

Injury Prevention Network of Aotearoa New Zealand Pacific Strategy

Introduction

This Strategy provides a framework for both Pacific peoples and non Pacific people working with Pacific practitioners and Pacific communities to reduce the burden of injury (intentional and unintentional) for Pacific peoples. The objectives of this strategy take into account The Treaty of Waitangi, IPNANZ Constitution and Strategic Plan 2005-2011, as well as aligning with the New Zealand Injury Prevention Implementation Plan.

The goals of the Ministry of Health Pacific Health strategy state that Pacific people should be provided with the opportunity to play a major role in the design, development, implementation and evaluation of public health services which affect Pacific communities.¹ Developing the Pacific injury prevention sector and increasing the number of Pacific people working as injury prevention (IP) practitioners will benefit both mainstream and targeted providers.

The term 'Pacific people' has been used throughout this document and refers to the population of Pacific ethnic origin, incorporating people born in New Zealand as well as overseas in line with the Ministry of Health Pacific Strategy (Making a Pacific Difference: Strategic initiatives for the health of Pacific people in New Zealand November 1997).

Background

Pacific people have had the second largest increase in population (14.7%) in New Zealand since the 2001 census (2006 Census, Statistics New Zealand). Pacific peoples currently make up 6.4% of New Zealand population – with 78% aged under 40-years. By 2021 this is projected to increase to 9% with 72% being aged under 40 years (Statistics New Zealand Ethnic population projections: issues and trends 2007). The median age of Pacific peoples in 2006 was 21.1 years (statistics New Zealand Pacific Peoples census 2006) highlights a youthful population under 25 years of age.

The majority of Pacific peoples are located within the Auckland region and almost 90% of all Pacific peoples reside in the following seven DHB regions. Counties-Manukau has the most Pacific peoples of any DHB followed by Auckland and Waitemata; these three DHBs collectively accounts for 67% of all Pacific people. The next largest Pacific populations are found in the Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley, Waikato and Canterbury DHBs.²

Pacific peoples are over-represented at the lower end of the socio-economic spectrum compared with other New Zealanders, and socio-economic status is linked with poor health status.¹

It is well recognised that ethnic specific data for Pacific peoples in New Zealand has limitations due in part to their underutilisation of health services, inaccuracy and changes of it, is noted that Pacific people may have limited access to care and may receive less quality care.²

Pacific burden of injury in New Zealand

Pacific children account for 10.1% of children hospitalized for an injury. They appear to be at increased risk for some injuries including electricity/fire/burns and pedestrian injuries.³ Children of Maori and Pacific descent are markedly over-represented in home driveway injury events in the Auckland region.⁴ Pacific children are 14 times more likely to be injured as a passenger in a vehicle than European children and seven times more likely to be injured as a pedestrian.⁵ Pacific children aged five to 14 years are over represented in drownings for this age group compared with children from other ethnicities.⁶

Across all ages hospitalisation rates for unintentional injuries are approximately 15% higher for Pacific females and males than the national average.² Research undertaken in New Zealand has shown that Pacific people are disproportionately exposed to hazardous environments and risk factors for injury compared with other New Zealanders.⁸⁻¹⁰

Pacific workforce in Injury Prevention

Te Uru Kahikatea, the public health workforce development plan¹¹ reports that information about the Pacific public health and injury prevention workforce is incomplete and lacks robustness, particularly in relation to numbers, locations, and occupations. There is also evidence that Pacific peoples are not well represented in senior positions.¹¹ A report conducted by NZIER for the Public Health Directorate noted that current qualification entry requirements are a barrier to some Pacific people considering public health careers.

In addition the report identified that some Pacific workers once employed appear to be "stuck" in terms of career progression. This may in part be due to the taking on of roles where career pathways are less relevant.¹²

IPNANZ Pacific membership

IPNANZ has a designated Pacific representative on the IPNANZ Committee. Pacific members currently make up 10% of IPNANZ membership - many of whom have maintained membership over several years.

The cost to the individual member has been a barrier to membership.

Values underpinning this Strategy

Pacific Injury prevention practitioners established a set of values which underpin this strategy and actions arising from it:

As Injury Prevention Pacific practitioners, we can place value in our future by developing an effective and appropriate action plan for leading Pacific Injury Prevention.

These values will include:

- Acknowledgement and respect for the diversity of each Pacific nation's culture and traditions
- Awareness and acknowledgement that Pacific nations speak different languages

- Awareness and acknowledgement that Pacific Nations regard celebrations and events as an integral part of recognizing and acknowledging milestones and success
- Awareness that each Pacific nation has cultural barriers i.e. eye contact, languages, body posture/language, formal and informal settings
- Awareness and acknowledgement of each Pacific nation's hierarchical status i.e. Royal family, Chieftainship, and Church Ministers or leaders are different
- Awareness and acknowledgement that Pacific nations have different protocols for engaging communities
- Awareness and acknowledgement that there are inherent differences between New Zealand born Pacific and Pacific Island born people
- Awareness and acknowledgement that there is no such culture as "PACIFIC CULTURE" it is for example, Samoan culture, Tongan culture, Niuean culture or Fijian culture
- Awareness and acknowledgement that "By Pacific for Pacific" programmes and projects may possibly be more appropriate than non-Pacific practitioners working with Pacific communities and to promote that our communities have a choice of options

The value of by Pacific for Pacific programmes and projects may be appropriate and more effective than non Pacific practitioners working with Pacific communities.

The IPNANZ Pacific Injury Prevention Strategy

Objective 1. Raise awareness and commitment to injury prevention with and for Pacific communities

Actions

- Ensure cultural competencies for Pacific communities are integrated as part of part of best practice; processes and methodologies i.e. mea alofa/koho
- Increase and maintain Pacific membership of IPNANZ
- Increase the information and promotion of injury prevention with Pacific communities and the media
- Engage with existing networks and stakeholders to gauge understanding and commitment to injury prevention

Objective 2. Build and strengthen injury prevention capacity within the Pacific sector and ensure appropriate resource levels enable a leadership role

Actions

- Identify workforce development opportunities for Pacific practitioners and providers
- Establish regular Pacific fono/forum and events
- Establish and maintain an inventory of existing Pacific injury prevention resources and programmes
- Support the development of appropriate resources for Pacific communities
- Support leadership opportunities for Pacific injury prevention practitioners

Objective 3. Advocate for Pacific participation in policy development at a local, regional and national level

Actions

- Ensure representation on relevant stakeholder, reference and advisory groups and disseminate information from these to Pacific stakeholders
- Evaluate the impact of policy on injury prevention for Pacific communities
- Coordinate and facilitate submissions about relevant policies and plans
- Ensure that at regional, central and local government levels; there is a clear understanding of the role and responsibility of Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs (MPIA) in:
 - representing Pacific interests
 - coordinating government agencies providing services focused on Pacific settlement
 - providing information on the responsiveness of government agencies to the needs of Pacific migrants
- Ensure that a clear understanding exists about the role and responsibility of MPIA at the regional and national levels for engaging with, advising on and monitoring the responsiveness of the range of government agencies responsible for Pacific Injury Prevention

Objective 4. Foster Pacific leadership in the injury prevention sector and develop collaborative models of practice

Actions:

- Use existing information sources to establish the size and nature of the Pacific injury prevention workforce
- Improve access to and effectiveness of mainstream services
- Participate in the promotion of injury prevention strategies e.g. Water Safety New Zealand Pacific Peoples Water Safety Strategy 2008-2012, WaterSafe Auckland Pacific Drowning Prevention Strategy and emerging injury prevention Pacific strategies
- Establish and support regional networks e.g. Pasifika Injury Prevention Aukilana(P.I.P.A.)

Objective 5. Advance injury prevention knowledge and information for Pacific issues and best practice

Actions:

- Identify the priority issues for Pacific communities through research & evidence based data
- Participate in the development and availability of better quality Pacific data
- Support the development and dissemination of best practice principles
- Support Pacific led research to inform injury prevention practice & development
- Support accessibility to all forms of communication mediums
- Establish and develop a Pacific data base of data; inform and ensure accessibility
- Support and ensure capacity is in place for Pacific participation to attend both the IPNANZ Workforce Development Training and Mentoring programs

References

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