

What are the “Principles” of the Treaty of Waitangi?

There is (and continues to be) a wide variety of organizations and individuals claiming to have discovered, or have simply stated, the “Principles” of the Treaty. They are all different. Here are just a few:

	<u>Number of Principles “discovered” or stated</u>
• Justice Department (1990) “Principles for Crown Action on the Treaty of Waitangi”	5 principles
• Royal commission on Social Policy (1988)	3 principles
• New Zealand Law Commission (1999)	13 principles
• New Zealand Court of Appeal (Crown v Maori Council) (1987)	8 principles
• NZ Maori Council to Court of Appeal (1987)	10 principles
• Crown to Court of Appeal (1987)	5 principles
• Principles defined by Waitangi Tribunal (1983 to 1988)	12 principles
• Office of Treaty Settlements (1999)	4 principles
• Sir Douglas Graham (in Trick or Treaty?)	11 principles
• Centre for Maori Studies, Lincoln University (1994)	4 principles
• Hiwi Tauroa, formerly Race Relations Conciliator (1989)	2 principles
• NZ Attorney General (2000)	6 principles
• Crown Law Office advice to Minister of Health (1999)	3 principles

Summary

- 13 Agencies or Individuals
- Range from 2 to 13 “Principles”
- No one list is identified as the true or correct list
- Without exception, no list can claim to be authoritative and none are defined in or by legislation
- All of the principles claimed by the various entities or individuals are general statements of intent, which have existed in civilized societies for millennia. They are not unique to or exclusively the domain or property of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Prof. Martin Devlin
Massey University
October 2000