



Australasian College for Emergency Medicine

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Submission to the Ministry of Health Draft Māori Health Action Plan

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Introduction

The Australasian College for Emergency Medicine (ACEM) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback to the Ministry of Health on the draft Māori Health Action Plan.

About ACEM

ACEM is the peak body for emergency medicine and has a vital interest in ensuring the highest standards of emergency medical care for all patients. ACEM is responsible for the training and ongoing education of emergency physicians and the advancement of professional standards in emergency medicine in Australia and New Zealand.

ACEM has made a commitment to achieving equity for Māori patients, their whānau and staff in New Zealand emergency departments (EDs). In support of this commitment, ACEM has developed [Manaaki Mana](#), a Māori Equity Strategy for the provision of excellent and culturally safe care within the ED. Manaaki Mana focuses on four key goals spanning healthy futures, individuals, families and environments: Pae Ora, Mauri Ora, Whānau Ora and Wai Ora, respectively.

Submission

ACEM recognises that Māori have a broad range of poor health outcomes as demonstrated in a number of population health measures. In particular, there is an unacceptable disparity between Māori and non-Māori in a broad range of health indicators. As the causes of disparity in health outcomes for Māori are complex, multi-faceted strategies are required to address these issues.

ACEM wishes to commend the Ministry of Health for the drafting of the Māori Health Action Plan. We consider the document to be a positive direction for the Ministry of Health in its work to support the implementation of He Korowai Oranga: The Māori Health Strategy.

However, we believe that the document could be strengthened by embedding the perspective of emergency and acute care. Although Māori comprise around 15% of the general population, our most recent data for 2017/18 shows that they represent 21% of all patients that present to the ED. In its current draft, the Māori Health Action Plan includes specific mention of primary health care and preventative health strategies, yet no consideration is given to emergency medicine and acute care. While prevention is important, given Māori are more likely to access EDs and thus acute care more frequently than other populations, embedding acute care in the document is needed. Embedding equitable access to EDs and acute care within the Māori Health Action Plan will support positive outcomes for Māori, and facilitate care pathways out of the ED and into the community. Recognition of the role of EDs in Māori health will therefore support the Māori Health Action Plan to realise the goals of He Korowai Oranga.

Recommendations


ACEM makes the following recommendations to the Ministry of Health regarding the draft Māori Health Action Plan:

- To include within the document consideration and perspective of emergency and acute care to embed the Māori Health Strategy in these settings and support care pathways out of the ED and into the community
- Invite ACEM to work in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders in the future work to develop, finalise and implement the Māori Health Action Plan
- Note the Manaaki Mana Strategy, and collaborate with ACEM where possible to support the implementation of the Ministry's Māori Health Action Plan and ACEM's Manaaki Mana Strategy

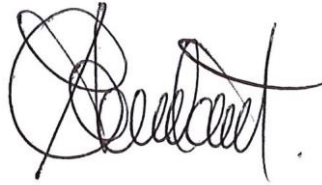
Thank you again for this opportunity to input to a crucial piece of work for New Zealand's healthcare system. We warmly welcome any opportunity to work with the Ministry of Health in supporting equitable health outcomes for Māori, and look forward to further engagement on this important issue in emergency medicine.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the ACEM New Zealand Office Manager Leanne Shuttleworth by phone: 04 471 2334, or via email: Leanne.Shuttleworth@acem.org.au.

Yours faithfully,



Dr John Bonning
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Dr Andre Cromhout
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