

# GOVERNANCE POLICY

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<b>AUTHOR</b>	<b>Trust Board</b>	<b>ISSUE DATE:</b>	<b>4/12/2008</b>
		<b>REFERENCE</b>	<b>C1.7</b>

## 1. Preamble

This Policy is to be read in conjunction with the following Governance Policies:

- Policy C1.2 Deaccessioning,
- Policy Storage and Access (to be written), and
- Policy C1.1 Acquisition.

## 2. Purpose

- 2.1 To provide direction on the care and handling of Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains;
- 2.2 To provide direction on the repatriation of Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains; and
- 2.3 To ensure that Maori values associated with any Maori Human Remains in the possession of the Museum are protected until such time as they can be repatriated to source.

## 3. Scope

- 3.1 This policy applies to all Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains held by the Museum.
- 3.2 This policy does not apply to Artefactual Human Remains (refer 4.3) which will be managed under general collection policies subject to the constraints of suitability, sensitivity and human dignity attached to these items.

## 4. Definitions

### 4.1 **Maori Human Remains** means:

- Whakapakoko – preserved human corpse
- Uru moko – preserved human heads
- Koiwi – skeletal remains

### 4.2 **Non-Maori Human Remains** means all Human Remains not classified under 4.1 or 4.3.

### 4.3 **Artefactual Human Remains** means Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains that have undergone cultural modification prior to collection, and include:

- 4.3.1 Maori flutes, Pacific Island necklaces, and items with human hair attached;
- 4.3.2 Egyptian mummified Human Remains; and
- 4.3.3 Pacific Island skulls over-modelled in clay and plant material.

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4.3.4 Specimen human skeletons required for the identification of human bones as part of scientific research.

4.4 **Auckland Museum Associated Human Remains** means Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains that have previously been held by the Museum.

## 5. Responsibilities

- 5.1 The Museum Trust Board is responsible for overseeing this policy.
- 5.2 The Taumata-a-Iwi is customarily accountable to all Iwi for the guardianship (kaitiakitanga) of Maori Human Remains held by the Museum
- 5.3 The Director is responsible for the overall monitoring of Museum practice in terms of entrance, resting and departure of all Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains.
- 5.4 The Collection Manager is responsible for managing acquisition and deaccessioning processes regarding any and all Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains
- 5.5 The Kaitakawaenga Pakihi is responsible for guiding staff as to best practice for maintaining and protecting the tapu of the Maori Human Remains Store, handling of Maori Human Remains and ensuring the Museum is a culturally safe workplace.
- 5.6 The Collection Manager is responsible for guiding staff on matters of best practice for the handling of Non-Maori Human Remains.

## 6. Policy

- 6.1 The Museum Trust Board must approve the receipt, accession or deaccession of any and all Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains.
- 6.2 The Museum Trust Board must seek the advice of the Taumata-a-Iwi before considering recommendations for the deaccession and repatriation of Maori or Non-Maori Human Remains.
- 6.3 Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains will be held in the Museum as follows:
  - 6.3.1 Maori Human Remains will be held in the Maori Human Remains Store.
    - 6.3.1.1 The following persons are authorised to access the Maori Human Remains Store:
      - Director,
      - Kaitakawaenga Pakihi,
      - Collection Manager and,
      - Manager Safety and Security.

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- 6.3.1.2 Access for any other person requires the consent of the Director or Kaitakawaenga Pakihi or the person must be accompanied by the Director, Kaitakawaenga Pakihi or Manager Safety and Security.
- 6.3.2 Non-Maori Human Remains will be held in a secure discrete store, known as the Non-Maori Human Remains Store.
  - 6.3.2.1 The following persons are authorised to access the Non-Maori Human Remains Store:
    - Director,
    - Kaitakawaenga Pakihi,
    - Collection Manager and,
    - Manager Safety and Security.
  - 6.3.2.2 Access for any other person requires the consent of the Director or Collection Manager or the person must be accompanied by the Director, Collection Manager or Manager Safety and Security.
- 6.4 External requests for access to Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains must be made in writing to the Director.
- 6.5 Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains are subject to the Governance Policy C1.2 Deaccessioning with the following exceptions:
  - The criterion that “the Museum must have clear legal title” shall not apply.
  - Donors shall neither be consulted nor informed.
  - Lenders who do not fit of the following categories,
    - a. a professional institution (e.g. a museum or university), or
    - b. subject to a known formal arrangement with a third party, or
    - c. the Crown

shall be informed (rather than consulted with and their approval sought) regarding the deaccession and repatriation of Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains. .
  - Photographs shall not be taken of Maori Human Remains.
- 6.6 When a deaccession has been approved by the Museum Trust Board the physical removal of the Maori or Non-Maori Human Remains will be carried out as quickly as reasonably possible.
- 6.7 When initiating consultation regarding the repatriation of Maori Human Remains this must include but not be limited to the Taumata-a-Iwi and source community.
- 6.8 When initiating consultation regarding the repatriation of Non-Maori Human Remains this must include but not be limited to the Taumata-a-

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Iwi, relevant museums and government departments (including in the country of origin / destination where that applies).

- 6.9 The Museum shall deaccession but continue to hold Maori and Non-Maori Human Remains where the source community is unknown until such time as an appropriate permanent repository is identified and approved by the Museum Trust Board, noting the responsibilities outlined in 5.2.
- 6.10 If a source community confirms in writing that it does not wish to receive Maori or Non-Maori Human Remains, the Director will consult the Taumata-a-Iwi before the Museum Trust Board determines an appropriate course of action.
- 6.11 The Museum shall, when appropriate, seek the cooperation of other museums and institutions to assist in the return of Auckland Museum Associated Human Remains back to the source community.
- 6.12 The Museum shall not receive any Maori Human Remains for which the Museum has no history of responsibility.
- 6.13 The Board must seek the advice of the Taumata-a-Iwi before considering any recommendations for the acquisition of Non-Maori Human Remains.