



27 February 2024

## **A NEEDED VOICE**

“It is taking away a needed voice in the community!” was Loraine Elliott’s, Vicar for Social Impact and Communication’s response to reports on the government’s decision to dissolve the newly established Māori Health Authority – Te Aka Whai Ora this week.

Vicar Elliott went further to reiterate: *“There should always be a starting point, a means by which to measure. Te Aka Whai Ora was never supposed to be the ultimate healthcare solution and the ‘be all and end all for Māori Health’, but a starting point.*

*By removing [Te Aka Whai Ora] Māori Health Authority, the voices of Tangata Whenua are being silenced from their own healthcare solutions, yet again.”*

The Justice and Peace Commission of the Catholic Diocese of Auckland support Lady Tureiti Moxon, chair of the National Urban Māori Authority, and the head of a Māori primary health organisation, Janice Kuka, who filed an application last December which claimed Māori would be prejudicially affected by the government’s intention to disestablish Te Aka Whai Ora, Māori Health Authority.

Furthermore, the Justice and Peace Commission supports the Waitangi Tribunal’s inquiry into the dissolution of Te Aka Whai Ora. We believe the Tribunal should maintain full jurisdiction throughout this process, and that Tribunal claimants receive adequate timeframes to respond prior to the bill being tabled or passed in Parliament this week.

We make this statement in the spirit of Justice and Peace, and in recognition that Māori culture be respected, that their wisdom be heard, and that they be allowed to follow their own path to development.

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Statement issued on behalf of Bishop Steve’s Justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Diocese of Auckland.

### **Kathleen Ngaronoa Card**

Executive Secretary

Justice and Peace Commission | Te Komihana Rongomau, Paetika

Catholic Diocese of Auckland | Te Taumata o te Hahi Katorika

**References:**

<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/510007/bill-scrapping-maori-health-authority-to-be-tabled-next-week>  
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/507163/urgent-inquiry-granted-into-plans-to-end-maori-health-authority>  
<https://newsroom.co.nz/2024/02/27/the-waitangi-tribunals-losing-battle/>  
<https://www.vaticannews.va/en/pope/news/2023-02/pope-indigenous-peoples-can-help-address-climate-crisis.html#:~:text=He%20therefore%20called%20upon%20governments,to%20say%20a%20great%20injustice%E2%80%9D.>

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**Addendum:** The Justice and Peace Commission, Catholic Diocese of Auckland is aware that the ***Pae Ora (Disestablishment of Māori Health Authority) Amendment Bill 2024*** was introduced under urgency in Parliament last night, and that the first two readings of the bill was passed with support of the three coalition parties. This does not change the Commission’s stance on supporting all Māori entities affected by this disestablishment. The Commission maintains its support for the Waitangi Tribunal inquiry and Tribunal jurisdiction and reiterates its concern over the lack of consultation and timeframe provided to respond during this process.

**References:**

[Pae Ora \(Disestablishment of Māori Health Authority\) Amendment Bill](#)  
<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/510339/bill-to-can-maori-health-authority-passes-first-two-readings-under-urgency>