Policy resources
summary of policy resources

This section outlines some relevant resources to assist analysts in considering the Treaty implications in their work. The resources include: legislation with Treaty references; Government policy; relevant government publications, organisational expertise, and international conventions.

Legislation with Treaty references

As noted earlier in the section concerning the legal status of the Treaty, there are now over 30 pieces of legislation that refer to the Treaty of Waitangi or its principles. A list of this legislation is provided in Appendix One.

Government policy

In February 2000, the Cabinet agreed to six government goals to guide public sector policy and performance. These include a goal to uphold the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (see Appendix Two).

In 2000, the Government (through the Minister in Charge of Treaty of Waitangi Negotiations) issued a set of six principles it will use to negotiate further settlements of historical Treaty claims. The six principles provide that Treaty settlements will: be negotiated in good faith; contribute to the restoration and development of Treaty relationships; offer just redress; reflect fairness between claims; be transparent; and be government-negotiated (see Appendix Three).

Relevant government publications

Other relevant government publications may also offer useful guidance in complying with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, in addition to this guide. These include: public sector guides, other departmental guides or related reports, and the Cabinet Manual (see Appendix Four).
Organisational expertise

A number of government departments or agencies have key functions in respect of Treaty issues. These are: Te Puni Kōkiri, the Office of Treaty Settlements, the Crown Law Office, the Ministry of Justice, the Treasury, and the Department of Conservation. Judicial and quasi-judicial bodies are: the Waitangi Tribunal, the Māori Land Court and the Environment Court. Other bodies include the Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Race Relations Conciliator, the Law Commission, the Crown Forestry Rental Trust and Te Ohu Kai Moana – the Treaty of Waitangi Fisheries Commission (see Appendix Five).

International instruments

A number of New Zealand’s international commitments impact directly on the Crown-Māori relationship and the interests of Māori. A list of relevant international conventions and regional agreements is provided in Appendix Six.