Pāolo mo tagata ole Moana
Pacific Health Action Plan 2015–2018

Pāolo mo tagata ole Moana is Samoan for refuge or shelter for people of the ocean. This plan addresses the need for a refuge from the burden of disease for the Pacific people in our communities, with shelter being provided by health professionals in a way which preserves their unique sense of culture, spirituality and wellbeing.

This plan has been developed with valued input from a wide range of individuals, groups and organisations. We would like to thank members of the Pacific community who gave their time and energy freely and generously to participate in this process.

**Our vision**

Our vision for the future is for Pacific families to live longer and healthier lives. The plan will guide development and help inform decision making around Pacific people in both districts. It is important for Pacific health that programme development is both acceptable and effective for Pacific communities. This single plan encompasses all service providers within two districts including; Te Awakairangi Health Network (PHO), Compass Health (PHO), Regional Public Health, Pacific providers and the District Health Boards.
How we plan to make a difference

Child health:
- increase the number of Pacific children who have completed their Well Child Tamariki Ora checks
- increase the number of Pacific children undertaking immunisation programmes
- ensure all Pacific children under 12 are seen annually by dental services
- investigate opportunities for healthy eating programmes aimed specifically at Pacific people
- develop a parenting programme specifically for Pacific people, to be implemented in 2016.

Health literacy:
- raise awareness of health messages amongst our communities and ensure that Pacific people receive health information in their place of gathering – a lack of health literacy has been identified as one of the leading barriers to improving health outcomes for Pacific people
- facilitate health education sessions based in the community including the ‘Aiga-Ola-Manuia’ programme in Wairarapa and utilise church-based settings
- develop the parish nursing approach as an outreach model for engaging with our Pacific churches and families within
- engage our Pacific churches and community leaders, Pacific providers, PHOs and NGOs to work alongside DHBs to achieve goals.

Access to care:
- achieve better access to care for Pacific people through a combination of improving understanding of the need to visit health professionals, and reducing barriers to primary care such as cost and cultural inappropriateness
- initiate a project to investigate Pacific barriers to accessing primary care and make specific recommendations to address barriers
- investigate options to fund solutions.

Workforce capacity:
- undertake a stocktake of current workforce across both districts, this would cover the Pacific workforce in primary and community providers (NGOs) as well as DHBs
- grow and strengthen the Pacific workforce by supporting their professional development
- equip and support DHBs and PHO staff to be responsive to the needs of Pacific patients
- invest in Pacific youth development by offering scholarships to young men and women to pursue health related studies.

Four priority focus areas
We need to improve Pacific health and reduce health inequalities in:
- child health – giving every Pacific child the best start in life
- health literacy – raising awareness of health messages amongst Pacific people through community based education programmes
- access to care – reducing barriers to primary care to ensure equity of access for Pacific people
- workforce capacity – increasing the number of Pacific people employed in all levels of the health sector and the development of future workforce.

The consultation process identified key opportunities for joint development work with Pacific providers including Primary Health Organisations (PHOs), Regional Public Health, and non-government organisations including local Pacific church communities.

The opportunities include:
- empowering leaders in Pacific communities to improve their people’s health by being active partners with the health sector
- involving Pacific communities in services and interventions development and planning.

The action plan
The key focus for the plan is providing Pacific communities with a better health system that is accessible and affordable. We have written this plan for our stakeholders, our staff and the people we work with.

This plan aims to support the work of Wairarapa and Hutt Valley DHBs to reduce the health inequalities between Pacific populations and other groups. Together we can help our people to increase their skills when working with Pacific families and strengthen our partnerships to achieve better health outcomes for Pacific people.

There are four areas which this plan will address. We chose to concentrate on these areas after considering feedback from the community consultation process, and data analysis identifying the health areas that need attention.

• Access to care
• Workforce capacity
• Health literacy
• Child health

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