

Whakakotahi Declaration

Affirmation of Alma Ata - 2008

We, the people of Health Care Aotearoa reaffirm our commitment to, and acknowledge the significance of the 1978 Declaration of Alma -Ata. Thirty years on, the Declaration's key messages still hold true: that health is a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing and a fundamental human right, best attained by involving people in meeting their own health needs and addressing the social determinants that cause poor health.

We acknowledge the journey to achieve **Health for All**, building on existing strengths and the work that has gone before. We the people of Health Care Aotearoa support the Peoples Health Movement in its drive for social justice and the pursuit of putting **equity** squarely back on the agenda. We will continue our commitment to remove the differences in health between groups of people that are unfair and unjust.

We the people of Health Care Aotearoa recognise **Te Tiriti o Waitangi** as the foundation of Aotearoa/New Zealand - "We are all citizens under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and share a common path for wellness and mauri ora for our people, mauritangata and a return for justice for all" (Huirangi Waikerepuru).

We recognise the influence of the Alma Ata Declaration on the Ottawa Charter, Millennium goals, Buenos Aires Declaration, and in Aotearoa/ New Zealand's Primary Health Care Strategy, and Maori Health Strategy (Te Korowai Oranga).

We take into the future the wisdom gathered from global and local experiences as the essential foundation on which we continue to build our primary health care work. In particular, we have learnt that:

- **Collective knowledge** empowers communities to create change.
- **Community Leadership** in Primary Health care services supports health workers, planners, funders and ordinary folk to work together for the improved health of the community.
- **Wellness** is achieved when the environment is **socially inclusive**, free from discrimination and poverty, where people and communities have an adequate and sustainable income, education, housing, safe water and proper nutrition and the injustices of the past and present are addressed to realise the vision of our ancestors in signing the Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- **Partnerships** with our communities served, iwi, health workers and funders enable innovation and provide a model for creative solutions.
- **Active quality improvement processes** are essential for sustainable, equitable high quality health services.
- **By Maori for Maori, by Pacific for Pacific, by Youth for Youth** engages more people and provides them with better access to health care.
- **Meaningful contracts** are about respectful relationships between community organisations and the government such that the strengths, wisdom and insight of both parties are acknowledged and celebrated.
- **When looking for change** - "*dream remarkable change, but do no harm, work together, look to the horizon that is shared*" (Moana Jackson Taiporohenui Marae, March 2008). "*You can't prescribe change you have to grow it*" (George Salmond).