

22 October 2024

Ministry of Health  
Manatu Hauora  
PO Box 5013  
Wellington 6140

By email: [maorihealth@health.govt.nz](mailto:maorihealth@health.govt.nz)

Kia ora koutou

**Re: Developing the Hauora Māori Strategy 2025**

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the development of the Ministry of Health Hauora Māori Strategy 2025.

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network's [Rural Health Snapshot 2024](#) provides stark evidence of the significantly poorer health outcomes of the 25% of our Māori population who live rurally.

Health research and data provides evidence that the Government's implementation of the Pae Ora Healthy Futures Bill, 2022, has yet to authentically prioritise the poorer health status of rural Māori. The Hauora Māori Strategy 2025 is an opportunity for this to be addressed.

Rural Māori must be confident that the Hauora Māori Strategy will promote actions that ensure that health outcomes of whānau improve at pace through:

- Empowerment of rural Māori leadership at every level of the health system - from the very highest levels of the Ministry of Health, to regional and local rohe including IMPBs, to local community and services, and with whānau and hapū.
- Authentic investment in rurally focussed and appropriate health services from early years through to end of life, from prevention to health care, when it is needed, as close to home as possible
- Improved access to a high quality, safe and sustainable Māori health workforce, many of whom come from within their rural community, trained locally, and are supported to continue to develop and sustain their skills and expertise.
- Evidence that both through immediate and episodic experience, and in longitudinal data, the health of whānau is improving.

- Targeted funding that promotes equitable access for rural Māori to services, especially to those living remotely while also living with the challenges of significant socio-economic deprivation.

The Ministry of Health's commitment to applying the Geographic Classification for Health to system measures including Government's health targets, provides a transparent opportunity to monitor the impact of the Hauora Māori Health Strategy on rural Māori health outcomes over time.

To address health inequities of Māori who live rurally, the Hauora Māori Strategy must clearly and specifically prioritise rural Māori health outcomes.

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network welcomes the Ministry's intention to address the burden of disease that Māori disproportionately experience but affirm that the Strategy must specifically address the unique challenges faced by rural Māori and be specific about actions and programmes that target this group.

Nga mihi



Dr Fiona Bolden  
Chair  
**Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network**



Hemaima Reihana-Tait  
On behalf of  
**Te Rōpū Ārahi**