

Summer studentship project title: Pharmacists' Knowledge of New Zealand Health Disparities

Name of student

Cassandra Butler

Names of supervisors

Dr Trudi Aspden, School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland and Barbara Moore, Pharmacy Council

Abstract

New Zealand is a culturally diverse country in which health disparities are an ever-present reality. Reducing these disparities is a priority for the government and the healthcare sector, and competence standards for pharmacists are currently under review to reflect this. An anonymous postal survey was conducted to provide a baseline measure of pharmacists' knowledge of New Zealand health disparities. The survey, mailed to a random sample of five-hundred practising pharmacists in New Zealand, had a response rate of 25.4%. Although this is low, based on Pharmacy Council data from 2009, the sample is representative of the pharmacy workforce in New Zealand. The questionnaire included sections on participant demographics, culture, perceptions and knowledge of health disparities, communication and language, and resources. The results provided insight into pharmacists' knowledge and identified their education needs in the area of New Zealand health disparities. This knowledge will enable the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand to make recommendations to education providers, ensuring all pharmacists are able to become competent in this area. 79.5% of respondents indicated they were interested in learning more about cultural competence and health disparities in their community, which is a positive sign for the future.*

Summer studentship project title: Māori perceptions of pharmacy: what are the barriers?

Name of student

Caroline Blucher

Names of supervisors

Dr Trudi Aspden, Dr Fiona Kelly and Ms Maree Jensen; School of Pharmacy, University of Auckland

Abstract

Seventeen Māori were interviewed about a number of topics related to pharmacy. Each person was interviewed and their opinions were compared and contrasted to see what Māori people in general think of medications, their pharmacy and pharmacists', how they are treated, and how they think Māori can be encouraged to go to pharmacies. The themes emerging from the interviews were analysed to make this report. Some of the results found included, how the participants trusted their pharmacist and the relationship held between the participants and pharmacist. Also, the rapport between the pharmacist and participant was important. Some participants did not live close to their pharmacy but they chose to travel the extra distance for the quality of pharmaceutical care they received. One of the most important aspects found from this study was that the participants did not think that having a Māori pharmacist would impact on their experience in their pharmacy. Rather the participants wanted a pharmacist who was culturally aware. The results found from the study may be

helpful to service providers and health professionals as they reflect on their own relationships with their communities, therefore positively affecting the health of New Zealanders.*

***Please note that the results from both these projects are currently being prepared for publication. If you wish to disseminate this information further or would like additional information about the projects please contact the principal investigator at t.aspden@auckland.ac.nz**