



## Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO monthly news bulletin Friday 28 August 2020

### Section message

Pacific Greetings fellow nursing colleagues,

I would like to take this time to thank you all for your continued efforts and support during these unprecedented times. I am aware that many of you have been called to serve in pop up clinics, testing stations, managed isolation facilities, contact tracing work and quarantine isolation facilities. This has called for many sacrifices by you and your families and I want to particularly thank those of you who have stepped up to the call. I also want to urge you all to please take some time out to rest and relax when you are not working as we all need to stay well and healthy to help our Pacific communities. Over the next few months we will be called to help out in various ways with our Pacific communities and as Pacific nurses I know you will step up and stand out. God bless you all. Stay safe and stay well.

### 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 in NZ

#### **Problems with Pasifika accessing health services rife**

A leading Pacific health expert says problems with accessing health services are rife at all levels. It comes after a coroner found a doctor failed to realise two-year-old Hineihana Mausii was critically ill. [Read more](#)

### Pasifika Health and wellbeing in NZ

#### **Pacific Health+ First Health Practice In Wellington To Use In-house Rapid Blood Testing For Diabetes**

The standard process for getting your blood tested and results back can take a number of days. And in some communities, this lapse can be the difference between life and death. [Read more](#)

#### **Quality improvement project delivers wider health benefits for Tongan community**

A project to understand why Tongan diabetes patients were reluctant to begin insulin treatment has not only resulted in improved medication uptake, but many are now being treated for other, previously undiagnosed conditions as well, thanks to greater engagement with their general practice. [Read more](#)

### **Health researchers secure HRC funding for asthma among Pacific children - Dr Foliaki**

A Massey-led study has been awarded \$971,541 by the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) to explore the barriers to self-management of asthma in Pacific children.

[Read more](#)

### **Primary care improvement case study: Childhood respiratory warrant of fitness: Unichem Russell Street, Hastings**

As part of a Whakakotahi improvement project, Unichem Russell Street, Hastings developed a quality improvement project to improve asthma management in a group of Māori and Pacific children.

This is the first in a new series of case studies on primary care projects, intended to help guide other providers wanting to start projects of their own. [Read more](#)

### **Measles vaccine catch-up 'too late', doctor says**

Pasifika doctors say a measles vaccination catch-up campaign is years overdue - and would have prevented last year's epidemic if it had been done on time. [Read more](#)

### **Pacific Pharmacists' Association address the information gap for Pacific population**

A Pacific Pharmacists' Association (PPA) initiative headed by vice-president Diana Phone aims to address the "information gap" for Pacific populations and the public about accessing medicines and pharmacy services. [Read more](#)

### **BMI inconsistent measure of obesity in Maori and Pacific people - research**

BMI (Body Mass Index) is likely to be an inconsistent measure of obesity in Māori and Pacific patients, new University of Otago research reveals. [Read more](#)

### **Study finds young adults slipping through gaps for rheumatic fever treatment**

A national register of people with rheumatic fever is needed to help protect younger people missing out on vital treatment, senior clinicians say. [Read more](#)

### **'We have totally failed': Rheumatic fever: The Third World disease entrenched in New Zealand**

It's a disease that can have a life-long impact on those it strikes, it disproportionately hits Māori and Pacific people, and it shouldn't even be in this country. Virginia Fallon reports.

[Read more](#)

### **Cancer: Breast reconstruction rates much lower for Maori and Pacific patients**

Māori and Pacific patients are far less likely to get their breast reconstructed after losing them to cancer than European women, a new study has revealed. [Read more](#)

### **Partners in Care co-design case study 'Walking with you' – Preparing for cancer treatment Northern Cancer Network Counties Manukau Health**

The project aimed to:

- better understand the experiences of Māori with lung cancer and Pacific women with endometrial cancer between their initial cancer diagnosis and first treatment
- apply a co-design approach with patients, family and whānau and health professionals about how to better prepare patients for their first cancer treatment. [Read more](#)

### **Primary care improvement case study: The Fono 'Happy Skin' project: Skin and soft tissue infections in the Tuvaluan community**

The population of Pacific peoples in New Zealand has a much higher rate of skin and soft tissue infections (SSTIs) than the rest of the New Zealand population. Among Pacific peoples, the Tuvaluan community has the highest rate of SSTI, indicating a large equity gap

that needs to be addressed. The Fono initiated a quality improvement project that used a community-based public health approach with the aim of reducing the rate of SSTI by 25 percent by November 2018 in the West Auckland Tuvaluan community. Here's what they did. [Read more](#)

### **Pasifika problem gambling highlighted in new music**

New Zealand's Pasifika population is twice as likely as Pākehā to experience harm from gambling. [Read more](#)

### **Taeao Malama - Alcohol use among Pacific peoples**

"This report provides an updated overview of alcohol use in Pacific peoples and looks at drinking patterns and attitudes in various Pacific subpopulations." *Source: Health Promotion Agency (New Zealand)* [Read more](#)

### **Pacific perspectives on family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand**

NZFVC has published Issues Paper 16, Pacific perspectives on family violence in Aotearoa New Zealand by Fuafiva Fa'alau and Sharyn Wilson. [Read more](#)

### **First Pacific owned research group to be fully funded by HRC explores mental health of parents**

First Pacific owned research group to be fully funded by HRC explores mental health of Pacific mothers and fathers [Read more](#)

### **Top doctor calls for mass hepatitis B testing for Māori, Asian and Pacific adults**

A top doctor has called for mass testing of all adult Māori, Asian and Pacific Island people for hepatitis B, after new research finds rates of the disease are not decreasing. [Read more](#)

### **A new 10-year action plan for Pacific Education launched**

A new educational action plan focusing on ensuring Pacific learners and families reach their full potential was released in New Zealand this week. [Read more](#)

### **Waikato community to be consulted on NZ's pan-Pacific Hub**

More than 200 people from Pacific communities in New Zealand's Waikato region will have their say on a new facility to support the wellbeing of families. [Read more](#)

### **NZ Pacific language courses expand online**

New Zealand's oldest not-for-profit Pacific community-based education provider has received \$NZ3.9 million over four years to provide free community Pacific language courses online. [Read more](#)

### **Primary medication non-adherence at Counties Manukau Health Emergency Department (CMH-ED), New Zealand: an observational study**

Martini ND, van der Werf B, Bassett-Clarke D

BMJ Open 2020; 10:e035775. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2019-035775

Objectives To measure primary medication non-adherence (failure to fill prescription medicines) in patients discharged from the emergency department (ED), and to determine whether sociodemographic factors, smoking status and access to a general practitioner affect prescription filling. Little is known about primary medication non-adherence in EDs, and less so in New Zealand (NZ). Identifying reasons for non-adherence will enable development of strategies to improve adherence and reduce morbimortality. [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. doi:[10.1111/1753-6405.13027](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](#)

### **Combination budesonide/formoterol inhaler as sole reliever therapy in Māori and Pacific people with mild and moderate asthma | OPEN ACCESS**

Jo Hardy, Jordan Tewhaiti-Smith, Christina Baggott, James Fingleton, Alex Semprini, Mark Holliday, Robert J Hancox, Mark Weatherall, Richard Beasley, Matire Harwood on behalf of the PRACTICAL Study Team

NZ Medical Journal Vol 133 No 1520: 21 August 2020

Asthma is a major public health problem in New Zealand. The prevalence rate is among the highest in the world, particularly in adults identifying as Māori, the indigenous people of New Zealand, and Pacific people. [Read more](#)

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

### **Energy-dense vs routine enteral nutrition in New Zealand Europeans, Māori, and Pacific Peoples who are critically ill**

NZMJ Vol 133 No 1516: 12 June 2020

Alice L Reid, ... et al on behalf of the TARGET Investigators and the Australian and New Zealand Intensive Care Society Clinical Trials Group

Over 14,000 critically ill patients are admitted to New Zealand intensive care units (ICUs) annually. Nutrition therapy is an essential standard of care for all patients who require life support (invasive mechanical ventilation) as calorie deficits in such patients are associated with poor outcomes.

### **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**

### **Pacific healthcare workers set to benefit from new on-air initiative**

A radio programme supporting frontline healthcare workers will be soon be heard across the Pacific via local broadcasters. [Read more](#)

### **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](#)

### **Community Orientation Scale among Community Health Nurses in Fiji: Scale development and psychometric evaluation.**

Tanabe, S, Yanagisawa, S, Waqa Ledua, S, Tukana, M.

*Nursing Open.* 2020; 7: 1367– 1378. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nop2.508>

To develop and evaluate the reliability and validity of the COSCHN, a scale that aims to measure community orientation among community health nurses in Fiji. [Read more](#)

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*Nursing Open.* 2020; 00: 1– 12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/nop2.508>

Aim

To develop and evaluate the reliability and validity of the COSCHN, a scale that aims to measure community orientation among community health nurses in Fiji. [Read more](#)

## **Health in the Pacific – general**

### **ChildFund And MFAT Partnership To Have A Positive Impact In Pacific Communities And Southeast Asia**

ChildFund New Zealand and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) have today announced a partnership to increase the social and emotional wellbeing of vulnerable children, youth and their families in the Pacific and Southeast Asia region. [Read more](#)

### **Australia targets Pacific TB**

Australia is spending almost \$US6 million on a project to tackle drug resistant tuberculosis in the Pacific. [Read more](#)

### **Handbook on Pacific healthy dietary guidelines for people with diabetes | SPC**

The Pacific Community (SPC) has published a handbook on Pacific healthy dietary guidelines for people with diabetes, which is intended for health professionals and educators who provide health advice on nutrition and dietetic interventions for people with diabetes in the region. [Read more](#)

### **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](#)

### **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](#)

## **The 2019 Global Health Security Index (GHSI) and its implications for New Zealand and Pacific regional health security | OPEN ACCESS**

Matt Boyd, Michael G Baker, Cassidy Nelson, Nick Wilson  
NZMJ Vol 133 No 1516: 12 June 2020

Recent events such as the 2019 measles epidemic in New Zealand and the South Pacific, as well as the emergence of a novel coronavirus in China in 2019 (COVID-19), underscore that all countries must ensure capabilities to prevent, detect and rapidly respond to public health emergencies. [Read more](#)

## **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.

## **Study: Biological components combined with socioeconomic factors increases tooth decay**

Nationally, rates of early childhood caries, or tooth decay, among Hispanic, American Indian, Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander children are almost double those of white children, making it the most prevalent chronic disease among these populations--occurring five times as frequently as asthma. [Read more](#)

## **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 declares dengue and leptospirosis outbreak**

Fiji has declared an outbreak of dengue fever and leptospirosis diseases in the country amid the Covid-19 pandemic. [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](#)

### **Covid-19 anxiety training for PNG health workers**

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Papua New Guinea has been helping health workers deal with stress brought on by Covid-19. [Read more](#)

## **Measles / Covid-19**

### **Pasifika need extra help dealing with Covid's harsh reality - councillor**

A key leader for the Pasifika community is calling for more generosity to help struggling families facing poverty due to the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

### **Pacific community come out in force during Covid-19 testing**

More than 22,000 Pacific people have tested for Covid-19 in recent weeks, as the community has rallied in the face of the latest surge of the coronavirus. [Read more](#)

### **Pacific languages a key to overcoming Covid 19 resurgence**

Weekly briefings in different Pacific languages on various media outlets amid the recent COVID-19 resurgence in Auckland is a vital resource for the community, says a senior Pacific doctor. [Read more](#)

### **Auckland Covid-19 response: 'We need a Pasifika voice'**

The chair of the Pasifika GP Network is calling on the government to ensure there is a Pacific voice on the new group overseeing testing at the country's border. [Read more](#)

### **Pasifika stigmatised due to recent Covid outbreak - Pasifika GP**

Dr Api Talemaitoga, who chairs the Pacific chapter of the Royal College of General Practitioners, says the Pasifika family who contracted Covid-19, felt ashamed. "They were embarrassed by having the virus," Dr Talemaitoga says.

[Read more](#)

### **Call for Pacific community connection amid Covid data divide**

A senior Pacific health official in New Zealand says not everyone has access to the technology required to receive important information about the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

### **Southland Cook Island community is stronger after Covid-19**

In a time of crisis a small Cook Island community in Southland has become more united. Pacific Island Advisory Cultural Trust whanau ora navigator Tere Papatua said the spirit of the community started during the Covid-19 lockdown. [Read more](#)

### **Barbara Dreaver: Should we identify the first covid family as Pasifika? Yes we should, and here's why**

Pasifika family or just an Auckland family?

There has been much debate over whether it was wrong to identify the family at the centre of New Zealand's covid-cluster as a "Pasifika family". [Read more](#)

### **Covid-19: Cook Island community seeks guidance from New Zealand Government**

A community leader in the Cook Islands says they need more guidance from the New Zealand government on what to do in case of a Covid-19 outbreak [Read more](#)

### **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](#)

## **Journals and reports**

### **Ola Manuia: Pacific Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2020–2025**

Although many Pacific communities are thriving, overall, Pacific peoples in New Zealand experience significant and long-standing health inequities compared with many other groups. A fresh approach is needed to improve Pacific health outcomes.

We have developed Ola Manuia: Pathways to Pacific Health and Wellbeing Action Plan 2020–2025 with input from Pacific communities, the health sector, and relevant government agencies, to provide a new direction for Pacific health and improve Pacific health and wellbeing. This plan builds on the successes of 'Ala Mo'ui: Pathways to Pacific Health and Wellbeing 2014–2018' (Ministry of Health 2014).

In this publication, we set out priority outcomes and accompanying actions for the next five years to improve the health and wellbeing of our vibrant and growing Pacific population living in Aotearoa New Zealand. The plan can be used as a tool for planning, prioritising actions, and developing new and innovative methods of delivering results to improve Pacific health. For more information on improving Pacific peoples' health, visit the [Ola Manuia 2020–2025: Pacific Health and Wellbeing Action Plan](#) section. [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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