

Tuwhiria te Tikanga

Policy - Names to be displayed in a passport



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New Zealand passports only display names that we have substantiated.

Acceptable titles

Passports can be issued displaying the following acceptable titles:

- Honourable (Hon)
- Right Honourable (Rt Hon)
- titles bestowed by the Monarch
- Māori titles recognised by Treaty partners which are of mana and recognition in Māoridom equivalent to those conferred by the Crown for life.

Title bestowed by the Monarch

Unless the title is shown in a previous passport, the application must be referred to a Passport's Operations Manager who will determine if the passport can be issued displaying the title

Note: If you are able to find the applicant listed on the Honours list of the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet website here <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/new-ze>

You can use this in your referral for approval, alone or with any other supporting evidence. On receipt of approval, upload the approval email into the KIWI application as a supp document

Māori titles

Examples of titles that could be included (which are currently known to the Department to be of mana and status that are at least equivalent to Sir/Dame or to a hereditary peerage are:

- Te Arikiniui (for the Māori King or Queen)
- Ariki for the paramount chief of Tuwharetoa
- Tumuaki of the Kingitanga movement (recognised in the Ngāti Haua legislation)

We do not hold a definitive list of acceptable Māori titles, but to proceed on a case by case basis, and seek evidence where necessary from the applicant to substantiate their claim to the title.

Evidence may include:

- Waitangi Tribunal or Treaty Settlement reports, legislation and documents which refer to the holder and previous holders of the title (e.g. as the Ngāti Haua settlement rep
- Letters from the organisations recognised by the government as being representative of iwi (e.g. the Post Settlement Governance Entity or recognised Treaty negotiating b the Crown (e.g. Knighthood/Damehood) and recognised throughout their iwi and by other iwi.
- Historical and reference sources – e.g. the Te Ara Encyclopedia of New Zealand
- The Cabinet Office
- Media reports

Unless the title is shown in a previous passport, the application must be referred to a Passports' Operations Manager who will seek support from Pou Ārahi (if required) and determine if the passport can be issued displaying the title.

Unacceptable titles

Passports may not be issued displaying the following unacceptable titles:

- service and military ranks
- Awards, Designations, Professional and Vocational titles, for example OBE, Dr, Rev, or Nurse
- Pacific Island customary titles.

Note:

Unless the Pacific Island customary title is shown in a previous passport, the application must be referred to a Passport's Operations Manager who will determine if the passport can be issued displaying the title.

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Foreign titles

Foreign titles are not recognised for passport purposes in New Zealand.

Exception:

In some countries, a title is recorded as part of a person's name. If that person is granted New Zealand citizenship and the title appears on their citizenship certificate, it can be re g form.