**The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust (BANZAT)**

**Policy 8 Transcription of Te Reo Maori**

**Introduction**

The Maori language which is spoken and written in New Zealand has had the equivalent signs used in braille and these signs have been recognized and been included in the World Braille Usage Third Edition published by Perkins School for the Blind (<http://www.perkins.org/international/world-braille-usage>), International Council on English Braille, National Library Service for the blind and Physically Handicapped, Library of Congress.

BANZAT as a standard setting body must include a set of guidelines to ensure Maori braille code is followed.

**Background**

For over 50 years New Zealand has transcribed Maori text in to Braille using a unique code developed for New Zealand conditions. Maori has been included as a template in the Duxbury translation program. Also a single cell macron is more practical and space-efficient for our unique use in New Zealand.

**Proposal**

That the letters whether they be in capitals or lowercase

A e g I m n o p t u

Be transcribed letter for letter even if a contraction could be used with a string of letters

That the wh sign be contracted dots 156 in all Maori braille.

A single cell macron is more practical and space efficient for our unique use in New Zealand.

That the macron be brailled dots 456 and place before the letter to which it applies.