

Dr Huhana Hickey MNZM (Ngāti Tahinga, Tainui, Ngati Ira, whakatohea. Aboriginal, Navajo and Sami) is a Māori disability rights advocate, legal scholar, and community leader based in Aotearoa New Zealand. She holds a PhD in Law from the University of Waikato and made history as the first Māori woman, the second Māori, and the first disabled person to complete a doctoral degree at the University of Waikato Law School. A trained barrister and long-standing human rights practitioner, she served for more than 15 years on the Human Rights Review Tribunal and has spent over three decades advancing human rights, Indigenous rights, and disability justice. Dr Hickey works across research, policy, and community leadership to promote accessible, inclusive systems grounded in kaupapa Māori approaches and co-design with disabled people. She was appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in recognition of her significant contributions to disability rights and advocacy in Aotearoa