

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**8 May 2009**

### **Half of Kiwis happy with Wanganui spelling**

Just over half of all New Zealanders think that the spelling of Wanganui should stay the way it is, Research New Zealand polling shows.

Research New Zealand Director Emanuel Kalafatelis said that the latest polling found that, while 28 percent of respondents believed the spelling of Wanganui should be changed to include the 'h', 54 percent said it should remain the way it is. A further 13 percent didn't care and 5 percent didn't know.

“When we looked at the results by ethnicity and where respondents lived, the results differed. Support for changing the name to Whanganui was strongest among Maori with 54 percent, compared to 24 percent of those who identified themselves as New Zealand European”.

“Support for the change was also higher among those who live in the Upper North Island at 33 percent, compared to those in the South Island 22 percent”, Mr Kalafatelis said.

Research New Zealand polling was conducted between 24 and 30 April.

*The Research New Zealand poll of 501 people aged 15 and over was conducted by telephone between the 24 and 30 April. The maximum margin of error is +/- 4.6 % (at the 95% confidence level). The data has been weighted to ensure it is an accurate representation of New Zealand's general population. The poll was not taken on behalf of any organisation but as part of Research New Zealand's monthly survey of attitudes and opinions.*



Respondents were asked: *‘The New Zealand Geographic Board has decided that there is a case to be made to change the spelling of Wanganui to Whanganui. Do you agree or disagree that the spelling of Wanganui should be changed to include the ‘h’?’*

**Table 1: Results by ethnicity**

*The New Zealand Geographic Board has decided that there is a case to be made to change the spelling of Wanganui to Whanganui. Do you agree or disagree that the spelling of Wanganui should be changed to include the ‘h’?*

	Total	NZ European	Māori	Other
Base =	501	373	46	82
	%	%	%	%
Agree	28	24	54	29
Disagree	54	57	37	52
Don't care	13	14	5	14
Don't know	5	5	4	5
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

**Table 2: Results by location**

*The New Zealand Geographic Board has decided that there is a case to be made to change the spelling of Wanganui to Whanganui. Do you agree or disagree that the spelling of Wanganui should be changed to include the ‘h’?*

	Total	Upper North Island	Central/Lower North Island	South Island
Base =	501	143	180	178
	%	%	%	%
Agree	28	33	27	22
Disagree	54	49	58	56
Don't care	13	14	10	16
Don't know	5	5	4	6
Total	100	100	100	100

Total may not sum to 100% due to rounding.

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