

Advocating Public Health Policy for Māori

*Checklist for the Public Health Association of
New Zealand Incorporated*

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Effective Public Health Policy for Māori

The Public Health Association of New Zealand has, within its rules and regulations an intention to carry out its mandate “*in the spirit of the Treaty of Waitangi*”. This document is a checklist for the PHANZ’s development of policy, as well as policy implementation and evaluation.

This checklist, developed by the Māori Caucus, is to be used in the development of policy within the PHA. It is also to be used by the PHA when considering policy developed by other agencies.

The checklist is built on a framework recommended by Cunningham and Taite. It covers both the policy itself, and the process for developing policy. Effective health policy should:

- Support health gains for Māori (policy outcomes)
- Be responsive to Māori needs and expectations (policy outcomes and policy development process)
- Be analytically sound (policy development process)

Effective Public Health Policy Outcomes

Policy outcome that supports Māori health gains

- Recognises and addresses the determinants of Māori health
- Enables Māori workforce development
- Addresses the Government's health priorities
- Is consistent with the Government's Māori Development and Treaty policies
- Addresses health priorities of Māori
- Promotes Māori wishes to take responsibility for their own health
- Promotes national standards and meets Government obligations
- Builds on past gains in Māori health
- Requires quality solutions and specifically supports outcomes specified in relevant, existing wisdom
- Requires competent, safe and efficacious services
- Enables meaningful data to be collected
- Promotes goals which relate to measurable outcomes

Policy outcomes responsive to Māori

- Uses appropriate indicators
- Identifies Māori as a relevant target group
- Identifies whanau ora as a health outcome
- Responsive to diverse Māori realities
- Recognises and addresses Māori development priorities
- Promotes seamlessness (of services, and, between health and development)
- Promotes cultural affirmation for Māori
- Addresses barriers to access
- Promotes and supports informed choice
- Promotes dialogue with Māori
- Promotes choice and Māori preferences for service providers (including services provided by Māori)
- Promotes appropriate use of te reo me ona tikanga Māori
- Promotes positive and active linkages to Māori institutions

Effective policy development processes

An analytically sound policy development process

- Identifies Māori as a relevant target group
- Is based on a rigorous policy development model (management sign-off, consultation all state agencies with an interest in Māori health (audit trail))
- Is clearly based on a framework concordant with Māori views (such as He Anga Whakamana, He Taura Tieke, and Te Whare Tapa Wha)
- Clearly provides for a monitoring and evaluation process
- Meaningfully uses Māori specific data

Policy development process responsive to Māori

- Respects Māori intellectual property rights
- Actively involves Māori in policy development and decision making
- Consults meaningfully with Māori
- Affirms Māori cultural viewpoints
- Is culturally safe; uses Māori institutions correctly
- Acknowledges the rights/special needs of tangata whenua
- Identifies the impact on Crown/tangata whenua relationship
- Respects Māori and in turn develops trust

All policy developed within the PHANZ will impact on Māori in some way therefore it is not an issue of whether there is an impact but rather how much of an impact there is and how well we manage that impact;