

Horizon Research

Human rights and Te Tiriti/ Treaty issues

November 2023

Prepared for

Te Kāhui Tika Tangata

Human Rights Commission

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Executive Summary

This report summarises the results of a survey of New Zealand adults’ views and understanding of the Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi, views on current debates, and what information sources they will most trust.

It also finds what is most important for the future of the country when managing Treaty/ Te Tiriti issues.

The research aims to support work to educate, protect human rights and foster understanding of Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The survey was conducted nationwide between 2nd and 7th November 2023. There were 1,076 respondents aged 18+, representing New Zealand’s adult population.

At a 95% confidence level, the survey has a maximum margin of error of ±3% overall.

Summary of findings

What is important for the country?

Overall, when thinking about what is important for the country, people believe that discussion needs to be **respectful, harmonious and decided on an equal footing**.

80% (3,231,000 adults¹) believe that **“Respectful discussion of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and racial issues”** is important².

- **51%** (2,051,000 adults) believe it is *very important*.

70% (2,817,000 adults) believe it is important for **Māori and non-Māori to decide together on an equal footing how The Treaty/ Te Tiriti is honoured**.

- **41%** (1,650,000 adults) believe it is *very important*.

83% believe that a *country where everyone know its history* is important.

- **58%** (2,367,000) believe it is *very important*.

	Respectful discussion of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and racial issues	Harmonious race relations through honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi.	A majority deciding overall how Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.	Only Māori deciding how Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.	Māori and non-Māori deciding together on an equal footing, how Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.	A country where everyone knows its history.
Important	80%	66%	58%	23%	70%	83%
Not important³	11%	19%	22%	53%	16%	9%

Respondents were asked if they agreed or disagreed with a series of statements.

Managing issues that affect Māori

Statement: Overall, Māori should manage issues and be involved in making decisions that affect Māori.

Around half (**49%**) of adults *agree*⁴ with this statement and **25%** (1,013,000 adults) *strongly agree*.

Those more likely to agree with it are in younger age groups, living in Auckland and of Māori and Pasifika ethnicity.

- Under 35 year olds - **64%**

¹ All population numbers based on the Stats NZ June 2023 population estimate of 4,053,860 people aged 18 or more. All population numbers are to the nearest thousand.

² Very important/somewhat important

³ Not very important/not at all important

⁴ Strongly agree/agree

- 35-44 year olds - **59%**
- Living in Auckland - **65%**
- Māori - **67%**
- Pasifika - **74%**.

26% (1,030,000 adults) said they disagreed with the statement.

Those more likely to disagree⁵ are in older age groups.

- 55+ year olds - **32%**
- 45-54 year olds - **37%**.

Respondents' views of The Treaty/Te Tiriti

58% (2,351,000 adults) agreed⁶ *The Treaty/Te Tiriti applies to everyone in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, not just Māori.*

49% (1,994,000) said *The Treaty/Te Tiriti relates to people's human rights in Aotearoa/New Zealand.*

There was less agreement with the statement that ***For the most part, the Treaty or Te Tiriti has been upheld since its signing in 1840*** - **29%** (1,180,000 adults).

35% (1,435,000) agreed and **35%** disagreed⁷ with the statement that ***In signing the Treaty/Te Tiriti, Māori kept rights to sovereignty (exercising authority over their lives, governing themselves, and living on terms according to Māori philosophies, values and practices).***⁸.

	The Treaty/Te Tiriti applies to everyone in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, not just Māori.	For the most part, the Treaty or Te Tiriti has been upheld since its signing in 1840.	In signing the Treaty/Te Tiriti, Māori kept rights to sovereignty	The Treaty/Te Tiriti relates to people's human rights in Aotearoa/New Zealand
Total agree	58%	29%	35%	49%
Total disagree	18%	35%	28%	20%

Respondents were also asked about how Māori and non-Māori should govern together.

46% (1,849,000 adults) agreed that ***the country should move more toward a partnership approach of governing that is equally shared between Māori and non-Māori.***

64% (2,590,000 adults) agreed that ***working together requires more careful listening and understanding and less political rhetoric.***

⁵ Strongly disagree/disagree

⁶ Strongly agree/Somewhat agree

⁷ Somewhat disagree/Strongly disagree

⁸ Full statement: In signing the Treaty/Te Tiriti, Māori kept rights to sovereignty (exercising authority over their lives, governing themselves, and living on terms according to Māori philosophies, values and practices).

51% (2,055,000 adults) *disagreed* with the statement **I don't mind politicians or advocates inflaming race relations when debating how Māori and non-Māori govern together.**

	The country should move more toward a partnership approach of governing that is equally shared between Māori and non-Māori.	Working through how Māori and non-Māori govern together requires more careful listening and understanding and less political rhetoric.	I don't mind politicians or advocates inflaming race relations when debating how Māori and non-Māori govern together.
Total agree	46%	64%	17%
Total disagree	34%	12%	51%

The Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi

36% (1,459,000 New Zealand adults) said they have read the Treaty (English version).

13% (506,000 New Zealand adults) have read Te Tiriti (te reo Māori version).

32% (1,297,000 adults) haven't read any version or summary of the Treaty/ Te Tiriti.

58% (2,343,000 adults) believe they are *informed* about Te Tiriti/the Treaty and the issues being debated about how it should be honoured now. **10%** believe they are *very well informed*.

Trusted sources

The five most trusted sources to provide accurate information about the Treaty/Te Tiriti are:

- The National Library of New Zealand – **45%**
- The Waitangi Tribunal – **36%**
- Books, websites, podcasts, etc that cover New Zealand history – **34%**
- Educational institutions (e.g. schools/universities) – **26%**
- Te Kāhui Tika Tangata Human Rights Commission – **25%**.

The five least trusted sources are:

- Bloggers – **2%**
- Political parties – **4%**
- Social media - **5%**
- News media – **6%**.

Report

1. Who has read the Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi?

Before starting the survey respondents were told:

We'd like your views on ways in which some issues could be managed in our country.

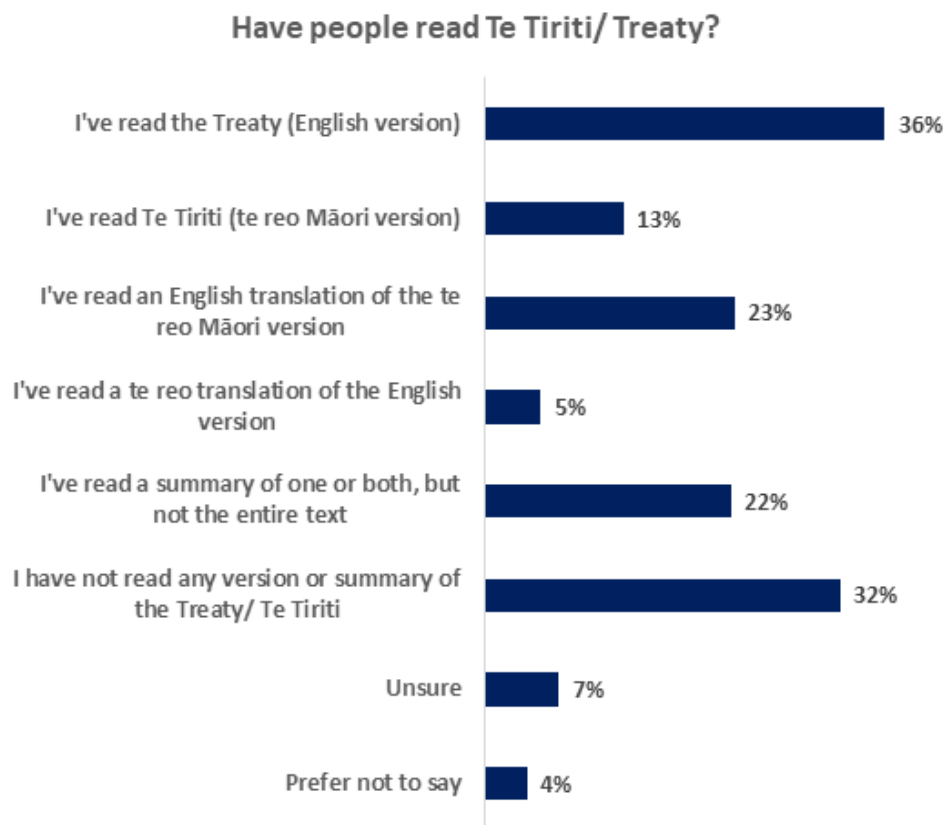
There is currently some debate over the Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi, agreed between Māori and the Crown in 1840.

A version in the English language is referred to as the Treaty; a version in te reo Māori is known as Te Tiriti. There are some differences in the text in each version.

36% (1,459,000 New Zealand adults) said they have read the Treaty (English version).

13% (506,000 New Zealand adults) said they have read Te Tiriti (te reo Māori version).

32% (1,297,000 adults) said they haven't read any version or summary of the Treaty/ Te Tiriti.



Sample: n=1,076

Which of these have you done?	ALL	AGE		
		Under 35	35-54 years	55+ years
I've read the Treaty (English version)	36%	40%	36%	34%
I've read Te Tiriti (te reo Māori version)	13%	20%	11%	8%
I've read an English translation of the te reo Māori version	23%	22%	24%	21%
I've read a te reo translation of the English version	5%	5%	7%	4%
I've read a summary of one or both, but not the entire text	22%	14%	25%	26%
I have not read any version or summary of the Treaty/ Te Tiriti	32%	28%	34%	34%
Unsure	7%	13%	6%	2%
Prefer not to say	4%	6%	2%	4%

N (unweighted)	1,076	310	335	431
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BLUE = significantly higher than total sample RED =significantly lower than total sample

There are differences across groups and who is more likely to have read the Treaty or Te Tiriti. These groups are detailed in the table below⁹.

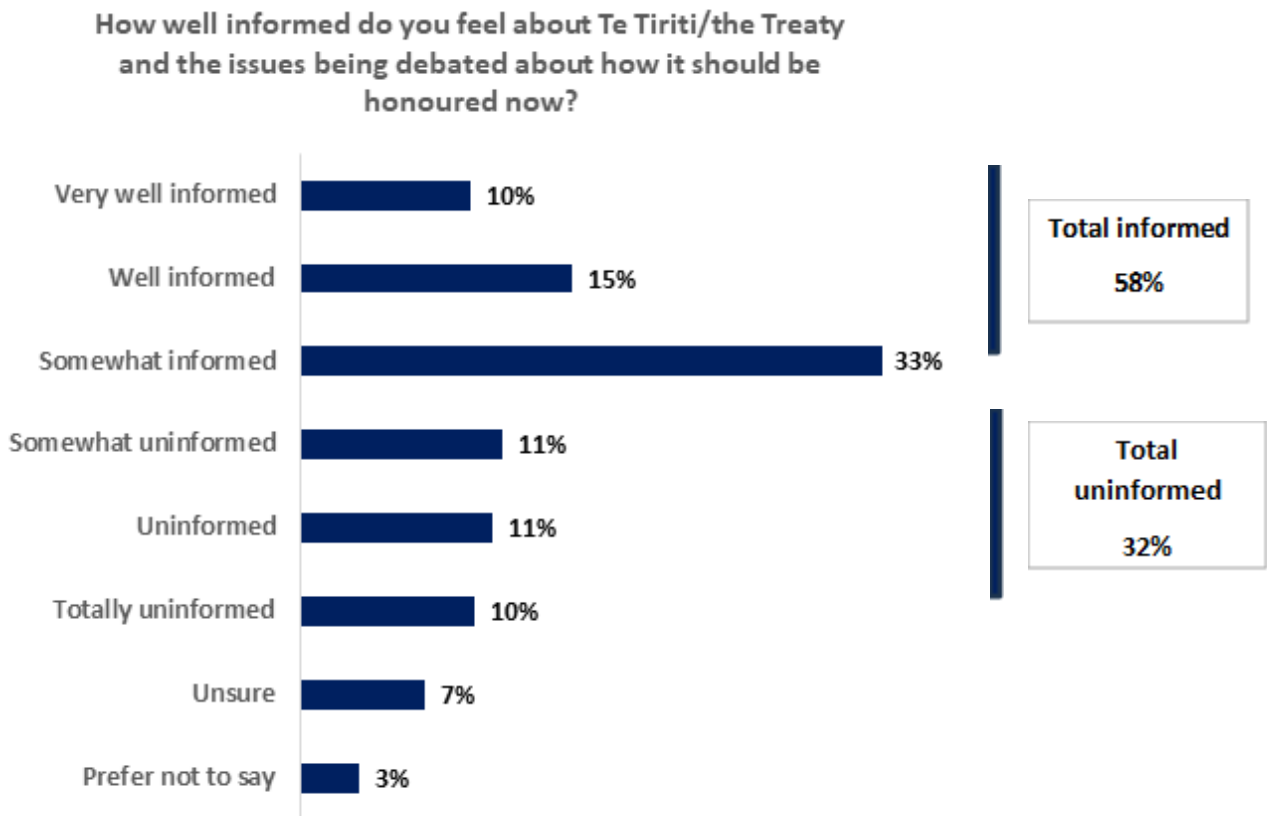
More likely to have read the Treaty (English version) Total 36%		More likely to have read Te Tiriti (te reo Māori version) Total 13%	
Personal income more than \$150k	63%	Has a degree	17%
Has a degree	53%	Professional/Government Official	20%
Professional/Government Official	56%	Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker	24%
Business Manager/ Executive	47%	Māori	27%
Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker	54%		
Student	59%		
Living in Wellington	44%		

⁹ In the report sub-groups with sample sizes of less than n=50 are excluded in significance reporting.

2. How well-informed do people feel about the Treaty of Waitangi/ Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the issues being debated?

58% (2,343,000 adults) believe they are informed about Te Tiriti/the Treaty and the issues being debated about how it should be honoured now.

- **10%** of adults who say they are informed, believe they are *very well informed*, with **33%** saying they are *somewhat informed*.



Sample: n=1,074

The table below shows the differences across groups who feel they are informed or uninformed about the Te Tiriti/The Treaty and the issues currently being debated.

More likely feel <u>informed</u> ¹⁰ about Te Tiriti/the Treaty		Total 58%		More likely feel <u>uninformed</u> ¹¹ about Te Tiriti/the Treaty		Total 32%	
65-74 year olds	72%	25-34 year olds	40%	Females	39%		
Males	63%	Household income between \$30k-\$50k	43%	Household income between \$50k-\$70k	41%		
Household income more than \$150k	74%	Personal income less than \$50k	39%	Has vocational qualifications	40%		
Household income between \$100k-\$150k	70%	NCEA level 2 or less	39%	Works in clerical/administrator role	54%		
Has degree	75%	Asian	49%	Living in Waikato	47%		
Professional/Government official	78%						
Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker	81%						
Living in Auckland	65%						

¹⁰ Very well informed/Well informed/Somewhat informed

¹¹ Totally uninformed/Uninformed/Somewhat uninformed

3. Māori should manage issues and be involved in making decisions that affect Māori.

Respondents were told:

Some argue local Māori should be at the decision-making table because they understand their community context and needs and are best placed to develop appropriate solutions.

They argue some health, housing, land, environmental and other programmes when managed by, or in partnership with Māori have produced better results than if managed by central government only.

They argue for specific policy agencies to ensure Māori needs are understood when policy decisions are made, without removing policies providing for everyone else.

Others argue that the central government should decide what services are made available for all, and manage them, regardless of ethnicity, to ensure the same solutions are available to everyone.

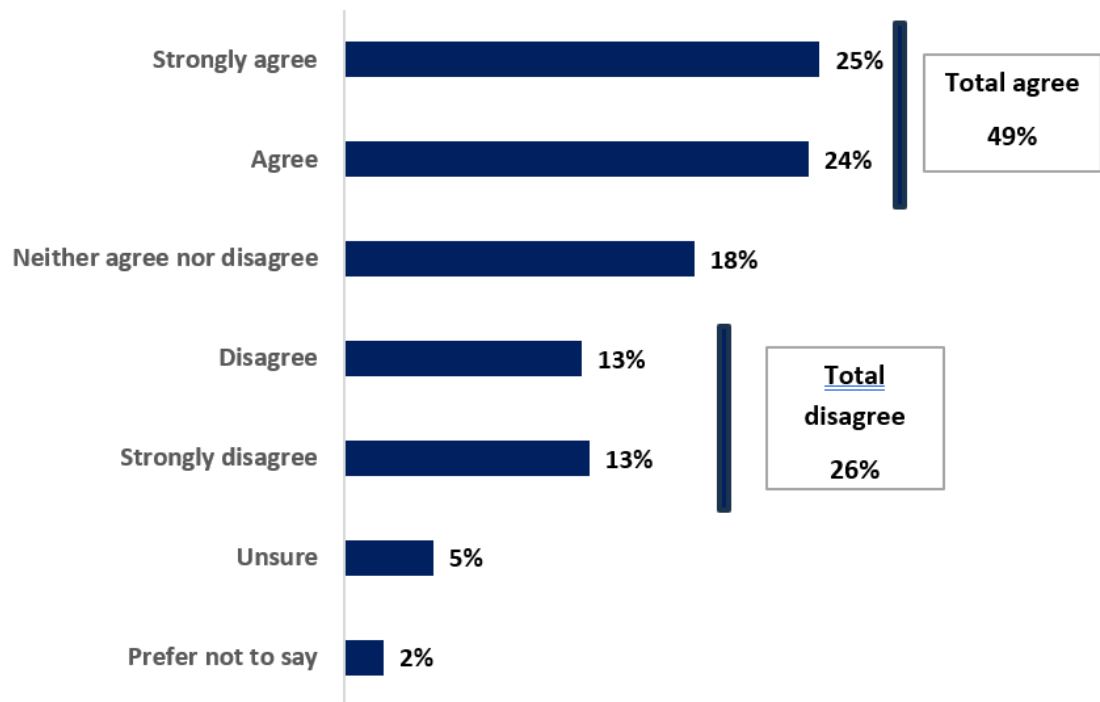
They were then asked to what extent they agreed with the statement **Overall, Māori should manage issues and be involved in making decisions that affect Māori.**

Around half (**49%**) of adults agree that Māori should manage issues and be involved in making decisions that affect Māori.

- **25%** (1,013,000 adults) strongly agree.

26% (1,030,000 adults) disagree that Māori should manage issues that affect them.

Overall, Māori should manage issues and be involved in making decisions that affect Māori.



Sample: n=1,072

The groups more likely to agree that Māori should manage issues and be involved in decisions that affect them are in younger age groups, living in Auckland and of Māori and Pasifika ethnicity.

The groups more likely to disagree are in older age groups and with an annual household income between \$70k and \$150k.

More likely to <u>agree</u> ¹² that Māori should manage issues and be involved in decisions that affect Māori. Total 49%		More likely to <u>disagree</u> ¹³ that Māori should manage issues and be involved in decisions that affect Māori. Total 26%	
Under 35 years	64%	55+ year olds	32%
35-44 year olds	59%	45-54 year olds	37%
Household income between \$50k-\$70k	61%	Household income between \$70k-\$100k	39%
Household income more than \$150k	58%	Household income between \$50k-\$150k	30%
Personal income between \$100k-\$150k	61%		
Has degree	60%		
Professional/Government official	68%		
Student	76%		
Living in Auckland	65%		
Māori	67%		
Pasifika	74%		
Other European	64%		

¹² Strongly agree/agree

¹³ Strongly disagree/disagree

4. What are people's view on current debates around The Treaty/Te Tiriti?

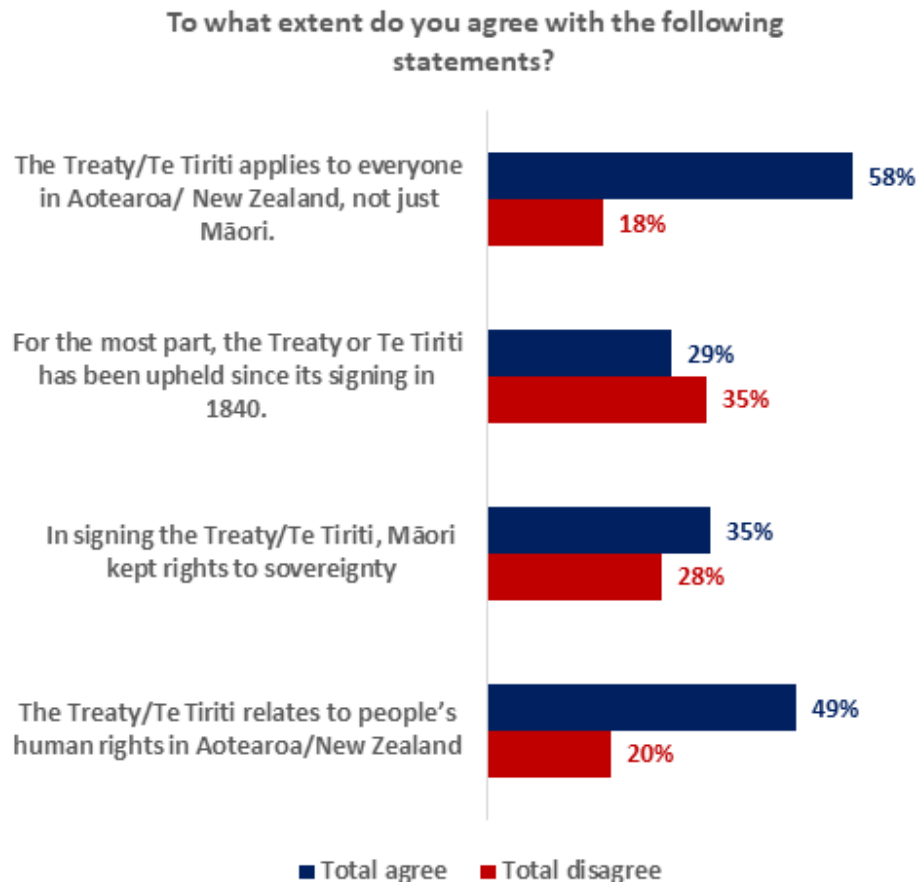
Respondents were shown a number of statements about The Treaty/Te Tiriti and asked if they agree or disagreed with them.

58% (2,351,000 adults) agreed¹⁴ that *The Treaty/Te Tiriti applies to everyone in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, not just Māori.*

49% (1,994,000) also agreed that *The Treaty/Te Tiriti relates to people's human rights in Aotearoa/New Zealand.*

Although, at **29%** (1,180,000 adults) there was less agreement that *For the most part, the Treaty or Te Tiriti has been upheld since its signing in 1840.*

And **35%** (1,435,000) agreed that *In signing the Treaty/Te Tiriti, Māori kept rights to sovereignty*¹⁵.



Total Sample

¹⁴ Strongly agree/Somewhat agree

¹⁵ Full statement: In signing the Treaty/Te Tiriti, Māori kept rights to sovereignty (exercising authority over their lives, governing themselves, and living on terms according to Māori philosophies, values and practices).

Agreement with statements about the Treaty/Te Tiriti varies across different demographic groups.

	Significantly more likely to agree ¹⁶ ▲		Significantly more likely to disagree ¹⁷ ▲	
The Treaty/Te Tiriti applies to everyone in Aotearoa/ New Zealand, not just Māori.	55+ year olds	64%	35-54 year olds	25%
	Household income \$100k-\$150k	72%	Household income \$70k-\$100k	28%
	Household income \$150k+	68%	Personal income \$30k-\$50k	27%
	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	69%	Technical/ Mechanical/ Skilled	
	Has degree	69%	Worker	31%
	Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker	69%	Household with children	23%
	Student	71%		
Living in Waikato	77%			
For the most part, the Treaty or Te Tiriti has been upheld since its signing in 1840.	55+ year olds	37%	35-54 year olds	41%
	Business Proprietor/ Self-employed	42%	Household income \$150k+	50%
	Retired	41%	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	48%
			Personal income \$150k+	57%
			Has degree	51%
			Professional/Government	61%
			Official	
		Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker	50%	
		Māori	49%	
		Other European	59%	
		Pasifika	53%	
In signing the Treaty/Te Tiriti, Māori kept rights to sovereignty	25-34 year olds	46%	55+ year olds	37%
	Household income \$150k+	53%	Males	33%
	Has degree	48%	Household income \$500k-\$150k	33%
	Professional/Government		Technical/ Mechanical/ Skilled	46%
	Official	47%	Worker	
	Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service	51%	Retired	40%
	Student	53%	Couple only (no children at home)	38%
Māori	44%			
The Treaty/Te Tiriti relates to people's human rights in Aotearoa/New Zealand	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	65%	45-54 year olds	29%
	Has degree	57%	Household income \$70k-\$100k	29%
	Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service	62%	Personal income \$70k-\$100k	27%
	Student	74%	Personal income \$30k-\$50k	28%
	Living in Otago	63%	Living in Canterbury	29%

¹⁶ Strongly agree/Somewhat agree

¹⁷ Strongly disagree/Somewhat disagree

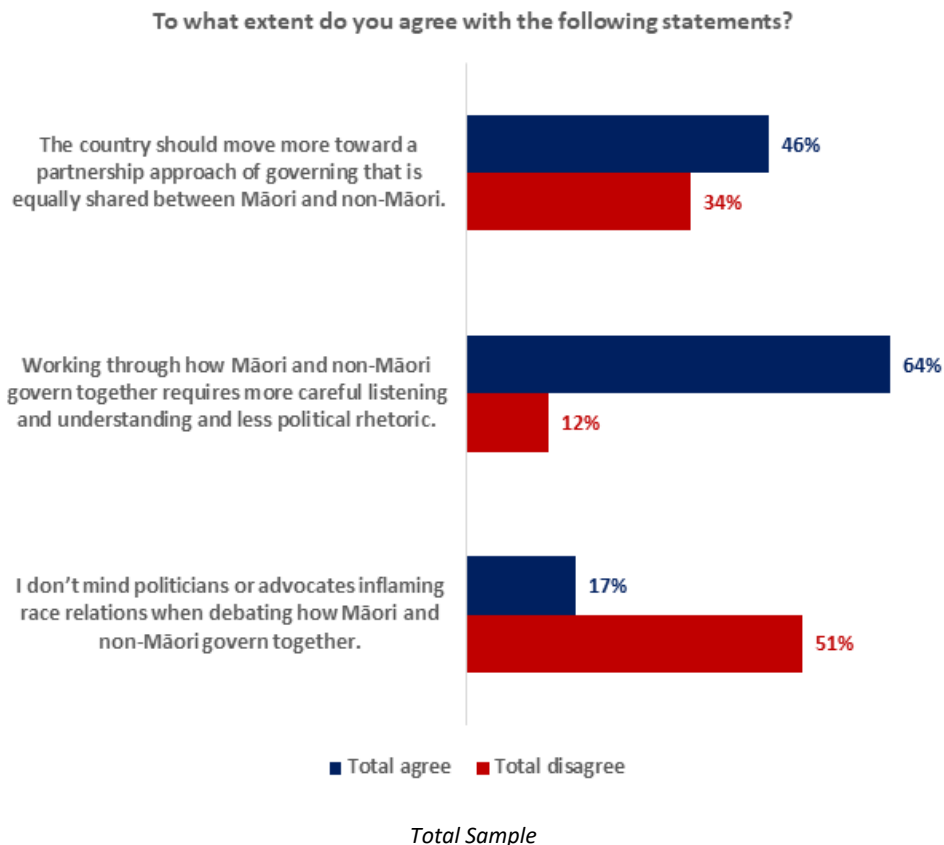
5. What are people’s views on how Māori and non-Māori should govern together?

When asked their opinion on how Māori and non- Māori should govern together:

46% (1,849,000 adults) agreed¹⁸ that ***the country should move more toward a partnership approach of governing that is equally shared between Māori and non-Māori.***

At **64%** (2,590,000 adults), the majority agreed that ***working together requires more careful listening and understanding and less political rhetoric.***

And **51%** (2,055,000 adults) did not want to see ***politicians or advocates inflaming race relations when debating how Māori and non-Māori govern together.***



¹⁸ Strongly agree/Somewhat agree

Agreement to statements about how Māori and non-Māori govern together varies across different demographic groups.

	Significantly more likely to agree ¹⁹ ▲		Significantly more likely to disagree ²⁰ ▲	
The country should move more toward a partnership approach of governing that is equally shared between Māori and non-Māori.	25-34 year olds	56%	45-54 year olds	47%
	35-44 year olds	57%	55+ year olds	42%
	Household income \$70k-\$100k	59%	Males	43%
	Has degree	56%	Business Manager/ Executive	46%
	Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service	56%	Business Proprietor/ Self-employed	47%
	Clerical/Administrator	58%	Technical/ Mechanical/ Skilled	
	Student	64%	Worker	46%
	Pasifika	60%	Retired	50%
				Living in Canterbury
Working through how Māori and non-Māori govern together requires more careful listening and understanding and less political rhetoric.	35-44 year olds	75%	Personal income \$150k+	34%
	65-74 year olds	77%		
	Household income \$150k+	73%		
	Personal income \$30k-\$50k	73%		
	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	78%		
	Has degree	77%		
	Professional/Government Official	74%		
	Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker	75%		
	Living in Otago	81%		
I don't mind politicians or advocates inflaming race relations when debating how Māori and non-Māori govern together.	Household income \$150k+	24%	55+ year olds	63%
	Personal income \$150k+	30%	Has degree	58%
	Student	31%	Professional/Government Official	66%
			Retired	66%
			Other European	66%

¹⁹ Strongly agree/Somewhat agree

²⁰ Strongly disagree/Somewhat disagree

6. Who to trust to provide accurate information about the Treaty/Te Tiriti.

Respondents were shown a list of sources and asked to select all of those they would trust to provide accurate information about the Treaty/Te Tiriti.

The most trusted source is The National Library of New Zealand (**45%**). It displays the original Treaty and Te Tiriti texts.

Other most trusted sources of accurate information are:

- The Waitangi Tribunal – **36%**
- Books, websites, podcasts, etc that cover New Zealand history – **34%**
- Educational institutions (e.g. schools/universities) – **26%**
- Te Kāhui Tika Tangata Human Rights Commission – **25%**.

The least trusted sources are:

- Bloggers – **2%**
- Political parties – **4%**
- Social media - **5%**
- News media – **6%**.

Who would you trust to provide you with accurate information about the Treaty/Te Tiriti?	Result
The National Library of New Zealand	45%
The Waitangi Tribunal	36%
Books, websites, podcasts, etc	34%
Educational institutions	26%
Te Kāhui Tika Tangata Human Rights Commission	25%
Non-governmental organisations	19%
National Iwi Chairs Forum	15%
Government departments	15%
Friends or family	11%
Advocacy/activist groups or organisations	10%
Members of Parliament	7%
News media	6%
Social media	5%
Political parties	4%
Bloggers	2%
Other	13%
N (unweighted)	1,032

7. What is important for the country?

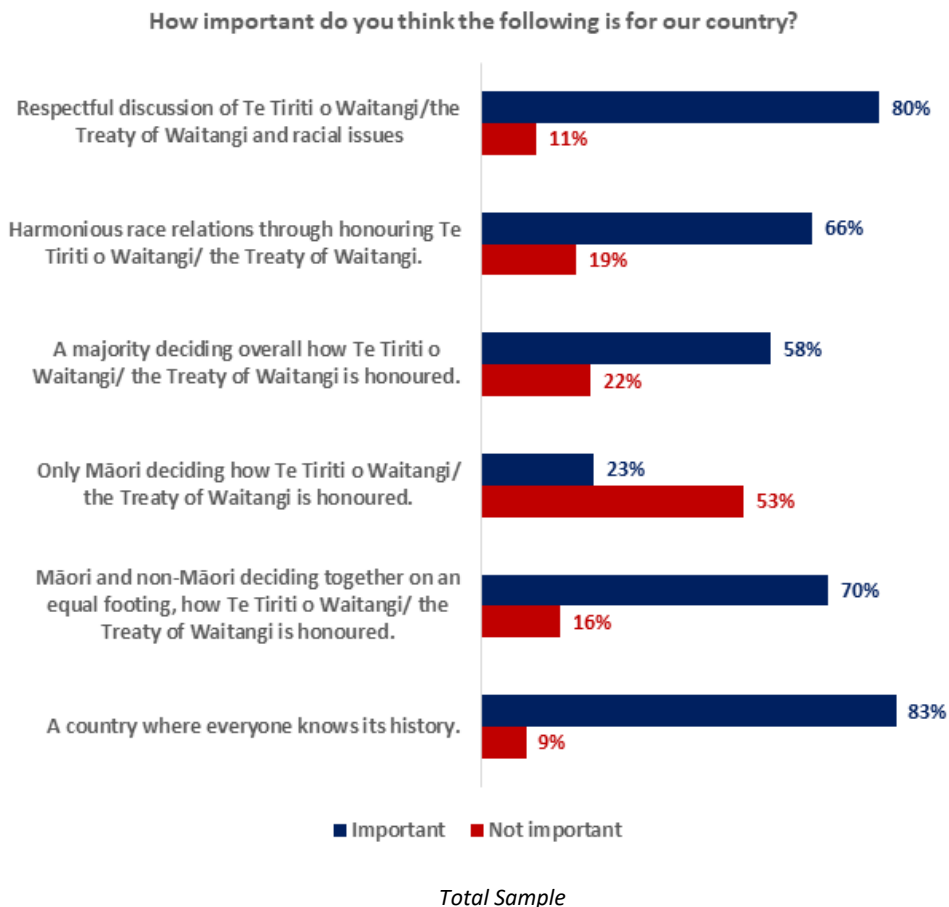
When thinking about what is important for the country, **people believe that discussion needs to be respectful, harmonious and that how Te Tiriti/ the Treaty is honoured should be decided on an equal footing.**

80% (3,231,000 adults) believe that “*Respectful discussion of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and racial issues*” is important²¹.

- **Half (51%)** of New Zealand adults believe it is *very important*. This equates to 2,051,000 adults.

83% believe that a country where everyone know its history is important.

- **58%** of New Zealand adults (2,367,000) believe it is *very important*.



²¹ Very important/somewhat important

The table below shows differences across demographic groups on what people think is important for the country.

	Significantly more likely to say it is important ²² ▲		Significantly more likely to say it is not important ²³ ▲	
Respectful discussion of Te Tiriti o Waitangi/the Treaty of Waitangi and racial issues	65-74 year olds	87%	No significant differences	
	Household income \$100k-\$150k	88%		
	Household income \$150k+	89%		
	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	97%		
	Has degree	87%		
	Professional/Government Official	89%		
	Business Proprietor/ Self-employed	89%		
	Living in Otago	92%		
Harmonious race relations through honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi.	65-74 year olds	78%	Business Manager/ Executive	32%
	Household income \$150k+	80%	Business Proprietor/ Self-employed	32%
	Household income \$30k-\$50k	77%		
	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	77%		
	Has degree	73%		
	Professional/Government Official	75%		
	Student	81%		
	Māori	75%		
	Other European	78%		
	Living in Waikato	76%		
A majority deciding overall how Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.	Household income \$100k-\$150k	66%	35-54 year olds	28%
	Personal income \$20k-\$30k	70%	Household income \$70k-\$100k	30%
	Business Manager/ Executive	72%	Personal income \$30k-\$50k	30%
	Retired	69%	Personal income \$100k-\$150k	31%
	Living in Otago	75%	Has degree	29%
			Living in Wellington	30%

²² Very important/somewhat important

²³ Not very important/not at all important

	Significantly more likely to say it is important ²⁴ ▲		Significantly more likely to say it is not important ²⁵ ▲	
Only Māori deciding how Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.	Under 35 year olds Student Māori Pasifika Living in Auckland	32% 39% 48% 49% 32%	55+ year olds Males Household income \$50k-\$150k Household income \$150k+ Personal income \$50k-\$150k Personal income \$150k+ Has degree Technical/ Mechanical/ Skilled Worker Retired NZ European/Pākehā Living in Bay of Plenty Living in Otago	65% 60% 59% 69% 59% 67% 59% 73% 67% 58% 69% 74%
Māori and non-Māori deciding together on an equal footing, how Te Tiriti o Waitangi/ the Treaty of Waitangi is honoured.	35-44 year olds 65-74 year olds 75+ year olds Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker Retired Living in Otago	77% 83% 80% 79% 78% 81%	Household income \$100k-\$150k	23%
A country where everyone knows its history.	25-34 year olds 65-74 year olds Household income \$100k-\$150k Household income \$150k+ Personal income \$100k-\$150k Business Manager/ Executive Teacher/ Nurse/ Police or other trained service worker Living in Otago	90% 90% 89% 92% 93% 90% 92% 93%	35-44 year olds Household income \$70k-\$100k Personal income \$150k+ Other European	19% 15% 29% 21%

²⁴ Very important/somewhat important

²⁵ Not very important/not at all important

APPENDIX – Methodology and Sample

1,076 members from Horizon Research’s online panels and a third-party research panel, representing the New Zealand population 18+, responded to the survey between 2nd and 7th November 2023.

The total sample is weighted on age, education, gender, Party Vote 2023, region and ethnicity to match the New Zealand adult population.

The survey has a maximum margin of error, at a 95% confidence level of $\pm 3\%$ overall.

Demographic results tables accompany this report.

Contact

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