

Statement on Equity



We focus on making a positive difference for whanau and communities by giving action to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and challenging ourselves and others to achieve equity and improve outcomes across Tai Tokerau.

Health
Whiria te tangata
Mahitahi Hauora
improving health equity
Te ao Māori
tamariki aroha
improving

Mahitahi Hauora – adopts the definition of equity as provided by the Ministry of Health:

'In Aotearoa New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.'[1]

Put simply this means:

- Equality is treating people the same
- Equity is treating people fairly
- Equity is about being prepared to work differently to help people achieve the same outcomes.

Mahitahi Hauora – supports the findings and recommendations in 'A Window on the Quality of Aotearoa New Zealand's Health Care 2019 – a view on Māori health equity'[2] in particular:

1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is central to the Aotearoa New Zealand health system, both as a requirement for how we operate and as an improvement tool.
2. Te Tiriti can underpin the sustained, systemic, and multileveled approaches so clearly needed to improve Māori health and equity.
3. Māori knowledge and worldviews, including data and analysis approaches, can strengthen and broaden evidence bases for health care.

Mahitahi Hauora – supports 'Whakamaua: The Māori health Action Plan 2020-25'[3] which guides the health and disability sector to give effect to 'He Korowai Oranga'[4] through four high-level outcomes:

- Iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori communities exercise their authority to improve their health and wellbeing.
- The health and disability system is fair and sustainable and delivers more equitable outcomes for Māori.
- The health and disability system addresses racism and discrimination in all its forms.
- The inclusion and protection of mātauranga Māori throughout the health and disability system.

Mahitahi Hauora – supports the 'Framework for Health Care Organisations to Achieve Health Equity'[5], that is:

- Make health equity a strategic priority
- Develop structure and processes to support health equity work
- Deploy specific strategies to address the multiple determinants of health on which health care organisations can have a direct impact
- Decrease institutional racism within the organisation
- Develop partnerships with community organisations

[1] Ministry of Health. Achieving equity. <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/what-we-do/work-programme-2019-20/achieving-equity>.

[2] Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand. A window on the quality of Aotearoa New Zealand's health care 2019 - a view on Māori health equity. <https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/resources/resource-library/a-window-on-the-quality-of-aotearoa-new-zealands-health-care-2019-a-view-on-maori-health-equity-2/>

[3] Ministry of Health. Whakamaua: Māori Health Action Plan 2020-2025. <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whakamaua-maori-health-action-plan-2020-2025>

[4] Ministry of Health. He Korowai Oranga. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/populations/maori-health/he-korowai-oranga>

[5] Wyatt R, Laderman M, Botwinick L, Mate K, Whittington J. Achieving Health Equity: A Guide for Health Care Organizations. IHI White Paper. Cambridge, Massachusetts: Institute for Healthcare Improvement; 2016. (Available at ihi.org)

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