

Treaty Principles Bill Submission Guide

The Treaty Principles Bill is based on a fundamental misinterpretation of te Tiriti o Waitangi and is deliberately misleading. It proposes replacing the current relational approach between the Crown and Māori to meeting te Tiriti responsibilities with a new set of concrete principles developed at the exclusion and expense of Māori.

These principles would change how te Tiriti is interpreted and applied in education.

If we are serious about putting success for mokopuna at the centre of our education system, it is crucial NZEI Te Riu Roa members and allies effectively articulate both our vision of a Te Tiriti-led Aotearoa and our opposition to the Bill. This guide will assist you to crafting a thoughtful submission and contribute to a collective effort for meaningful change.

Making a submission

[Submissions are now open](#) until 11:59pm January 7, 2025.

Written submissions can be made as an individual or a group.

[Register for an NZEI Te Riu Roa submission Zoom](#) Encourage members, colleagues and whānau to attend one of our upcoming submission writing zooms.

It is more powerful for you to create your own submission on the Bill, so we have opted not to create a generic or form submission.

Fill in NZEI Te Riu Roa's [submission completion form](#).

Once you've done your submission, add your name to this form. This tracks how many submissions NZEI Te Riu Roa members have completed.

Written submissions are simple to do and can be made online by uploading a file or answering the [questions in the online form](#)

- I/we wish to make the following comments
- I/we wish to make the following recommendations

Content

You do not need to address every aspect of the bill. Short submissions focussing on your main concern(s) are good. Submissions illustrating risks to education, ākonga, your practice and communities are powerful. Collectively, submissions from educators will give depth and breadth to the impact this bill could have in education and society.

Oral submission

In addition to making a written submission you can ask to make an oral submission to the select committee. This is a powerful opportunity to amplify your message. If you opt for an oral submission, you will be contacted by the select committee about how this will occur. Often this is now online via zoom, or you can ask to attend in person.

In the comments section it is suggested that you include:

Who you are:

- Your whakapapa/background
- Are you writing as an individual or a group? If you are writing as a group, who do you represent and how many of you are there?
- Outline your experience and credentials, your role, and how long you have been involved in education.
- Remember that your submission will be publicly available as part of the submissions process, so do not include any information you do not want to be publicised.

What is at stake:

- What is at stake if the Treaty Principles bill is introduced?
- What would the introduction of the legislation mean to you, ākonga, your community and the public education sector?

In the recommendations section:

Write a succinct new paragraph. Identify what you are asking the select committee to do and explain your reasons for it.

NZEI Te Riu Roa are asking for this bill to be voted down and withdrawn as it is extremely divisive and dangerous.

What else can you do?

Share with your online community. Post on social media why you're submitting against the bill and encourage others. Share what you submitted to support them.

Speak with your school colleagues and wider whānau community. Share your concerns about this bill with colleagues, parents, and whānau of the community and support them to

submit against the Bill. A strong collective view that your community oppose this Bill will be important.

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