



## Our Position on Whai Mana/ Equity

### How we see Equity

The Western Bay of Plenty Primary Health Organisation (WBOPPHO) closely aligns its position on equity to the equity definition as set out by the Ministry of Health (MOH).

The definition states that “people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.”

In its simplest form, health equity is about fairness. We serve a diverse community with different levels of advantage that require different supports, resources, and approaches. We celebrate and value diversity and inclusiveness throughout our network which is essential for innovation, bold thinking, and decision-making.

The concept of equity acknowledges that not only are differences in health status unfair and unjust, but they are also the result of differential access to the resources necessary for people to lead healthy lives.

The WBOPPHO also acknowledges that other interpretations of equity augment the WBOP PHO's thinking, specifically in application within the health of our population. We choose however to focus on the MOH definition, revised in 2019 and designed to:

- Fit the Aotearoa/ New Zealand context.
- Align with Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations to go beyond just remedying disadvantage and reducing inequities, enabling Māori to flourish and lead their aspirations for health.
- Be principle based.
- Be inclusive enough to incorporate all possible dimensions of equity including but not limited to indigenous, socio-economic, geographical, disability, age, or gender.
- Reflect the international literature on equity.
- Reflect the definition put forward by the [World Health Organisation](#).

### What does prioritising Equity mean for the WBOPPHO?

The WBOPPHO has taken a strong pro-equity approach, as we know that the health system is not working for all priority groups as identified in the Pae Ora Act.

The purpose of the Act is to achieve equity in health outcomes among all Aotearoa/ New Zealand's population groups, including by striving to eliminate health disparities, in particular for Māori.

Under the Act achieving equity means ensuring all population groups:

- (i) have access to services in proportion to their health needs and
- (ii) receive equitable levels of service and
- (iii) achieve equitable health outcomes, in particular for Māori.

## How are we focussing on Māori inequities?

In July 2019, a report was released by Te Tāhū Hauora Health Quality & Safety Commission which shows a pattern of inequities between Māori and priority groups over their lifetimes.

Equity is everyone's responsibility. All inequities are unfair, unjust, and avoidable, however, our focus on Māori Health is based on the following rights and needs:

### Rights

- To uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the founding document of Aotearoa/ New Zealand. The Crown has a responsibility that includes the right to parity of health outcomes.
- To acknowledge equity as a basic human right, underpinned by legislation, the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act.

### Needs

- To accept the evidence and facts that Māori have on average poorer health outcomes than non-Māori.
- To understand there is a range of reasons for Māori Health inequities.
- To acknowledge the effects of colonisation are wide-reaching and still affect Māori today.

The WBOPPHO has invested and continues to invest in kaupapa Māori programmes. This approach to service delivery draws upon the values, tikanga, and kawa unique to their respective iwi and is recognised as integral to whānau well-being.

## Our Commitment to Eliminating All Inequities

Whilst our focus on eliminating inequities for Māori is front and centre and at the core of our strategy, we are also determined to eliminate all inequities in our health system causing disadvantage and poorer health outcomes for our population.



- We invest in programmes to help our kaimahi understand unconscious bias and how that impacts our practice and the way we treat people.
- We are committed to becoming a Rainbow Accredited Organisation, where everyone is welcome in our whare.
- We champion and advocate for all marginalised groups that have little voice.
- We partner with NGOs, ethnic communities, disability providers and any other organisation that shares our vision to eliminate inequities for all New Zealanders.
- We are strongly opposed to any discrimination against any individuals or groups and advocate for equity approaches that uphold dignity, improve wellbeing, and achieve better health outcomes for our communities.

## Rārangi Pukapuka/ References and Further Information

Pae Ora Act (2022). [Pae Ora \(Healthy Futures\) Act 2022 No 30 \(as at 27 July 2023\), Public Act – New Zealand Legislation](#)

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