

**BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL
HEALTH SERVICES AND OUTCOMES KAUPAPA INQUIRY**

WAI 2109

IN THE MATTER of the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER of a claim by Maaka Tibble on behalf of himself and all Ngati Kapo (Maori blind, vision impaired and deaf blind persons) and their whanau, people with psychiatric, intellectual and mental health disabilities and disabled persons generally (Wai 2109)

AFFIDAVIT OF DAISY MONIKA

Dated: this 16 day of August 2016

RECEIVED

Waitangi Tribunal

3 Apr 23

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

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Counsel: Peter Johnston / Max Clarke-Parker / Daniel Hunt

I, **DAISY MONIKA AKA WAKATA WATENE WIHAPE** of Te Teko, retired, swear:

INTRODUCTION

1. I have prepared this affidavit in support of the Ngati Kapo Wai 2109 Treaty of Waitangi claim filed by my long-time friend Mr Maaka Tibble.
2. My affidavit sets out some of my experiences as a blind Maori wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and great-great-grandmother, who lost her sight at age 55.
3. I hope that through my affidavit other blind Maori can receive the support that they need to live a full and active and happy life.

WHO AM I?

4. I would like to start off by letting the Tribunal know a little bit about who I am.
5. I am known by everyone as Daisy Monika.
6. I was born in Te Puke on 3 August 1928.
7. Ko Ngati Awa taku iwi.
8. Ko Ngai Tamawera taku hapu.
9. Ko Uiraroa te marae
10. I am descended from the Mataatua waka and I am aged 87.
11. My late husband Hone (John) Taare Monika and I raised 11 children and a number of whangai as well.
12. I have been totally blind since 1986.

HOW I CAME TO BE BLIND

13. I have not always been blind. In 1986 my world came crashing to the ground and changed forever when I lost my eyesight.

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14. My eye problems started early one Friday in 1986 while I was weeding our whanau kumara patch on Maori land at Te Teko.
15. As I was shaking out the dirt from a handful of weeds some of the dirt flicked into my face and lodged in my right eye. Instead of stopping to properly clear the dirt I continued working.
16. Over the weekend my eye condition had not improved so I went to see a doctor in Whakatane. The doctor put some drops in my eyes that were supposed to make my eyes numb so that he could remove the dirt.
17. Unfortunately, the medication that he used caused my eye to become numb for a week and caused me to suffer from blurred vision in both of my eyes.
18. I later found out that the eye drops had damaged my optic nerve. This in turn caused me to suffer full blindness, hearing loss and loss of smell.

LOSS OF FULL SIGHT

19. I lost full sight from both of my eyes shortly after.
20. It occurred suddenly on the afternoon following a consultation that I had with an optician who I had been in to see earlier that very day.
21. During my consultation with the optician he told me that there was no point in him prescribing glasses for me as it would be only a matter of time before I would lose sight in both of my eyes. He said that there was no hope for me.
22. Little did I know that his prediction was going to be proved right later that very same day.
23. Later that day my husband dropped me off at the local supermarket to do our grocery shopping. While I was pushing the trolley around the aisle my sight in both eyes just went. It was like someone had turned the lights off – total darkness.
24. I recall that I just stood there in the aisle stunned and I did not know what to do. I was hoping that my vision might come back.

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25. Eventually, my husband came in to find me and see why I was taking so long. I told him that I had lost my sight and he took my arm and guided me around the store and back out to the car.
26. I have been blind ever since.

THE IMPACT ON ME AND MY WHANAU

27. Losing my sight in this way was a real shock for me to deal with. I did not know what to do and was totally lost.
28. I recall that I went home to bed and did not want to do anything until my sight came back.
29. Prior to losing my sight I had been strongly independent and led a full life with my husband and whanau. This included raising 11 children of my own and numerous whangai as well.
30. Prior to losing my sight my husband and I also worked long hours to maintain our gardens which we were growing on whanau Maori lands that we had only recently begun leasing on a 5 x 5 year lease. At the time of my accident we were in year two of the lease.
31. We grew all sorts of crops in our gardens including kumara, potato, kamo kamo, maize, sweetcorn and pumpkins.
32. Not being able to work in the gardens with my husband or do my daily chores was very stressful for me and for the whanau as well. My three younger children had to be sent away at some stage. This created added stress for our whanau. My children had to grow up overnight.
33. Losing my sight was devastating. I felt absolutely lost and useless. I felt of no use to my husband and to my children who were still at home.
34. I am grateful for the sacrifices that members of my whanau have had to make to support my late husband and I. Those sacrifices continue to this very day.

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ADULT REHABILITATION

35. At the beginning of 1987 I went up to the Foundation for the Blind adult rehabilitation unit in Auckland where I received retraining.
36. I had to relearn to do everything from scratch. This included learning safe ways to cook in a microwave, make my bed, tidy my room, take a shower or bath, and how to make a phone call on a dial telephone.
37. I recall being provided with training on a typewriter to enable me to write letters. I was unable to learn braille as my fingers were too rough from all of the gardening I had done over the years.
38. I also received training on how to make cane baskets. I learned to crochet and how to sew again and also how to make moccasin shoes for myself and my whanau.
39. I enjoyed the retraining but had to pay for the materials I used which meant that I could not do as much as I wanted.
40. When my training was completed I asked if I could stay longer as I did not want to go home. I did not feel confident to go home. Even though I had received rehabilitation training, I still thought that I would be no good to my husband and children who were still left at home.
41. Eventually, they said that I had learnt enough and I was sent home after about 3 months. I was concerned that I couldn't do what I used to do and I was worried that I would be a burden on my husband and whanau.
42. As I refused to come home they contacted my husband to collect me.

BACK AT HOME FOLLOWING REHABILITATION

43. Fortunately for me when I finally went home I had a very supportive husband. I also had the support of my son Guy who would have been aged 14 at the time.
 44. We were able to work out a daily routine so that I could help out at home.
 45. For example, so that I could help with our clothes washing, my husband would sort the coloured washing from the white clothing for me to wash.
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46. Once sorted I was able to wash and hang out our clothes on a single washing line out the back of our home. I used a pram as my washing basket to go to the line and my stick to guide me along the line.
47. My husband would also put out the meat from the freezer that I would cook for dinner.
48. Part of my retraining involved cooking food in a microwave and I could do this on my own. I would also cook fried bread in the frying pan.
49. Cooking fried bread had its challenges. One day I splashed myself with the fat so from then on my husband helped me to cook fried bread, which was one of his favourite foods, by turning the bread in the pan.
50. My husband would also do the vacuum cleaning as well. This was to avoid me vacuuming up things by mistake.

SUPPORT WHICH MADE A DIFFERENCE

51. I am grateful for all of the support that I received over the years following my accident.
52. The first was the support I received from my late husband. I am truly grateful for the support that John provided to me following my accident. This included helping me out around the home. He also ensured that all of the outside work around the home and in the gardens was done as well.
53. John also ensured that I could get out and about and out of the house when I needed too.
54. I also appreciate the retraining that I received in Auckland and from the Foundation for the blind who provide me with a regular source of talking books. As I am no longer mobile I find these talking books of great interest and enjoy listening to them.
55. I also really appreciate the support provided by my whanau and especially the support of my son Guy who continue to provide care to me.

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56. I also appreciate the support of the members of my church community who volunteer to take me to church each Sunday.
57. I also have really appreciated the support that my husband and I received from Ngati Kapo and in particular Maaka Tibble.

NGATI KAPO AND MAAKA TIBBLE

58. I first met Maaka Tibble when I was receiving retraining in Auckland. He introduced himself to me at that time and we have been friends ever since.
59. Having the support of Maaka Tibble and Ngati Kapo over the years has made a real difference to me and my life as a blind person.
60. Being blind was initially a very lonely and depressing place especially for a Maori women living in Te Teko. At the time I was the only blind Maori person in my community.
61. Through the support of Ngati Kapo I got to meet other blind Maori and I realised that I was not alone. Ngati Kapo was great in that I was able to meet with other blind Maori on a regular basis. We were able to share stories and provide emotional support to each other.
62. Having the support of other blind Maori through Ngati Kapo helps people such as me who are finding it hard to cope to turn their life around and start living again.
63. Ngati Kapo provided me with hope and the opportunity to get out and into the community with other blind Maori and to be involved in a number of fun activities such as waiata and reo classes. I also enjoyed attending Ngati Kapo hui in places such as Auckland, Rotorua, Te Puke, Gisborne and Northland.
64. One Ngati Kapo hui was held at my marae at Te Teko. At the hui Maaka Tibble provided education for the marae whanau about being blind and how the whanau could help them.
65. At other hui Ngati Kapo would invite guest speakers and opportunities were provided to learn Maori.



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66. The Ngati Kapo meetings and outings that my husband and I attended were really enjoyable.
67. Meeting with other Maori blind people in a caring and supportive environment really helped. I really enjoyed sharing stories and experiences with other blind Maori.
68. My husband was always made to feel welcome at Ngati Kapo meetings and he enjoyed taking me to them.
69. It is fair to say that some of the happiest moments of my life were being involved in Ngati Kapo meetings and events.
70. Unfortunately for Ngati Kapo I understand that there were some funding issues and so we couldn't meet anymore.
71. I found this very sad as I always looked forward to the support and awahi that Ngati Kapo provided.

HEALTH CONDITION TODAY

72. I am currently house bound as I have a very painful hip condition and am suffering from a collapsed lung caused by chronic bronchitis.
73. My lung condition requires me to be on oxygen for almost 24 hours a day.
74. My old wheelchair was broken and difficult to manoeuvre so I was unable to get out of the house. I find it too difficult and painful to walk any distance so can't get out like I use to.
75. I spend most of my day at home listening to talking books on CD and also talk back radio. I enjoy listening to both and they keep me entertained.

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NGATI KAPO TODAY

76. My association with Ngati Kapo has begun again with a recent visit from Ngati Kapo staff to my home.
77. As a result of that visit Ngati Kapo has organised a nearly new second hand wheelchair for my use.
78. I never thought that I would have a new wheelchair and am absolutely delighted that Ngati Kapo has been able to organise one for me.
79. With my new wheelchair I am able to attend Church on Sundays.
80. What I like about Ngati Kapo is that not only did they take the time to come out to my home to see me but they also offered to provide help to me to make my life easier through the new wheelchair.
81. I am so grateful to Ngati Kapo for this offer of support which will help ease the pain that I experience when getting in and out of bed or moving around.

WISH FOR NGATI KAPO

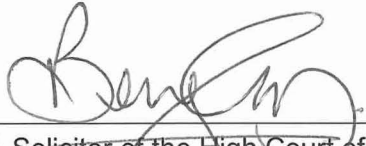
82. It is my sincere wish that Ngati Kapo be adequately funded by the Crown so that it can support Maori blind people like me to ensure that we can all live full and active lives. That would be a blessing.
83. This includes having enough funding to ensure that blind Maori are able to get together to provide awhi and support to each other and to their whanau as well.
84. The awhi and support provided by Ngati Kapo helped me to turn my life around and gain confidence to get out of bed each day and to enjoy life with my whanau. It also helped give me the confidence to get back out in to the community and live a full life.
85. For this I am truly grateful.

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86. It is my wish that other blind Maori who may be living without hope are provided with awahi and support to turn their lives around and live their life to the full. I believe that a properly funded Ngati Kapo is best placed to do this.

SWORN by DAISY MONIKA (ALSO)
KNOWN AS WAKATA WATENE)
WIHAPE) at Whakatane this 16th)
day of August 2016 before me,)
and I certify that I first read and)
explained the foregoing affidavit to Mrs.)
Daisy Monika (also known as Wakata)
Watene Wihape) and that she appeared)
to understand the same and wrote her)
signature in my presence:)

x
D. monika



A Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand
~~/ Justice of the Peace / Registrar of the High~~
Court of New Zealand

P T Fong-May
Deputy Registrar
District Court
Whakatane