Families supported to achieve their maximum health and well-being: New Zealand initiatives to reduce the disparity between Māori and Non-Māori

Hon Tariana Turia, Associate Minister of Health
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Tree Grafting

“Let us return to our origins. Since the time we as Maori were immersed in the knowledge streams of Tauiwi we have become like a branch grafted to a foreign tree, producing fruit of a different quality and somewhat unpalatable. It is time that we returned to the rootstock of our ancestors.”

Rangitihi Tahuparae, Whanganui Korohake

Te Titoki

Manaakitanga

Whakapapa

Te Reo me ōna tikanga

Whanaungatanga

Kotahitanga

Waruautanga

Kahikutanga

Whānau ora goals
Ngā Uara (the principles of Te Pātaka Uara)

- Kotahitanga (whānau are collective and concerted in their approach)
- Ūkaipōtanga (whānau are well connected to their home, their land, and their people)
- Whanaungatanga (whānau living with reciprocal obligations to each other consistent with being part of and affirming the value of the wider collective)
- Wairuatanga (whānau are experiencing the fulfilment of life. Wairuatanga is encompassing and reflective of the inter-relatedness and inter-connectedness of all the uara that contribute to whānau well-being.)
- Whakapapa (whānau cohesiveness and connectedness is strengthened in the knowledge of their whakapapa, identity, and belonging.)
- Manaakitanga (manaakitanga through the expression of aroha, hospitality, generosity, and mutual respect as whānau practice)
- Kaitiakitanga (whānau enabled to fulfil their obligations as caretakers of their resources and taonga)
- Rangatiratanga (whānau are working in empowering and enabling ways that foster and encourage self-determination)
- Te Reo (Te Reo Māori is strong and vibrant in the everyday lives of whānau)
Whānau Ora Initiative

- An inclusive approach to providing services and opportunities to families across New Zealand.
- Empowers families as a whole rather than focusing separately on individual family members and their problems.
- In 2010 the New Zealand government invested $134.4 million over four years in Whānau Ora, with an additional $30 million over four years invested through Budget 2011.
- Available to all family members in need across New Zealand.

Puao-te-ata-tu
The Daybreak Report (1988)

"The Māori child is not to be viewed in isolation or even as part of a nuclear family, but as a member of a wider kin group or hapū community that has traditionally exercised responsibility for the child’s care and placement. The technique must be to reaffirm the hapū bonds and capitalise on the traditional strengths of the wider group".
Current Progress in Whānau Ora

**Whānau Ora Provider Collectives**

- There are currently 34 Whānau Ora collectives representing more than 180 health and social service providers from throughout the country.
- Whānau are supported to develop whānau plans that outline their aspirations and help put in place the actions required to achieve their goals.
- By viewing the whānau as a whole, providers are more efficient and effective in addressing whānau aspirations.

From left, Georgina Kiwara with Turuki Health Care primary health care manager Rene Muru and nurse Vicky Maiava.

Cultural Safety

- "It has become apparent that standards of cultural safety [for Māori] can only be defined by Māori people. Such standards can be upheld alongside other standards of safety in the practice of health professionals. For Māori, these involve safety in the area of wairua as well as tinana and the whole Māori understanding of health"

Cultural Safety

- Cultural safety in New Zealand was developed in the context of nursing education during Hui Waimanawa held in Christchurch in 1988.
- The delivery of effective health care through understanding life changes and the social circumstances of minority groups that frequently marginalise them from mainstream cultures, resulting in poor health care.
- For Māori health, there are legislative requirements for health authorities to set standards of cultural safety and cultural competence for health practitioners.

Cultural Competency

- Ethnic differences in medical management are apparent in primary care, tertiary cardiac interventions, and cancer care throughout New Zealand.
- Differences in care suggest that inequalities are modifiable, and that more culturally competent health practice may contribute to more equitable health care and health outcomes.
- The requirement for New Zealand health practitioners to be culturally competent is woven into legislation through the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.
Cultural Competency Online Tool

- New Zealand’s first online foundation course on cultural competency was released on 20 June 2012.
- Provides an understanding of New Zealand’s culturally diverse population, with an in-depth emphasis on Māori culture.
- Designed specifically for health workforce professionals to help demonstrate the links between building cultural competency and building awareness of health literacy, and the impact it has on outcomes for whānau.