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Subject: Is it discrimination if we are all equal under law?
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The *Independent Electoral Review* was established in 2022 to consider how to make New Zealand's electoral system more clear, fair, and accessible. On 6 June 2023, the independent group released an interim report. It makes more than 100 draft recommendations.

However, this report, which **purports to give all New Zealanders a 'fair go,' actually does the complete opposite.** It further divides our country based on race and grants special voting or democratic rights based on ancestry.

This extensive 338-page document only reinforces the growing division within our nation, demonstrating once again that Māori are to be treated differently under the law as compared to other New Zealanders.

Of the 100 recommendations that are included in the *Independent Electoral Review* a snapshot of just 10 are included in the survey response document that is being used as a submission tool.

Five of the 10 recommendations specifically focus on Maori engagement, rights or support, with no other ethnicity mentioned. This heavily skewed report is yet further evidence of the efforts to realise the recommendations of **Labour's racist, divisive, separatist *He Puapua Report***

The *Electoral Review Report* uses modern conceptualisations of *Te Tiriti o Waitangi* throughout to justify differentiating rights and processes. What they refer to as the 'Treaty Principles' seem to be obligatory, albeit vaguely defined, parts of anything bureaucrats produce. The *Treaty of Waitangi* does not include any principles and despite efforts to confirm the principles, there is no legislated definition of them.

The report proposes that Māori be treated uniquely in electoral law, beyond the status quo of choosing which roll to be on, with the option of being able to register to vote on the Māori roll based on their ancestral/iwi connections rather than their physical address. Naturally this is very open to interpretation and changeability.

Allowing only one ethnicity to pick and choose where they vote is not democratic, every New Zealander has connections to different places and may want to have a say in that community, but that doesn't mean they should be able to decide to vote there. This would make the system very vulnerable to strategic manipulation.

The report also allows Māori to enrol in different rolls for local elections than for general elections and grants them the freedom

to change rolls at their discretion as many times as they want. We are concerned that this will increase the risk of tactical role-switching, with voters changing rolls to participate in electorates where contests are considered tight or more important to win.

The report dismisses these concerns, stating that "any negative impacts are outweighed by the benefits of allowing Māori voters to exercise their roll choice at any time." This purported benefit is intangible and unquantifiable so to say it outweighs potential manipulation of the democratic system is concerning.

Overall, this report is preoccupied with manipulating a fair and democratic system in order to set the balance in the favour of one race. Rather than seeking to create a system that gives every New Zealander the same rights and opportunities, the review suggests that equality, in itself, is discrimination.

The report is racially biased.

We are saddened to say that if you vote Labour this year, you will be giving a vote to the strong Maori caucus within Labour, The Greens, and the Maori Party.

If those three groups get control again, they will continue without a doubt implementing their race-based He Puapua Report and policies from the Maori Party's race-based agenda, (according to their web site), to the detriment of this amazing country.

PLEASE WE IMPLORE YOU TO THINK VERY CAREFULLY WHO YOU GIVE YOUR PARTY AND YOUR ELECTORATE VOTE TO THIS YEAR.

Please forward this article on to friends, family, and colleagues and whoever else you can.

Kind Regards
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