

13 October 2020

Dr George Laking FRACP
Aotearoa NZ President
The Royal Australasian College of Physicians (RACP)
99 The Terrace
WELLINGTON 6011

By email to: george@adhb.govt.nz
charlotte.baird@racp.org.nz

Tēnā koe George

**Re: He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata: Centre Equity and Te Tiriti o Waitangi
COVID 19 Pandemic Planning Strategy and Response**

Ngā mihi tino nui e te manukura i tēnei wā. He mana tō te kupu e hoa!

Thank you for your letter inviting critique and comment regarding the RACP campaign, to *Make Health Equity the Norm*, and recommendations arising from the *Report Cards* which contain priorities and progress towards health equity outcomes arising from your mahi.

Tu Te Akaaka Roa affirms the RANZCP's commitment to improving equity and upholds the right of Māori to health care according to their constitutional rights - mana motuhake and needs - mana tāngata. We note that outcomes of the WAI 2575 signify a new phase in applying ritenga, by influencing improvements in cultural safety and applying Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations as reflected in the principles of Tino Rangatiratanga, Equity, Active Protection, Options and Partnership. We suggest that joint mahi to support the right of Māori to achieve equitable health outcomes to these principles.

In this respect we strongly advocate that better understanding of Whānau Ora concepts to provide insights into Te Ao Māori. Whānau Ora emphasises the voice of Māori whānau and the importance of listening to understand what can be done to support equitable outcomes. We intend to integrate Whānau Ora concepts within training and continuing professional development programmes to strengthen knowledge of Te Ao Maori, kaupapa Māori practices, and influence change by advocating for improvements to achieve equity in mental health outcomes for tāngata whaiora.

We identify an opportunity provided by the new Pae Ora – Health Futures platform which brings together Mauri ora, Whānau ora, and Wai ora. The Strategy reinforces evidence and gains made by the Whānau Ora Framework in facilitating whanaungatanga. A critical element of Whānau Ora is the involvement of whānau as key advisors in determining their health solutions. In tandem with the Pae Ora Strategy, we consider the Whakamaua¹: Māori Health Action Plan 2020 – 2025, could be a useful tool for the health and disability system to fulfil its stewardship

¹ Ministry of Health. *Whakamaua: Māori Health Action Plan 2020–2025*. Wellington: Ministry of Health. 2020. Available at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/publication/whakamaua-maori-health-action-plan-2020-2025>

obligations and special relationship between Māori and the Crown. Whakamaua outlines a suite of actions to help achieve the high-level outcomes.

Tu Te Akaaka Roa tautoko the use of *Report Cards* which provide a useful framework to focus joint action with the RACP. The use of qualitative and quantitative data to summarise concerns and outcomes highlights a gap, which you raise in your initial statement to the sector, 7 Paenga-whāwhā 2020, of the 'importance of high-quality ethnicity data, to enable relevant and contextual interpretation, and inform immediate and strategic responses'.

However, we are of the view that an ethnicity data set does not go far enough to inform equity, and consider the *Report Cards* would be strengthened by identifying a more comprehensive set of measures to provide better context and compare progress against measures that are collected nationally and reported against annually to indicate the direction and progress toward equity.

We note the paucity of up to date data within the system which does not provide the level of detail required to ensure we are well positioned to fully understand or protect Māori in recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic. We would be very interested in meeting with you to discuss the opportunity that Whakamaua presents and new opportunities to kōrero with the government and ministries to advocate for better data collection systems, measures, monitoring and evaluation to understand Māori health inequity and identify where to target services to improve equity. More robust data and better evaluation will deliver qualitative information to understand what works, for whom, and provide opportunities for continuous learning, to inform further development and strategic direction.

We look forward to meeting with you to kōrero and would be very interested in joint mahi to support kaupapa Māori and advocacy on national monitoring and reporting against agreed indicators. Please contact us through the New Zealand National Office – Tu Te Akaaka Roa. Ms Rose Matthews, National Manager, who supports our mahi and may be contacted by email rosemary.matthews@ranzcp.org or on 04 472 7265.

Ngā mihi



Dr Mark Lawrence FRANZCP
Chair, Tu Te Akaaka Roa – New Zealand National Committee



Dr Claire Paterson FRANZCP
Chair, Te Kaunihera