# Working towards Māori Equity

Hector Matthews Executive Director, Maori & Pacific Health Canterbury District Health Board





"Of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health care is the most shocking and inhumane." Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

## Equity is on the agenda

- PM, Ministers and Cabinet
- Whakamaua Ministry of Health Māori Health Action Plan 2020-2025
- DHBs, PHOs, NGO providers
- Professional groups and colleges

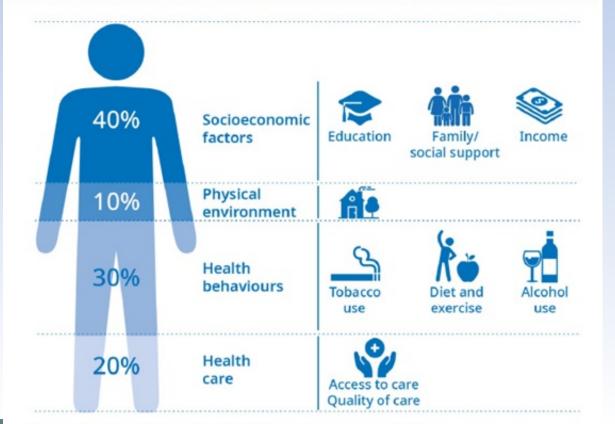


#### What does it mean?

- In Aotearoa New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes (MoH 2019)
- Providing care that does not vary in quality because of personal characteristics such as gender, ethnicity, geographic location, and socioeconomic status (Institute of Medicine; Unequal Treatment, 2003)



#### The Determinants of Health



The Determinants of Health and Their Relative Contribution to Health Outcomes

Source: Adapted from the Institute for Clinical Systems Improvement (2014).

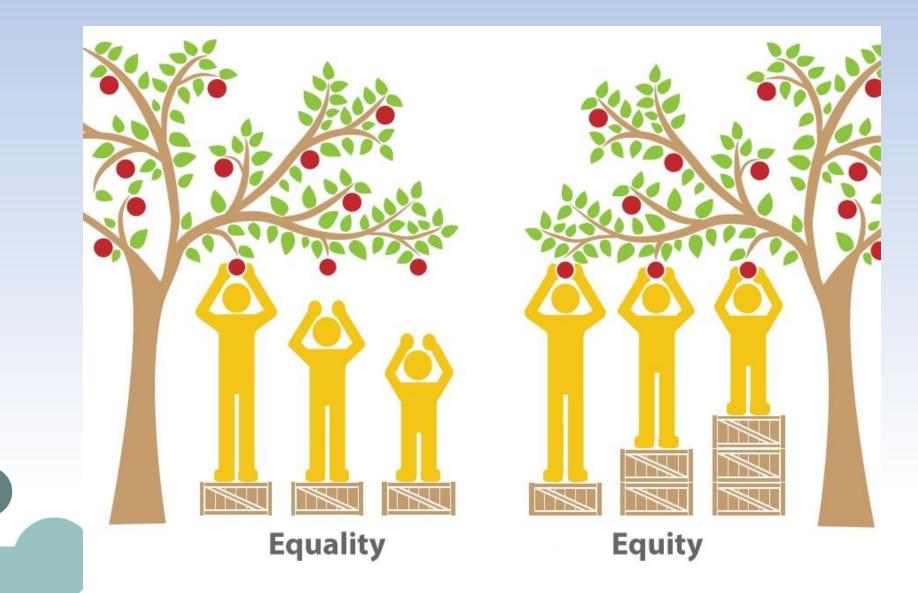
The factors affecting health are collectively known as the determinants of health. These can support or be barriers to good health and broader wellbeing

#### The determinants of health include:

- Socioeconomic factors
- Physical environment
- Health behaviours
- Access to and quality of health care

Ministry of Health. (2020). Health and Independence Report 2018. Wellington: Ministry of Health

#### Equality versus Equity



The evidence for Maori Inequity is Overwhelming and Devastating

- Decades of Disparity (MoH 1999-2000)
- Hauora I, II, III, IV Māori Standards of health (University of Otago 1984 to 2005)
- WAI 2575 Waitangi Tribunal Health Services and Outcomes Inquiry June 2019
- NZ Health and Disability System Review June 2020
- Many other studies and publications

#### Maori experience of care

- Māori whānau have inequitable access to health care services
- Māori whānau are less likely to receive recommended care
- Māori whānau are less likely to report a positive experience of care





https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/whakamaua-tiriti-o-waitangi-framework-a3-aug20.pdf

#### Give authentic effect to te Tiriti

- Tino Rangatiratanga
- Equity
- Active Protection
- Options
- Partnership

How can we work toward authentically giving effect to these in our system and in our practice of health?

#### Applying the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi

- **Tino rangatiratanga** Providing for Māori self-determination and mana motuhake in the design, delivery and monitoring of services.
- Equity Being committed to achieving equitable health outcomes for Māori.
- Active protection Acting to the fullest extent practicable to achieve equitable health outcomes for Māori.
- Options Providing for and properly resourcing kaupapa Māori services and to ensure that all services are culturally appropriate, recognise and supports the expression of hauora Māori models of care.
- **Partnership** Working in partnership with Māori in the governance, design, delivery and monitoring of services Māori must be co-designers, of the health system for Māori.

## Keeping It Simple

- Be aware; data that shows Māori receive lower quality and poorer care
- Unequal care equals unequal outcomes
- Talk to and sincerely engage with patient and their whanau
- Know what te Tiriti and the treaty actually say
- Think about how you can sincerely give effect to the principles
- Have you thought about inequity in the delivery of care?
- Māori are not homogenous so there is never a single or universal answer for Māori; ask and you'll find out

#### Things we can do immediately

- Stop normalising Māori inequity
- Stop blaming Māori for colonisation, deprivation and poor health
- Take responsibility for the things we are able to control and influence
- Know your population data; ensure ethnicity data is accurate
- Know what you service should expect to see by ethnicity and ensure this occurs; when you see poor access, seek advice and make changes
- Don't perpetuate the practice of treating people equally if the evidence shows this exacerbates Māori inequity and affords advantages to non-Māori
- Monitor performance towards equity and make all of us responsible for achieving equity
- Intervene sooner and more often with Māori whānau

#### What else can we / Ido?

- There is no single solution to this
- Assume you'll probably get it wrong for Māori to drive ourselves to reflect, engage and seek improvement
- Don't be complicit; speak up when we see, hear or experience bias
- Say 'kia ora' at every opportunity
- Use te reo Māori at every opportunity and pronounce it correctly
- Increase investment in and use Hauora Māori services more
- Support Māori staff/whānau in your team/service
- Inaction in the face of evidence is being complicit with systemic bias

#### Pēnā e mōhio ana tātou ki te ara tika, tēnā, me whai!

Do the best you can until you know better. Then when you know better, do better.

-Maya Angelou



#### Working towards Equity

- We can control access to and quality of care
- We can deliberately act to implement Te Tiriti in our services:
  - Tino Rangatiratanga
  - Equity
  - Active Protection
  - Options
  - Partnership

