



**Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO Quarterly news bulletin
Friday 26 August 2022**

Section message

Malo e leilei and Pacific greetings Colleagues

Spring is in the air and hopefully the worst of our cold winter months is behind us now. This newsletter edition coincides with the start of spring and this is an opportune time for us to reflect, refresh and re-orientate ourselves with seasonal changes and the changing health sector priorities.

I acknowledge how busy you have all been throughout our winter period and also with the added pressures of staffing shortages. The last few months has been quite busy too for your committee as we have been involved in some innovative programmes that addresses some of our on-going Pacific nursing issues. We have met with the Nursing council to deliberate on-going support for our Pacific nursing workforce and also with our National Nursing Leadership group supporting the various work streams of our nursing workforce pipeline programme. We have also continued to work with Whitireia to support a Pacific nursing bridging programme for Pacific trained nurses and hopefully the groundwork will be completed in time for a roll out of the programme in the 1st semester of 2023. There are various other pockets of work that is on-going, and we will have an opportunity to update you about this at our upcoming PNS symposium and AGM, which is scheduled for Friday the 7th of October. This will be held at the Pacific Room at MIT in Otago. The Pacific Medical Association has once again sponsored our symposium and AGM and we are grateful for their continued support.

This newsletter edition highlights some of the on-going work and Pacific initiatives that our people have participated in. I thank you all for your continued support of our committee and wish you a blessed spring season.

Malo Aupito

Eseta Finau
Chair PNS

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](#)

Pacific nurses and healthcare providers in NZ

Pacific nurse practitioner Catherine Latailakepa-Tu'akalau joins Group Medical Chambers

As a nurse practitioner, Latailakepa-Tu'akalau can order tests and investigations and prescribe medicine. She brings the frontline nursing experience ...

[Read more](#)

Southlander undeterred by hardships recognised in Queen's Birthday Honours - Stuff.co.nz

A Southlander has been recognised for her services to nursing and the Pasifika community for Queen's Birthday Honours. [Read more](#)

Nurse receives Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit - Otago Daily Times

Pacific Island Nurse Specialist Sandy (Vaeluaga) Borland has recently received a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit (MNZM) in the Queens' ...

[Read more](#)

100 new health coaches to help Pasifika with diabetes in south Auckland

One hundred Pacific health coaches will be trained to help prevent and treat diabetes in south Auckland. [Read more](#)

'We go to where our community is': A Pasifika health provider on the front line

"Our approach since the inception of vaccinations has been led by the vision of going to where our community is," says Akarere Henry, chief executive of South Waikato Pacific Islands Community Services. [Read more](#)

Miss Samoa NZ reflects on her historic three-year reign and how being a nurse changed her role

When a young public health nurse from South Auckland won the coveted Miss Samoa title three years ago, no one would have known just how historic her reign would turn out to be.

[Read more](#)

NZ's health recruitment may impact Pacific, nursing experts say | Stuff.co.nz

The Government's health recruitment service could have an impact on the already overwhelmed health system in the Pacific. [Read more](#)

Queen's Birthday honours: Dr Collin Tukuitonga – the health expert who has spent decades standing up for Pacific people

A leading Pacific health expert has been recognised in this year's Queen's Birthday honours. Dr Collin Tukuitonga, Auckland University's associate dean of public health, has spent his career, which spans more than five decades, improving and standing up for the lives and health of Pacific people.

[Read more](#)

SDHB commits to supporting Pasifika healthcare providers

Southern Pasifika health providers have demanded change after delivering services for decades they say with little or no help from the district health board

[Read more](#)

Appointment of Markerita Poutasi As National Director, Pacific Health

Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand has today announced the appointment of Markerita (Meg) Poutasi as National Director, Pacific Health. [Read more](#)

Pasifika wāhine launching new Waikato Pan Pacific health hub

“It’s exciting to know that I am involved in making history and that my contribution will leave a legacy for my tupuna and mokopuna to be proud of.”

The words of Waikato Pasifika health advocate Mareta Matenga, who is helping lead a new Pan Pacific Community Hub in Hamilton. [Read more](#)

New Zealand announces new partnership to develop Tonga's resilient health workforce

Foreign Minister Nanaia Mahuta has concluded her visit to Tonga, meeting the Minister of Health Dr Saia Piukala and frontline healthcare workers in Nuku’alofa.

[Read more](#)

Southlander's journey from meatworker to brain surgeon

A former Southland meat worker who became a brain surgeon hopes to forge a trail for other Samoans who want to follow a similar path. [Read more](#)

Residence visas being offered to up to 5000 Pasifika after Covid-19 hiatus

Up to 5000 Pasifika will be offered residence visas under a government policy aimed at addressing a pandemic shortfall. [Read more](#)

Pasifika health in NZ

Health Fund for Pacific communities now open

Pacific community organisations are strongly urged to apply for the Pacific Community Health Fund, now open for applications.

“Pacific communities know what works for our communities, and what will create positive changes to lift Pacific wellbeing for families,” said the Associate Minister of Health Aupito William Sio. [Read more](#)

Health NZ urged to deliver on its promise to Pasifika

On Friday, Health NZ will replace the old health system and those that have borne the brunt of inequities are assured a monumental shift. [Read more](#)

Ethnic minority women need more perinatal support – report

Women in ethnic minority communities are not getting enough support during and after pregnancy, advocates say. [Read more](#)

Worse health and welfare outcomes for children under 5, report finds

Children under five years old experience significantly worse outcomes in health and welfare than children over five, according to a new report. [Read more](#)

Low vaccination rates prompt fears of severe measles outbreak

Health experts say a big effort is needed to turn around plummeting childhood vaccination rates, which they say are now so low the country is vulnerable to an outbreak similar to the devastating measles epidemic in 2019. [Read more](#)

Sudden unexplained deaths in Māori infants 8.3 times higher, report finds

A “complete refresh” is needed to address the high number of Māori and Pacific infants dying from sudden unexplained death in infancy (SUDI), according to a new series of reports. [Read more](#)

Pasifika warned to be vigilant against rheumatic fever

The parents of a young boy with rheumatic fever are urging adults, particularly in Pacific communities, to take sore throats and rashes in children seriously.

[Read more](#)

16% of Māori and Pacific children diagnosed with asthma last year

Researchers say a decrease in the prevalence of asthma in children is leaving a clear inequity. [Read more](#)

Māori, Pasifika missing heart treatments due to inadequate diagnoses

A University of Otago researcher says Māori and Pasifika patients are being failed by a heart abnormality diagnosis that is not fit for purpose. [Read more](#)

Business not as usual for heart health

Cardiovascular diseases are also responsible for a large portion of the difference in life expectancy between Māori and non-Māori and Pacific and non-Pacific people. [Read more](#)

'Disheartening but not surprising': 25% of suicides linked to alcohol

One in four New Zealanders who die by suicide do so with excess blood alcohol – with the figures even worse for Māori and Pasifika, new analysis of coronial data has found. [Read more](#)

Pacific community group develop youth resource to tackle suicide taboo

An idea birthed at the beginning of the [pandemic](#) is breaking down the [stigma of suicide](#) and raising awareness in a community that has often treated it as taboo [Read more](#)

NZR and Le Va support mental health and wellbeing amongst Pasifika together

There is no health without mental health, that's the key message from the New Zealand Ruby (NZR) and Le Va as they officiated their partnership. [Read more](#)

Navigating two tides

Members of Auckland's Pasifika rainbow community report they feel shut out by their faith, their culture and their family. The discrimination they face isn't just based on ethnicity, but also on homophobia and transphobia – meaning they're twice as likely to report symptoms of depression and to forgo healthcare than their non-rainbow peers.

But Pasifika rainbow experiences have never been properly studied, leading to gaps in support services. Now researchers are unpacking decades of data to paint a bigger picture. Torika Tokalau, Troels Sommerville, Sapeer Mayron and Ryan Anderson report. [Read more](#)

The Importance of Māori And Pasifika Blood Donors – Whānau Saving Whānau

This National Blood Donor Week, New Zealand Blood Service (NZBS) is highlighting the importance of Māori and Pasifika donors by letting them know just how special their blood is. [Read more](#)

More Pasifika women in Auckland being found with rare form of breast cancer

Pacific Island women are being encouraged to get their breasts checked regularly after new research found a rare form of breast cancer is starting to show up more often in young Pasifika women. [Read more](#)

Registry shows difference in myeloma outcomes for Maori and Pacific People in New Zealand

A new paper from the Australian and New Zealand Myeloma and Related Diseases Registry (MRDR) has highlighted concerning differences between Maori and Pacific People (MPP) with myeloma and other New Zealanders with the same blood cancer. The group were younger at onset, fewer received first-line treatment and they had poorer overall survival rate. The new findings point to a need for further research to elucidate the drivers and develop strategies to influence modifiable risk factors.

[Read more](#)

'True Māori, Pacific solution' to bowel screening campaign

A collective of Māori, Pacific and local communications experts will lead out a national bowel screening campaign programme (NBSP) for the Ministry of Health dedicated to reducing bowel cancer deaths. [Read more](#)

Extra 'layers of support' for gambling issues welcomed by Pasifika health providers

A Waikato Pasifika health provider says Government funding to curb gambling harm will benefit the Pacific community. [Read more](#)

Video gaming leading to problem gambling for Pasifika

Shocking insights from a new study have confirmed that online video gaming is a gateway to problem gambling for Pasifika youth [Read more](#)

Tala Pasifika 'want smokefree lives for young Pacific students after ASH report'

Tala Pasifika - Pacific Action for Change welcomes the newly released ASH Year 10 Survey (www.ash.org.nz/ash_year_10) which has seen a major decrease in the number of teenagers smoking cigarettes except for Pacific students. [Read more](#)

Tala Pasifika is backing Pasifika communities to win the race to be Smokefree by 2025

World Smokefree Day is a timely reminder that as a nation we need to paddle together with urgency if we want our Pasifika communities to be Smokefree by 2025. [Read more](#)

Smokefree 2025: Government's \$8m boost to Pacific health providers

The Government is investing \$8 million into Pacific health providers over the next four years as part of its promise to take "bold actions" towards denormalising smoking. [Read more](#)

'You can't budget your way out of poverty' - Call for no more 'token gestures'

The New Zealand government is being urged to implement long-term solutions to tackle poverty in Pacific communities. [Read more](#)

Māori, Pasifika describe racist encounters in health sector as DHB set to disappear

The Hawke's Bay District Health Board has been called racist following an internal review into how it treats Māori and Pasifika patients. [Read more](#)

8,700 more Pacific peoples need treatment to prevent gout each year - Pharmac

Pharmac has released the Pacific people's health - Gout data insights report today. The report shows that, while the prevalence of gout in Pacific peoples continues to climb, access to preventive gout medicine remains inequitable. [Read more](#)

Concerns some Pacific people are suffering with gout unnecessarily

Pharmac data reveals Pasifika aged 20 years and older are three times more likely to have gout compared to non-Maori, non-Pasifika. [Read more](#)

Many Kiwis with Diabetes Unaware Of Risk Of Preventable Eye Disease

Many Kiwis living with diabetes are unaware of a sight-threatening condition associated with the disease, despite many experiencing symptoms. [Read more](#)

Scabies rife at Auckland preschools, with 56% of surveyed children affected

Scabies are rife at some Auckland preschools – and are often misdiagnosed, a new report has found. [Read more](#)

Barriers to older Pacific peoples' participation in the health-care system in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Neville Stephen, Wrapson Wendy, Savila Faasisila, Napier Sara, Paterson Janis, Dewes Ofa, Soon Hoy Neng Wong, Tautolo El-Shadan (2022)

Journal of Primary Health Care 14, 124-129.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/HC21146>

Introduction: Participation in the health-care system is a key component of healthy ageing strategies. The number of Pacific people aged ≥65 years in Aotearoa New Zealand will increase significantly over the next decade. Addressing the considerable health inequities and unmet need for care Pacific Island people experience when compared to other ethnicities in Aotearoa New Zealand should be a priority.

Aim: To identify barriers to older Pacific people's participation in the health-care system in Aotearoa New Zealand. [Read more](#)

Understanding barriers to immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases in Pacific people in New Zealand, Aotearoa: an integrative review.

Tafea Vika, Mowat Rebecca, Cook Catherine (2022)

Journal of Primary Health Care 14, 156-163.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/HC21129>

Introduction: Pacific people have an increased risk of hospitalisation if barriers to immunisation against vaccine-preventable diseases are not reduced. This research sought to determine what is known about the barriers to immunisations in Pacific people living in New Zealand and identify ways to reduce these barriers and inform health care.

Aim: To identify the barriers to immunisation for Pasifika and to identify ways to reduce these barriers and inform health care. [Read more](#)

Intergenerational, integrative and intellectual Pacific properties and pathways for life (IPforLife): a study protocol.

Dewes Ofa, Milne Barry, Sporle Andrew (2022)

Journal of Primary Health Care 14, 173-178.

<https://doi.org/10.1071/HC22004>

Introduction: Chronic disease such as cancer, cardiovascular, diabetes, mental health and obesity have debilitating effects on sufferers with impacts seen increasingly at a younger age. A whole-of-family approach to life-course research is essential to inform health and wellbeing policies and programmes that make a difference for children, youth, adults, and later in life.

Aim: The aim is to present the research protocol about a study to understand the impact of chronic conditions on families, with an emphasis on outcomes that have life-long benefits and co-develop a sustainable and culturally centred life-course programme for overall health and wellbeing. [Read more](#)

Nursing in the Pacific

Exodus of medical staff a global issue: MOH - FBC News

The Ministry of Health is looking to address the exodus of medical staff, which has led to staff shortages and workers clocking long hours. [Read more](#)

Ministry has enough healthcare workers: Dr Waqainabete - FBC News

The Ministry of Health confirms that there are currently enough healthcare workers manning our hospitals. [Read more](#)

Ongoing exodus worry FNA - The Fiji Times

Nurses and midwives continue to resign from the Health Ministry on a weekly basis and the Fiji Nursing Association (FNA) says it is concerned with the ongoing exodus. [Read more](#)

Health workers are leaving in numbers - FBC News

The Fiji Nursing Association claims 80 nurses left our shores for New Zealand about two weeks ago. FNA President Alisi Vudiniabola says they had ... [Read more](#)

Health Ministry fills vacant positions - The Fiji Times

The Health Ministry has filled the vacant positions of the nurses who had resigned. Speaking to this newspaper, Health Minister Dr Ifereimi ... [Read more](#)

MOH survey indicates majority health workers prefer 12-hour shifts - The Fiji Times

A survey conducted by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services for nurses in Lautoka and Labasa indicated that majority of them preferred the 12-hour shifts because it came with more continuous days off. [Read more](#)

Lesser doctors and nurses leaving now compared to before – Health Minister - The Fiji Times

While responding to a question on how nurses moving to New Zealand will affect Fiji's health system, Dr Waqainabete said an increase in the demand ... [Read more](#)

Don't forget our midwives, warns Fiji women's advocacy group | Asia Pacific Report

The Fiji Women's Rights Movement warned today that the value of midwives in the Pacific country was being undermined because of a lack of training and proper planning, and little urgency over the creation of positions. [Read more](#)

Return of allowance may entice nurses to take up rural postings - The Fiji Times

Health Minister Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete says the return of rural allowance for civil servants may entice nurses to take up postings in rural and ... [Read more](#)

Council website launch to assist nurses - FBC News

The Fiji Nursing Council has recognized the need for enhancing the storage of information under its keep.

Today, the Council launched the digitalization of its record and online application system. [Read more](#)

82 graduate nurses have commenced their supervised practice program

A total of 82 nurses which includes newly graduated nurses from the Solomon Islands National University (SINU) and Atoifi College of Nursing in Malaita Province have commenced their twelve (12) months Supervised Practice Program (internship) as of Tuesday. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – general

Breastmilk 'saves lives' — so why are fewer working Pasifika women nursing their babies? - NZCity

For generations, Pacific Islander women sat cross-legged on the floor and fed their babies on demand. But breastfeeding rates have fallen over the past 20 years, so why are fewer women nursing their babies? [Read more](#)

Interdependence of health security and health systems highlighted

The impact of Covid-19 in the Pacific has highlighted the inter-dependence of health security and health systems, and the need to improve resilience.

A new report aims to identify and prioritise health system strengthening initiatives in the Pacific. [Read more](#)

Results of a community-based screening programme for chronic kidney disease and associated risk factors, (obesity, diabetes and hypertension) in a Samoan cohort.

Tafuna'i M, Turner R, Matalavea B, et al

BMJ Open 2022;12:e056889. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-056889

Objectives In 2019, under the World Kidney Day theme of 'Kidney health for everyone everywhere', the National Kidney Foundation of Samoa undertook an extensive community screening campaign to detect the estimated prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) and its associated risk factors in the community.

Conclusions This is the first paper to report the estimated prevalence of CKD in Samoa or any other Pacific Island nation. It reveals an urgent need for further studies on the epidemiology of CKD in Samoa, to develop country-specific prevention strategies to mitigate this growing burden and prevent subsequent CKD associated complications including development of kidney failure and premature death. [Read more](#)

Population-wide active case finding and prevention for tuberculosis and leprosy elimination in Kiribati: the PEARL study protocol

Coleman M, Hill J, Timeon E, et al

BMJ Open 2022;12:e055295. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2021-055295

Introduction Population-wide interventions offer a pathway to tuberculosis (TB) and leprosy elimination, but 'real-world' implementation in a high-burden setting using a combined approach has not been demonstrated. This implementation study aims to demonstrate the feasibility and evaluate the effect of population-wide screening, treatment and prevention on TB and leprosy incidence rates, as well as TB transmission. [Read more](#)

Covid-19

Lessons to be learned from Southern Pacific Covid response, leader says

The new Pacific Health director says Pacific providers in the south have shown their strength throughout the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Vaccine protects Māori, Pasifika just as well - study

One of the first studies of its kind has found that Māori and Pasifika, while at higher risk from Covid-19, are reassuringly no less protected by the vaccine than other groups. [Read more](#)

Unfounded assumptions and 'come from behind' wins

Pasifika people have so far been the hardest hit in the latest Covid outbreak (making up around half of all cases). As well, nearly half of all active cases are in Counties Manukau. Last year, Pacific health providers (along with Māori providers) showed what they could achieve when they're given the resources and trusted to make the calls for our communities.

Dr Api Talemaitoga is a GP working in South Auckland and Christchurch, and chair of the Pasifika GP Network. Here, he writes about the lessons learned over the last two years, and how they should inform the response to the current Omicron outbreak. [Read more](#)

Covid-19: How southern Pasifika rallied to care for their own

It started with one positive test that catapulted a family of eight into six weeks of isolation.

The Kuresa family, from Invercargill, missed important events like funerals and waved to their friends from the front door as one by one they tested positive for Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Journals, reports and articles

Pacific Health Review

Issue 33

In this issue, we look at an important study exploring the needs of Pacific families affected by age-related cognitive decline.

Other highlights include:

- Variation in vildagliptin use in Waikato patients with type 2 diabetes
- Sugar-sweetened beverage consumption among NZ children

- Universal health coverage in the Pacific Islands

[Read more](#)

Investing in Our Future: Building Strong and Resilient Health Systems in the Indo-Pacific Region

Linhart, C et al, (2022)

This report presents the findings and recommendations from a rapid desk-based review of the current status of health system strengthening in seven Indo-Pacific countries: Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands and Vietnam. The framework used to undertake the review was an adapted version of the World Health Organization (WHO) Building Blocks framework, with the incorporation of three cross-cutting key elements: equity in access, quality of care and resource optimisation.

[Read more](#)

Health security in the Pacific: expert perspectives to guide health system strengthening

This report was designed to identify and prioritise health system strengthening initiatives that prevent impacts of health security threats and strengthen the ability to respond to these threats in the Pacific region. We focus on Timor Leste, Papua New Guinea and Pacific Island Countries and Areas, which include the Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Kingdom of Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. [Read more](#)

Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy: An analysis of coronial SUDI Liaison Reports from Sept 2018 to June 2020 with subsequent recommendations

Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) is the leading cause of preventable mortality in New Zealand infants. Māori and Pacific infants have consistently higher rates of SUDI compared to non-Māori and non-Pacific infants. [Read more](#)

Kia Puawai National SUDI Prevention Programme Evaluation: Final evaluation report

Sudden Unexpected Death in Infancy (SUDI) is the leading cause of preventable mortality in New Zealand infants. Māori and Pacific infants have consistently higher rates of SUDI compared to non-Māori and non-Pacific infants. [Read more](#)

Online resources – general

Presentations from the **Mo'ui Lelei Fono** held in Auckland in June were recorded and can be found on the Tongan Health Society website. [Access here](#)

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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