

Pae Ora Report for AGM November 2026

In 2023 CENNZ introduced Pae Ora Healthy Futures Act (2022) within our college and have embedded this work within the Pae Ora Portfolio. This is important as it aims to focus on improving the environment and experience for Māori accessing care within our Emergency Departments. This year we continue to enact our own Māori Health Strategy titled Te Pae Tawhiti-Pursue distant horizons. This strategy provides direction for our college to ensure we acknowledge Māori as tangata whenua and uphold Mātauranga Māori knowledge and facilitated through Hauora models and Kawa Whakaruruhau. Despite the coalitions government attempts to dilute these models through structural changes within the Nursing Council and medical councils.

We are the only college to develop and support a Māori health strategy specific to our specialty, a reflection of leadership and Mana as a committee. Māori whanau are high users of emergency services this strategy and college aim to support their journey through a health system that has not always been respectful of their position that is often not fair or equitable.

Through the Emergency Journal over the past year, we are able to continue these discussions and raise awareness. Over the past year articles within the Pae Ora section have discussed Mate Wareware or Dementia for elderly/kaumatua. Post the Conference in March 2026 another discussion on the inclusion of Hauora models in so many presentations that were delivered are now considered normal within nursing and health Aotearoa is recognition that we continue to promote clinical and cultural excellence.

Through our Membership we see a steady growth of Māori nurse registrations and participation, growing from 7% in 2023 to 15% in 2026. The low number of Māori nurses within emergency care is a workforce inequity. My personal goal has always been to have a Māori nursing workforce that matches our population and as the Māori population continues to grow, we have a lot of work still to do in this area.

Our support for Māori nurses' growth and professional development continues as we have provided three financial grants to nehi Māori within our specialty.

Looking forward to 2027:

We aim to grow our committee with the inclusion of increasing Te Runanga Representatives as per the remit. Adding more voices to advocate for Tangata Whenua.

An action that aims to uphold and enact Te Tiriti o Waitangi within our professional college is a reset by realigning two Co Chair positions that uphold Tangata Whenua and Tangata Tiriti in the leadership of our committee. A new Co Chair Model has been created to support this reset.

Under the Coalition government we have seen health outcomes for Māori continue to decline and witness racist attacks on our whanau and communities for which we serve. These actions by our committee now and moving forward are direct approaches to ensure the wellbeing of Māori are protected.

Natasha Hemopo

Pae Ora Portfolio

Co-Chair CENNZ 2026