

25 Pipiri 2025

Merepeka Raukawa-Tait
Board Chair
Te Pou Matakana
9(2)(a)
TAMAKI MAKĀURAU

Tēnā koe Merepeka

Contract for Whānau Ora Services

Today Te Puni Kōkiri observed news media reports about Te Pou Matakana Limited (describing itself simply as “Whānau Ora”) launching the longest advertisement ever made in Aotearoa New Zealand. I understand based on news media reports that the advertisement will urge Māori to enrol on the Māori Electoral Roll.

Te Puni Kōkiri has serious concerns about the information contained in the news media reports. These serious concerns would focus on financial decisions by Te Pou Matakana Limited, and the obligations of Te Pou Matakana Limited under its two contracts with Te Puni Kōkiri. Ultimately all Whānau Ora funding is public funding and as such we are taking these allegations very seriously.

Te Pou Matakana Limited holds two contracts with Te Puni Kōkiri, one for Whānau Ora general commissioning, and one for Ngā Tini Whetu. Te Puni Kōkiri views the proposed advertisement as running counter to the obligations owed by Te Pou Matakana Limited under the contracts in respect of the following (without limiting any other rights and remedies of Te Puni Kōkiri):

- **Conduct obligations.** The advertisement appears to be inconsistent with the obligation of Te Pou Matakana Limited to act in a politically neutral manner, including in certain circumstances in a manner consistent with the obligations under the Standards of Integrity and Conduct for State Servants issued under the Public Service Act 2020.
- **Conflicts of interest.** The advertisement appears to present a conflict of interest between different roles held by officers of Te Pou Matakana Limited. For example, the chief executive officer of Te Pou Matakana Limited is also the president of a political party and, at the very least, the advertisement could create a perception of a conflict of interest between the obligations under the contract with Te Pou Matakana Limited and political party roles.

Accordingly, I seek the following specific information from Te Pou Matakana Limited:

- an explanation as to whether funds received under the two contracts held by Te Puni Kōkiri with Te Pou Matakana Limited were used in any way for the advertisement and, if so, how much money;
- the conflicts of interest register and management plans for directors and senior managers, especially but not limited to how the register and management plan

address conflicts of interest between Te Pou Matakana Limited and roles held with political parties; and

- how, if at all, the directors and senior managers of Te Pou Matakana Limited prepared and implemented conflicts of interest management plans, or managed conflicts of interest, if making payments that led to the advertisement referred to in news media reports today.

I would like to offer Te Pou Matakana Limited the opportunity to provide an explanation of these matters (and any other related matters), respond to the specific questions, and advise whether there is any other information you would like to share that might influence the preliminary view of Te Puni Kōkiri as summarised above. Te Puni Kōkiri will take these responses into account as it considers its next actions.

Given the seriousness of our concerns, I request a response by 1:00 pm on 26 Pipiri | June 2025. I seek your view on these serious concerns in the context of the longstanding relationship between Te Puni Kōkiri and Te Pou Matakana Limited, and the principles of honesty, good faith, and open and timely communication that underpin that relationship, as included in the Outcome Agreements for Whānau Ora commissioning and for Ngā Tini Whetu.

Nāku noa, nā



Grace Smit
Hautū Te Puni Rohe | Deputy Secretary Regions

