

Our health and disability system

Pacific communities

Pacific communities face lower life expectancy than most other groups and much higher rates of avoidable death than average. Our health system has not done enough to ensure Pacific peoples have the same health outcomes as other New Zealanders.

What's changing? Why?

Many of the reforms to the health system will have a significant, positive impact for Pacific peoples by:

- investing in a strong, Pacific policy function within the Ministry of Health to lead a new strategy for Pacific health, and ensuring Health New Zealand has a dedicated focus on the health of Pacific peoples
- strengthening the voice of Pacific communities, and ensuring that Pacific communities' needs and priorities are reflected in national policy
- providing a wider range of services grounded in Pacific worldviews and care approaches.

What will it look like in future?

Pacific communities will be able to shape how primary and community care is delivered close to where they live, ensuring that a wider range of services is available to meet their needs, with more services having been designed for and by Pacific communities.

At a national level, the Ministry of Health and Health NZ will work with leaders in Pacific health to identify best practice and ensure it spreads across localities and services, with Pacific expertise and leadership. Focusing on improved outcomes for Pacific peoples will also drive accelerated improvement in the quality of care and health outcomes.

What's next?

Engaging with Pacific communities will be part of the detailed design work of the new health system, including areas such as how to increase the voice of Pacific communities in the operations of Health NZ and the Ministry of Health.

Want to know more?

Further information about the work and progress of the health reforms is available on the DPMC website under the work of the Transition Unit:

www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-business-units/transition-unit.