Policy Statement	The Board considers that the Treaty of Waitangi ('the Treaty') is an important part of the fabric of New Zealand society and affirms its commitment to implementing the Treaty in ways that are appropriate to the Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act 2003 ('the Act') under section 3 and 118 so far as this is possible within the constraints of the Act.
Purpose and rationale	<p>In 2007 the Minister of Health appointed the Psychotherapists Board of Aotearoa, NZ ('the Board') as a regulatory authority under section 115 of the Act. The principal purpose of an authority under section 3 of the Act is to protect the health and safety of the public by providing for mechanisms to ensure that health practitioners are competent and fit to practise their professions. The Board's functions are defined under section 118 of the Act.</p> <p>The Board notes that the Treaty is not referred to in the Act and thus has prepared a policy statement in respect of the Treaty.</p> <p>The purpose of this policy statement is to outline the Board's position and intentions in consideration of how the Treaty will inform and guide the Board in carrying out its regulatory functions.</p>
Background	<p>In Aotearoa, New Zealand, the Treaty established an agreement pertaining to relationship between Māori and the Crown. Our Government affirms that Māori as tangata whenua hold a unique place in our country and the nature of this relationship has been confirmed through interpretations of the Treaty of Waitangi, which stem from decisions of the Waitangi Tribunal, the Court of Appeal and the Privy Council.</p> <p>It is widely accepted that the basis for respect between the indigenous people (tangata whenua, those who are Māori) and others (those who are not Māori) is set out in the Treaty. Central to the Treaty relationship and implementation of Treaty principles is a common understanding that Māori will have an important role in implementing health strategies for Māori and that the Crown and Māori will relate to each other in good faith with mutual respect, co-operation and trust.</p>
Implementation	<p>In giving effect to this policy the Board will pay due regard to the spirit and intent of the Treaty. The Board will establish a standing committee to develop and monitor the Board's compliance with its policy. The committee will be known as the Treaty of Waitangi Standing Committee (ToWSC).</p> <p>Further, Board members and staff, individually and collectively, will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seek to be informed about the meaning and implications of the Treaty for their work. • Seek advice and guidance on incorporating Treaty principles into their work. • Seek to undertake from time to time, training on Treaty related issues. • Use Sec 118(i) of the Act to ensure that psychotherapists are informed about the competencies needed to work appropriately with Māori. • Recognise and provide for Māori interests when and wherever possible within the parameters of the Act. • Via the accreditation process, ensure that psychotherapists are being adequately prepared to practice competently with Māori clients. • In time, produce written material that provides information and guidelines to inform and educate psychotherapists about issues such as, the Treaty and Māori health in psychotherapeutic practice.
Notes	Te Tiriti o Waitangi is acknowledged as the text that was offered to and signed by the majority of the Māori signatories. However, the Board specifically refers to the Treaty of Waitangi , as the version that is acknowledged in NZ law.

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