

ports ABS because they are the only group offering an alternative to the present maori programming situation.

"Their main concern is for the people," she said.

"The ecological, literary, aural and craft skills of the Maori should be seen.

"Where there is no vision, the people perish. We must be committed to providing that vision."

Elizabeth Murchie maori health researcher and Maori Womens Welfare League member, said that present television programming is sending negative messages aimed straight at the young Maori audience.

"Television is saying that the Maori have no standards," she said.

Cultural co-ordinator at Waikeria Youth Institution and chairperson for the Waikato-Maniapoto District Maori Council, Tom Winitana, delivered his supportive evidence in his own captive way.

"The inmates at Waikeria are desperately in need of reinforcement for their maori identity," he said.

"A television channel using the maori language and presenting maori and other content in a maori context, would be a source of intellectual and emotional support which our schools and other systems have not provided.

"I feel sorry for the other applicants because they are reflections of the society we live in."

He told the Tribunal that it was hard to believe that 80% of Waikeria's inmate's tupuna navigated the mighty Pacific Ocean with no 'civilised' means.

"Before the year 2 000 the pakeha people can stand and bow because they have created a people, the Maori people, as criminals."

Of ABS's content, he said that their proposal to limit the foreign content of their programming to one third was very welcome.

"The very large proportion of overseas content in the present programming of TVNZ has been, and will continue, to be a major impediment to the introduction of more Maori content."

On behalf of the Waikato-Maniapoto Maori Council he said that they are confident that programme research will reveal limitless opportunity for positive programming.

Secretary for the Waiwharariki Maori Women's Welfare League branch, Peggy Aston, told the Tribunal that presenting programming has hastened the decline of maori language and culture.

"ABS promote and reverse the decline of the maori language and culture," she said.

She attributed the minimal involvement of Maori youth in maori activities to the absence of maori programming on public broadcasting.

Harry Lambert spoke of the Maori Battalion and his belief in the maori being in control of their own destiny.

"They (the Maori Battalion) really

believed things would be better because so many of us had made the sacrifice." He reminded the Tribunal that of the 3000 men who went overseas, 618 didn't come back.

"I am in favour, wherever possible, that Maori have charge over their own destiny."

Of the ABS komiti whakatinana, he said that they have the wit, the will and the imagination to get it off the ground.

"It's pathetic, if not criminal, to see our people not being catered for."

Seventh former at Auckland Girls' Grammar, Elizabeth Te Amo told the Tribunal that most of the broadcasting today is more harmful than beneficial. She gave them a run down of hui that have been run, but never covered by the media.

"These are the things we need, but never see," she said.

"It's important to have a lot of marae input, that's the way the maori live."

Graham Smith, lecturer at Auckland Secondary Teacher's College based his evidence on the education system.

He said that the present television services did not cater adequately to the needs of Maori school age pupils because of the lack of maori language, maori content, maori personnel, overt bi-cultural and multi-cultural content and maori success models.

"The over representation of Maori pupils in the crisis statistics of education have been attributed to break down of cultural identity, lack of self-esteem, lack of cultural reinforcement, poor school attendance, etc, etc," he said.

He added that the present television commitment may be undermining what the Department of Education policy is trying to achieve via taha maori, bi-lingual schools, maori studies syllabus for primary schools, compulsory maori studies for all teacher trainees and so on.

Professional story-teller, Wairangi Jones took his six foot six tall body full of talent to the stand and told the Tribunal the story about te Kauri me te Tohora. After his performance, he told them that before television, radio or the pakeha arrived, Maori used the gift of te reo.

"Through this verbal passage, genealogies, myths, history was passed on."

He told them that his story telling and countless other untold stories could be helped by the television media.

Reverend Peter Davis told the Tribunal that the New Zealand Churches realise that whatever happens here in New Zealand affects other indigenous peoples in the South pacific.

He also said that the action that ABS was taking was a challenge to preserve the culture of New Zealand.

"Keeping the art, language and community alive is playing a creative role in the Pacific," he said.

He told the Tribunal that by giving ABS the third television channel warrant, they would be giving access to the

tangata whenua to do things their way.

"Power sharing, not money, is the issue of this debate."

Auckland University lecturer in Law, David Williams, told the Tribunal that the Maori, as the indigenous peoples of Aotearoa, were not a mere minority to be lumped in with other ethnic minorities in New Zealand.

"The Maori people are a racial group entitled to special and concrete measures to ensure the adequate development and protection of their social and cultural rights.

"The granting of an application by a Maori based organisation for a television warrant would be the taking of a step necessary for the conservation, the development and the diffusion of the maori culture."

He also said that a State that has the resources to operate three television channels has ample available resources to maximise the economic, social and cultural rights of people and communities."

Producer for Te Reo O Aotearoa, Haare Williams, asked the Tribunal what price New Zealanders had to pay for the presence of maori programming in their homes.

"Some commentators have asked what will be the price for the push within maoridom for broadcasting equity, the injustices put before the Waitangi Tribunal and so on.

"Will it be easy?" they ask. Compared with what? Compared with social injustice, compared with racial hatred, compared with riots, compared with hopelessness, compared to the alternatives, it will be dead easy and dead cheap."

Chairperson of the Maori Economic Development Committee on Broadcasting, Tamihana (Toby) Curtis, said that the committee concluded that it is not possible for non-Maori structures to provide a maori broadcasting service to the Maori and non-Maori.

"The report concluded that there are three distinct audiences for which services in the maori language should be provided from television.

"Persons fluent in maori; Maori persons not fluent users of the maori language, but endorse its usage as part of a self-actualisation; and non-Maori who are appreciative of Maori history, culture and language as an integral part of this country's history, culture and language."

He said that ABS's application went further than that.

"It provides and will cater for both the Maori and non-Maori public interest in both the Maori language and other languages.

"In my view, ABS is the only applicant that will seriously discharge that statutory responsibility from the outset."

He told the Tribunal that approximately 25 percent of live births are Maori.