

ASIAN CAUCUS REPORT

It has been a busy and productive year for the Asian Caucus of the Public Health Association. Here are a few highlights of the work undertaken by the Asian Caucus or its core members over the year, focusing on health strategy/policy and health promotion for Asian and ethnic communities.

CAHRE National Symposium 2022

The Centre for Asian and Ethnic Minority Health Research and Evaluation (CAHRE) at the University of Auckland hosted the National Symposium 2022 (<https://cahre.blogs.auckland.ac.nz/cahre-symposium-2022/>) successfully on the theme of “Beyond the Healthy Migrant Effect: Asian and Ethnic Minority Health in Aotearoa New Zealand”. The one-day symposium on the 2nd of September explored the internal and close relationship between te tiriti and Asian/ethnic health, discussed the way forward improving ethnic health in the context of the health system reform, and redefined racism beyond the healthy migrant effect, among other interesting presentations, workshops and themed sessions.

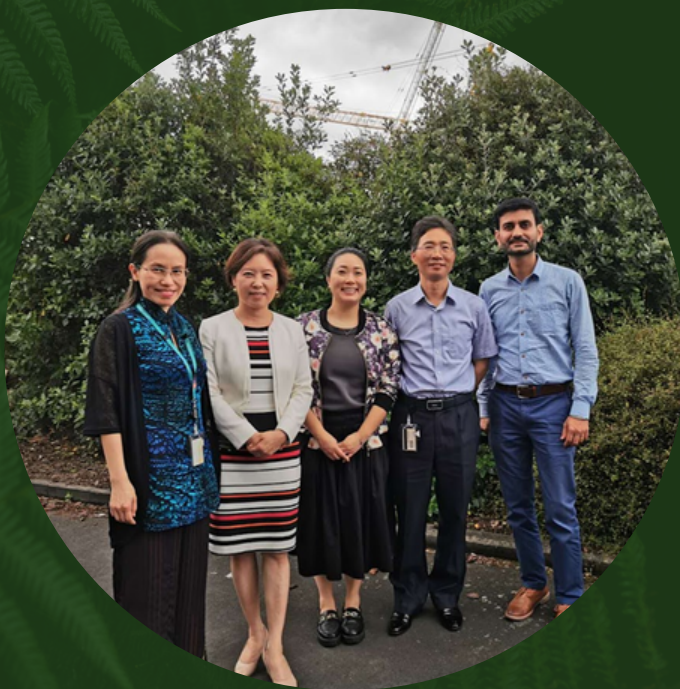


In-person conversations and networking were also appreciated by the attendees of the symposium. The Public Health Association (Asian Caucus) was an official sponsor of the symposium. There were also 5 attendees sponsored by the Asian caucus of the PHANZ. Mr Grant Berghan (ex-CEO, PHANZ) and Dr Lifeng Zhou (Chair of the Asian Caucus, PHANZ) joined the panel discussions on “Health Reforms in Aotearoa New Zealand”, with Dr Renee Liang and Dr Suneela Mehta. The panel discussion was moderated by Associate Prof Roshini Peiris-John, who is also a member of the Asian Caucus of the PHANZ. This symposium clarified the principles of te tiriti and how the Asian/ethnic and minority health and well-being could be improved upholding te tiriti. A national health policy for Asian/ethnic and other vulnerable populations at entity level of Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand was advocated by the Asian Caucus at the symposium.

Asian and Ethnic Peoples Public Health Award

Group delivering
Te Whatu Ora
Waitematā’s Health
service model for
Asian/ethnic
communities;

Grace Ryu, Lifeng Zhou,
Tian Min (Maggie) Ma,
Gautam Raj Singh,
Stephanie Lee



Te Whatu Ora Waitemata's Health Service Model for Asian/ethnic Communities' received the inaugural 'Asian and Ethnic Peoples Public Health Award'. Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand Waitematā's response to Asian and ethnic communities has been a success with the three key components together with colleagues from NRHCC: health gain and health intelligence team focusing on Asian, Migrants and Former Refugees (with the functions of planning, funding and service commissioning); the Asian Health Services within the Te Whatu Ora Waitematā's provider arm; and the international collaboration initiative with Asian countries. As one in five people in Aotearoa New Zealand is of Asian or other ethnic minority groups, a high-performing national-regional-local unified Asian & Ethnic Health Service Model is essential to support the Asian, Middle Eastern, Latin American and African (MELAA) and other ethnic populations to meet their diverse and unmet health and wellbeing needs.

Meetings with Mr Chai Chuah and Deputy Chief Executive (DCE) Pratima Namasivayam of the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (MEC) on ethnic health policy development

A Zoom meeting engaging with Mr Chai Chuah took place in August 2022. Mr Chuah is well known in the health sector. He is the founder of Health System Transformation Limited and the former Director-General of the MoH New Zealand before Dr Ashley Bloomfield. The Asian caucus shared his insights and advice about how to move forward for betterment of Asian/ethnic health and well-being leveraging the rare opportunity of the health system reform.

Importantly, the Asian Caucus has been engaging with the MEC for some time. The Asian Caucus was honoured to have DCE Pratima Namasivayam for a korero on Asian and ethnic health this July. Pratima oversees the portfolio of Policy & Analytics of the MEC.

MEC has been working with the health and wellbeing sector to progress areas of interest to the ethnic communities. Ideas and thoughts were shared between Pratima & her colleagues and the Caucus members in areas of ethnic data visibility, intersectionality and policy development for Asian and ethnic communities.



Health promotion, the media and advice to the Ethical Framework for Resource Allocation in Times of Scarcity

There have been lots of health promotion activities including on the media, and ethnic community leader gatherings. Some Asian caucus members joined an online workshop with the National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) on “Ethical Guidance for a Pandemic” to provide our feedbacks. NEAC chair Prof John McMillan thought it was a valuable conversation and NEAC might come back to the Asian Caucus when they incorporate the feedbacks including those from us.

- Asian New Zealanders face 'challenges' in accessing health services
Doctors <https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/472437/asian-new-zealanders-face-challenges-in-accessing-health-services-doctors>
- [Ethnic Advantage Conference in Auckland, organised by the MEC this May](#)

Dr Lifeng Zhou, Chair, Asian Caucus

