



**Pacific Nurses Section, NZNO quarterly news bulletin
Friday 25 February 2022**

Section message

Kia orana, Noa'ia, Talofa lava, Mauri, Mālō e lelei, Tālofa, Ni Sa Bula Vinaka, Fakaalofa lahi atu, Mālō ni and Pacific greetings

Firstly I would like to thank you all for your continued efforts and commitment as we navigate our way through this global pandemic. As you are all aware this has been ongoing for the past two years and 2022 brings about more challenges for us as Pacific Nurses and nurses in general. Omicron is now rapidly spreading in our community and once again our Pacific communities are at burden with this outbreak and spread. Please continue to follow up on Public Health and MOH advice and also encourage our communities to get boosted. Your continued commitment to the health and wellbeing of our Pacific people is acknowledged and appreciative.

This is our first newsletter for 2022 and again I am appreciative of the work that has taken place in the background by a number of supportive Pacific champions to get this issue out to you in a timely manner. As we move through the year I encourage you to continue to maintain an open dialogue with your committee members and lets support each other navigate and achieve better health outcomes for our Pacific people and communities. I also encourage you all to take some time to reflect on your health and wellbeing as you continue to support the work that is asked of you throughout the year.

Enjoy reading our first newsletter of 2022; take care and god bless you all.

Eseta Finau
Chairperson 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](#)

Plain Language Bill

Public submissions are now being called for the Plain Language
The Bill would improve the effectiveness and accountability of the public service by requiring communications to be clear and accessible to the public.

Consultation on the draft Rules and Guidelines on the use of physical restraint at registered schools and kura in New Zealand

NZNO warmly invites you to provide feedback on a new draft set of rules and guidelines on the use of physical restraint at registered schools and kura in New Zealand. The rules and guidelines have been prepared by an advisory group made up of representatives of parents, the education sector and disability communities.

Pacific nurses in NZ

Pasifika nurse practitioner's graduation 'inspirational' to others

Aotearoa has a new Pasifika nurse practitioner specialising in child health, Catherine Soana Latailakepa Tu'akalau. [Read more](#)

PMA Scholarships: Abel Smith

This year we are privileged to present a scholarship in honour of Abel Smith, Director of Nursing Pacific at Auckland DHB and a pioneer in the Pacific health arena. We caught up with Abel to hear more about his story. [Read more](#)

'You're Awesome': Advocating for Auckland's Pacific hospital patients

Elsie Smith is a nurse with Auckland DHB's otorhinolaryngology (ORL) ward, which specialises in disorders of the ear, nose, throat, head and neck. [Read more](#)

'You're Awesome': Nurse's nephews call him 'superhero' for work in Covid pandemic | Stuff.co.nz

Stuff.co.nz

Daniel Mataafa is a regional Pacific nurse case manager at Middlemore Hospital. Mataafa, who is Samoan, was also named as the New Zealand Nurses ... [Read more](#)

'You're Awesome': Family the backbone of nurse educator's wellbeing during pandemic | Stuff.co.nz

Auckland DHB nurse educator Hayden Erick hopes his family sees him as a hero for his work during the Covid-19 pandemic. [Read more](#)

Pasifika health in NZ

ProCare Releases Pacific Equity Guide For General Practices

ProCare is excited to announce that it has today released "Achieving Equity for Pacific - A guide for General Practices" to equip and support practices across its network to achieve the best health outcomes for their Pacific patients, their fanau (family) and the generations to come. [Read more](#)

\$140m boost to Māori, Pasifika health providers as Omicron spreads

The Government has signed off on a \$140 million funding boost for Māori and Pacific health and community agencies, as the Omicron outbreak surges. [Read more](#)

Innovative Partnership To Reduce Long Term Conditions And Improve Wellbeing

A new innovative partnership will help to improve the physical health and wellbeing of Māori and Pacific communities in South Auckland. [Read more](#)

Pacific organisations call for 'village approach' to help save Pasifika babies

My Babies Village, an initiative led by the Pacific Infant Care Collective in Auckland, was launched this month to help provide Pacific parents of newborns the support they needed to keep their babies safe. [Read more](#)

Researchers address inequities in diabetes treatment for Maori and Pacific people

University of Waikato researchers are undertaking a pivotal study into the treatment of patients with Type 2 diabetes as they try to improve health system factors that can lead to better prescribing of medication for Māori and Pacific patients. [Read more](#)

Pacific health provider notices Covid-19 fatigue within community

South Seas Healthcare Trust chief executive Lemalu Silao Vaisola says people are tired of Covid-19 rather than complacent after two years of the pandemic. [Read more](#)

Breast cancer outcomes worse for Māori, Pacific women, new study finds

The chances of women dying from breast cancer have halved since 2003, but Māori and Pacific women still face higher risk, particularly within 10 years of getting the disease.

[Read more](#)

Survey to help policymakers better understand Pasifika LGBTQ+ community

For Aotearoa to be inclusive, it needs to acknowledge the issues faced by the Pasifika rainbow community who are greatly overlooked, says a senior Pacific academic. [Read more](#)

The needs of Pacific families affected by age-related cognitive impairment in New Zealand: interviews with providers from health-care organisations.

Symon Vanda, Richards Rosalina, Norris Pauline, Mapusua Talai, Hale Leigh (2021)

Journal of Primary Health Care 13, 317-322. <https://doi.org/10.1071/HC21082>

INTRODUCTION: Pacific populations in New Zealand are aging, but little is known in the health-care environment about their experiences with cognitive impairment.

AIM: The aim was to explore the needs of Pacific peoples affected by age-related cognitive decline from the perspectives of health-care providers. [Read more](#)

Nursing in the Pacific

Activist raises concerns about loss of nurses in Fiji | RNZ News

A Fijian human rights activist is demanding answers from the authorities after reports that hundreds of nurses in the country are resigning. [Read more](#)

Pacific nurses in the desert: Kiribati brain drain is outback Australia's gain - The Guardian

A Pacific labour scheme has been transformative for Kiribati families but the brain drain has hit the country's hospitals hard. [Read more](#)

Nurses 'resign'

The Fiji Nursing Association claims nurses are resigning because of stress, fatigue, and lack of compensation. [Read more](#)

Health in the Pacific – general

Order to close 'illegal' medical clinics in PNG will leave 200,000 in lurch | Asia Pacific Report

By Grace Auka Salmang and Melisha Yafoi in Port Moresby. Closing down of nursing stations and medical clinics operated by retail pharmacies will ...

[Read more](#)

In Pacific Island Kitchens, the Revolution Is Being Televised

Over the last 50 years, there has been a dramatic shift in the diet of Pacific Islanders, from traditional seafood, coconut, green leafy vegetables, and crops like taro, cassava, breadfruit, and yams to imported, processed foods and sugary drinks low in nutrients and high in salt, sugar, and fat. [Read more](#)

Covid-19

Access to Covid-19 anti-viral treatments recommended for at-risk groups, including Māori, Pasifika

Māori, Pasifika, certain unvaccinated people and immune-compromised groups look to be first in line for two Covid-19 anti-viral pills, which are designed to prevent positive cases winding up in hospital. [Read more](#)

Pasifika make up half of the cases in the current outbreak of Omicron variant

Pasifika people are making up about half of the cases in the current outbreak of the Omicron variant in New Zealand. [Read more](#)

Covid-19 Omicron outbreak: What does Phase 3 mean for you?

New Zealand will move to phase 3 of the Omicron response at midnight tonight. There are more than 6000 new Covid cases today, with more than 200 people in hospital, and numbers are forecast to rise sharply in coming weeks.

Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins says the move means most people will manage their infection at home, allowing the health system and supply chains to cope. So what does phase 3 mean for you? [Read more](#)

Vaccine inequity in the Pacific: 'We need to support our neighbours'

Concern is growing around low Covid-19 vaccine rates in the Pacific.

[Read more](#)

Inequities and perspectives from the COVID-Delta outbreak: The imperative for strengthening the Pacific nursing workforce in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Smith, A., Fereti, S., & Adams, S. (2021).

Nursing Praxis in Aotearoa New Zealand, 37(3), 94-103. <https://doi.org/10.36951/27034542.2021.040>

The COVID-19 Delta August 2021 outbreak in Aotearoa New Zealand initially affected Pacific communities more than any other group, spreading later and rapidly to Māori. From the outset of the global pandemic, historical knowledge of health inequities and the adverse effect of previous epidemics and pandemics, signaled that Pacific peoples, and Māori, would be disproportionately affected by COVID-19. The purpose of this article is to provide an overview of the COVID-19 pandemic in relation to Pacific communities and to begin to capture the learnings for the health system and the Pacific nursing workforce. We use data to show the inequities present before and during the pandemic and highlight the opportunities that were missed early on for prioritising Pacific communities. As nurse leaders, involved with supporting and promoting the Pacific nursing workforce, we reflect on the nursing response to COVID-19 in those Pacific communities, and consider the contribution of Pacific nurses and how we support and strengthen the Pacific nursing workforce in Aotearoa now and in the future. [Read more](#)

Community healthcare workers' experiences during and after COVID-19 lockdown: A qualitative study from Aotearoa New Zealand.

Holroyd, E., Long, N. J., Appleton, N. S., Davies, S. G., Deckert, A., Fehoko, E., Laws, M., Martin-Anatias, N., Simpson, N., Sterling, R., Trnka, S., & Tunufa'i, L. (2022).

Health & Social Care in the Community, 00, 1– 11. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hsc.13720>

Shortly after the COVID-19 pandemic reached Aotearoa New Zealand, stringent lockdown measures lasting 7 weeks were introduced to manage community spread of the virus. This paper reports the findings of a qualitative study examining how lockdown measures impacted upon the lives of nurses, midwives and personal care assistants caring for community-based patients during this time. The study involved nationwide surveys and in-

depth interviews with 15 registered nurses employed in community settings, two community midwives and five personal care assistants. During the lockdown, nurses, midwives and personal care assistants working in the community showed considerable courage in answering their 'call to duty' by taking on heightened care responsibilities and going 'the extra mile' to help others. They faced significant risks to personal and professional relationships when they were required to take on additional and complex responsibilities for community-based patients. Despite the hypervigilant monitoring of their personal protective equipment (PPE), the need to safeguard family and community members generated considerable stress and anxiety. Many also faced personal isolation and loneliness as a result of lockdown restrictions. Moreover, the negative impacts of experiences during lockdown often continued to be felt once restrictions had been lifted, inflecting life during periods in which community transmission of COVID-19 was not occurring. This article makes five core service delivery and policy recommendations for supporting community-based nurses, midwives and personal care assistants in respiratory disease pandemics: acknowledging the crucial role played by community-based carers and the associated stress and anxiety they endured by championing respect and compassion; demystifying the 'heroism' or 'self-sacrifice' projected onto care workers; the timely provision of adequate protective equipment; improving remuneration, with adequate provision for time off; and regular counselling, peer support groups and education on work-life balance delivered by support workers in recognition of stressors arising from these complex and isolated working conditions. [Read more](#)

New Zealand items – general

The cost of excess weight in NZ

Excess weight is contributing to health problems costing the country at least \$2 billion a year - or 8 percent of all our health budget - and billions more in economic impacts but the problem is studiously ignored by governments, writes Professor Boyd Swinburn. [Read more](#)

Journals, reports and articles

Pacific Health Review

Issue 31

This issue covers several papers relating to COVID-19, including the vulnerability of Māori and Pacific people to COVID-19 infection and hospitalisation, and the profound negative impact of COVID-19 on the mental health and wellbeing of low-income New Zealanders.

[Read more](#)

Assessing youth empowerment and co-design to advance Pasifika health: a qualitative research study in New Zealand.

Prapaveissis, D., Henry, A., Okياما, E., Funaki, T., Faeamani, G., Masaga, J., Brown, B., Kaholokula, K., Ing, C., Matheson, A., Tiatia-Seath, J., Schlessner, M., Borman, B., Ellison-Loschmann, L. and Tupai-Firestone, R. (2021),

Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health. <https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.13187>

Objectives: The Pasifika Prediabetes Youth Empowerment Programme (PPYEP) was a community-based research project that aimed to investigate empowerment and co-design modules to build the capacity of Pasifika youth to develop community interventions for preventing prediabetes. [Read more](#)

The articles below are not freely available but may be sourced via the NZNO library or those of a DHB or educational institution

Surviving versus thriving: The wellbeing of primary school aged children in Tonga.

Langridge, F.C., 'Ofanoa, M., Fakakovikaetau, T., Wilkinson-Meyers, L., Percival, T., Riley, A.W. and Grant, C.C. (2022), J Paediatr Child Health. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15869>

To enable improvements in global child health, the focus must move beyond child survival to child wellbeing. In the Pacific Islands, the wellbeing of children has received little attention. This study aimed to investigate the wellbeing of children from three primary schools in Tonga.

Incidence, severity and clinical manifestations of juvenile dermatomyositis among Maori and Pacific Island compared to European children.

Concannon, A. and Han, D.Y. (2021),

J Paediatr Child Health, 57: 1881-1885. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jpc.15595>

To describe the incidence, demographics, diagnostic clinical manifestations and long-term outcomes of juvenile dermatomyositis (JDM) in Maori and Pacific Island compared to European children.

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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