

Te Reo Hāpai

The Language of Enrichment

A Maori language glossary for use in the
mental health, addiction and disability
sectors

Nā Keri Opai | Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui

Disability

Māori to English

As at Thursday 19 February 2026 at 1:20 PM

www.tereohapai.nz



A

| Māori | English |
|-----------------|-----------------------------------|
| Ahurea Turi | Deaf Culture |
| Ahurea Whaikaha | People with Disabilities' Culture |
| Atarua | Blurred vision Seeing double |

H

| Māori | English |
|--|------------------|
| Hakiri | Hearing Impaired |
| Haurua Turi | Half Deaf |
| This term has come from the Deaf Community | |
| Hūkeke | Seizure |

I

| Māori | English |
|-----------|-----------|
| Iokerewai | Paralysis |

K

| Māori | English |
|----------------|----------------|
| Kanorau ā-roro | Neurodiversity |

M

| Māori | English |
|-----------|-------------------|
| Manaakiao | Williams Syndrome |

For more information visit [the New Zealand Williams Syndrome Association](<https://williams-syndrome.org.nz/manaakiao.html>)

N

| Māori | English |
|--------------|--------------|
| Ngā Whaikaha | Disabilities |

P

| Māori | English |
|------------|----------------|
| Pūira Kehe | Downs Syndrome |

Odd numbered chromosome

| R | Māori | English |
|---|------------------|---|
| | Raru ā-io | Neurological Problem |
| | Raru Kori Tinana | Movement Problem Co-ordination Problem |
| | Rōnaki | Ramp |
| | Roro Ikura | Stroke |

| T | Māori | English |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| | Takiwātanga From 'tōku/tōna anō takiwā' - 'my/his/her own time and space' | Autism |
| | Tangata Kāpō | Blind Person |
| | Tangata Matarehu Person with some visual ability | Visually Impaired Person |
| | Tāngata Whaikaha | People with disabilities |
| | Tangata Whaitakiwātanga | Autistic Person |
| | Te Reo Rongo ā-whatu See also Te Reo Turi | Sign Language |
| | Te Reo Turi See also Te Reo Rongo ā-whatu | Sign Language |
| | Tōpūtanga Tāngata Whaikaha | Disability Persons Organisation (DPO) |
| | Tuhi Matapō | Braille |
| | Tūnga Waka Whaikaha | Disability Parking |
| | Tūnga Waka Whakatapoko | Accessible Parking |
| | Turi | Deaf |

| W | Māori | English |
|----------|---|-------------------------------------|
| | Whaikaha To have strength, to have ability, otherly abled, enabled. A word created within the Māori disabled community. | Disabled |
| | Whakatapoko Eg - He whare whakatapoko - an accessible building | Access Accessible, Accessibility |
| | Wharepaku Whaikaha | Disabled Toilet |
| | Wharepaku Whakatapoko | Accessible Toilet |