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Tēnā koe

Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation (Te Rūnanga) welcome the opportunity to comment on the Better Later Life He Oranga Kaumātua 2019-2034 Strategy.

Te Rūnanga is the bicultural arm through which the Moemoeā, aspirations of Māori health professionals are achieved and comprises over 3,900 Māori health professionals, including nurses (registered, enrolled, and nurse practitioners), midwives, health care assistants, kaimahi hauora and taura. We advocate change towards a genuinely bicultural health system to improve equity and the health and wellbeing of all New Zealanders. We are united in our professional and industrial aspirations to achieve a safe, sustainable and accessible system of public health care for all people.

Overall, Te Rūnanga found this strategy very easy to read however we believe that this is an aspirational strategy without practical actions. We wish to raise the following concerns:

- the **'overall' measurement of success** is very subjective; we want the strategy to better demonstrate how these measurements of success will be achieved or monitored;
- **Te Reo Māori** - while each of the sections are translated into Māori, we feel that the translations into English lose the mana of the reo intention and should be better articulated to reflect a Māori worldview;
- **invisibleness of the role of Māori Kaumātua** in the strategy;
- **interconnectedness** with Kaumātua approaching 65; the strategy is part of a continuum and ensure that a 'joined up' approach is evident across the under 65's, because each of these spectrums are interdependent and interconnected;
- **address barriers** that prevent whānau from being the central core; such as legislation limits and disempowerment of whānau involvement in older care;
- **rural care and access** is overlooked in the development of this strategy;
- **engagement and the role of whānau as caregivers** is not addressed at all in this strategy;
- **geographic isolation** is not addressed, for example; not everyone lives within a CBD, in particular, Māori often live in geographically rural areas, on traditional Māori land or whānau blocks because it is too expensive to live in town; and

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- **older people** often are **living longer in their own homes** – it is also extremely important to identify where the older populations live and have access to hospitals and healthcare centres.

We recommend the inclusion of these key points:

- all aged care services are **culturally competent** to work with Māori and to exercise their Mātauranga Māori worldview;
- that **individual** and **Māori collective views** are included;
- a **health impact assessment** (HIA) analysis is applied to develop the strategy;
- **burden of comorbidities** – we need to have an understanding of the issues and on the impacts they have on the health and wellbeing of Kaumātua, which are often not addressed because of the dependence on healthcare providers and not on the real issues which are more challenging including; poverty, fuel poverty, loneliness, and access to culturally appropriate healthcare; and
- **poverty** – currently we know approximately how many children live in poverty, however, do we know how many old people live in poverty and what strategy is in place to support those in this situation. We recommend that further research is undertaken on this issue.

Additionally, as claimants in stage one of the Waitangi Tribunal 2575 – the Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry (hearing concerned with grievances relating to health services and outcomes and which are of national significance), we are very conscious of compelling evidence that shows funding inequities, institutional racism, and structural barriers that impact whānau, hapū and iwi accessing health and wellbeing service. This is not acceptable, just or fair in Aotearoa New Zealand in 2019.

To conclude, as Māori health professionals, we know that Māori are vital to any collective discussion or decision making process, or solutions for the health and wellbeing outcomes of whānau, hapū and iwi. We look forward to the opportunity to be engaged to progress the health and wellbeing of all Kaumātua in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Nāku noa, nā



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