

Sione Tu'itahi

Health Promotion Forum of New Zealand

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Fānau Ola: A Pasifika Perspective on Whānau Ora

Whānau Ora: Maori Perspectives

- “Whānau Ora is about empowering whānau to take control of their future. What we want for our whānau is to be self-determining, to be living healthy lifestyles, to be participating fully in society and to be economically secure.”
- Hon Tariana Turia
- Minister Responsible for Whānau Ora
- (Te Puni Kokiri Fact sheet)

Whanau Ora: Maori Perspectives

- "...is an inclusive, culturally-anchored approach to provide services and opportunities to whānau and families across New Zealand.
- The Taskforce on Whānau-Centred Initiatives identified six goals that suggest that •
- whānau outcomes will be met when whānau are: self-managing; living healthy lifestyles;
- participating fully in society; confidently participating in Te Ao Māori; economically secure
- and successfully involved in wealth creation; and cohesive, resilient and nurturing.
- It empowers whānau and families as a whole, rather than separately focusing on individual •
- family members and their problems.
- It also requires multiple Government agencies to work together with whānau and families rather than separately with individual family members..." (source: Te Puni Kokiri)

Whanau Outcome Goals

“While the desired results of an intervention will vary according to particular whanau circumstances, the Taskforce has identified a set of goals. The goals will be met when

- whanau are:
- self-managing
- living healthy lifestyles
- participating fully in society
- confidently participating in te ao Maori
- economically secure and successfully involved in wealth creation
- cohesive, resilient and nurturing.” (Taskforce Report)

Whānau Ora Policy

- “Government believes there is a better way to use the hundred of millions of dollars spent currently on families in need, with better results for the families themselves.
- Whānau Ora will work in a range of ways, influenced by the priorities that whānau and families identify and choose.
- Whānau Ora is not a one size fits all approach. It is deliberately designed to be flexible to meet family needs and will evolve over time and be improved as required.
- The Government has allocated \$134.3 million over four years for the implementation of Whānau Ora.
- Successful providers will retain the funding they receive through existing contracts, which will be developed into Whānau Ora contracts.” (TPK)

Defining Whanau: Maori Perspectives

- “Whanau has been variously defined but generally refers to Maori who share common descent and kinship, as well as collective interests that generate
- reciprocal ties and aspirations.
- Whanau are built around familial ties that extend over three, and usually
- more, generations. The links between whanau members do not depend
- on specific tasks but on on-going relationships based around shared
- lines of descent and conjugal associations. They are built around cultural
- values such as generosity, hospitality, sharing and mutual respect.
- Intergenerational connections are reflected in similar genetic patterns,
- similar heritage, similar names and similar obligations. They generate
- bonds that cannot be dissolved even when alienation occurs.
- Whanau have long histories that are measured in generations rather than years.” (Whanau Ora Taskforce Report)

Definitions: Pasifika perspectives

Policy provides and opportunity for

1. *Funded contracts*
2. *An approach that is based on Pacific strengths*

Concept not new – see *Te Korowai Oranga, Durie et al*

- Whanau/Fānau generally means extended family
- Inter-generational, can be up to five generations
- Ora means life, growth, positive outcomes
- Whānau Ora/Fānau Ola means extended family taking charge of their health and wellbeing, and their destiny

Fānau as carrier and promoter

- Basic social unit
- Repository & promoter of
- Values – love, care, reciprocity
- Knowledge
- practice – culture
- Enhancer and advocate
- Can be a risk if not developed properly
- NZ is Relatively new, challenging cultural context for Fānau

Model and Framework

- Fānau Ola is strengths-based as opposed to deficit-focused approaches
- Empowering -take charge of own future
- Provides a framework that can cater for holistic needs- material and spiritual - and aspirations
- Addressing determinants at fānau level by fānau
- Usual focus on Fānau/community development approach but can employ other strategies such as developing policy, and individual skills
- Culturally appropriate

How to practise Fānau Ola?

- Collaborative approach between stakeholders - services and families
- Thorough consultation to identify family owned goals and plan – short and long term
- Health, education, economic, spiritual, cultural goals – linking individual and collective goals
- Guided by principles such as mutual trust & respect, empowerment, human rights, collective wellbeing
- Consultation, action, reflection as the cyclic mode of operation, seeing mistakes as part of the learning in action and its trend should be upward and forward
- Navigational & co-navigating towards common goals of material and spiritual prosperity, harmonious with the ecology