NGĀ POU MANA
TANGATA WHENUA ALLIED HEALTH

Indigenous Allied Health Australia

International Partnership Agreement

Between

Indigenous Allied Health Australia and Ngā Pou Mana

Preamble

This is the first International Partnership Agreement between Indigenous Allied Health Australia (IAHA) and Ngā Pou Mana Tangata Whenua Allied Health.

Recognising the shared goals, mutual interests and common values of each organisation, as Indigenous peoples globally and Indigenous led organisations, jointly resolve to form an international partnership agreement.

As leading organisations in allied health, IAHA and Ngā Pou Mana assert that the following must be achieved in order to positively affect the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori people:

- The right "to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health" as per Article 24(2) of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the Declaration). This right is in addition to the basic right to health for all described within the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948);
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori perspectives and knowledges must be privileged across teaching and research activities;
- Health education providers ensure their graduates attain the necessary skills, knowledge, capabilities and attitudes that will enable them to deliver culturally safe and responsive care. This includes providing clinical and non-clinical experiences for students that immerse them into the unique cultural aspects, needs and aspirations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori people;
- An increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori allied health professionals and broader workforce working in and with our communities;
- Culturally safe and responsive health services that are community-controlled and led driving cultural models of care that meet the health and wellbeing needs of individuals, families and communities.

Parties to the Agreement

Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Indigenous Allied Health Australia Ltd. (IAHA) is a national not for profit, member based Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health organisation. Formed in 2009, IAHA recognises that a culturally safe and responsive health system is imperative to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians receive the healthcare required to significantly improve health and social and emotional wellbeing outcomes. IAHA works

collectively and collaboratively to improve access to quality, culturally safe and responsive care by supporting and increasing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce and advocating for an improved distribution of health professionals, including improved access to allied health services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

IAHA is governed and led by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with a depth and breadth of clinical and non-clinical and cultural knowledges and expertise.

As a national peak organisation IAHA:

- provides support for an engaged Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander allied health workforce at the local, regional and national level.
- builds strong leadership capacity across the allied health and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health sectors to drive and influence change.
- works closely with organisations, universities and other related sectors to improve health curricula, address allied health workforce issues, and promote allied health careers to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
- provides expert health and workforce policy advice to governments, allied health professional bodies, educational institutions and the broader health sector.
- develops and maintains strong networks and connections to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to ensure IAHA is influenced and led by their needs and aspirations for improved health and wellbeing.
- works closely with the health sector and communities to improve access to allied health services and multidisciplinary care.

Ngā Pou Mana Tangata Whenua Allied Health

Ngā Pou Mana is a kaupapa Māori, not for profit organisation grounded in practices of mana motuhake – recognising whānau, hapū and iwi self-determination as a significant contributing factor to wellbeing.

Ngā Pou Mana are the only membership-based, national tangata whenua allied health workforce organisation in Aotearoa New Zealand, and are an umbrella peak body to the various allied health kaimahi (workers) and organisations that make up the sector as defined by Ngā Pou Mana as Māori allied health.

Ngā Pou Mana work with individuals and groups who share the goal of practising transformative and actionable change with the Māori health workforce, and wider health system to contribute to improving Māori health and wellbeing.

Ngā Pou Mana's role is to provide opportunities for members to learn and grow. Ngā Pou Mana provide unique support, training, networks and advice to the Māori allied health sector from a tangata whenua perspective. Ngā Pou Mana bring individuals and groups together to share knowledge, discuss workplace challenges, and to further develop mātauranga Māori in combination with clinical practice.

Ngā Pou Mana exists to contribute to improving Māori health and wellbeing by:

- Nurturing and growing Māori allied health leaders through Māori leadership and advancement training and workforce development.
- Advocating for Māori in decision making processes at all levels and sectors as the lead advisors to government on Māori issues that involve the allied health workforce and services.
- Ensuring that Māori ways of doing and being are incorporated into services that are culturally accountable and relevant through training and development.
- Providing a supportive network for Māori allied health kaimahi through peer and group support, supervision, mentoring, networking, advocacy and advice.
- Providing policy advice.
- Advancing knowledge of mātauranga Māori (Māori knowledge)

Established in 2007, Ngā Pou Mana operates as a national incorporated society. The Executive Committee and leadership, much like their membership, reflect a range of the allied health workforce with physiotherapy, social work, occupational therapy, counselling, psychology, researchers and students among the vocations of sitting executive members.

Goal

Increase and support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori (allied) health workforce and the cultural capability of the broader health system to improve the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori people.

Objectives

The international partnership will be Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori led with an action-orientated focus on developing strengths-based and culturally informed innovations to transform the education, allied health and Indigenous health sectors in promoting the critical need for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori workforce to be embedded across the system to better meet the needs of individuals, families and communities.

The partnership will:

- promote culturally safe and responsive allied health practice, research and curricula;
- promote interprofessional workforce strategies in leading change from the perspective of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori People;
- privilege Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori ways of knowing, being and doing and to share and promote strengths-based, holistic solutions to maintain health and improve outcomes;
- build and support an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori allied health workforce and embed the role of the workforce as essential to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori people's health and wellbeing;
- share knowledge and best practice between organisations with support from leading universities in each country;

- lead best practice and share strategies to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori health students;
- embed cultural safety and responsiveness in professional practice and service delivery;
- promote international development opportunities for inter-nation experiences and learnings; and
- contribute to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori Nation-building.

Actions

IAHA and Ngā Pou Mana agree to:

1. Share best practice in building the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori allied health workforce;
2. Build on and partner in developing and delivering culturally safe models of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori peoples, as led by our communities;
3. Develop collaborative partnerships in research, policy and practice that are action-orientated approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori ways of knowing, being, and doing; and
4. Support our current Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Māori health workforce to meet their aspirations and career goals.

Governance

The organisations will undertake to meet on a regular basis via teleconference, no less than two occasions per calendar year.

Face to face meetings and engagement will occur on an ad hoc basis noting the logistical and financial constraints of each party.

Duration

This international collaboration agreement is at-will and may be modified by mutual consent of authorised officials from IAHA and Ngā Pou Mana.

This agreement shall become effective upon signature by the authorised officials from each organisation and will remain in effect until modified or terminated by any one of the partners by mutual consent.

This agreement shall be due for review and recommitment on 1 December 2021.

NGĀ POU MANA
TANGATA WHENUA ALLIED HEALTH

IAHA Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Contact Information

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Donna Murray, CEO
Indigenous Allied Health Australia

Date: 9 December 2019

Roxanne Waru, Kaiwhakahaere
Ngā Pou Mana Tangata Whenua
Allied Health

Date: 9 December 2019