Improving equitable access to medicines: Experience from Waitaha
Ko wai au?

Māori Pharmacist – Kai Tahu

• Bachelor of Neuroscience and Pharmacy
• Postgraduate diploma in Clinical Pharmacy
• Postgraduate training in Nutritional and Environmental Medicine

“Strengthening relationships to inspire Māori Health”

• Educational talks at Marae and community hubs
• Kanohi ki te kanohi medication reviews
• Māori Liaison Pharmacist at CCPG

Carbon Farmer

• Industrial hemp business
Improving Equitable Access to Medicines

• **PHARMAC’s** Access Equity Approach
  “...systems influence and impact.”

• **PHARMAC’s** Māori Responsiveness Approach
  “...by Māori for Māori...”

• What we are doing in **Waitaha**
  “...Pharmacist Champions”
Te Pātaka Whaioranga

“The storehouse of wellbeing”

- Crown Entity
- 25 years old
- Wellington based
- 120 staff approx.
- 5 staff identify as Māori
- 2 staff work specifically on Māori Responsiveness
PHARMAC’s legislative objective

“…to secure for eligible people in need of pharmaceuticals, the best health outcomes that are reasonably achievable from pharmaceutical treatment and from within the amount of funding provided.”

- New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000
Pūtea ā Tau $950m
Annual Budget $950m
Access Equity Approach

EQUALITY does not equal EQUITY
Māori are getting 1 million fewer prescriptions per year.

This means missed opportunities to improve health.

Inequities continue in the gap between Māori and non-Māori access to medicines.

There’s been some improvement in persistence (people continuing to take medicine they have picked up).
By Māori for Māori?

• He Rogoā Pai He Oranga Whānau
  • Facilitated by Leanne Te Karu
  • helps to increase the understanding of the use of subsidised medicines with community health workers and whānau so that Māori may have better health outcomes.

• Māori Health Workforce development
  • Scholarships

• Whānau Ora
What are we doing in Waitaha?

• Maori Liaison Pharmacist
  • Canterbury Community Pharmacy Group
• #WellconnectedNZ
What are we doing in Waitaha?

- Workforce development
  - Pegasus and CDHB Scholarships

- Cultural competency workshops
  - For Māori health workers

- Canterbury Clinical Network
  - Focus on equitable outcomes

- Relationships are key
Thank you!

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