

P U B L I C H E A L T H A S S O C I A T I O N
O F
N E W Z E A L A N D I N C

THE POPULATION HEALTH MANIFESTO

This manifesto outlines policies to improve the health of all New Zealanders. The policies have been selected to improve the health of whole populations and reduce disparities. The recommendations are based on research.

Health, Fairness and Opportunity

All New Zealanders have a right to a full life

The causes of ill health for New Zealanders include poverty, unemployment, poor education and poor quality housing. Deprivation in childhood can cause ill health throughout life.

Recommended policies

1. That the government implements a comprehensive plan to give all New Zealanders a fair chance at a full life.
2. That the government reduces inequalities by improving social conditions for those families and children with the highest needs.
3. Eliminate childhood poverty
 - ensure that the special benefit is allocated to all eligible families.
 - update and adjust for inflation Family Support and Child Tax Credit.

Healthy Public Policies

The big decisions affecting health are made outside the health sector

The health of the population should be seen as a basic goal of all government activity.

Recommended policies

1. That all government and local body policies are assessed for likely health impacts.
2. That the government monitors the health impact of policy changes in areas such as poverty, income, taxes, benefits, education, employment, transport, environment, and housing.

Māori Health

The continued difference between the health of Māori and the health of the rest of the population of Aotearoa is a national disgrace. It is a violation of the Treaty of Waitangi

The health of Māori has been adversely affected by the economic conditions in which people live, as well as by racial bias in access to opportunities. Māori concepts of health differ from non Māori concepts.

Recommended policies

1. That priority is given to plans to address the social and cultural factors affecting health in Māori.
2. That 'by Māori for Māori' service provision is realistically resourced by a planned development of a Māori health workforce and services.

Urgent action

That the Māori Strategic Action for Public Health reflects Māori beliefs and aspirations, and is developed by Māori.

Health Services

Health care is a fundamental human right and a responsibility of government

Preventive and early intervention health services can improve the health of the population, as well as relieve pain and suffering. There are barriers to access for the people with the greatest need for health services. These barriers include cost, transport, and the cultural acceptability of services.

Recommended policies

1. That funding for population health services is returned to at least 4% of government expenditure on health.
2. That government removes barriers to early access for those with the greatest need.
3. That funding for effective preventive and first line treatment services is increased.

Effective District Health Boards

The top priority for DHBs is the health of their populations

All DHBs should have as their top priorities, health gains and reduction in health inequalities.

Recommended that DHBs

1. involve communities in DHB decisions.
2. improve access to early intervention for everyone, including those with poorer health - Maori, Pacific peoples, and those on low incomes.
3. increase health promotion and disease prevention to make healthy choices easier.
4. collaborate with other sectors to achieve healthy public policies.

**Other recommendations to
improve the health of New Zealanders**

Tobacco

Make all workplaces smokefree

Alcohol

Warning labels on all containers
Put the age limit back up

Road safety

Create safe public transport choices

Firearm injury prevention

Prohibit personal ownership of functioning handguns
and military style semi-automatic weapons

Gambling

Implement the Responsible Gaming Bill

Environmental health

Safe drinking water for all
Manage the health risks from waste

Climate change

Ratify the Kyoto protocol

Nuclear weapons

Create a Nuclear Free Pacific

Water fluoridation

Fluoridate public drinking water supplies

Disability Access

Ensure fair access for people with disabilities

Advertising prescription drugs

Prohibit direct- to-public advertising of prescription medicines

Tax

Taxes should be targeted to improve equity and to reduce behaviour that damages
health

For more information on these policies check our website www.pha.org.nz.

About the PHA

The Public Health Association of New Zealand is the main forum for the exchange of information about public health in New Zealand. Membership is open to all people who are interested in public health.

Aims of PHANZ

These are carried out in accordance with the Treaty of Waitangi.

- To promote informed public debate on health and health services
- To participate in the formulation and evaluation of health policy
- To promote research and disseminate knowledge relevant to the health of New Zealanders
- To support informed and coordinated action on public health issues
- To support and encourage the development of trained and effective people working for health
- To be a strong and informed advocate for health
- To develop an efficient and effective organisation through which the aims can be achieved

Benefits of belonging

- Belonging to a group of professionals and other people actively involved in improving public health
- Participation in activities in branches located in Auckland, Waikato, Manawatu/Wanganui, Wellington, Canterbury, and Otago/Southland
- Access to PHANZ's communications and media experts for advice and support in placing public health stories
- Taking part in meetings and conferences addressed by leading thinkers in public health
- Contributing to the development of public policy through informed debate and such activities as submissions, media comment and membership of advisory committees
- Keeping up-to-date on research and health issues through public health publications
- Special rates at conferences, seminars and workshops
- Membership of the PHA email discussion group
- Receiving support and representation from people in other professions and workplaces.

To join the association contact:

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