



Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO monthly news bulletin
Friday 26 November 2021

Section message

To be added by Section if required

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](#)

Inquiry into Migrant Exploitation

NZNO invites you to contribute to our submission on migrant exploitation. The Education and Workforce Committee is investigating the scale of migrant exploitation in New Zealand and its impact on migrants and their families. They are also looking for ideas on what can be done to address the issues.

Transforming our Mental Health Law

NZNO warmly invites you to have a say on what mental health legislation is needed for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Immigration Settings

NZNO welcomes your feedback on New Zealand's future immigration settings. The Productivity Commission is undertaking an inquiry into what immigration policy settings would best facilitate New Zealand's long-term economic growth and promote the wellbeing of New Zealanders.

Pacific nurses in NZ

Young Male Pasifika Nurse's Inspiring Work Recognised | Scoop News

The New Zealand Nurses Organisation's (NZNO's) annual Young Nurse of the Year Award was presented to Daniel Mataafa at the organisation's online Annual ... [Read more](#)

UCOL Whanganui students receive \$40,000 in scholarships - NZ Herald

A new award to recognise a Pasifika student studying nursing, the scholarship was spearheaded by UCOL nursing graduate William Pati, with his wife ... [Read more](#)

Father's Day: Auckland paediatric nurse on shift, marking start of Tongan Language Week

This Father's Day, a dad of two will be donning his scrubs and prepping for another day in the children's hospital in Middlemore, [Kidz First](#). [Read more](#)

Pasifika health in NZ

New respiratory disease report 'highlights back-to-school asthma risk and inequity' for Pasifika and Maori

A new report on New Zealand's respiratory health shows that huge inequity persists in terms of asthma and other respiratory disease. 'The Impact of Respiratory Disease in New Zealand: 2020 update', commissioned by the Asthma and Respiratory Foundation (ARFNZ) and authored by Dr Lucy Telfar-Barnard and Jane Zhang, finds: [Read more](#)

Saving our boys from their shadows

Friday was World Suicide Prevention Day. Here Dahlia Malaueulu, a former full-time teacher and mother of two boys, and now co-author of Tama Sāmoa, a new book being launched at the end of this month, reflects on the death of a former student and the challenges faced by Sāmoan and other Pasifika boys. [Read more](#)

Dianne Sika-Paotonu: The duty to act

It's likely you'll be seeing a lot more of Dr Dianne Sika-Paotonu, the associate dean (Pacific) at Otago University in Wellington — especially with Covid dominating the news. She's an immunologist and biomedical scientist who's been taking on two major scourges that, for generations, have been robbing many of us and our whānau of health and life. One is cancer in its many forms. Another is rheumatic heart disease. [Read more](#)

New multimedia segment for Pasifika on mental health

A new mental health segment led by Pacific organisations has launched online and on air this week to address mental health concerns in the Pasifika community. [Read more](#)

Further \$600k funding for rainbow youth in NZ

A Pacific organisation for rainbow youth in New Zealand is among those who will benefit from a funding boost from the government. [Read more](#)

Pacific women lag behind in access to breast cancer care and treatment

The cost of breast cancer treatment is increasing as results continue to vary between Pacific and non-Pacific women, two studies have found. [Read more](#)

Government pledges \$10m for rheumatic fever vaccine

Aupito William Sio says he may have been a professional rugby player if he hadn't contracted rheumatic fever as a child. Instead, the disease meant he was hospitalised for more than three months and was on penicillin injections for years. [Read more](#)

Dementia tsunami by 2050 'likely to hit Pasifika, Māori, Asian communities'

The warning is stark — New Zealand is on the verge of a "tsunami" of dementia cases and the government can ill-afford to merely acknowledge the University of Auckland's Dementia Economic Impact Report 2020.

And while it may not receive the priority which goes to dealing with the covid-19 pandemic, it is nonetheless a concern. [Read more](#)

'Transform lives' with education, new vice-chancellor for AUT tells Pasifika | Asia Pacific Report

Asia Pacific Report

Toeolesulusulu Dr Damon Salesa, who is currently a pro-vice-chancellor at the University of Auckland takes up his new role at AUT in March next year. [Read more](#)

Banning smoking in cars with children 'to save future Pasifika generations'

From Sunday 28 November, it will be illegal to smoke or vape in cars carrying a child or young person under the age of 18. This law was passed last year in May under The Smoke-free Environments (Prohibiting Smoking in Motor Vehicles Carrying Children) Amendment Act 2020. [Read more](#)

Calls for tougher gambling laws to protect Pasifika in NZ

There are calls for regional New Zealand to bring in tougher laws to protect Pasifika against gambling harm. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – general

Traditional Samoan medicine found as effective as ibuprofen by scientists

A Samoan plant used for generations to reduce inflammation has been scientifically validated by researchers in New Zealand and Samoa.

Samoan biologist Dr Seesei Molimau-Samasoni and Cook Island Māori research fellow Dr Helen Woolner have found the leaves of the matalafi tree, or psychotria insularum, works as effectively as ibuprofen. [Read more](#)

30 Years Of 16 Days And We Are Still Fighting The Scourge Of Violence Against Women In The Pacific

As the annual 16 Days of Activism against violence against women and girls (VAWG) begins, a New Zealand Parliamentarians group call for greater efforts to combat violence against women and girls in our region, which must be led by our Pacific partners. ... [Read more](#)

Covid-19

Breaking the barrier: Samoan Covid survivor leads Covid communication

"It all starts with the way you say 'talofa'."

Seumanu Simon Matāfai is a Covid survivor – he was so sick with the virus last year he was hospitalised. [Read more](#)

Covid-19 champions: Church leader carries weight of NZ's biggest cluster on her shoulders

The night Rebekah Toleafoa learned her church was a location of interest in the Delta outbreak, later becoming New Zealand's biggest cluster, she cried a lot. She was devastated and remembers, "I couldn't sleep at all that night". [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Pasifika population races past 95 per cent vaccination rate in Nelson-Marlborough

The Pasifika community across Te Taihiti (the top of the South) is leading the charge for vaccination in Aotearoa.

Ministry of Health data shows that more than 95 per cent of Pacific people in the Nelson Marlborough District Health Board area have been fully vaccinated – with more than the recorded population having had both jabs. [Read more](#)

A matter of faith: The Māngere congregation with 100% vaccinations

Church minister Suiva'aia Te'o says proactive communication, compassion and clear information have led to a fully vaccinated congregation. [Read more](#)

Canterbury's Pasifika community rolls sleeves to hit 90 per cent vaccination milestone |

Stuff.co.nz

Pasifika mobile community nurse Sarah Morley, right, gives Ben Nafoi-Sanft, 16, his second vaccination while his mum Janice Sanft, left, ... [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Taranaki Pacifica community reach 90 per cent first dose

Taranaki's Pacifica community has exceeded the 90 per cent first dose mark and is just 183 doses away from reaching the 90 per cent fully vaccinated goal.

[Read more](#)

Covid-19 vaccine: More than half of health boards have hit 90% first dose milestone |

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New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO)'s Pacific nursing section chairperson Eseta Finau said the health system was often poorly connected with ... [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Auckland Pasifika close to reaching 90 per cent first dose milestone

Taranaki's Pacifica community has exceeded the 90 per cent first dose mark and is just 183 doses away from reaching the 90 per cent fully vaccinated goal.

Bevan Clayton-Smith, Taranaki's Covid vaccination programme senior responsible officer, said while it was great to see the number of people getting vaccinated increasing, he was especially happy to have reached the 90 per cent milestone in the Pacifica community.

[Read more](#)

Covid-19: Pacific health providers take part in trial to lead care for self-isolating families

Some Pacific health providers are finally taking the lead in the caring of people with Covid-19 self-isolating in Auckland. [Read more](#)

Not enough nurses to deal with NZ self-isolation covid cases, says union

Auckland is a thousand nurses short and lacks the capacity to deal with the amount of people self-isolating at home, according to New Zealand's largest nurses' union.

[Read more](#)

Home-based care for COVID-19 patients – Expert Reaction

At present, more than 1500 people with COVID-19 are isolating at home in New Zealand. Almost half of them have not been given pulse oximeters, used to monitor oxygen levels and signal when hospital treatment may be needed. The US and UK are looking into whether these devices are equally accurate for all people. [Read more](#)

Covid-19: How some of the world's most remote islands achieved the best vaccination rates

The [Cook Islands](#), Niue and Tokelau have some of the highest vaccination rates against Covid-19 in the world. But getting the vaccines to people on such isolated islands wasn't easy. Brittany Keogh spoke to some of those who helped ensure [the roll-outs](#) went smoothly.

[Read more](#)

NZ must help the Pacific fight vaccine misinformation - researcher

New Zealand needs to do more to combat rampant vaccine misinformation in Pacific Island countries, which poses a threat to the whole region, an Australian researcher says. [Read](#)

[more](#)

Just 1.7% of people in PNG are vaccinated against COVID. Why is resistance so fierce?

Only [1.7% of Papua New Guineans](#) have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. This has been a cause of concern for the international community, who are watching the virus spread through an exposed population with high rates of co-morbidities and minimal access to healthcare. [Read more](#)

NZ sends medical team to PNG as Covid-19 overwhelms its health system | RNZ News RNZ

A clinical component comprising two doctors and three nurses from private company Respond Global, two Fire and Emergency New Zealand logisticians ...[Read more](#)

Journals, articles and reports

Pacific Health Review

Issue 30

Welcome to Issue 30 of Pacific Health Review.

This issue covers a range of topics regarding Pacific people living in Aotearoa NZ, including declining alcohol consumption, the inequity of access to contraception for women, and barriers to health care access for Pacific communities. [Read more](#)

Māori and Pasifika language, identity, and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand,

Correna M. Matika, Sam Manuela, Carla A. Houkamau & Chris G. Sibley (2021)

Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online, 16:2, 396-418, DOI: [10.1080/1177083X.2021.1900298](https://doi.org/10.1080/1177083X.2021.1900298)

For Māori and Pasifika living in Aotearoa New Zealand, language, identity, and wellbeing are inter-linked and multifaceted. However, as English is the most widely spoken language in Aotearoa New Zealand, some Māori and Pasifika peoples will not be able to speak their community language. Ratings of ethnic identity centrality, self-esteem, life satisfaction and the Personal Wellbeing Index of monolingual (English only) and bilingual Māori (N = 4691) and Pasifika peoples (N = 868) were compared using New Zealand Attitudes and Values Study data collected during 2018/2019. Bilingual Māori and Pasifika peoples reported higher levels of ethnic identity centrality than English only speaking Māori and Pasifika. Bilingualism also moderated the relationship between ethnic identity centrality and self-esteem. Pasifika who only speak English have relatively positive and similar levels of wellbeing to Pasifika who are bilingual whereas bilingualism seems to strengthen the relationship between ethnic identity and wellbeing for Māori. [Read more](#)

Progress in the Pacific on sugar-sweetened beverage taxes: a systematic review of policy changes from 2000 to 2019.

Teng, A., Snowdon, W., Win Tin, S.T., Genç, M., Na'ati, E., Puloka, V., Signal, L. and Wilson, N. (2021), Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health, 45: 376-384. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.13123>

Objective: To systematically characterise sugar-sweetened beverage (SSB) tax policy changes in Pacific Island countries and territories (PICTs) from 2000 to 2019. [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, 16:2, 324-334, 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](#)

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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