

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

Rātonga Hauora ā Iwi o Tamaki Makaurau



Working with the people of Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata

Auckland Regional Public Health Service

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Whakatātaka Tuarua: Māori Health Action Plan 2006-2011
Discussion Document for Consultation
Māori Health Strategic Projects
Ministry of Health
PO Box 5013
Wellington

Submission from the Auckland Regional Public Health Service on Whakatātaka Tuarua: Māori Health Action Plan 2006-2011.

1. Thank you for the opportunity for the Auckland Regional Public Health Service to provide a submission on Whakatātaka Tuarua: Māori Health Action Plan 2006-2011.
2. This submission represents the views of the Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS). ARPHS provides public health services for the three district health boards in the Auckland region (Auckland, Counties Manukau and Waitemata District Health Boards), with the primary governance mechanism for ARPHS resting with Auckland District Health Board. This submission represents the views of ARPHS and does not necessarily represent the views of the three District Health Boards.
3. ARPHS understands that all submissions will be available under the Official Information Act 1982, except if grounds set out under the Act apply.
4. The primary contact point for this submission is:

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Introduction

5. ARPHS is a regional public health service provider and works towards improving, promoting and protecting the health of people in the Auckland Region. ARPHS has an active commitment to working with central and local government, other health service providers, iwi and local communities to develop effective strategies to promote and protect the health of the people of the Auckland Region.
6. ARPHS takes a whole of population approach but targets resources to those locations and people who will benefit the most. ARPHS operates in an outcomes based framework which reflects the reality that it cannot create public health by itself, but must work with a range of partners in a whole of community approach to achieve the public health ends sought. ARPHS has identified six vital few outcomes to be the focus of its efforts, namely:
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of infectious disease.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of tobacco and alcohol related harm.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of cancer.
 - Reduction in the incidence and impact of environmental inequalities.
 - Reduction in the adverse effects of environmental hazards.
7. The significant differences in health status between Māori and non-Māori are unacceptable and cannot continue. Redressing these inequalities requires deliberate, evidence based, multi-pronged activities that are whānau ora focused.
8. ARPHS aims to do more to better support equity in health status across the Auckland region, over the medium to long term. ARPHS will continue to provide core public health services, working with other sectors on activities that are based on evidence, innovation and good knowledge of the communities it works with. ARPHS aims to co-ordinate its efforts to ensure that it targets resources appropriately across the region. Māori health improvements will translate into improved health for others in the community and contribute to a higher level of health status for the Auckland population at large.

Whakatātaka Tuarua Questions

9. This submission follows the format of the questions contained in the Whakatātaka Tuarua Māori Health Action Plan 2006 – 2011 Discussion document.

Does the draft action plan accurately reflect the intent of He Korowai Oranga, the Māori Health Strategy?

10. ARPHS believes the draft action plan accurately reflects the intent of He Korowai Oranga. The intent of He Korowai Oranga is to deliberately focus and draw attention to Māori health improvement and reduce Māori health inequalities by placing 'whānau ora' at the centre of good health for Māori. By taking a whānau ora approach, the responsibility is placed on the public sector, within the He Korowai Oranga framework, to develop, support, implement and gather research that clearly focuses on Māori achieving their maximum health and wellbeing.
11. Whakatātaka Tuarua sets out clearly existing and more recent health priorities for whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities and provides a range of comprehensive actions that seek to achieve whānau ora with the active support and involvement of a range of agencies and organisations.

Are there any actions you particularly endorse?

12. ARPHS endorses all identified actions.

Are there any actions that you think need to change?

13. Many of the milestones / proposed progress measures listed under the differing objectives of Whakatātaka Tuarua are poorly expressed and do not meet SMART (specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and time bound) criteria. It is recommended that all milestones / progress measures are reviewed so that they provide clear criteria against which the implementation of the proposed action plan can be measured.
14. ARPHS believes that the following actions need further consideration.

Te Ara Whakahaere: Pathway Ahead – Implementing Whakataataka (pp.6-10)

Objective 0.1: Building quality data: District Health Boards, providers and MoH will collaborate to improve the collection and accuracy of ethnicity data.

15. In order for this objective to be realised it is important that the number of ethnicity data-training packages be increased and offered widely across the health and disability sector. This will enable all health providers to better support this objective.

Objective 0.2: Monitoring progress in Māori health: Support whānau hapū, iwi and Māori communities to increase their ability to interpret monitoring data.

16. ARPHS recommends that Public Health Units be included as one of the classes of agency. As a population based health provider, working alongside communities, especially whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities, plays a pivotal part in ARPHS core business. ARPHS close relationship with its communities will enable ARPHS to act as an agent of change to support and assist the Ministry and DHBs in increasing the communities' ability to interpret monitoring data (p. 7).

Objective 0.4: Implementing the strategic research agenda for He Korowai Oranga: Collaborate across sectors to coordinate research on the determinants of Whānau ora and effective interventions.

17. ARPHS recommends that a pilot research on the determinants of whānau ora and effective interventions be offered with a public health provider, such as ARPHS as centres of known collaboration (p. 9). ARPHS operates in an evidence informed managing for outcomes framework, this gives it an increasing level of experience developing and evaluating effective public health interventions. ARPHS has experience in identifying and reporting on health determinants (see below) and it is also experienced in collaborating with other organisations to support research e.g. “A Health Profile of Young Asian New Zealanders¹” which was undertaken in collaboration with Auckland University.
18. ARPHS recommends that whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities be supported and encouraged to identify and undertake their own research priorities (p. 9). ARPHS believes that it is well placed to help support through advice to whānau, hapū and iwi around the types of research priorities that may be available.

Te Ara Tuatahi: Development of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities (pp.11)

Objective 1.1: Fostering Māori Community Development.

19. ARPHS recommends that public health units as experienced agents in environmental health be included with the identified agencies to work on monitoring frameworks and environmental health indicators. ARPHS work on its two state of public health reports: “Te Hau o te Whenua Te Hau o te Tangata” and “Improving Health and Wellbeing: A Public Health Perspective for Local Authorities in the Auckland Region²” means that it has particular knowledge and skills in this area.
20. ARPHS recommends that public health units be specifically included in the agencies listed under HEHA initiatives. The multi disciplinary approach of public health units such as ARPHS with their focus on health outcomes mean that they are well placed to support and champion the health priorities of nutrition and physical activity whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori communities.

Te Ara Tuarua: Māori participation in the health and disability sector (pp12-14)

21. ARPHS does not wish to suggest changes to the proposed actions.

Te Ara Tuatoru: Effective health and disability sector (pp15-18)

Objective 3.1 Addressing health inequalities for Māori.

22. ARPHS recommends that the proposed HEHA milestone should be extended to include the need to build understanding and develop expertise across the sector on the application of the HEAT tool and Intervention Framework (p. 16). Unless the sector understands and values the tool and framework it will

¹ <http://www.youth2000.ac.nz/pdf/hp-young-asian-nz.pdf>

² <http://www.arphs.govt.nz/publications/Publications.asp>

not be proactively used and the full benefits of the techniques will not be achieved.

23. ARPHS recommends that the Leading for Outcomes milestone includes a hyper link to that website along with other links to organisations such as ARPHS that are implementing the health outcomes focus and which operate in a managing for outcomes framework (p. 17).
24. ARPHS recommends that the milestone supporting Māori representation be amended to include 'support and strengthen robust Māori representation in primary health care strategy, policy and implementation (p.17). This wording better reflects the intent of the proposed actions and will help the achievement of the milestone / progress measure.

Have any key actions been missed?

25. *Reducing Family Violence*: Family violence is an issue affecting many communities including Māori. It disproportionately affects the vulnerable in society such as children, women and older adults. Family violence leads to physical and mental injury that can echo across the generations, if children repeat the cycle of violence when they reach adulthood. For this reason family violence forms one of the components of ARPHS "Living in a Healthy Way" multiple outcomes programme.
26. Whakatātaka Tuarua is silent on the issue of family violence. This omission is a major deficiency in the action plan and should be remedied. The effects of family violence are so great that family violence issues should be captured in all five whānau ora pathways.

Do you have any other comments on the action plan?

27. ARPHS is supportive of the action plan as it relates to health. The discussion document, however, notes on page 2

He Korowai Oranga provides a framework for the public sector to take responsibility for its role in supporting the health status of whānau. This includes public policies that actively:

- promote whānau wellbeing
- promote high-quality education
- promote employment opportunities
- promote suitable housing
- promote safe working conditions
- promote improvements in income and wealth
- address systemic barriers, including institutional racism.

28. This reflects the reality that health at the individual or population level is affected by far more than the efforts of the health sector. ARPHS recommends that the action plan be reviewed in the light of documents such as “Health is Everyone’s Business Working Together for Health and Wellbeing³” Te Ara Tuawha: Working Across Sectors pathway has a mainly health sector focus. This pathway needs to be extended to encompass areas such as housing, employment and education as success in addressing inequalities in these sectors faced by Māori will do as much or more to improve Māori health status and outcomes than work focused around the health sector.

Conclusion

29. ARPHS believes that Whakatātaka Tuarua: Māori Health Action Plan 2006-2011 discussion document represents a good basis for improving Māori health. ARPHS believes that the draft action plan could be improved in several areas.
30. ARPHS believes that the robust consultation process that government is using to develop Whakatātaka Tuarua: Māori Health Action Plan 2006-2011 provides an opportunity to create a sound, evidence-based, rational and coherent strategy that will shape society’s efforts to improve whānau ora and eliminate the difference in health status and outcomes between non Māori and Māori.

Yours sincerely

Monica Briggs
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³ Public Health Advisory Committee “A Report to the Minister of Health on the Implications of a Changing Context for Public Health in New Zealand” <http://www.nhc.govt.nz/phac/publications/health-everyones-business.pdf>