



Inquiry into Health Inequities for Māori

Submission to the Māori Affairs Select Committee

By Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army New Zealand Fiji Tonga and Samoa Territory

20th September 2019

Kia rere iho te whakawā – Let justice roll down like a river

SUMMARY:

1. Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army welcomes this Parliamentary Inquiry into health inequalities affecting Māori. The focus of the inquiry is on Māori experience of inequalities in cancer treatment, but this submission also focuses on the wider experience of Māori in our services, communities and within Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army who generally experience poorer access to health services. We also share examples of where the health system 'gets it right' for Māori that can help guide the future of health services in this country.
2. ***Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army asks that the Select Committee recommends that the approach to all health services for Māori including those relating to cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment be designed and undertaken in a truly kaupapa Māori framework. This will require re-designing the approach to all parts of health care. It does not mean simply adding some elements of tikanga Māori onto or even within the existing system but will also require policy, planning and service development that is led by Māori for Māori.***
3. ***To monitor progress in reducing inequities for Māori it is essential that it be a requirement for all government policies and other interventions to be carefully evaluated to measure their equity impacts.***

BACKGROUND:

4. Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army is church and social services organisation that has worked in Aotearoa New Zealand for over one hundred and thirty years. It provides a wide-range of practical social, community and faith-based services, particularly for those who are suffering, facing injustice or those who have been forgotten and marginalised by mainstream society.
5. The combined services of Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army provided support to around 120,000 people in 2018. The main social service areas are Community Ministries (CM), Salvation Army Social Housing (SASH), and Addictions, Supportive Accommodation and Reintegration Services (ASARS). These services included over 62,000 food parcels to more than 30,000 families and individuals, providing some 2,400 people with short- or long-term

housing, nearly 7,000 families and individuals supported with social work or counselling, just over 17,000 addictions counselling sessions, more than 5,500 families and individuals helped with budgeting, other practical assistance to over 6,000 families and individuals, 6,500 hours of chaplaincy support, and some 9,000 victims, defendants and families supported at court.

6. This submission has been prepared by the Social Policy and Parliamentary Unit (SPPU) of The Salvation Army together with Te Manatū Māori o Te Ope Whakaora ki Aotearoa, the Māori Ministry of The Salvation Army. The SPPU works towards the eradication of poverty by encouraging policies and practices that strengthen the social framework of New Zealand. The Salvation Army acknowledges Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the basis of a cultural partnership between Māori as the tāngata whenua and tāngata Tiriti who have since come to make their home in Aotearoa New Zealand. Goal Four of the Māori Ministry Strategic Plan 'Te Ōhākī' is focussed on justice: "Our response to the ongoing social injustice of poverty that impacts Māori, shows commitment to reducing inequalities for Māori" and references Amos 5:24 Kia rere iho te whakawā – Let justice roll down like a river¹.
7. This submission has been approved by Commissioner Andrew Westrupp, Territorial Commander of The Salvation Army's Aotearoa New Zealand Fiji Tonga and Samoa Territory. Contact person for this submission is Paul Barber, Senior Social Policy Analyst paul.barber@salvationarmy.org.nz.

WELLBEING AND HEALTH FOR MĀORI

8. *Te Ope Whakaora* – 'the Army that brings life' is the Te Reo Māori name for The Salvation Army. The primary purpose of our mission plan is to be a Christian church and movement that brings life to people, particularly the poorer and marginalised members of our society. This life we desire to bring to people is holistic, including material, social, and spiritual support for the individual and whānau. In terms of holistic wellbeing, spiritual health and wellbeing is therefore crucial to the mission of The Salvation Army. Our Christian ethos and worldview that underpins our services welcoming all people, means our service is driven by our desire to see people have true life that comes from being in relationship with Jesus Christ².
9. Māori make up over 40% of the people supported by The Salvation Army's social services, which equates to 50,000 Māori over the last 12 months. Most contact enquiries received by Community Ministries are not directly health-related (less than 1%) but underlying physical and mental health needs (around 5%) or "complex needs" (a further 10%) are often identified in the process as well. Nearly 20% of enquiries for support from Community Ministries include people with illness/injury or mental health issues.
10. Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army is not directly involved with delivering of cancer-related health services, but the social services programmes we offer interact in many ways

¹ Māori Ministry Strategic Plan 'Te Ōhākī' <https://maori.salvationarmy.org.nz/our-strategic-plan>

² <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/church-community/mission-resources/mission-plan/one-purpose>

with the wider health system. While no specific data is available, it can be assumed that many of the people receiving support or their whānau/families are impacted by cancer-related conditions.

11. The disproportionate number of Māori families engaged with our social services is directly attributed to the breaches of Te Tiriti o Waitangi; the dispossession of land, language and cultural identity. The recent report of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, *Whakamana Tangata*, identifies the impacts of colonisation on tāngata whenua, and the subsequent loss of assets and an economic base that have contributed to over 50% of Māori children growing up in households receiving a main benefit. As the report points out, universal services need to work for all but this does not mean one size fits all³.
12. The language of today, of ‘wellbeing’ and ‘flourishing’ communities,⁴ that is used to describe the goals of health and social policy in this country contrasts starkly with the experience of many communities where the Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army is working. Our health system has to make considerable changes if the health and wellbeing of Māori generally, and access specifically to cancer diagnosis and treatment is improved.

13. Māori wellbeing is strongest and shows little or no disparity with non-Māori in wellbeing measurement relating to subjective wellbeing and cultural identity, according to Treasury wellbeing indicators (Figure 1). The largest disparities reported are in housing, incomes, knowledge and skills. While health disparities are not as great overall in comparison to others, they are significant and real.
14. The annual State of the Nation Report⁵ published by the SPPU included in 2019 a table of key wellbeing statistics that demonstrate how great the impact of inequality is on Māori. One of the indicators showing a significant reduction in inequality is infant mortality. The rate for Māori has fallen faster than the non-Māori rate. While it remains higher in 2018 the difference is significantly lower than two decades ago. One contributor to this reduction in inequality in infant mortality has been through taking a kaupapa Māori approach using Pēpe-pods or wahakura for infants sleeping in bed with their parents to reduce Sudden Unexpected

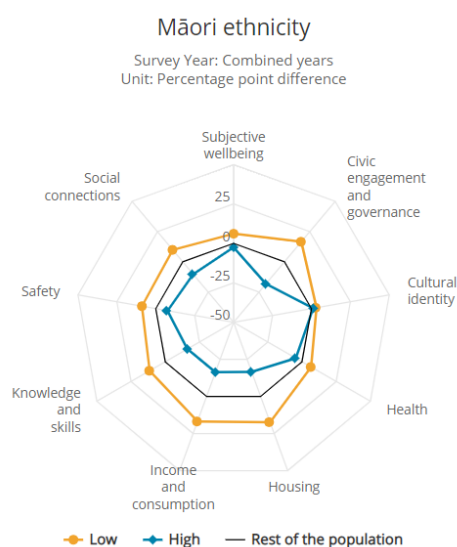
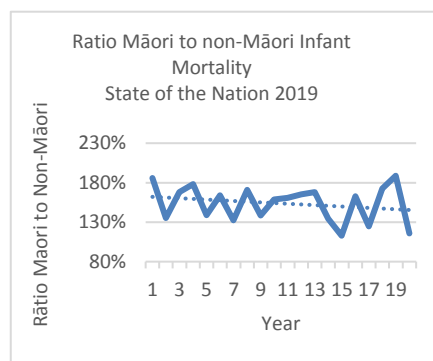


Figure 1: Treasury Living Standards Dashboard <https://lsfdashboard.treasury.govt.nz/wellbeing/>



³ Whakamana Tangata, May 2019, p79 <http://weag.govt.nz/weag-report/whakamana-tangata/>

⁴ Lucy Clare Hone, Aaron Jarden, Grant M. Schofield and Scott Duncan, “Measuring Flourishing: The impact of operational definitions on the prevalence of high levels of wellbeing.” *International Journal of Wellbeing* 4: no. 1 (2014): 62-90. doi:10.5502/ijw.v4i1.4

⁵ State of the Nation 2019: Are You Well? Are We Safe? <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/article/are-you-well-are-we-safe>

Deaths in Infants Syndrome deaths⁶.

15. Successful health-related programmes Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army has been involved with demonstrate several key features that we believe have been a fundamental reason for their success. For example, the Hauora addiction programme run in partnership between The Salvation Army and the Notorious Chapter of the Mongrel Mob with oversight from Houhanga Rongo Trust achieved success through taking a strong kaupapa Māori approach to responding to the addiction problems the Notorious Chapter asked for help with. The evaluation report on the programme identified the focus on tikanga and whānau in the approach taken was crucial to achieving the improved wellbeing outcomes reported⁷.
16. ***Te Ope Whakaora The Salvation Army recommends that the approach to all health services for Māori including those relating to cancer prevention, diagnosis and treatment be designed and undertaken in a truly kaupapa Māori framework. This will require re-designing the approach to all parts of health care. It does not mean simply adding some elements of tikanga Māori onto or even within the existing system but will also require policy, planning and service development that is led by Māori for Māori.***
17. ***To monitor progress in reducing inequities for Māori it is essential that it be a requirement for all government policies and other interventions to be carefully evaluated to measure their equity impacts.***

‘Me ngangana tātou ināianeī, kia pai ake ai te ao āpōpō’

Kataraina Pōti – He kaiwhakarewa o Te Ope Whakaora

‘If we are to better the future, we must disturb the present’

Catherine Booth – Co-founder of The Salvation Army

⁶ Sudden unexpected death in infancy. Special Report, June 2017, Health Quality and Safety Commission
https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/CYMRC/Publications/CYMRC_SUDI_Report.pdf

⁷ Evaluation of the Hauora AOD treatment and Rehabilitation Programme, (2016)
https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/sites/default/files/uploads/20170308hauora_aod_programme_evaluation.pdf