

Collaborative Practice and Interprofessional Education

Transforming the Landscape of Healthcare - *Ohomairangi te Hauora Manaaki*



Culturally-responsive interprofessional education and practice beyond mere rhetoric

*Me ka moemoea e tātau, ka taia e tātau
If we dream together, we can all achieve*

Health is a socio-cultural construction – something that we begin to learn about and understand from a very young age. The *ōhanga* (nest) for nurturing our health beliefs and understandings are strongly influenced by our cultures of origin. Despite health professionals' rhetoric about their practice being patient-/client-/person-centred care and collaborative, their patient's or client's culture is often overlooked. Evident globally are persistent health inequities some groups of people experience. These inequities are evident in their differential access to healthcare services, the quality of care they receive and in their health status. It is evident in the interpersonal and institutional discrimination they encounter when accessing health services.

Māori, the Indigenous people of Aotearoa New Zealand, are one such group whose healthcare experiences compared to others living here are different. For many Māori, *hauora* represents multiple dimensions making it more than just tinanaora or physical wellbeing. It also weaves together the wellbeing of a person's *wairua* (spiritual dimensions), *whānau* (extended family), *hinengaro* (psychological and intellectual dimensions), *whatumanawa* (emotional wellbeing), and *taiao* (the environment). There are many pathways to optimal *hauora*, and wellbeing is more than the sum of the whole. It is about balance and the interdependence of each dimension to achieve *hauora*.

I contend that true interprofessional education and practice is about holding the patient/client and their *whānau* (extended family network) central at all times, critically understanding the historical and contemporary contexts within which Māori and other Indigenous peoples live, and involving them as key players in their healthcare experience and decision-making. In this presentation, I intend to unpick the relevance of culture, diversity and collaboration to achieve *Te Ohomairangi te Hauora Manaaki*, and the relevance of equity and evidence on which we base our decisions and meet or not meet the needs of Māori and their *whānau*. Through this examination the necessity for culturally responsive interprofessional education and practice will be explained.