

Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa

The Māori Pharmacists' Association Inc.



STRATEGIC PLAN 2008 - 2011

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TE WHAKATUWHERATANGA

- An Introduction

“Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoa o Aotearoa – The Māori Pharmacists’ Association” (MPA) was borne following a meeting in 2003 in Wellington, where 12 Māori pharmacists were invited to consider a proposal from the Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand. The Society wished to establish a ‘reference group’ with which to consult on matters Māori, but the attendees elected to form their own organisation instead. Links were then formed with Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa (Te ORA) by Leanne Te Karu who attended their Annual General Meeting (AGM). In garnering support from Te ORA along with a template of their constitution, her presence also established a relationship with hauora.com, which led to the acquisition of seeding funds for a second hui. This was held in Christchurch in the same year and agreement reached by those in attendance to develop a more formalised structure, a legal identity, for Māori pharmacists. After much consultation the MPA had its constitution registered with the Registrar of Incorporated Societies on 8 June 2005 and this facilitated the inaugural AGM of Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa being held in Auckland on 16-September-2005.

For the next three years the MPA was in a foundation phase, establishing governance and membership identification and registration. The development of this Strategic Plan for Ngā Kaitiaki was initiated in 2008, with the funding support from the Ministry of Health through the Māori Provider Development Scheme in 2007/2008. This Strategy represents the first articulation of the short-, medium- and long- term visions and aspirations of the association.



The development of this Strategy Plan began with all members being advised of a meeting to discuss the development of such a plan. The meeting was held in Wellington on 16 March 2008 and the costs were met by the MPA. Eight members attended the meeting (representing approximately 15% of members) and those unable to attend providing comments in writing, which were represented at the hui. The meeting itself initially centred around the choice of our whakatauaiki from a short list of 5 that had been prepared for us by Dee Isaacs and circulated prior to the meeting. We then moved to the discussion of what we saw as being our four key goals for advancing our overall aims. The process was externally facilitated.

The first draft of the strategy was circulated to attendees to ensure accuracy and then the draft was presented to the AGM at the end of 2008 and with full support it agreed that it be presented for final approval at the MPA Hui-a-Tau in Rotorua in March of 2009. The MPA adopted the final draft of the Strategy Plan at that time.

A business plan will now be developed having received unanimous support from the attendees for the values, the vision and the objectives of the MPA and the prescribed goals of the organisation.



TE WHAKATAUĀKI

- Our Values

Our Mission Statement is summarized in a Māori context by our whakatauāki as composed under commission by Dee Isaacs. The following whakatauāki has been adopted by Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa – The Māori Pharmacists' Association as embodying our sense of values and representing our origins and our identity, our place within our communities, and our aspirations for all Māori in the future:

KA PIKI TE WAI

KA HEKE TE UA

KA PUTA TE PUNA

HEI RONGOĀ

- The mists ascend to the heavens, the rains fall from the clouds, a spring appears and becomes sustenance for all.

Key focus - The role of wai in the continual cycle of life.

The rising of water as mist to Rangi and the falling of water as rain to Papa have multiple parallels in the continual cycle of life itself. One image is of the physical transference of fluids between Rangi and Papa representing copulation itself, leading to life as we know it. On another more concrete metaphorical level this image compares directly to the life giving qualities of wai flowing back and forth from earth to the atmosphere for the obvious benefit of everyone and everything. A further spiritual connotation is mirrored in the notion that we came from Papa when we were born and will return to Rangi when we die. Thus, this particular image has many facets of interest to our hunga. Ngai Tuhoe call themselves the "Children of the Mists" not just because of the foggy cloak that routinely envelopes their lands, but because the mist is their kaitiaki. In Tuhoe legend, the mist is what protects them as they venture across their lands. So on one level, the role of wai is told here as an allegory to life itself and on the other hand it is a true narrative of the physical cycle of water in the environment and thus when the rain falls, a spring is formed.

The allegorical twist returns when the formation of a spring signifies not just the physical presence of a pool of water but also alludes to the fact that wherever there is a healthy source of water, Māori will congregate because they know that this is where they can live in good health. The parable is made contemporary by viewing this story in the light of how a pharmacy, or pharmacist, is seen as a central hub for the source of information and those things that make you healthy.

- Composed by Dee Isaacs



TE MOEMOEA

- Our Vision

The vision for Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa – The Māori Pharmacists' Association is:

TO LEAD MĀORI RESPONSIVENESS IN THE PHARMACY SECTOR

NGĀ WHĀINGA

- Our Objectives

The following areas of focus constitute the high level strategic objectives that have been identified by the MPA as supporting the fulfillment of our vision to lead Māori responsiveness in the pharmacy sector, in order to achieve our overall goal of health equity between Māori and Tauwi.

1. **Membership**

To grow our membership and support our members, so we are willing and able to lead Māori responsiveness in the pharmacy sector.

2. **Education**

To develop and support quality education in the pharmacy sector in order to optimise the health of Māori.

3. **Relationships**

To develop and maintain strategic relationships that positively influence Māori Health.

4. **Administration**

To develop and sustain the capacity to effectively manage our resources.

The following tables outline the strategic objectives and goals that will be undertaken by MPA over the next three years.

