

Te Ohu Rata O Aotearoa

Te ORA

Many of the Maori doctors and Maori medical students in Aotearoa are members of an organisation called Te ORA. Te ORA (Te Ohu Rata o Aotearoa) is the Maori Medical Practitioners Association of Aotearoa/New Zealand. Over 250 Maori medical practitioners and students are currently registered on the Te ORA database.

Te ORA was first established in 1995, and each year since 1998 have had a combined scientific conference and annual meeting to promote information exchange and the presentation of the scientific and research work of the membership. Past venues have been on marae around the country at Hongoeka (Plimmerton 1999), Hauiti (Tolaga Bay 2000), Tapuaekura (Rotorua 2001) and Owae (Taranaki 2002).

Aims and objectives of Te ORA

Treaty of Waitangi

Te ORA aims to give effect to the Treaty of Waitangi and the obligations thereby created in respect of the health of Maori people. To this end Te ORA recognises and promotes health as a taonga (treasure) whose protection is guaranteed in the Treaty of Waitangi.

Maori Health

Te ORA aims to promote and protect the health of Maori people, assist Maori medical practitioners in their efforts to advance Maori health, and facilitate closer links between Maori medical practitioners and other national, professional and community groups.

Professional

Te ORA aims to provide a supportive network for Maori medical practitioners, facilitate the exchange of views and information among Maori medical practitioners and foster col-

legial relationships. In addition, Te ORA aims to establish links with other related professional bodies, including other indigenous medical and health organisations.

Medical education

Te ORA aims to promote the recruitment and retention of Maori medical students and provide advice on strategies for increasing Maori entry into all levels of medical education and the development of an expanded Maori medical workforce. Te ORA provides guidance on the curriculum for undergraduate and postgraduate medical education as it pertains to Maori and assists members to obtain the skills and competencies that will enable them to actively participate in Maori society.

Other activities

In addition to the yearly AGM and scientific conference, Te ORA assists its members in a number of other ways:

General practitioner peer support (primary health care)

The GP Peer Group meets quarterly to provide collegial, personal and professional development for Maori general practitioners. This includes regular continuing medical education meetings provided within a Maori appropriate context.

Te Ngākau

The Te Ngākau programme provides confidential oversight from senior Te ORA members for those who may be at risk and in need of support and mentoring.

hauora.com

Te ORA helped develop hauora.com, a national Maori health workforce development organisation, in 2001.

Hauora.com brings together a number of Maori providers and organisations that aim to coordinate and improve Maori health workforce activities.

Scholarships/studentships/fellowships

This year Te ORA has coordinated the annual Eli Lilly studentship awarded to a Maori medical student for research into mental health or diabetes, the Henry Rongomau Bennett scholarships awarded to support five Maori doctors training in psychiatry and the GSK (Glaxo-Smith-Kline) Maori health research fellowship.

Te Wheke Alliance

Te ORA is proud to be a member of the Te Wheke Alliance which is an active and strategic relationship between Te ORA and Ngā Ngaru Hauora o Aotearoa (The National Maori Health Providers Association), Te Kaunihera o Ngā Neehi Maori o Aotearoa (National Council of Maori Nurses) and Ngā Maia Midwives Collective.

Te reo and tikanga training

Te ORA has established funding to support members to undertake te reo Maori (Maori language) and tikanga (Maori customs) training. These were identified as key skills required to be effective as a Maori doctor in the report commissioned by Te ORA, *Kokiritia: An analysis of Maori doctors' training needs* (Baxter, 2001).

For further information about our organisation and other activities that Te ORA is currently involved in please feel free to contact us:

Te ORA

P O Box 110033

Auckland Hospital Postshop

Auckland, New Zealand

Email: te-ora@ihug.co.nz or try

our webpage at: <http://>

www.healthsite.co.nz/Hauora_Maori