



PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2012

KA PIKI TE WAI
KA HEKE TE UA
KA PUTA TE PUNA
HEI RONGOĀ

*The mists ascend to the heavens, the rains fall from the clouds,
a spring appears and becomes sustenance for all.*

Kia heke te kohu, kia piki te wai, ka whiti te rā, ka awatea
Nei te kārangaranga e tau te āio ki a tātou
Hoki ana rā ki a koutou e āku kara, e āku mara
Ka tae atu ahau ki taku tau whakamutunga
Ka rere te manu ki tāwhiti, ka puta he pī ka rere
Kua tae mai te wā tika kia wātea ana tēnei tūru
Te māngai ka noho ki tēnei tūru
Haere mai, haere mai, haere mai

It is with somewhat of a heavy heart I write my last ever President's Report for Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa - The Māori Pharmacists' Association (MPA). Last year I commented on the disbelief at another year passing us by. This year I reflect on the wonder of nine years since the first gathering of interested persons in the establishment of an organisation for pharmacists Māori.

In previous years the format of this report has followed the framework of our strategic and business plan, aligned through all our activities. This time however, I would like to recollect some of the memorable developments which have signaled 'success' in the aspirations of our collective aims and vision first outlined all those years ago.

Foremost is the ability to resign as President and see new leadership coming through; and now in a position to be resourced to undertake the activities prioritized in our collective.

Similarly the engagement of key organisations contacting MPA in sector developments and competencies provides insight of success. Whilst this appears as a single sentence, it has taken substantive effort over many years, building relationships based on reciprocity and much of this has been premised by way of voluntary contribution, from the Executive and wider membership of the roopu. Words are not enough to acknowledge these contributions, from those members current and those who are less active on a daily basis but remain ingrained in our whakapapa. Ngā mihi aroha koutou kātoa mō ō koutou tautoko o te kaupapa whakahirahira ki a mātou – te hauora mō ngā iwi kātoa.



Our vision of leading Māori responsiveness in the Pharmacy Sector is reflected in our involvement to the changes to Competence Standard 1 with a requirement for all registered pharmacists to demonstrate specific competence in Hauora Māori. The articulation of these measurable required competencies amongst health professionals in New Zealand is unique. Subsequently the endorsement by our regulatory authority to be a provider of Cultural Competence Workshops is one fulfillment of the aspiration. In a parallel to Competence Standard 1, the two schools of pharmacy have initiated work towards the implementation of learning objectives ensuring the same outcomes outlined in the only competence standard that is compulsory. MPA has played a significant role in bringing these learning objectives to both Schools of Pharmacy. In addition I recognise in the last 12 months the Auckland School of Pharmacy has engaged MPA in a professional development programme for all staff which derived a framework for implementation of the cultural competence standards and learning objectives. In leading this development MPA also engaged the Te Kupenga Hauora Māori Team to ensure the correlation of the external requirements for the School of Pharmacy along with those of the wider faculty of health sciences.

I am equally proud of MPA's clear directive following the development of the Māori Health Strategy for the Pharmacy Profession, that it must be a collectively owned strategy by all pharmacy stakeholders. The consequence of this was the formation of PRISM which remains the only place in the pharmacy sector where all stakeholders meet regularly. I acknowledge the Pharmacy Council of New Zealand has been instrumental in facilitating this process.

Another important area of focus has been our future leaders, in particular taura. The growth and commitment of this cohort was no better evidenced than in the recent Māori pre-graduation ceremony at Otago University where all graduates stood gracefully to recite their pepeha and mihi to those who had supported their journey, followed by a strong rendition of our waiata. This has eventuated from time at the combined annual Taura Hui, our Hui-a-Tau, the Hiwinui Heke Scholarships, the liaison of MPA within the respective Universities alongside the passion of the taura themselves. In addition to Undergraduate scholarships sponsored by Pharmac, MPA have facilitated post-graduate scholarships sponsored with the School of Pharmacy at Otago University.

In terms of our wider membership, much effort was spent in the foundation stage on identification of those pharmacists with whakapapa and subsequently engagement and provision of a supportive network for those with a common goal in improving health outcomes for whanau. Our membership has increased more than tenfold since that very first gathering and every year since formation our Hui-A-Tau has increased in attendance. The wero is for this trend to continue and for our wider membership to be active contributors.

Our acquisition of a part time administrator has afforded infrastructure support we only dreamed about in early days. It has also presented a contactable and responsive organisation to our own members and to external stakeholders. The long recognised need of attaining a CEO remains, however we are clearer on the model to progress this and I believe it will be a realization into the near future.

As the founding Chairperson I must acknowledge those current and those who have been past members of the Executive. I would like to acknowledge Arthur as my Co-President for much of the last 9 years. To have his pragmatic thorough approach in addition to his experience within our Association is invaluable.



It goes without saying co-presidency is more than a role, I am lucky to know Arthur as also being a great friend over the years. I am also immensely grateful to him for taking over the Treasurer's position after the mutually agreed departure of Karen. Similarly Anna Kyle who has been our secretary for this past term; I am so appreciative of her organisational skills and contribution both in terms of timing and the response itself. Also Manawa Cox who has always provided a reasonable and founded voice in addition to being Secretary in previous years and Ringawera extraordinaire. Jo Hikaka and Mariana Hudson round off the Executive for this past term and have brought further perspectives to the table. Despite being busy young Mums I am sure they will continue to contribute into the future. Di Harries and Sonia Pene contributed significantly in earlier days both in terms of the many hours of dedication but also in terms of whakaaro.

I also want to acknowledge Dee for his mana and support, e te rangatira kei te mihi aroha mō tō whakaaro, mō tō korero, mō tō reo rangatira o mātou ki te waiata me whakatauaiki o mātou.

Darryn who has strategic vision second to none began his involvement with MPA during the writing of the Māori Health Strategy and continues to give of his precious time freely, helping to shape our direction. Ki tō mātou kaha tuarā, he uri o Tahu Potiki, e hoa, ngā manaakitanga, tēnā rawa atu koe.

The danger in recognising individuals is more about who you miss. I do not omit anyone with intention, I mihi to the many peoples who have supported MPA, to you all, ngā mihi. Mary Roberts and Leah Whiu at the very beginning provided a catalyst to our formation which will never be forgotten. At a very personal level I would like to acknowledge a woman of great mana and dignity who has been a recognised leader in our profession – Eleanor Hawthorn who with her support and endorsement changed my mind to accept the presidency. Anō ngā mihi, ngā mihi, ngā mihi aroha, tātou katoa.

This role has always been more than a position or an organisation and to step back at this time is a challenge on many levels for many reasons. The nature of developing an organisation takes the belief of a person or persons and efforts which are more than a 'role' or 'position'. I recognise however that an organisation must also develop with new investment from those generations who follow such 'founders' and adapt and develop for the needs of them and those who are to follow.

Leadership is creating a vision which others believe and follow, having influence internally and externally to achieve the vision and seeing the growth of the members or 'generations of the future' inherent and progress the vision for their needs and contexts. I have been privileged to have contributed and shared this journey and now see MPA taking the next step in its journey. Whilst sad that this represents my last report as Chairperson in one part, I am very excited at the prospect of MPA under a fresh approach, with new ideas and a new skillset. It is my belief that "new life" brings a healthy disposition and my heartfelt thanks go to Wiremu for stepping up to this role. I know he will take MPA to new opportunities and development.

A key aspect over the last year has been around succession and transference of relationship and knowledge to Wiremu. It has also been very much about cementing strategic relationships to provide a platform for sustainability. The omnipotence of resource limitations to our membership is the driver for seeking funding options that recognise our niche within the health system and enable high performance sustainability. Te Ao Hurihuri has never been more present than currently, where we must look to



funding models/projects to fulfill our vision and ultimately provide a mechanism to our deeper intent of eradicating health disparities for whanau, therefore improving health outcomes for Māori.

I would also like to provide some thoughts on the future pathways the Association may wish to consider, some initiated in terms of korero, some discussed in sense of moemoea – all a potential for the wellbeing our people in our communities in our future and all I have shared with you previously, personally and collectively. The first would be taking the relationship developed with Te Ora in the framing of a model of healthcare alongside Māori Doctors for whanau in terms of medicine management, optimization of medicines management and prevention of drug morbidity and mortality. Taking this strategic alliance is a real opportunity.

I have also initiated discussion with Te Ora who have continued their stance from our formative years – that of tautoko - to the potential sharing of administrative space in Wellington which could provide an important “presence” in Wellington. This may be an initiative which leverages the changes being promoted in health policy reform and allow MPA to be at the leading edge of collaboration and delivery.

Discussions with Midland Community Pharmacy Group who have always been tremendously supportive of MPA also continue around research opportunities.

The last is connected with my thoughts for the opportunity of innovation and delivery. I have always seen a real development of MPA owning a pharmacy where we deliver value added services. A place where we train interns, where we work in a collaborative environment with Māori Health providers and engage meaningfully with community and key stakeholders including iwi, hapu and whānau. It could similarly be a place where we provide a place for undergraduate placements and where we demonstrate effective innovation to the Pharmacy sector.

My last statement in my last report as President is to recognise the foundation of Māori leadership in pharmacy - Matua Hiwinui. I want to acknowledge the importance of being back at Owhata kei raro I te maru o Tutanekai for our AGM. This represents the place where last year we planted our rākau and therefore by default had a ‘kainga’. Words can never articulate the importance of this to me as being the foundation of identity and fundamentally a cornerstone for the viability of MPA in the future. Matua Hiwinui, ngā arohanui ki a koe te mana o mātou, tēnā koe, tēnā koe, tēnā ra koe.

In leaving you with some challenges and I think opportunities for the future I will hope we continue to achieve and grow and be at that leading edge of the sector and wider health arena.

He aha te timatanga o te mātauranga, he whakaaro. Ngā moemoea mō tātou ki te whakaaro mō tātou.
The greatest of all wisdom starts with the simplicity of a thought. Our dreams will come from our collective thinking.

Leanne Te Karu