A call to action on Māori cardiovascular health

Authors: Bramley D et al

Summary: This paper provides an overview of cardiovascular health in Māori and summarises the key themes of the Māori cardiovascular plan. The authors ultimately aim to rouse the health sector to respond to this demonstrable need and reduce disparities in cardiovascular health for Māori.

Comment: A comprehensive paper that not only describes the context for services providing cardiovascular care in Aotearoa but also outlines the steps required to reduce ethnic disparities in cardiovascular outcomes. The Action Plan was developed by the Māori Advisory committee that brought expertise in clinical cardiovascular health, public health, Kaupapa Māori research methodologies and patient advocacy. The plan itself is based on an explicit recognition of the rights of Māori as Tangata Whenua. I encourage readers to view the entire paper.

Reference: J NZMA. 2004; 117(1197)

Independent commentary by Dr Matire Harwood

Dr Matire Harwood (Ngapuhi) has worked in Hauora Māori, primary health and rehabilitation settings as clinician and researcher since graduating from Auckland Medical School in 1994. She also holds positions on a number of boards, committees and advisory groups including the Health Research Council. Matire lives in Auckland with her whānau including partner Haunui and two young children Te Rangiura and Waimarie.

Research Review publications are intended for New Zealand health professionals.

Disclaimer: This publication is not intended as a replacement for regular medical education but to assist in the process. The reviews are a summarised interpretation of the published study and reflect the opinion of the writer rather than those of the research group or scientific journal. It is suggested readers review the full trial data before forming a final conclusion on its merits.