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Tēnā kōrua Roshini and Rachel

Thank you for your email of 6 November 2022 to the Minister of Health, Hon Andrew Little, about achieving pae ora and ensuring a healthy future for Asian and other ethnic communities. The Minister has asked that I respond to you directly. I appreciate you taking the time to write and for sharing the key points raised at your event.

One of the key principles within the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 is to achieve equity in health outcomes for all groups. This requires health agencies to assess and respond to the health needs of different populations, including ethnic communities. These principles guide how Manatū Hauora will develop the health strategies required under the Pae Ora Act, including the New Zealand Health Strategy and Women's Health Strategy.

In alignment with this principle, we have been working with the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (MEC) to develop our approach to engagement on the Pae Ora health strategies and ensure we understand the key health needs and issues for our diverse ethnic communities in Aotearoa.

Several of the gaps and concerns raised through your letter have also been raised through discussions with MEC, including:

- greater disaggregation of Asian, Continental European, and MELAA populations' health data;
- addressing barriers to accessing health services for ethnic communities;
- creating a more culturally and linguistically appropriate health workforce; and
- addressing mental health issues of ethnic communities.

We have just launched initial public engagement for the Pae Ora strategies through an online platform tatou.health.govt.nz. Tātou provides an opportunity for everyone, including ethnic communities and advocates for ethnic communities (such as

yourselves) to share key health needs, concerns, and aspirations with us. We are also planning for in-person community engagement on the Pae Ora strategies to take place from February and March 2023 and are working with MEC to support our engagement design for ethnic communities.

As you outline in your correspondence, a Te Tiriti-based, equity-focused approach to developing these strategies is essential in ensuring that the diversity of communities' health needs and outcomes is appropriately addressed. We can assure you that these principles are at the forefront of the direction we are taking with the development of these strategies.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope this information is useful, and I wish you well. We hope you take the opportunity to participate in engagement on the health strategies and continue to share your valuable research insights.

Nāku noa, nā



Maree Roberts
Deputy Director-General
Strategy, Policy and Legislation | Te Pou Rautaki