



Pacific Nursing Section, NZNO quarterly news bulletin Friday 29 May 2020

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](#)

Kia Kaha, Kia Māia, Kia Ora Aotearoa - COVID-19 Psychosocial and Mental Wellbeing Recovery Plan

NZNO warmly welcomes your feedback on this plan which provides a national approach to supporting the mental and social wellbeing of New Zealanders in the COVID-19 recovery period. This plan provides a framework for collective actions to support whānau and communities to adapt and thrive in the next 12 to 18 months. It draws on the directions for mental wellbeing that were laid down in [He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction](#). Your input will help build a collective picture of how the nursing workforce is contributing to COVID-19 recovery and will assist with shaping a further iteration of the plan, anticipated for September 2020.

Pacific nurses in NZ

On the Job

As the first Pasefika person to become a mental health nurse practitioner, Makoni Havea is determined to make a difference for her community. [Read more](#)

PMA Scholar: Continuing a legacy of service

For Samoan nursing student Phyllein Pauli Taetafe, it's learning from the failures in her life that have made her successful. [Read more](#)

Pacific graduate on track to become nurse practitioner - Massey Uni

Voxy

When Catherine Tu'akalau graduates this week, it will be another study milestone, but not the end of her academic journey. The registered nurse will be conferred with her Postgraduate Diploma in Nursing, but is already partway through her next degree. Her aim is to become New Zealand's first Pacific nurse practitioner focused on child health. And to do that, she needs her master's degree. [Read more](#)

A Message To Our Nurses In 2020

Leauepe Peta Karalus has a relentless passion for healthcare in her community which started when she arrived in New Zealand from Western Samoa in the 70s as a very homesick 17-year old after being awarded a scholarship to study nursing. At the time, she just wanted to go home.. [Read more](#)

Pasifika Health in NZ

Removing barriers to respiratory health - Asthma and Respiratory Foundation

Asthma and Respiratory Foundation NZ are pleased to announce the translation of their first Samoan language resources, with more to come over the next year. [Read more](#)

Mana At Heart Of Pacific Rainbow Health Project

A project which aims to redress the impact of stigma on the health and wellbeing of the Pacific Rainbow community in Aotearoa New Zealand has received Health Research Council funding. [Read more](#)

Maori and Pacific babies bigger and leaner, Asian babies 'thin-fat'

The facts and fictions of baby fat have been revealed in the first-ever study of Aotearoa New Zealand newborns' body composition, including a surprise that could refocus early healthcare. [Read more](#)

Stroke rates rising for young Pacific people

Strokes occur most commonly in older people, but recently there has been an increase in younger Pacific people in New Zealand having strokes [Read more](#)

Māori and Pacifica given priority in elective surgery waitlists

Māori and Pacifica waiting for elective surgery have been placed at the top of wait lists in the Wellington region, in a move hoped to improve their access to healthcare.

[Read more](#)

Coronavirus: Covid-19 will make health inequality worse, experts say

Māori and Pasifika health inequalities are expected to get worse as a result of the Covid-19 economic fall out and delayed access to healthcare. [Read more](#)

NZ govt challenged to make economy more equitable for Pasifika

Upending of the economy and society by the Covid-19 pandemic could be an opportunity to reset the New Zealand economy in a more equitable way, according to a senior Pasifika accountant.

[Read more](#)

Pasifika health official stresses importance of medical appointments

A Pasifika health boss in New Zealand is warning of the importance of keeping on top of the medical requirements of older family members. [Read more](#)

Covid-19: Social media misinformation putting Pacific communities at risk - government

Social media misinformation about Covid-19 is putting Pacific communities in New Zealand at particular risk, government advisors say. [Read more](#)

Pacific health receive funding to support Covid-19 strategies

A spokesperson for New Zealand's Covid-19 Pacific Response Team says a huge increase in non-clinical providers will be necessary to deliver ongoing healthcare to the community.

[Read more](#)

Website launched with covid info for Pacific communities in NZ

A new website dedicated to providing information on Covid-19 for Pacific communities across New Zealand has launched this week. [Read more](#)

More than 40,000 Pasifika assisted in NZ during Covid-19 lockdown

More than 40,000 Pacific people in New Zealand have benefitted from the government's Covid-19 support packages. [Read more](#)

Forty percent of Pasifika people in crowded housing

Nearly four in 10 (38.5 percent) of Pacific people are living in over crowded houses, according to data just released from the 2018 census by Stats NZ. [Read more](#)

Health literacy of Samoan mothers and their experiences with health professionals

Fofoa H. Pio and Vili Nosa

Journal of Primary Health Care

Volume 12 Number 1 2020 : pp. 57-63

NTRODUCTION: Patient and health professional engagement is a crucial factor for the effectiveness of service delivery and the management of care. Low health literacy amongst Pacific peoples is likely to affect their engagement with health professionals.

AIM: To explore the health literacy of Samoan mothers and their experiences with health professionals in primary care.

[Read more](#)

Pacific health leader Dr Collin Tukuitonga is joining the Heart Foundation as its Chief Advisor Pacific

Dr Tukuitonga, who is Niuean, is the Associate Dean Pacific at the University of Auckland's Health and Medical Sciences faculty. He is also a new government appointee to the Health Quality & Safety Commission board. [Read more](#)

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

An ethnic interpretation of mental distress from the perspective of Tongan men and community leaders.

Vaka, S., Neville, S. and Holroyd, E. (2020),
Int J Mental Health Nurs. doi:[10.1111/inm.12732](https://doi.org/10.1111/inm.12732)

Tongan people living in New Zealand have a high prevalence of mental illness and low uptake of mental health services. Rates of mental illnesses also differ between those born in Tonga and those born in New Zealand. However, little is known about the personalized and culturally shaped meaning and experience of mental distress in this population. Therefore, this research explored the meaning of mental distress for Tongan men and community leaders living in Auckland, New Zealand. The Tongan cultural framework, *talanoa* (talking, to tell), enabled a culturally congruent and collective approach to examining mental health-related ideologies and ensuing distress.

Nursing in the Pacific

Ministry aims to address shortage of nurses

Midwives and **nurses** in Fiji have been trained well and are marketable worldwide. Health Minister Dr Ifereimi Waqainabete says they are trying to ... [Read more](#)

Urgent need for investment in nursing

COVID-19 pandemic puts need for nurses into sharp relief. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – general

New Zealand to increase support to Pacific health

New Zealand is set to channel more aid money into supporting Pacific countries' health systems and economy because of the impact of Covid-19. [Read more](#)

Regional health figure calls for Helen Clark's lead against Covid-19

The head of a Covid-19 Pasifika advisory group wants to see a former New Zealand Prime Minister leading a global push to re-energise global trust and resourcing to fight the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Island people rely on strengths

Pacific Island countries and territories are internationally portrayed as particularly vulnerable to Covid-19. However, in times of crisis, it is important not to forget their strengths, write Sargam Goundar and Kim Andreas Kessler. [Read more](#)

Thousands in Pacific at risk of missing vaccines

Thousands of children in the Pacific are in danger of missing out on routine vaccines because immunisation services have been disrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Pacific Islands: Dengue Fever Another Blow For The Pacific

As the Pacific Islands battle to keep Covid-19 out, and continues to reel from the aftermath of the Tropical Cyclone Harold, they are fighting another battle: Dengue Fever. [Read more](#)

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Ocular syphilis in Pacific peoples—are we making misdiagnoses secondary to yaws?

Hannah Gill, Helen V Danesh-Meyer, Joanne L Sims, Mitzi Nisbet, Rachael L Niederer
NZMJ Vol 133 No 1513: 24 April 2020

Acquired syphilis is a multi-systemic infectious disease which is known as the 'great imitator' because of its wide variety of clinical presentations and ability to mimic many other conditions.

Health in the Pacific – POLYNESIA

Dengue cases rise in the Cook Islands

The Cook Islands government has ordered an extensive clean-up programme after the number of dengue fever cases doubled in March. [Read more](#)

First In-depth Study Of Mental Health Issues In Cook Is

A study investigating mental health in the Cook Islands is the first of its kind and will provide better understanding of how the Islands are being impacted by mental health issues.

[Read more](#)

Mu'a Health Centre to open soon in Tonga

A new hub for treating suspected and confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Tonga is close to completion. [Read more](#)

Samoa govt depts fail health and safety standards

A report in Samoa has found an overwhelming failure by government bodies to comply with health and safety standards. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – MELANESIA

Women in PNG's Highlands more prone to blindness

Women in the Highlands region of Papua New Guinea have higher rates of blindness than in other parts of the country. [Read more](#)

African swine fever a threat to Pacific way of life

Pacific governments are being advised to respond to the threat of another deadly virus in the region, African swine fever. [Read more](#)

Research uncovers risk factors associated with pneumococcal carriage in Fiji

New research has uncovered the risk factors for Fijians carrying a pneumonia-causing bacteria. [Read more](#)

Fiji govt warns of 'LTDD' diseases post-cyclone

Fiji's government has warned of a rise in diseases with the potential to prove deadlier than Cyclone Harold which hit the country this month. [Read more](#)

Fiji reels from dengue as it recovers from Covid-19 and cyclone

Fiji's government says there are more than 700 cases of dengue in the country and most of them have been found in the northern and central divisions. [Read more](#)

Malaria outbreak in Vanuatu province affected by TC Harold

Vanuatu Health authorities have another challenge to deal with after a local outbreak of malaria in Sola, which is in the northern province of Torba following Tropical Cyclone Harold. [Read more](#)

Measles / Covid-19

Australia to provide Pacific nations rapid Covid-19 test kits

Australia will provide Pacific island nations with new rapid diagnostic Covid-19 kits in a joint initiative with the World Health Organization (WHO), the United States and New Zealand. [Read more](#)

High Covid-19 rates for Pacific islanders in the US

Pacific islanders living in the United States have an infection rate two to three times the average in at least four American states, according to data released Sunday by the Pacific Islander Center of Primary Care Excellence, a California-based group. [Read more](#)

Tonga not ready to manage CoViD-19 patients

Case management, or the ability of Tonga's Ministry of Health to accommodate and treat CoViD-19 patients, if the new coronavirus arrives in Tonga, remains a serious problem for the Ministry of Health to resolve, Dr Siale 'Akau'ola said on Friday. [Read more](#)

Tonga: US\$8.4 Million To Strengthen Resilience And Fight COVID-19

World Bank supporting efforts to strengthen public financial management, disaster resilience, labor, together with COVID-19 response funding The World Banks Board of Executive Directors has approved a US\$5.5 million operation for Tonga to strengthen ... [Read more](#)

COVID-19 timeline in the Western Pacific

31 December 2019

The World Health Organization (WHO) detects reports of a cluster of cases of pneumonia of unknown cause on the Wuhan Municipal Health Commission website. Similar reports are picked up from event-based surveillance systems and routine monitoring of open source platforms, web and media traffic for potential public health events. [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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