

The New Zealand Government is currently proposing the introduction of a Therapeutic Products Bill (TPB). As the TPB currently stands, there are issues that could prevent this Bill from having a positive impact on Māori health and wellbeing and could potentially worsen current inequities for Māori. We have gathered feedback from some of our stakeholders, including Rongoā practitioners, whānau, hapū and Iwi on the proposed Bill, which are represented below.

Therapeutic Products Bill & Rongoā Māori

“ Rongoā Māori is not a natural health product or green pharmacy – **Rongoā Māori is a reflection of Māori ways of knowing, doing and being** in the world that improves wellbeing and promotes balance. It is encompassed by **wairua, manaaki** and **mauri** and bound in tikanga and kawa. To impact one aspect is to impact the whole ”

“ **Exemptions with conditions are not exemptions** ”

“ The Crown has **overstepped its rights** with regard to Te Tiriti and fails to re-confirm and acknowledge Māori rights of tino rangatiratanga, Māori values and Māori kaitiaki obligations in this Bill ”

“ This Bill has cherry picked aspects of Rongoā Māori to fit a legislative model and assume control over Māori forms of healing, demonstrating a **total lack of understanding** and disregard for a Māori world view ”

“ Rongoā Māori is a **Taonga Tuku Iho** and protected from exploitation by the Crown under Article 2 of Te Tiriti ”

TPB Potential Impact on Rongoā Māori

“ Prevents Rongoā Māori practitioners and makers of Rongoā preparations from participating in Indigenous to Indigenous trade agreements without meeting Crown imposed requisite market authorisations ”

“ Prohibits Rongoā practitioners and makers of some Rongoā preparations from importing, supplying or exporting some Rongoā preparations in the course of a business or undertaking without the Crown requisite market authorisation ”

“ Imposes penalties on Rongoā practitioners and producers that fail to obtain requisite Crown authorisation to practice their tikanga as they always have done ”

“ Prevents Rongoā practitioners from making therapeutic claims without meeting Crown imposed requisite market authorisations ”

“ Injected substances used in healing are regulated in this Bill and will likely impact the administration of tamoko as a Rongoā ”

“ Rongoā preparations may only contain ingredients and permitted additives that are recognised by the Crown ”

“ Some widespread modes of Rongoā administration will be prohibited ”

“ Prohibits the use and sale of devices in the delivery of Rongoā Māori services without Crown requisite market authorisation ”

What can you do?

Make your views, objections, concerns and potential solutions known to the Health Select Committee by 5 March 2023 here:

https://www.parliament.nz/en/ECommitteeSubmission/53SCHE_SCF_BILL_130084/CreateSubmission

PROTECT RONGOĀ MĀORI

We want the Crown to protect Rongoā. We need the Crown to confirm their Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligation to protect taonga tuku iho and Māori sovereign rights of tino rangatiratanga over taonga tuku iho.

Note: This statement reflects the Bill in its current form. It does not consider or rely on notional promises to address the needs of Māori in future or separate legislation or rules.



For more Rongoā Māori research from Te Ao Rauropi check out www.whakauae.co.nz