

MANA MOKOPUNA CODE OF ETHICS - NGĀ TIKANGA MATATIKA

Putanga poto | At a glance

Kupu whakataka | Preamble

This is summary of our Code of Ethics. It sets out expectations for the behaviour and ethical standards for all kaimahi (staff) and Board of Mana Mokopuna, the Children and Young People's Commission.

We will uphold our Code of Ethics in all our work for Mana Mokopuna, including:

- a) when we visit mokopuna (children and young people) and their whānau, hapū, iwi and others in their communities to learn about their views and priorities;
- b) monitoring places where children and young people are deprived of their liberty and detained in places such as: youth justice and care and protection facilities; and adolescent in-patient mental health facilities;
- c) hearing from the public about their concerns or ideas;
- d) helping mokopuna resolve issues when their rights have not been met.

Our Code of Ethics is designed to help Mana Mokopuna uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Te Tiriti) and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Children's Convention).

We have based the structure of our Code of Ethics to align with the articles of Te Tiriti, and to echo its guidance for the relationship between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti.

Kāwanatanga | Governance (Atikara Tuatahi | Article One)

Mana Mokopuna will show good governance. That means we will comply with all the laws that apply to our work, and the codes and guidelines for government workers.

We will ensure our work follows the guidance of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and other international human rights agreements like the Children's Convention. This includes ensuring our work is informed by the voices of mokopuna, includes mātauranga Māori, and upholds the rights of Māori as tangata whenua.


We will be transparent and accountable, and report on what we do.

We will try to improve all the time, by learning from our efforts to amplify the voices of mokopuna and their communities, and always seek ways to do it better.

Tino rangatiratanga | Self-determination (Atikara Tuarua | Article Two)

Mana Mokopuna acknowledges the mana of all people.

In our actions, we acknowledge and uphold the rangatiratanga of Māori. That means when we meet with Māori, we will respect Māori leadership, mātauranga, te reo Māori, and the authority Māori have over how they identify their whakapapa, their information, views and ideas.



We will partner with people who work or live with mokopuna to ensure mokopuna feel safe and comfortable sharing their views and ideas with us, alongside people they know and trust.

We commit to treating everyone with respect and dignity, also respecting and supporting the relationships mokopuna have within their communities.

Ngā tikanga katoa rite tahi | Rights of all peoples (Atikara Tuatoru | Article Three)

We recognise our duty to make sure everyone, no matter their background, identity, orientation, disability, culture, beliefs, or any other differences, has fair access and the chance to participate and share their views and ideas. Mana Mokopuna will support people to express their unique views and ideas in ways that ensure everyone's rights to their beliefs are respected and protected. We will respect people's cultures, ethnicities, origins, gender expression or sexuality, disabilities, faiths, and religions.

Mana Mokopuna will ensure the safety of mokopuna is our primary concern throughout all our work. We are guided by our Child Protection Policy. We will act to protect the best interests of mokopuna if they need our help.

Mana Mokopuna will ensure we get free, full, informed, prior consent from all people we reach out to for their views and ideas, and those whose ideas we quote in our work. Adults may consent on behalf of young mokopuna as long as the children are involved in decision-making and agree. We will give all the relevant information about how we work with people, including how we may amplify their views and ideas and incorporate their priorities into our advocacy. This is to ensure people can make well-informed decisions about whether to participate and contribute their ideas.


While amplifying the voices of mokopuna and their communities, we will protect people's privacy by making sure no-one can be identified.

While protecting people's privacy, we will also protect the information we hold about them. We will store information securely. We will let people access their own personal information, and make corrections or amendments as they choose, as is supported by the Privacy Act - which is the New Zealand law designed to protect people's privacy.

As we honour people's rights to make decisions about their own personal information, in their own best interests, we recognise people's interests may be shared, e.g., by an iwi, or hapū or other group of people. We acknowledge their collective ownership of the information we collect, such as people's views, opinions and ideas, and their personal identifying information.

Kupu whakatepe | Conclusion

This document is a short version of a longer document. Mana Mokopuna has a full Code of Ethics, based on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the Children's Convention, that explains in more detail how Children's Commissioners and staff will treat people and their information in all our work.



Glossary

These definitions aim to help people with kupu Māori (words in the Māori language) that are not already translated in headings.

mana	The inherent dignity of people from birth prestige, authority, status
mātauranga Māori	Māori ways of knowing indigenous knowledge
rangatiratanga	Right to exercise authority self-determination
tangata Tiriti	People and descendants of those who came to New Zealand after 1840 <i>or</i> Tangata Tiriti refers to everyone who has settled in New Zealand since the first European visit and their descendants
tangata whenua	Indigenous people people of the land
te reo Māori	Māori language
Te Tiriti o Waitangi	Te reo Māori version of The Treaty of Waitangi
whakapapa	Ancestry, kin group, iwi affiliations.