



Participant Information Sheet: Exploring Māori Legal Traditions

Tēnā koe

My name is Carwyn Jones. I am a lecturer at Victoria University of Wellington. He uri ahau o Ngai Te Apatu. I would like to invite you to participate in a research project that I am undertaking.

The primary goal of this project is to enhance understanding of Māori legal traditions and the operation of Māori law. In this project I ask: How do Māori communities create and change laws? How do Māori communities allocate legal rights and obligations? How do Māori communities resolve disputes and respond to breaches of their law? This project will focus on kōrero pūrākau (traditional stories) as a source of law and legal principle and will use the stories of Ngāti Kahungunu as the central case study.

A vital component of this project will be two workshops that will discuss important kōrero pūrākau of Ngāti Kahungunu. These workshops will involve kaumatua and others from the Ngāti Kahungunu community who hold knowledge relating to the sources and application of tikanga and Māori legal traditions. These workshops are designed to be collaborative and aim to assist members of the Ngāti Kahungunu community to identify, from within their own stories, aspects of Māori legal traditions such as specific examples of the exercise of legal rights and obligations.

I would very much like you to be involved in one of the two workshops. One workshop will be held in **Wairoa on 15 October 2016** and the other in **Napier on 12 November 2016**. Each workshop will run from **9:30am-3:30pm**. Lunch will be provided. A proposed workshop outline is attached to give you an indication of the topics to be covered.

Consent to participate will involve consenting to the video recording of your contributions to the workshops, so that I can ensure that I am accurate in my reporting of what you have said. Only my research assistants and I will have access to the recording. Recordings will be wiped at the conclusion of the research, and any transcripts from them will be destroyed at the conclusion of the project.

Participation is voluntary and should any individual not wish to participate or wish to withdraw, they may do so without question at any time up until 31 March 2017. Due to the nature of the workshops it may not be possible to withdraw information that has already been given.

Victoria University of Wellington requires that ethics approval be obtained for research involving human participants. This research project been approved by the Victoria University of Wellington Human Ethics Committee.

I intend that notes based on discussion at the workshops will form the basis of a conference papers and written publications, including a book on Māori legal traditions. Information from the workshops may also be used as a basis for developing futher research projects and applying for funding for such projects. This information will not be used for any other purpose without the consent of the participants.

All participants will have the opportunity to review notes from the workshops and request amendments. Names of participants may be included in written publications arising from this research as it is the expertise of the participants that will lend credibility to this research.

A short summary of my research will be provided to all participants. All participants, along with other interested parties, will be invited to attend a presentation of my findings at the conclusion of this project.

Should you have any further questions about this project, please contact me. My contact details are:

Carwyn Jones

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