

Whakapapa Registration Policy

BACKGROUND – WHY?

The iwi has two Trusts through which it operates: Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust (PSGE) and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Charitable Trust (CT). Both have iwi register requirements, and both allow for one iwi register to be maintained. However, the provisions of the two are not fully aligned, which has led to some confusion as to the appropriate processes.

It is in the best interest of the iwi to have a large and robust register of iwi members. The purpose of this Policy is to provide a clear and consistent framework for identifying, enrolling, and maintaining contact with members of the iwi.

SCOPE – WHO?

- 1. Applicant:** All prospective Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō applicants must whakapapa directly to one or more identified Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō tipuna.
- 2. Registration administration:** The purpose of the registration administrators is to receive the registration applications, administer and maintain the data entry of the Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Database, and maintain communication with the applicants through the registration process.
- 3. Whakapapa Komiti:** The purpose of the Whakapapa advisor/s who sit with the Membership Validation Committee is to provide advice to the Validators and the Board.
- 4. Validators:** The Validators' purpose is to make recommendations to the Trust regarding membership applications by reviewing whakapapa provided in the application. Therefore, it is important that these Validators are proficient in Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō whakapapa and tikanga. The Validators are made up of Trustees only.
- 5. Trustees:** The Trustees' role is to approve or decline applications for membership.

EXCLUSIONS FROM POLICY – WHO?

None.

POLICY – WHAT?

- As per the Trust Deeds, the Trust should provide for:
 - An iwi registration roll;
 - Validators.
- The Trusts acknowledge and accept 'whāngai' as it pertains to Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō tikanga and tradition. They must be Māori.
- Incomplete whakapapa and contact details will not be accepted and will be referred back to the applicant who must then reapply.
- Parents or Legal Guardians can make an application for their child/children under the age of 18.
- Adult members, 18 years and over, must apply themselves using their own form.
- All successful applications will be informed by mail.
- All unsuccessful applications will also be informed by mail, with a brief explanation of the decision. If the applicant wishes to review this decision, the Trust Deed provides for a dispute resolution process.
- Unsuccessful applicants may appeal the decision and ask to go through the appeals process.

POLICY PROCESS – HOW?

1. All registration applications must be made on the prescribed Registration Application Form available from the office or online via Māori Me and returned to the address noted on the Application Form. No substitute forms or incomplete forms will be considered and will be returned to the applicant without exception.
2. The Applications flowchart (#1 and #2) illustrates the application process.
3. The Disputes flowchart (#3) outlines the disputes resolution process.
4. All applications will be acknowledged and informed, by mail, of the outcome of their application.

ASSOCIATE DOCUMENTS TOOLS

- Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Trust (PSGE) and Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō Charitable Trust (CT)
- Registration Form
- Validation Committee Report
- Approval Letter
- Decline Letter
- Tipuna Guide. The Trust is silent on the requirement to have a Tipuna list. However, a list of tipuna by hapū will help iwi members to register. New tipuna may be added to the list by the Trust Board.

Ngāti Apa ki te Ra Tō participated in the Waitangi Tribunal hearing for of all iwi claims with interests in the Northern South Island / Te Taihū. The claims were heard between August 2000 and March 2004. The Tribunal released preliminary reports in 2007 and a final report in November 2008. We were engaged in the Treaty Negotiation process between 2005 and 2010, when we signed a Deed of Settlement which was legislated in 2014¹. The Ngāti Apa ki te Ra Tō Tipuna Guide list is made up of the tipuna identified in our claims and settlement.

POLICY REVIEW

These Policies, Guidelines and Procedures will be reviewed at least once every board term once every three years, starting in 2021, then 2024 etc, by the incoming Board.

1. Ngāti Apa ki te Rā Tō, Ngāti Kūia, and Rangitāne o Wairau Claims Settlement Act 2014;
<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2014/0019/latest/DLM5214291.html>

