

Addressing colonisation

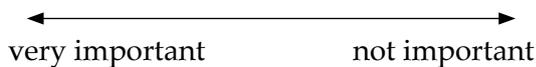
The purpose of this activity is for participants to consider whether it is important for the government today to address the consequences of colonisation.

Activity 19

Time: 10 minutes.

Materials: None.

1. Ask participants to tell the person next to them one thing they learned about what happened in this country because of colonisation. This was covered in Activities 16, 17 and 18.
2. Next, ask them to form into small groups to discuss whether they think that it is important for the government to address these injustices today. Why / why not?
3. Set out a line across the room using a chair or bag at each end. Explain that one end stands for 'very important' and the other end for 'not important.'



4. Have participants stand somewhere on the line in answer to the question: 'How important is it for the government to do something about the injustices that happened to Māori after the Treaty was signed?'
5. Give each person the opportunity to say a few words about why they are standing where they are.

Notes

The injustices caused by colonisation are mainly about taking resources unfairly (as considered in Activities 16 and 17) and undermining Māori culture (as compared to migrant experiences in Activity 18). The negative consequences for Māori are clearly seen in a wide variety of statistics; see, for example, *Progress towards closing social and economic gaps* (2000). In many areas, the situation for Māori is worse than for any other ethnic group.

The types of things the government is doing to address the injustices include:

- having the Waitangi Tribunal to report on any injustices which break the promises in the Treaty of Waitangi,
- having settlements for land and other resources that the Government wrongly took from Māori,
- having the Māori Language Commission to increase the use of the Māori language, and having funding for Māori radio and television channels for the same reason.

There are two areas of Treaty issues today. The first is historical, relating to the injustices that happened when the government broke its Treaty promises. The following websites have more information about what is being done now to redress those historical injustices.

<http://www.treatyofwaitangi.govt.nz/>
<http://www.tetaurawhiri.govt.nz>
<http://www.waitangi-tribunal.govt.nz/reports/>

The second area of Treaty issues relates to nationhood and the relationship between peoples formed in the signing of the Treaty. Whether or not we, as a nation, want that relationship to continue into the future and whether we want the Treaty to be the basis of any future constitution is still being debated. The future of the Treaty relationship is discussed in the chapter *From suitcase to kete*.

The diagram below shows the difference between the Treaty relationship that was intended and colonisation, which is what really happened.

