



**The Paediatric Society of New Zealand**  
**Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa**

10 May 2022

## **Media statement - Māori Health Authority**

The Paediatric Society of New Zealand/ Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa is very supportive of the establishment of Te Mana Hauora Māori /Māori Health Authority as part of the impending Health System reforms.

Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa/Paediatric Society of New Zealand is a professional body of >600 nurses, allied health clinicians, doctors, officials and managers working to improve the health and wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi in Aotearoa. We were founded in 1947 and are a not-for-profit membership organisation. We support many clinical networks focused on specific areas of practice.

As frontline healthcare workers we see inequity every day, in acute and chronic disease burden and outcomes, mental health and behavioural issues. We see that our current health system is unable to effectively assist Māori tamariki and rangitahi and their whānau to achieve the excellent and equitable healthcare outcomes they deserve. Research and data analysis very clearly show us that our current health system is central to this inequity. This health system induced inequity is unjust and breaches Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We support the establishment of Te Mana Hauora Māori /Māori Health Authority (MHA) as an independent statutory entity to improve hauora Māori. We look forward to working with the MHA as it co-commissions and plans services with Health New Zealand, commissions kaupapa Māori services, and monitors the performance of the health system for Māori. We anticipate the MHA will facilitate effective cross sectoral activity and improve access to health care for Māori whanau.

Over the years, despite expressing an intent to do so, the current health system has not been able to deliver equity of outcomes for Māori despite ongoing research, innovation and system redesign. Existing approaches have not worked; a bold approach and a reframing of the issue is needed and the establishment of the MHA is a step in the right direction. We are also confident that health system changes that flow from MHA commissioning, planning and monitoring will benefit all in Aotearoa, particularly tamariki and rangitahi.

The establishment of Te Mana Hauora Māori /Māori Health Authority is central to a health system that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and will help ensure everyone in Aotearoa has the best chance of achieving excellent health outcomes.

Examples of relevant references:

Oben G, Crengle S, Kokaua J, Duncanson M. Trends in deprivation in hospitalisations of Indigenous children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. *J Paediatr Child Health* 2022 Apr 15. Online ahead of print.

Hauora :Report on Stage One of the Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa Inquiry – Pre-publication Version. <https://waitangitribunal.govt.nz/inquiries/kaupapa-inquiries/health-services-and-outcomes-inquiry/>

**ENDS**

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