

19 May 2021

Ministry of Education
National office
Mātauranga House
Wellington 6011

Tēnā koe

Aotearoa New Zealand's and Te Takanga o te Wā

Tōpūtanga Tapuhi Kaitiaki o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Ministry of Education, Aotearoa New Zealand's Histories draft Curriculum content and related changes to Te Takanga o te Wā.

NZNO is the leading professional nursing association and union for nurses in Aotearoa New Zealand, representing 51,000 nurses, midwives, students, kaimahi hauora and health workers on professional and employment matters. NZNO embraces te Tiriti o Waitangi and contributes to the improvements of the health status and outcomes for all Aotearoa New Zealanders through influencing health, employment, and social policy development.

Furthermore, we share the intent of the Ministry of Health's definition of equity which equally applies to NZNO work across professional, industrial and member activities.

NZNO has consulted its bicultural partner Te Rūnanga, its members and staff in preparation of this submission. NZNO supports the refresh and reframing of Aotearoa New Zealand histories for both the kura Te Marautanga o Aotearoa (marau ā-kura) and New Zealand school Curriculum. As a bicultural organisation of public health leaders and specialists in health care and wellbeing, advocating for inclusiveness and equity, is paramount.

It is a health professionals' duty of care to ensure all tamariki and whānau receive the same quality

of health care, including education. Our tamariki are a taonga, they are our future leaders and workforce, it is important every child is afforded the same opportunities to be healthy and thriving. The right to health and education is universal, and this change ensures inequities most experienced by marginalised communities such as Māori and Pacific living with material hardship and socio-economic circumstances of poor nutrition, inadequate housing, including institutional racism, will now have access to a fair and just educational system. The values of cultural acceptance and sense of belonging that is seldom accounted for, will now form the best part of all tamariki learning experiences. Therefore, leading to better health and wellbeing outcomes.¹

We understand key themes will set the direction of implementation of the final curriculum and marau ā-kura for history from 2022. We anticipate that as external providers and organisations supporting schools and kura health and wellbeing programmes, such as public health nurses. That during the transition phase of implementation, that any collaborative decision-making to strengthen the learning support needs of teachers, pupils, and their whānau, will also include consultation from our public health workforce, particularly as good health means addressing not only the needs of tamariki but also whānau and the wider community.

We thank you for the opportunity to participate in the survey. Ngā mihi nui ki a koe.

Nāku noa nā



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¹ https://www.cpag.org.nz/assets/170516%20CPAGChildPovertyandMentalHealthreport-CS6_WEB.pdf