

Maori

Māori

Spoken in: New Zealand

Total speakers: 100,000-160,000 (est.)

Genetic Classification: Austronesian Malayo-Polynesian Central-Eastern Eastern Malayo-Polynesian Oceanic Central-Eastern Oceanic Remote Oceanic Central Pacific East Fijian-Polynesian Polynesian Nuclear East Central Tahitic Māori

Official language of: New Zealand

Māori is an Austronesian language spoken by the native peoples of New Zealand and the Cook Islands. Māori is fairly closely related to the other languages of Polynesia such as Hawaiian and Samoan.

The first printed Māori book was Thomas Kendall's 1815 reader called *E korao no New Zealand* (Talk from New Zealand). By 1900 more than a thousand publications in Māori had appeared.

There is no native writing system for Māori. Missionaries made their first attempts to write the language using the Roman alphabet as early as 1814, which is currently being used.

Currently SSWAHS Health Care Interpreter Service employs 1 Maori sessional interpreter.

Māori alphabet

A a	E e	H h	I i	K k	M m	N n	Ng ng
[a]	[e]	[h]	[i]	[k]	[m]	[n]	[ŋ]
O o	P p	R r	T t	U u	V v	W w	Wh wh
[o]	[p]	[r]	[t]	[u]	[v]	[w]	[f]