

Submission to the Productivity Commission on the Issues Paper: Immigration, productivity and wellbeing

1 December 2021

Kia ora, my name is Te Mania. I raise my 8 year old daughter Lily on my own and work full time. I earn around 50k a year. I have prioritised time to make this submission because I would like the Government to look after whanau Māori better. Better to me means bridging the inequality gaps NZ is sadly globally known as outlined in OECD reports that include:

- Ethnic gaps in life expectancy between 7-8 years for Māori compared to Pakeha
- Mortality rates for Māori are often two or three times higher than Pakeha
- Māori babies are more than five times more likely to die of Sudden Infant Death Syndrome than Pakeha, and babies living in the most deprived neighbourhoods are six times more likely to be hospitalised with bronchiolitis
- New Zealand has the highest rate of teenage suicide in the OECD
- An unequal distribution of social determinants (e.g. income, housing conditions, and employment) is fundamental to driving health inequalities

The disparities between Maori and Pakeha are wide and while there is some progress to close this. There is much work ahead and it appears to me that Maori are not included in the Commissions discussions around Immigration at least not in the sense of a 'partner' relationship.

There is such a lack of Maori representation and more broadly people of colour in legislation beyond the presence of the Principles of the Treaty of Waitangi which is widely used by Government bodies in their policies and procedural systems. The Principles of the Treaty are meant to be seen as loose guideline with an acknowledgment of the significant role of tangata whenua. Though among many Maori the Principles are more likened to tokenism than anything sincere or meaningful.

"If I am ordering Steak I do not wish for it to be served with a large dollop of poo".

Te Mania O'Rourke, 2021

It is largely unpopular for cynicism as such to be lamented in a formal submission so there we have it, the first one. I am humorous by nature it helps with the heaviness of issues I talk about and makes me feel better bringing them to light in a way that doesn't leave me crippled on the floor in the foetal position. Because the reality is it is not a pleasant time sifting through the generations of Maori grievances and their consequences for whanau Maori. One can be a little perturbed.

Matauranga Maori in its literal translation means Maori knowledge. It is an indigenous worldview centered around kinship and the relationship with the natural world. It is a belief that humans share equality with the elements not superiority but exist within it.

Recently Matauranga Maori and the relevance of this in our teaching institutions has been fiercely debated with 7 University Professors penning their concerns over the validity of Matauranga Maori. What appears to have driven their marginalising of Matauranga Maori is an idea that anything opposing western science is irrational. To these writers Matauranga Maori is ill-founded and irrelevant. It is racist and simply rubbish.

Earlier this year Stephen May (Professor of Education at AUT) said:

"Take scientific racism, for example: for centuries, the "originating idea" underpinning it - basically, a presumptive belief in the racial and gender superiority of white men - remained resolutely intact. When the scientific methods of the day eventually faltered or failed to prove this point, they were simply replaced by new methods.

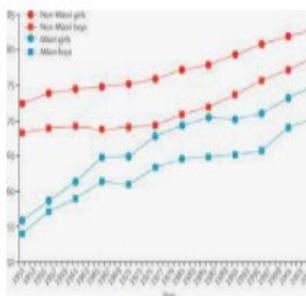
There appears to be an idea that as an indigenous peoples Maori have somehow been privileged comparatively to other indigenous peoples. It is an echo that has no basis with reality and typifies global ideologies around indigenous rights including those in the Ivory Towers here at home.

My main points are:

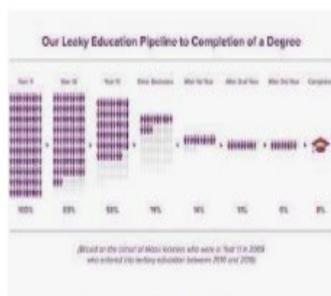
- Immigration policy would be fairer if it aligns with the Crown's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Māori participation can enhance the development of an Immigration policy if true partnership exists and Maori are part of the discussion and not invited into.
- Te Ao Māori concepts are meaningful, fun, unselfish and honest.

The framework that is being proposed by the Commission assumes that productivity growth of those granted immigration will in the long term create economic growth and therefore wellbeing for NZers. It fails to recognise the existing inequalities and poverty in Aotearoa and those most affected, namely whanau Maori or how the economic growth will affect/effect whanau Maori.

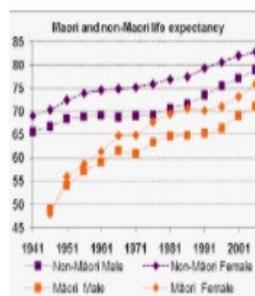
If you Google Maori disparities this is what it looks like:



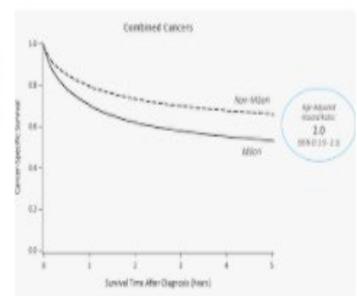
reducing health disparities ...
thelancet.com



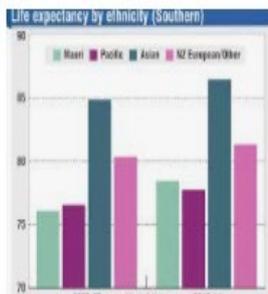
Inequality depriving Māori and the ...
stuff.co.nz



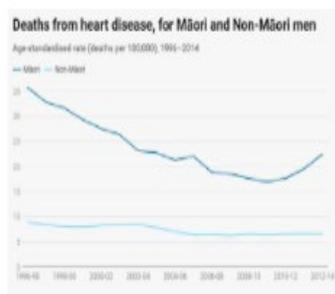
HEALTH INEQUITIES ...
otago.ac.nz



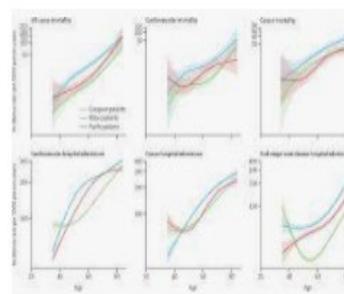
cancer patients
nzma.org.nz



Harsh truth of Maori health outcomes ...
odt.co.nz



Major health review remains split on ...
mz.co.nz



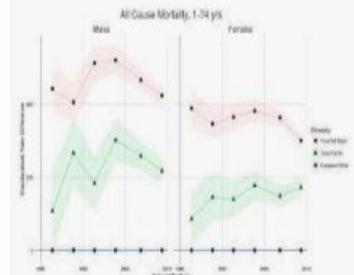
Ethnic differences in mortality and ...
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- Māori spend a relatively greater proportion of their shorter lives disabled.
- Higher burden of illness than non-Māori
 - Heart disease, Diabetes, Respiratory disease, Cancer, Other.
 - Burden associated with modifiable risk factors e.g. Smoking, Obesity.
 - Markers of deprivation e.g. low income, access to housing, employment & education.
- Limited access to effective health services - culturally and clinically competent services and health practitioners.

Māori health disparities
slideshare.net



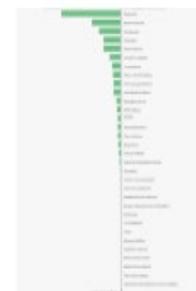
Fact check: Disparities between Māori ...
stuff.co.nz



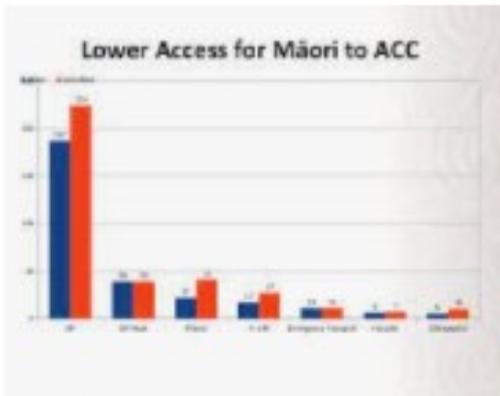
Ethnic inequalities in mortality in NZ ...
blogs.otago.ac.nz



Causes of Maori Health Inequalities and ...
nursinganswers.net



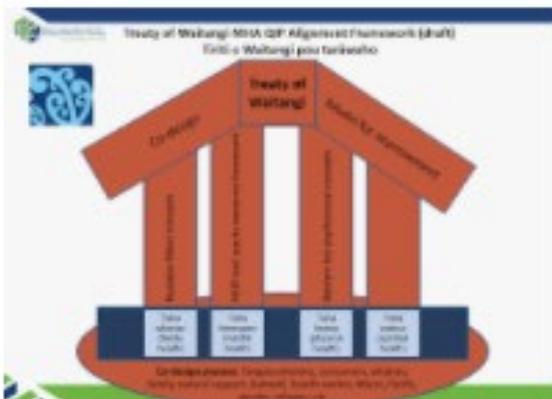
Disparities in the use of ...
bpac.org.nz



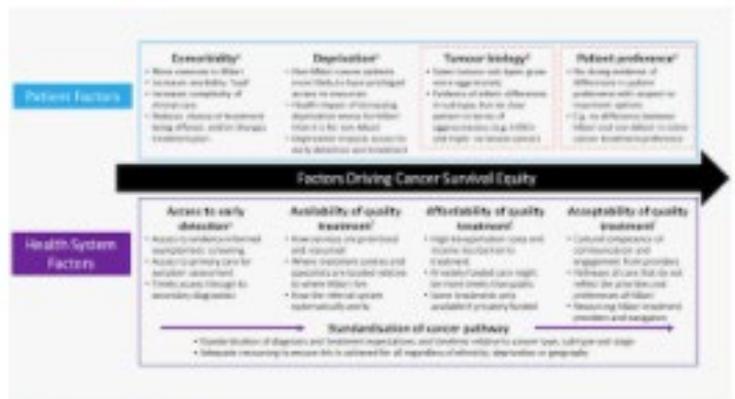
Māori health disparities slideshare.net



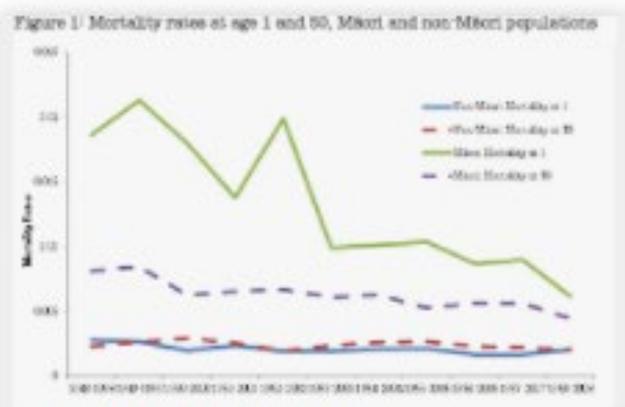
Inequalities in New Zealand Health ... robjcarr.wordpress.com



Health Quality & Safety Commission ... hqsc.govt.nz



cancer patients nzma.org.nz



PDF] Cohort Morbidity Hypothesis ... semanticscholar.org



Fact check: Disparities between Māori ... stuff.co.nz

There are one million four hundred and forty results when you Google Maori disparities with an expected additional +1 if the Commission chooses to exclude their partner from the partnership in regards to real consultation.

Nui te aroha me te rama. Love and light to you. With gratitude, Te Mania & Lily.