

# The Mental Health Act

**The Mental Health Act** (the Act's full name is the Mental Health [Compulsory Assessment and Treatment] Act 1992) is an important law for people who experience mental illness, and for their family and whānau. The Act sets out the circumstances in which people can be compulsorily assessed or treated. Key features of the Act include:

- A requirement that responsible clinicians consult with a patient's family and whānau. The Act recognises that family and whānau relationships are integral to a patient's well-being.
- Respect for different cultural values and beliefs.
- A series of safeguards called patient rights. They are there to protect the person being assessed or treated.

