

Frequently asked questions: The Red Book

What is “The Red Book”?

[“Ka tika ā muri, ka tika ā mua— Healing the past, building a future — A Guide to Treaty of Waitangi Claims and Negotiations with the Crown”](#) is a practical guide to the negotiation and settlement of historical grievances under the Treaty of Waitangi.

It was published in 1999 and has been updated several times to reflect developments in the Treaty settlement process, Cabinet decisions and Waitangi Tribunal recommendations. Over time, it has become known as the ‘Red Book’.

The Red Book was most recently republished in 2018. Sections of the Red Book relating to overlapping interests were updated in 2021 and 2023. The Red Book, and also overlapping interests section are available on Te Tari Whakatau website. To access a PDF copy of the Red Book, please [click here](#). The updated overlapping interests section can [be found here](#).

The sections of the Red Book relating to large natural groups and mandating are being updated and will be made available online.

How might the Red Book help me to understand mandating?

The Red Book provides an overview of the Treaty of Waitangi settlements process from the registration of Waitangi Tribunal claims through to settlement. It can give you an idea of where each step fits in the process, and, generally, the roles played by different parties in each step. It also has policy information on the Crown’s requirements for reaching settlements. If you are looking for information on mandating, the following sections of the Red Book can be helpful:

In [“The Negotiations Process”](#) Pages 36 – 48:

- [Overview of the negotiations process, Pg 29 – 31:](#)
Breaks the negotiations process into four steps. Step 1 describes the mandate process
- [Negotiations and the Waitangi Tribunal process, Pg 32 & 33:](#)
Describes how the Waitangi Tribunal claims process connects with the Treaty settlement negotiations process
- [Step 1: Preparing claims for negotiations, Pg 39 -47:](#) Describes the Crown’s policy of negotiations with large natural groups and the mandating process through to Deed of Mandate

What are the limitations of the Red Book?

- The Red Book is a guide that provides general information only and readers should not act or rely on information in the guide without first discussing with Te Tari Whakatau staff.

The Red Book is a guide only because of the need to tailor negotiations to the circumstances and to maintain a flexible approach to Treaty settlements.

- The Red Book does not cover specific details of the mandating process with Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi (for example, the Ngā hapū o Ngāpuhi mandate process refers to Hapū Groupings, rather than “Large Natural Groups” as referred to in the Red Book).
- As The Red Book relies on specific terminology, we have included a glossary to define clear key concepts in the mandating process.
- The Red Book may not reflect current developments in the Treaty Settlement process, including developments in response to Waitangi Tribunal recommendations. The Red Book sections on large natural groups and mandating is due to be updated in the future. To keep up-to-date with policy guidance, contact Te Tari Whakatau staff at ngapuhifeedback@tearawhiti.govt.nz.