

18 October 2006

Justice & Electoral Select Committee  
Bowen House  
Parliament Buildings  
**WELLINGTON**

## **SUBMISSION**

To the:           Select Committee  
On the:           **Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi Deletion Bill**  
From:            The Social Service Waikato Trust

Social Services Waikato is a voluntary organisation established in 2001 to work with social service organisations to build their capacity. The mission in our 2006-09 strategic plan is to inform, listen to, work with and support our community in the greater Waikato region to build on their strengths. Our community is the tangata whenua, community and voluntary social services sector.

We facilitate forums and networks among social service organisations and as an umbrella organisation we gather and disseminate information relevant to social services.

Our organisation opposes this Bill and we are aware of widespread concern in our region about this Bill.

We oppose the Bill for the following reasons:

1. We believe that the Treaty of Waitangi is a founding document for our nation.
2. The references to the Treaty are necessary to ensure the partnership between Maori and the Crown is recognised, remembered and acted upon.
3. We believe that if the references to the Treaty were to be removed from our legislation Maori would become even more disadvantaged than they currently are.
4. We believe the references to the Treaty are part of developing a nation that is bi-cultural and gives full recognisance to Maori as partner to the Crown.
5. If the references were to be removed and Maori were to be further disenfranchised our nation would bear the cost of that cultural disenfranchisement and all the problems that go with that.

We would like the opportunity to speak to this submission if there is an opportunity in Hamilton.

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