

**6<sup>th</sup> of June 2025**

Private Bag 18888  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

**Subject: Mishandling of Submissions – Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill**

**To the Honourable Andrew Bayly, Chairperson of the Justice Committee,**

On behalf of Hāpai Te Hauora I write to express our deep concern regarding the treatment of the 10,020 public submissions we hand-delivered to Parliament in response to the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Bill.

Hāpai Te Hauora has long supported community engagement in democratic processes. To facilitate public participation in this critical kaupapa, we developed and distributed an accessible submission tool that enabled thousands of individuals, many who often face significant barriers to civic engagement, to have their voices formally heard.

In response to technical failures on the Parliament website, the limited submission period, and public holidays, we printed and hand-delivered 10,020 individual submissions. We are alarmed to learn that these submissions were not treated individually but instead collated into a single entry.

This is unacceptable. It undermines both the integrity of the Select Committee Process and the 10,020 individuals who took the time to engage.

We refer to the Committees own guidance in their report:

*"If the individual contributions were not unique in nature or were more in the nature of what are commonly referred to as "form submissions," the collated submissions were counted as a single submission from the organisation and X number of others (or, on behalf of X others)"*

**We seek urgent clarification on the following:**

- Who made the decision to treat these submissions as a single entry, and on what grounds?
- What specific criteria was used to define a 'form submission' and 'unique in nature'?
- Why were these submissions not uploaded individually to the Parliament website, as is standard?

At no point in our prior correspondence with the Justice Select Committee were we advised that the hand-delivered submissions would be treated as a single entry or withheld from publication on the website. This lack of transparency is concerning and represents a serious failure of process and accountability.

**We therefore call for:**

- Immediate recognition and publication of the 10,020 submissions we delivered as individual entries on the Parliament website.
- An end to the practice of collating submissions without uploading them individually to the Parliament website.
- The full criteria and procedures for how submissions will be assessed, counted, and published must be made publicly available in an accessible format prior to the opening of any select committee process.

Our communities, and we as an organisation, have the right to expect fairness, transparency, and accountability when engaging in matters of national significance.

We look forward to your prompt response.

Ngā mihi,



Jacqui Harema

Chief Executive Officer/Mana Amorangi

Hāpai Te Hauora Tāpui Limited