Indigenous leadership and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand

Clyde Smith
Principal Policy Analyst
Māori Health Directorate
Ministry of Health New Zealand

Global Webinar, 9 August 2023
My journey to leadership
Our vision for Māori health

Pae ora is a holistic concept for health based on a Māori worldview.

Meeting our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) is critical to achieving this vision.

Pae Tū, the Māori Health Strategy has five priority areas for action:

1. Enabling Māori leadership, decision-making and governance at all levels of the health system.
3. Growing the Māori health workforce and sector to match community needs.
4. Enabling culturally safe, whānau-centred and preventative primary health care.
5. Ensuring accountability for system performance for Māori health.
Our progress to date

Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022

• Establishment of the Māori Health Authority | Te Aka Whai Ora and Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards.

• Māori have a greater role in designing health services that better meet the needs of Māori.

• Increase in investment into services grounded in mātauranga Māori (traditional Māori knowledge).

• Stronger accountabilities and monitoring for Māori health outcomes.

Māori health providers and Māori communities were at the frontline of New Zealand’s COVID-19 response.
My call to action

**Support** more young indigenous peoples into leadership positions as agents of change for self-determination.

**Enable** young indigenous peoples globally to come together to share stories, discuss challenges, and develop solutions to complex issues.

**Incorporate** indigenous knowledge into our health policies & practice so that indigenous peoples can experience better wellbeing outcomes.

*I will be exploring these topics as part of my Prime Minister's Scholarship to Latin America (Brazil), starting June 2024.*