

Te Aka Whai Ora – Māori Health Authority

First entry provided on 28 February 2023

Governing statutes

Te Aka Whai Ora – the Māori Health Authority is an independent statutory entity established on 1 July 2022 by the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 (Pae Ora Act).

Although Te Aka Whai Ora is not a Crown entity, it is a publicly funded entity and subject to certain provisions of the Crown Entities Act 2004, with necessary modifications. These are set out in the Pae Ora Act.

Functions and responsibilities

Te Aka Whai Ora is responsible for ensuring that planning and service delivery responds to the aspirations and needs of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori in general. Te Aka Whai Ora also leads and monitors transformational change in a way that the entire health system understands and responds to the health and wellbeing needs of whānau Māori.

Te Aka Whai Ora will commission and monitor kaupapa Māori services in accordance with the New Zealand Health Plan | Te Pae Tata, as well as design and deliver programmes for the purpose of improving the capability and capacity of health providers and the Māori health workforce.

Te Aka Whai Ora will ensure that iwi, hapū and whānau exercise tino rangatiratanga in their decision-making authority over hauora matters of importance to them.

Te Aka Whai Ora will also provide expert, evidence-based Māori health advice to the Government to support the wellbeing of whānau, hapū and iwi Māori by preventing, reducing and delaying the onset of māuiuitanga (ill health). We also monitor the delivery of hauora Māori services by Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand and monitor, in co-operation with Manatū Hauora - the Ministry of Health and Te Puni Kōkiri, the performance of the publicly funded health sector in relation to hauora Māori.

Te Aka Whai Ora is also responsible for improving services and outcomes across the health system in partnership with Te Whatu Ora and Manatū Hauora.

Te Aka Whai Ora works closely with Te Whatu Ora in the design and delivery of services impacting on Māori health, as well as jointly investing to grow the reach of kaupapa providers and te ao Māori solutions across the health sector. As new services are commissioned or existing services are reviewed, Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora work to make sure the service design and priorities reflect the diverse needs of the community, including for Māori. Te Aka Whai Ora is also working closely with Manatū Hauora and Te Puni Kōkiri to monitor outcomes for Māori.

Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora are developing Te Mauri o Rongo – The Health Charter to guide the culture, values and behaviours of the health sector. This will guide how health providers will relate to each other and together serve whānau and communities to improve health outcomes and build towards pae ora.

Te Aka Whai Ora will work closely with Iwi-Māori Partnership Boards to ensure services are being designed to meet local context in each locality and to recognise the unique mana whenua aspirations in each region.

Structure

Te Aka Whai Ora is governed by a Board that under the Pae Ora Act must consist of not fewer than five, and not more than eight, members. Board Members collectively have a breadth of expertise in Te Tiriti o Waitangi, tikanga and mātauranga Māori, kaupapa Māori services, cultural safety and responsiveness of services, public funding and provision of services, public sector governance and government processes, and financial management.

Te Aka Whai Ora have around 250 staff and this is expected to increase to around 350 when fully staffed. Our organisation structure was agreed in December 2022, and we are still appointing to this structure. It comprises the following units:

- Mātauranga Maori
- Public and Population Health
- Systems Strategy and Policy
- Service Development and Relations
- Monitoring
- Finance and Support
- Governance and Advisory Services. This includes the Chief Medical Officer, the Chief Nursing Officer, the Chief Clinical Advisor Allied Health and the Chief Clinical Officer Midwifery.

The organisation has a national and regional structure comprising four regions:

- Northern
- Te Manawa Taki
- Central
- Southern.

We are still working through our regional capabilities and how this will align with Te Whatu Ora's structures and capabilities.

Records

Te Aka Whai Ora produces a range of documents, updates, information and advice for the hauora Māori sector and others concerned with improving the health of whānau Māori, including:

- Governance records - Te Aka Whai Ora Board and Committees
- Internal policies and processes
- Performance reporting
- Health promotion material
- Contracts
- Information about health services
- Clinical notices and advisories.

Further information is available at: www.teakawhiora.nz/nga-rauemi-resources/

Contact

General enquiries can be made to info@teakawhiora.nz.

Requests for official information can be made to the Te Aka Whai Ora Ministerial Services Team, which can be contacted via any of the below:

Ministerial Services, Te Aka Whai Ora
PO Box 793
Wellington 6140

mhagovernmentservices@health.govt.nz

www.teakawhiora.nz/nga-rauemi-resources/official-information-act/
