EXECUTIVE SUMMARY PACIFIC

Pacific peoples in Canterbury have been long term residents for several decades, with fourth and fifth generation families choosing Canterbury as their home. Pacific peoples in Canterbury have well established academic, economic and sporting contributions and continue to excel in creative arts, sporting and other arenas.

The Canterbury rebuild, academic and employment opportunities make Canterbury a region of choice for many Pacific families.

Pacific peoples in Canterbury are diverse and are strong collaborators. There is much goodwill and support shared amongst the diverse communities in which they live work and play.

This is the fifth year the Pacific Primary Health Care Report for the three Canterbury Primary Health Organisations (Christchurch PHO, Rural Canterbury PHO and Pegasus Health) has been produced.

The broad question being asked in this report is how accessible are primary health care services and how well are they addressing and improving health outcomes for Pacific peoples? This report provides information aimed at informing the future development of primary health care services across the three Canterbury PHOs. It offers a view of key health services that play a central role in improving the health for Pacific peoples in Canterbury.

In terms of health, Pacific peoples across the health system have significant inequalities in a number of health areas and have lower overall health status than other population groups in Canterbury.

Key findings from the 2014/15 report show that while there have been some encouraging trends there are still many areas of concern for the Pacific population.

- Pacific enrolments in Canterbury have risen and are now at 12,707 as at 1 July 2015.
- Recording of smoking status and offering brief advice and cessation support has continued to increase with now 84.8% of Pacifica smokers having been offered brief advice and support to quit.
- Pacifica women have had steady breast screening rates for the past three screening periods at 65.3% and this is below the target of 70%.
- Cervical screening coverage for Pacifica women has been rising and is now at 71.6%. This is still below the target of 80% of eligible women.
- Pacific children now have a high level of coverage for childhood immunisations at 8 months and 24 months. The coverage rate at 8 months was 92% and 99% for 24 month olds.
- HPV coverage remains low for Pacific young women. New school based programmes have been put in place to address this.
- Pacific children’s B4 School Checks’ coverage has increased to a high level, going from 78.9% in 2013/14 to 98.9% in 2014/15.
- Cardiovascular disease risk assessments are now 66.3% and this falls well below the 90% target.
- Fifty two Pacific peoples sought help from primary mental health services during 2014/15, of which five were youth. There has been no change in the proportion of Pacific primary mental health clients in the last three years, sitting at 0.9% since 2012/13.
Primary health care has a unique position and opportunity to identify solutions and strategies to improve health outcomes for Pacific peoples across the health system. Developing a responsive primary health care system that actively works towards reducing health inequalities is central to improving the health of Pacific peoples. Going forward, Pacific peoples have a genuine desire to be part of local primary health care solutions that improve their health, keep them well, are easy to get to and co-ordinate their ongoing care. In order to achieve this, new approaches are required for primary health care with a greater emphasis on population health, the role of the community, health promotion and preventive care.