



RANZCO MĀORI ACTION PLAN

Dr Will Cunningham

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Kia ora koutou katoa. Will Cunningham here, current Chair of the RANZCO Māori and Pasifika Eye Health Committee. Coming to you from my home here in New Zealand.

Thanks for joining me today and I hope you're all managing to stay safe and healthy during these challenging times. Today I just wanted to give you a quick update on our Māori Action Plan.

Firstly, what is the Plan? Well, it's our RANZCO's plan towards achieving ophthalmic health equity for Māori here in Aotearoa.

Why do we need this? RANZCO acknowledges Māori as Tangata Whenua, or people of the land, and our obligations as Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) partners. We welcome the opportunity to grow and develop from a treaty perspective.

So how do we plan to achieve health equity? Underpinning our plan are 3 guiding principles.

The first is genuine partnership with Māori. Forming and enhancing genuine partnerships is essential if we are looking to achieve real change. Although many of our committee including myself identify as Māori or Pasifika, our partners in this journey are crucial to us navigating safely and effectively through these uncharted waters. We will continue to seek out Māori as individuals and groups, and we've already formed some very valuable partnerships with organisations including:

Tumu Whakarae, Te ORA, and LIME.

Two, Cultural competence. We are committed to providing a culturally safe environment for all cultures in Aotearoa. Cultural competence needs to be embedded throughout the whole of RANZCO as an organisation, with a focus on the training curriculum and CPD.

Thirdly, improving Māori representation within the ophthalmology workforce.

We are dedicated to developing a Māori workforce. Some of you may already be aware of our efforts to encourage Māori doctors into a career in ophthalmology, including a centralised recruitment process that allows

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Māori applicants an interview. The committee also supports scholarship opportunities, mentoring and research development, all of which will help to grow the Māori workforce across our profession.

Finally, when do we plan to launch? Of course, with the global pandemic our plans have been waylaid a little. However, we are working hard towards constructing a quality plan and we hope to launch next year, potentially at our national conference here in New Zealand.

I'd like to thank you all for taking the time to listen today and if you'd like to learn more about the plan or contribute to the process, please email this link on your screen now - policy@ranzco.edu. Ultimately, I honestly believe that achieving health equity for Māori in Aotearoa is achievable and that our Māori Action Plan will go a long way towards getting us there.

Kia Ora and bye for now. Thank you.