



Pacific Nursing Section, NZNO quarterly news bulletin March 2021

Section message

Malo e lelei, Kia ora and Greetings to all our Pacific Nurses.

Welcome to our February newsletter 2021. Since our last newsletter November 2020, the challenges continue to be experienced by our nursing members and our families. So just want to reach out to you all with a thankful heart and blessings and thanks for all that you continue to do. Malo 'aupito to our voluntary members including those in governance roles, or in Colleges, Sections and Regional Councils for your continued support, greatly appreciated.

It goes without say, that the realities of nursing exposed by COVID-19 highlighted the need for a collective nursing voice which we continue to pursue. For that, we just want to acknowledge our front-line nurses and the risk they carry whilst working and saving lives. Our lives have changed a lot, we continue to lose friends and family members, but our nurses and health staffs have continued to rise to the challenges.

Stay Safe Everyone, we are all in this together!

Consultation

NZNO regularly seeks members input on a range of documents up for consultation. The listing is regularly updated and full information [can be found here](#)

Changes to Pharmac's Advisory Committee's

NZNO welcomes your feedback on PHARMAC's proposal to change how committees advise them on medicines and consumer experiences.

Vaping regulations (under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act 1990)

NZNO welcomes your feedback on draft regulations that aim to:
better support smokers to switch to regulated products that are less harmful than smoking
protect children, young people and non-smokers from the risks associated with vaping and smokeless tobacco products.

Pacific nurses in NZ

Whitireia Offers Nursing Diploma as Government Covers Student Costs

It will come as no surprise to hear that **New Zealand** has a shortage of **nurses**, with a particular need for **nurses** of Māori and Pacific descent. In efforts ... [Read more](#)

Pasifika Health and wellbeing in NZ

Managing diabetes without weapons

Diabetes is one of the biggest health issues New Zealand is grappling with. More than a quarter of a million people live with some form of the illness, and the number is rising rapidly. [Read more](#)

Pasifika Prediabetes Youth Empowerment Programme: learnings from a youth-led community-based intervention study | OPEN ACCESS

Prediabetes is a common condition in which blood glucose levels are higher than normal but not high enough to be defined as type 2 diabetes (T2DM). [Read more](#)

Pasifika prediabetes youth empowerment programme: evaluating a co-designed community-based intervention from a participants' perspective,

Ridvan Firestone, Gavin Faeamani, Elizabeth Okiakama, ... et al (2021)

Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences

Online, DOI: [10.1080/1177083X.2021.1876743](https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2021.1876743)

This paper provides insights from a community-centre intervention study that was co-designed by youth, health providers and researchers. The aims of the paper were to highlight the effectiveness of a co-designed community centred diabetes prevention intervention, and to determine whether a culturally tailored approach was successful.

[Read more](#)

Maori and Pasifika smoking rates 'must be priority in action plan'

Despite New Zealand launching Smokefree 2025 in 2011, smoking rates among Maori and Pacific people remain stubbornly high. Addressing them with urgency must now be a priority in the Government's imminent Smokefree 2025 Action Plan, says the Aotearoa Vapers Community Advocacy (AVCA). [Read more](#)

Changing the lives of Pacific youth - Waitemata DHB

Waitematā DHB's community alcohol and drug service (CADS) is leading the way with a specialised programme for Pacific youth who experience alcohol and/or drug issues.

[Read more](#)

Teen survives depression and self-harm through Pasifika and Māori music scheme

In the mainstream mental health system, Teuila* felt like "just another patient". She started recovering from severe depression by singing with a Māori and Pasifika wellbeing trust.

CECILE MEIER reports. [Read more](#)

Child poverty declines: Māori, Pacific children worst off but some improvement

Child poverty has improved overall since 2018 according to annual figures released on Tuesday, but Māori and Pacific children continue to be worst affected across the board.

[Read more](#)

High number of Pasifika children experience material hardship

Statistics NZ's latest official child poverty figures show Māori and Pacific children were higher across almost all measures, compared with all children. [Read more](#)

Baby mortality for young Māori, Pacific, Indian mothers needs urgent action - report

A newly released maternity mortality report has found unacceptable levels of maternal deaths for specific ethnic groups. [Read more](#)

Māori and Pasifika 'definitely disadvantaged' over BMI fertility treatment requirement

Māori and Pacific women are disproportionately being denied the chance to have a family, with the system used to determine access to free fertility treatment labelled “unfounded and unfair”. [Read more](#)

DHBs use ethnicity for low-cost contraception criteria

Māori and Pacific women are among those targeted in a contraceptive initiative that has a researcher concerned women will be prevented from having babies “for their own good”.

[Read more](#)

Ethnicity changes the odds for babies with heart defects

There's no shortage of evidence pointing to poorer health outcomes for Māori and Pacific people in Aotearoa. Even for babies with heart defects, ethnicity changes the odds. Here, Dr Simone Watkins, a Sāmoan doctor and PhD student at the Liggins Institute, outlines the problem. [Read more](#)

Ethnic differences in use and experience of child healthcare services - research

A report released today, "Ethnic Differences in the use and experience of child healthcare services in NZ", reveals that interactions with family members and with health professionals are crucial in determining immunisation uptake, engagement rates and satisfaction levels with New Zealand's health system. [Read more](#)

Ethnic differences in the use and experience of child healthcare services in NZ: An empirical examination

Funders: Ministry of Social Development and the Health Research Council

This research uses Growing Up in New Zealand (GUiNZ) data to provide insights regarding life-course differences in the use and experience of child healthcare services in NZ and focuses on decisions to immunise, seek dental care, and visit the doctor. The report analysed responses from around 6,000 parents at four time points: antenatally; when the children were nine-months; then two-years; and then four-years-old. [Read more](#)

Primary care improvement case study: Tongan Health Society: Improving medicine access in primary care for Pacific peoples | HQSC

The Tongan Health Society is working on an innovative approach to underpin best practice models for patients with diabetes who are on maximum oral hypoglycaemic medication to start insulin therapy when they are hesitant to do so. [Read more](#)

Pacific Fono: a community-based initiative to improve rheumatic fever service delivery for Pacific Peoples in South Auckland.

The National Hauora Coalition;¹ Anderson Anneka, The National Hauora Coalition;¹ Brown Rachel, The National Hauora Coalition;¹ Wheeler Jadene, The National Hauora Coalition;¹ Jansen Rawiri McKree The National Hauora Coalition;¹ (2020)

Journal of Primary Health Care **12**, 384-390. <https://doi.org/10.1071/HC20022>

BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT: Rheumatic fever inequitably affects Māori and Pacific children in New Zealand. School-based throat swabbing services, such as the South Auckland Mana Kidz programme, are a key element of rheumatic fever prevention interventions.

ASSESSMENT OF THE PROBLEM: Counties Manukau has the highest national rates of rheumatic fever (4.7 per 100,000 for first recorded rates). Given these disparities, Mana Kidz undertook an exploratory, community-based initiative to improve its service delivery for Pacific Peoples. [Read more](#)

Attitudes to noise and behaviour towards hearing protection among Pasifika university students in New Zealand,

Ravi Reddy, Vili Nosa, Ilaisaane Mafi & David Welch (2021)

Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences

Online, DOI: [10.1080/1177083X.2020.1865418](https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2020.1865418)

It is estimated that 1.1 billion young people worldwide are at risk of hearing loss due to high levels of noise exposure. Hearing loss can contribute to low self-esteem, poor employment prospects and social problems. The aim of this research was to explore the attitudes and beliefs towards noise, hearing loss and hearing protection among Pasifika university students in New Zealand. 96 Pasifika students completed the Youth Attitude to Noise Scale (YANS) and Beliefs About Hearing Protection and Hearing Loss (BAHPHL) questionnaire electronically using a Qualtrics survey. The findings show that the study sample had higher mean scores in the BAHPHL scales related to susceptibility to hearing loss, severity of hearing loss, and benefits of preventive action compared to findings of similar international research. This implies that Pasifika participants had more positive beliefs than their international peers on some factors. Despite their greater awareness, the Pasifika sample had similarly poor attitudes related to minimising loud sounds in the daily environment, perceived barriers towards prevention, behavioural intention and social norms towards hearing conservation. This study provides a good foundation to develop a culturally appropriate hearing conservation intervention aimed at improving hearing-health outcomes among young Pasifika people. [Read more](#)

A retrospective analysis of calls to the New Zealand National Poisons Centre regarding Pacific patients

Eeva-Katri Kumpula, Rosalina Richards, Pauline Norris, Vanda Symon, Adam C Pomerleau
NZMJ Vol 134 No 1528: 15 January 2021

Poisons information centres (PICs) offer advice on chemical safety, perform risk assessments over the phone in cases where a person has been exposed to a substance and provide clinical advice about management of the exposure.

Nursing in the Pacific

Fiji Corrections Staff Graduate With Certificates On Healthcare In Detention

SEVENTEEN medical personnel of the Fiji Corrections Service have completed an online training on Healthcare in Detention, jointly organized by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the Thammasat University in Bangkok, Thailand. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – general

Health facing staff shortage

Te Marae Ora health ministry is looking for more medical staff to fill vacant positions currently being advertised. [Read more](#)

Pacific children on frontline of global nutrition crisis

The world is on the brink of a nutrition crisis and Pacific children living on the frontlines of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate change crisis are most at risk. [Read more](#)

Samoa Govt accused of negligence ahead of lethal 2019 measles outbreak

The Samoa government is being accused of ignoring mass vaccination advice from its own medical experts ahead of the deadly measles epidemic in 2019. [Read more](#)

Fiji's health system hit amid LTDD deaths

At least five people have died from an outbreak of leptospirosis, dengue fever and typhoid diseases in Fiji since January. [Read more](#)

The article below is not freely available but may be sourced via the NZNO library or a DHB or educational institution

Pacific peoples and alcohol: a review of the literature

Vili Hapaki Nosa, Gemma Malungahu, Janine Paynter, Dudley Gordon Ralph Gentles, David Newcombe

NZ Medical Journal Vol 134 No 1529: 5 February 2021

This paper provides an update on research on alcohol use by Pacific peoples.

Health in the Pacific – POLYNESIA

Covid-19: Will the Cook Islands dengue outbreak hinder plans for the travel bubble?

The first international destination New Zealanders could be allowed to fly to is suffering a dengue fever outbreak. [Read more](#)

Covid-19

Pasifika nous to be tapped for NZ vaccination rollout

Pasifika healthcare providers are expected to play an integral part of the Covid-19 vaccine rollout in New Zealand. [Read more](#)

Health leaders discuss immunisation with Pacific community

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 will prevent you from becoming extremely ill with the virus, while outbreaks of measles, mumps and the flu can be prevented with mass vaccination. [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Pasifika vaccine concerns valid but information key to easing fears - expert

Safety, side effects, timing and the eligibility of non-residents and visa overstayers are just some concerns the Pasifika community have when it comes to the [Covid-19](#) vaccine.

[Read more](#)

New Zealand to purchase Covid-19 vaccines for Pacific Island neighbours, including Samoa and Tonga

New Zealand will purchase enough Covid-19 vaccines to cover its Pacific Island neighbours, including Samoa and Tonga. [Read more](#)

New Zealand items – general

Samoan academic makes history at NZ's Otago University

A Samoan academic has become the first Pacific woman to be appointed in a professorial role at New Zealand's Otago University. [Read more](#)

Chairman Mark: The South Auckland supremo aiming to fix the region's inequality crisis

He quit politics to care for a wife who had suffered a brain haemorrhage. Today he holds leading roles at the apex of the two great challenges facing South Auckland: housing and health. Vui Mark Gosche tells Justin Latif why a change is coming... [Read more](#)

A qualitative study of the role of Samoan Church ministers in health literacy messages and health promotion in Auckland, New Zealand.

Hopoi, N. and Nosa, V. (2020),

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 44: 404-409. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.13027>

Objective: Health promotion and health literacy activities within church congregations are not a new concept; however, this has not yet been widely researched in New Zealand. This paper explores the views of Samoan Methodist Church ministers about health-related issues and their role in health promotion and health literacy in their churches. [Read more](#)

The above bulletin has been compiled by Linda Stopforth, SNIPS, on behalf of Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO.

It is provided quarterly on the last Friday of February, May, August, November and contains an overview of news items, articles and research papers of interest to the Section members. All links are current at the time of being compiled and distributed.

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