

12 December 2019

Chief Ombudsman announces advisory group of rangatira

Chief Ombudsman, Peter Boshier, announced today the establishment of a panel of Māori advisers made up of prominent experts and rangatahi leaders.

Peter Boshier says this external advisory panel is a first of its kind for his Office.

“I am delighted that my office has taken this step and that our first external advisory group called Pūhara Mana Tangata, has been formed by representatives of tangata whenua for tangata whenua.”

“Pūhara Mana Tangata conveys our role as a watchtower ensuring fairness for all, particularly Māori.”

The Chief Ombudsman acknowledges the partnership between Māori and the Crown established by the Treaty of Waitangi, and recognises it to be a critical factor in carrying out his work as the independent watchdog for Parliament overseeing and reporting on the actions of New Zealand crown agencies.

The Chief Ombudsman says one example of this work is his enhanced role in overseeing complaints and investigations relating to the Oranga Tamariki system and children and young people in care.

“One of my highest priorities as Chief Ombudsman is to be more responsive to Māori. I have no doubt the Panel’s experience in Māori governance and iwi engagement will help steer our engagement and communications to focus on matters that have the most positive and enduring impact on Māori communities.”

“We know we have work to do to raise our profile so more Māori are aware of our work. I am deeply grateful to the Panel members who have agreed to tautoko this special kaupapa.”

Members of the Maori Advisory Panel to the Chief Ombudsman are:

1. Dame Naida Glavish, Chief Advisor, Tikanga, Waitematā DHB
2. Lady Tureiti Moxon, Chief Executive, Te Kōhao Health
3. Arihia Bennett, Chief Executive, Ngai Tahu
4. Ngahiwi Tomoana, Chair, Ngati Kahungunu
5. Neville Baker, Executive adviser, Iwi and Government
6. Juscinta Grace, Lead/Manager, Statutory Entities, Te Puni Kōkiri
7. Jacob McGregor, Rangatahi Lead, Maihi Karauna/Maihi Māori

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