



BACKGROUND THE ESTABLISHMENT AND NAME OF ORATAIAO: THE NEW ZEALAND CLIMATE AND HEALTH COUNCIL

OraTaiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Council began in 2009 with a special article in the New Zealand Medical Journal outlining why health professionals should be concerned about climate change and how New Zealand could reduce greenhouse gas emissions in a fair and health promoting way. A hundred individuals and organisations co-authored or were named as supporting the article, and these people became the initial members of the “NZ Climate and Health Group”.

Following that, the group developed structures and processes, including co-convenors, and an executive group. The group was renamed **OraTaiao: The New Zealand Climate and Health Council**, established a website, developed a constitution and ultimately registered as an incorporated society.

The name ‘OraTaiao’ connects the Māori concepts ‘Ora’ and ‘Taiao’. ‘Ora’ means to be alive, well, safe, cured, recovered, healthy. ‘Taiao’ can be translated as world, Earth, environment, nature, country.

OraTaiao is governed by an Executive Board of up to 16 members including two co-convenors (one of whom is Māori), as set out in the Constitution. The co-convenors and executive officers are elected at the Annual General Meeting.