

Te Rau o te Tika - Justice System Kaupapa Inquiry

Information for self-represented claimants

This factsheet provides information about support available to help self-represented claimants participating in Te Rau o te Tika, the Waitangi Tribunal's Justice System Kaupapa Inquiry (Wai 3060).

The information in this factsheet has been prepared by Te Kāhui Rau Rikiriki, the team managing the Crown's response to the Inquiry.

You can email us at:

Crown.Wai3060@justice.govt.nz

What is Te Rau o te Tika: the Justice System Kaupapa Inquiry?

A kaupapa inquiry is an inquiry by the Waitangi Tribunal into nationally significant issues affecting Māori, including the justice system. Further information is available here:

<https://waitangitribunal.govt.nz/inquiries/kaupapainquiries/>

Where to find information about what is happening in the Inquiry

The Waitangi Tribunal website includes information about what is happening in its kaupapa inquiry into the justice system:

<https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/inquiries/kaupapa-inquiries/justice-service-kaupapa-inquiry/>

The Ministry of Justice is the lead agency for the Crown's response to the Inquiry. The Ministry of Justice also has information about the justice system kaupapa inquiry on its website. You can read it here:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/justice-system-kaupapa-inquiry/>

Where to get information about the Tribunal's process

Registry staff at the Waitangi Tribunal can help to explain the Tribunal process and how a matter is progressing.

The Registry staff can add you to the Waitangi Tribunal's email distribution lists. This means you will be able to receive copies of the documents the other claimants and the Crown send to the Tribunal. You will also receive the documents and decisions the Tribunal sends out.

You can email the Registrar for the Waitangi Tribunal at WT_Registrar@justice.govt.nz

Where to access legal advice or representation

You may be able to get free legal advice from your nearest Community Law Centre. Further information including the contact details of your local centre can be found at: [Our Law Centres - Community Law](#)

Information about lawyers specialising in Treaty/Māori issues is available on the website for the New Zealand Law Society: [NZLS | Get legal help \(lawsociety.org.nz\)](https://lawsociety.org.nz).

This website is helpful for finding a legal aid lawyer: [Find a legal aid lawyer/provider \(justice.govt.nz\)](https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-sector-policy/justice-system-kaupapa-inquiry/)

How can you access information to help you prepare your evidence?

To help people prepare for the inquiry, we are looking into how information about the justice system can be made easily accessible.

We are at an early stage of this work, and plan to provide the first sets of information towards the end of 2023.

We are working on:

- **gathering formally published reports and publications about the justice system** – such as reports from expert groups, Royal Commissions, and Te Aka Matua o te Ture | the Law Commission. Some of these documents are available only in hard copy. We will give self-represented claimants access to an online platform, so you can access these reports. We will also develop a summary of each report (an annotated bibliography).
- gathering key **advice documents created by relevant government agencies**. These documents include advice to Ministers, Cabinet, and Parliament. This will involve a large number of documents being made available. We are identifying and collating these documents. We will give self-represented claimants access to an online platform, so you can access these documents.
- **how we can provide useful, factual data and statistics by** providing fact sheets or summaries. Please let us know if you have suggestions for specific areas where a fact sheet or data summary would be helpful.

How can you request information about yourself?

To get copies of your personal records, you need to make a request to the agency that holds them.

See the separate factsheet on how to request your personal information from government agencies. It includes contact details for agencies that may be able to give you access to your personal records.

You can access the factsheet here:

[Requesting personal information \(justice.govt.nz\)](https://www.justice.govt.nz/justice-reforms/inquiries/crown-wai-3060/your-personal-information)
