



The People's Inquiry - Te Uiuinga a te Tāngata

April 2021, Newsletter

Meet The Commissioners

We would like to warmly welcome our three expert Commissioners to The People's Inquiry Panel.

Dr. Meriel Watts, Dr. Tom Kerns and Researcher Hema Wihongi all bring with them a wide range of important skills and expert knowledge including human rights, environment, health and science and mātauranga Māori.

We look forward to working with them and providing them with your submissions and other information over the course of the Inquiry and in the lead up to the Hearing. You can read more about each of the Commissioners' skills, experience and publications [here on our website](#).

Online Hearing

Due to the challenges posed by Covid we have decided to shift the Hearing to an online event. There is an Online Hearing planned for the first week of September. This will be a live public event, with 3 full days of oral testimony and question time for submitters on experiences and knowledge of harm.

Submissions

In the lead up to the Hearing we will be providing the Panel with your submissions and interviews each month. Please prepare your submission now and send it in to contact@peoplesinquiry2020.nz

Closing Date for Submissions: Friday, August 27th, 2021

Online Hearing: September 2nd - 4th

Kind Regards,
The Committee



Dr. Meriel Watts



Dr. Tom Kerns



Hema Wihongi

The People's Inquiry into the Impacts and Effects of Toxic Chemicals and Poisons on our People, Wildlife and Environment – *Te Uiuinga e pā ana ki nga Pātanga me nga Tukinotanga a nga Matū Tāoke me nga Paitini ki ngā Tāngata, nga Kararehe Kōwao me te Taiao*

Website Updates

In response to feedback from you, we will be making some updates on our website including creating a Public Submissions Page where submissions will be published with permission as they are received. We understand that it is important to many people that their submission can be viewed by the general public and others wanting to share their story, rather than kept away for a select viewing. Submissions where the submitter chooses to keep their story private will not appear on this page. We are hoping to have the submissions page up next month.

Interviews

We are currently editing a backlog of interviews and expect to be sharing more with you very soon. Thank you to all those people who have been very patiently waiting to hear from us. We hope to be in touch with you soon.

Team of Advocates

We are expanding our team to include Supporters and Advocates from around the country who will help us share the word about the Inquiry within their community. There are a number of support projects that people can contribute to by working alongside us. If this interests you we'd like you to join us for a zoom Hui in May, we will be in touch with dates and times soon.

Environment and Health Alliance

We are inviting organisations, non-profits, community groups and others to join an Environment and Health Alliance in support of The People's Inquiry. If you or your organisation would like to join this Alliance or you want to find out more let us know via email: contact@peoplesinquiry2020.nz

Free Soil Testing from Soil Safe Aotearoa

You and your garden soil could be even better acquainted. We offer a free service to anyone in Aotearoa who is interested in knowing the **concentration of lead and other metals** in the soils around their house and garden. Please send us your samples, we will test them and send you a report about the metals in your soil. [Read more...](#)

Japan rejects NZ honey with traces of weedkiller glyphosate

Japanese authorities have rejected four shipments of New Zealand honey since more stringent testing was introduced for the weed killer glyphosate in January.

The Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI) introduced mandatory testing for all honey headed to Japan from January 20 in response to concerns about glyphosate levels following random testing in Japan, which prompted authorities there to start testing all New Zealand honey at the border. [Read more on Stuff...](#)



PI2020 Resources

Help us share knowledge of this Inquiry with people in your area. We need your help to let as many kiwis as possible know about this Inquiry and the opportunity to make a submission and have their voice heard.

Resources to promote and share information about The People's Inquiry are now on our [website for downloading, sharing online and printing](#). There is also a banner that can be downloaded and put on your website or newsletter. We have also printed cards, posters and flyers. For those wishing to help but are unable to print their own, get in touch and we will post some out to you.

If you are interested in doing a letterbox drop or putting up posters on noticeboards in your area let us know and we'll send you a stack of flyers/posters. Get in touch with Asha on 021 181 9919.

Submissions from people who have experienced harm

Thank you to those that have sent in their submissions and for the many messages of support and encouragement for the Inquiry. We have received submissions from around the country concerning harm from organophosphates, 1080 poison and agricultural/horticultural chemical drift. They each recount the harmful impacts that these chemicals had on people's lives and health and the frustrating lack of accountability and concern from government.

Sitting down to write about, or even just recounting traumatic experiences that have left us feeling vulnerable and hurt can be a very difficult thing to do, but it can also be a step toward healing and empowering oneself. If you are writing your submission, take your time and remember there is always support available if you need it.

Find out more about [Support and Advocacy](#).



How to make your submission

Once you have prepared your written submission in word format, with any accompanying documents, go the [Submission Guide](#) for clear steps on what to do. It's simple and involves emailing your submission through to us then completing the relevant form linked in the Submission Guide. Once we receive your submission we will be in touch to confirm we have received it, along with your details. If you have any questions you can email us at - contact@peoplesinquiry2020.nz

EPA Seeking Public Feedback

EPA - Public feedback is sought as part of a fact-finding exercise on the use of 16 hazardous substances, many of which appear to have fallen into disuse in New Zealand. They are officially known as organophosphate and carbamate substances (OPCs). These are active ingredients in products used to kill bugs and insects in orchards, vineyards, vegetable and cereal crops. [Read more...](#)

Climate Change Minister Must Make Urgent Health Appointment

Health organisations have written to Climate Change Minister James Shaw asking him to appoint a public health expert to the Climate Change Commission to ensure Aotearoa improves health as well as reducing greenhouse gas emissions. “Reducing our greenhouse gas emissions could be one of the most important public health interventions of our time, but whether or not we realise the health benefits will depend on what kind of actions we take. [Read more...](#)

Silent Spring 2.0? - Gene-Silencing Pesticides Could Devastate Non-Target Species - GE Free NZ

New RNAi ‘gene silencing’ pesticides are being developed by Agro-biotech companies to kill insects by “switching off” their essential survival genes. [1] This use of genome technology has the potential to devastate non-target species, such as honeybees and butterflies, and to compromise environmental and human health. [Read more...](#)

Clear the Air Mount Maungnui: Sign the Petition

Say no to dangerous Methyl Bromide emissions from Port of Tauranga.

Please do not approve the resource consent application RM19-0663 by Genera Limited seeking authorisation for the discharge of the following contaminants to air associated with the fumigation of quarantine or pre-shipment goods and materials

- Methyl Bromide
- Phosphine
- Ethanedinitrile (EDN)

[Sign the petition here...](#)