

MEDIA RELEASE
PUBLIC HEALTH ASSOCIATION
Wednesday 2 July 2008

Harawira says Māori health will suffer under Labour or National

Māori will continue to experience poor health under either of the major parties, Māori Party MP Hone Harawira told Māori health leaders last night.

"We've seen a major increase in poverty under this Labour government, and as a result we have the worst health profile of any group in the country. Things will be no different for us under a Key-led government." Harawira told delegates at the Public Health Association's annual conference in Waitangi.

Harawira said he questioned both Labour and National's commitment to Māori.

"At least National stab you in the front, unlike Labour who stab you in the back."

"Many of our people are now living amongst third generation unemployment. People ask me what's the most important issue for us. Is it our land, our language? I say no it's our health."

Harawira said that political groups like Tu Tangata established in the 1970s provided a model for the way forward.

"Government has the resources but as Māori we must take ownership of the health problems which plague our people and develop our own solutions."

Ends

Contact: Anton Blank 021 406 031