

GOVERNANCE POLICY

SUBJECT	Guardianship of Taonga		PAGE:	1 of 2
ISSUING AUTHORITY	TRUST BOARD	ISSUE DATE:	06/05/02	REFERENCE C1.6

1 Purpose

To ensure Maori values associated with all Auckland Museum-held taonga are protected.

2 Definitions

Taonga Any item housed in or under control of the Auckland Museum will be considered a taonga and identified accordingly by the Curator Maori if it fulfils the following criteria:

- a) Is a representation of a Maori ancestor; and or
- b) Was directly associated with a known Maori ancestor; and or
- c) Carries a Maori ancestral name; and or
- d) Is considered of ancestral importance to the Maori descent group from where it originated; and or
- e) Continues to carry Maori ancestral value*.

*For example: unprovenanced weavings of Maori antiquity made from harakeke, kiekie or pingao like kakahu (garments), whariki (fine floor mats), kete (kits) and maro (aprons); and or any artistically carved or embellished items of Maori antiquity made from wood, bone or stone like pounamu (greenstone), patu (weapons), heru (combs) and hei matau (personal adornments).

3 Policy

3.1 To ensure Maori values associated with all taonga in the collections are upheld such items will remain within the Museum's Auckland Domain precinct unless otherwise arranged by the Board under advice from the Taumata-a-Iwi.

3.2 To further ensure Maori values associated with all taonga in the collections are upheld the Museum will categorise, inventory and manage every such item according to the acquisition pathway by which it originally entered the Museum:

- Gift: where taonga have been gifted the cultural obligations of the gift will be upheld;
- Purchase: where taonga have been purchased the Museum will exercise the responsibilities and authorities of normal ownership;
- Loan (deposit): where taonga have been loaned or placed on deposit, the Museum will act as trustee consistent with the terms of loan or deposit where known, or the conventions of trusteeship where unknown;

GOVERNANCE POLICY

SUBJECT	Guardianship of Taonga		PAGE:	2 of 2
ISSUING AUTHORITY	TRUST BOARD	ISSUE DATE:	06/05/02	REFERENCE C1.6

- Contested acquisitions: where dubious acquisition of taonga is proven the Museum will do everything in its power to redress history;
- Exchange; where taonga have entered the Museum by way of formal exchange with another institution the Museum will exercise the responsibilities and authorities of ownership as if the taonga had been purchased.

3.3 The Board will seek the advice of the Taumata-a-Iwi in any situations where the identification, categorisation or acquisition pathway of any taonga in the collections is questionable.

3.4 Where verbal requests for repatriation of any Taonga from the collections are received from Maori parties, those parties will be asked to submit to the Museum Director, formal proposals in writing under Principle V of the Auckland War Memorial Museum Taumata-a Iwi's Kaupapa.