Indigenous Health Policy in Australia, New Zealand, and Canada
A Comparative Overview

Outline

1. Introduction
   a. Methodology

2. Main Findings
   a. Demographic Information
   b. Health Statistics
   c. Health Frameworks
   d. Legislative Frameworks
   e. Overview of Health Care Systems
   f. Promising Initiatives in Indigenous Health

3. Conclusions
Methodology

- **Environmental Scan of Public Sources**
  - Government websites and reports, national censuses (AUS, CAN, NZ)
  - Intergovernmental organizations’ websites and reports
  - NGOs’ websites and reports
  - Scholarly articles
  - Guest speakers’ presentations & course material

- **Scope of research:** 2004-2016

- **Non-Exhaustive:** ~200 person-hours of research

- Consideration of **availability** and **accessibility** of information
## Demographic Information (2001-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Demographic Information</th>
<th>Australia</th>
<th>New Zealand</th>
<th>Canada</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Indigenous Groups</strong></td>
<td>Aboriginal: 90% of Indigenous pop. Torres Strait Islander: 6% Both: 4% (ABS, 2013)</td>
<td>Māori: Main group Pacific Peoples in NZ: 6.8% of total population (Census, 2013)</td>
<td>First Nations: 60% of Indigenous pop. Métis: 32% Inuit: 4% Other: 2% 1+: 0.8% (Census, 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>% of Total Country Population</strong></td>
<td>3% of total population (ABS, 2013)</td>
<td>15% of total population (2015)</td>
<td>Indigenous Identity: 4% of total pop. First Nations: 2.6% Métis: 1.4% Inuit: 0.2% (Census, 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Urban/Rural</strong></td>
<td>79% Non-remote areas (ARIA) 35% Major cities (ABS, 2014-2015)</td>
<td>84% Urban (Census, 2013)</td>
<td>Registered Indian: 45% On reserve - 42% Urban - 12% Rural Non-Status Indian: 75% Urban Métis: 71% Urban Inuit: 43% Urban (AANDC, 2011)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fertility Rate</strong></td>
<td>2.2 (1.8 overall) (ABS, 2014)</td>
<td>2.5 (1.9 non-Māori pop.) (2012-14)</td>
<td>2.6 (1.6 overall population) (Census, 2011)</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
# Health Statistics (1999-2015)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Health Statistics</th>
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<th>New Zealand</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females: 74 (-9 years) (Non-Indigenous females: 83)</td>
<td>Females: 77 (-7 years) (Non-Māori females: 84)</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Infant Death Rate</strong></td>
<td>8/1000 live births (1.9X) (Overall population: 4.2) (ABS &amp; AIHW 2012)</td>
<td>6.8/1000 live births (1.5X) (Overall population: 4.5) (2010-12)</td>
<td>First Nations: 8/1000 (1.45X) (Overall population: 5.5) (1999) Nunavut pop.: 16/1000 (2.9X) (2008)</td>
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<td><strong>Risk Factors</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Obesity</strong></td>
<td>40% (1.6X) (AIHW 2012/13)</td>
<td>47% (1.5X) (Overall population: 31%)</td>
<td>First Nations: 26% (1.6X) Inuit: 26% (1.6X) Métis: 22% (1.4X) (Non-Indigenous: 16%) (2007/10)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Hazardous Drinking</strong></td>
<td>Males: 64% (1.4X) (Non-Indigenous males: 47%)</td>
<td>Males: 23% (1.5X) (Non-Māori males: 15%)</td>
<td>First Nations (off-reserve): 35% (1.5X) Métis: 30% (1.3X) Inuit: 39% (1.7X) (Non-Indigenous: 23%) (APS, 2012)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Females: 44% (1.6X) (N.-Indigenous females: 27%)</td>
<td>Females: 17% (2X) (Non-Māori females: 8%)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Smoking Rate</strong></td>
<td>39% (2.4X) (Non-Indigenous: 16%)</td>
<td>38% (2.2X) (Overall pop.: 17%)</td>
<td>First Nations (off-res.): 27% (1.8X) Métis: 26% (1.7X) Inuit: 49% (3.3X) (Non-Indigenous: 15%) (APS, 2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Males: 42% Females: 36% (NATSISS 2014-15)</td>
<td>Males: 34% Females: 42%</td>
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Health Frameworks - Overview

Commons Threads
- Gap between Indigenous peoples’ and the Western conceptions of health
- Self-determination and self-governance as key component towards improved Indigenous Health
- Recognition of the importance of Social Determinants of Health - Reaching equity
- Effects of history and colonization on Indigenous peoples’ health
- Mention of collaboration/partnership with the State

Differences
- Level of integration of Indigenous community in building this framework/strategy
Health Framework
New Zealand

*Pae Ora* - Healthy Futures
(NZ Ministry of Health, 2014)

- 1 overall aim
- 3 Elements to act upon
- 2 Directions to harmonize
- 3 Key threads to prioritize
- 4 Pathways to implement
- 6 Core principles to guide the strategy
Health Framework Australia

National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Plan 2013–2023
(Commonwealth of Australia, 2013)

- 1 Vision
- 4 Guiding principles
- 12 Priorities of action (with culture as a central point)
- 3 Steps for implementation
Health Framework - Canada


Legend
- Medicine Wheel
- Lifespan
- First Nations Self-Government
- Health Determinants
- Social Capital

uOttawa.ca
# Legislative Frameworks

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<thead>
<tr>
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<th>Australia</th>
<th>Canada</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Historical Laws, Acts, Treaties &amp; Policies Impacting Health</strong></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Treaty of Waitangi, 1840</td>
<td>Aboriginal Protection Act, 1869 (Victoria)</td>
<td>Royal Proclamation, 1763 &amp; various Treaty Agreements (Land Claims &amp; Aboriginal Title)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Tohunga Suppression Act, 1907</td>
<td>NSW Aborigines Protection Board, 1883</td>
<td>Indian Act, 1876</td>
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<tr>
<td>Health Act, 1956</td>
<td>National Health Act, 1953</td>
<td>Gradual Civilization Act, 1857 &amp; Gradual Enfranchisement Act, 1869</td>
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<td>Indian Health Policy, 1979</td>
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<td>Canadian Health Act, 1984.</td>
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<td>Health Transfer Policy, 1989</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>And More Recently...</strong></td>
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<td>BC Tripartite Framework Agreement, 2013</td>
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# Overview of Health Care System - New Zealand (1)

- **Public health system** subsidised by the government:
  - NZ$15.6 billion for the 2015/16 financial year
  - Total health expenditure: 11% of GDP in 2014

## System Component

### Health Services Delivery

- Community-oriented model
- District Health Boards (DHBs)
  - Public Hospitals
  - Primary Health Organisations (PHOs)

### Medication and Medical Devices

- Approved drugs and devices are **covered through the public health system**.
  - NZ$5 charge/prescription, free under 13.

## Support Programs

### Universal

- Accident Compensation Corporation

### Income-based

- Community Services Card (CSC)

### Based on Medical Needs

- High Use Health Card (HUHC)
- Care Plus
- Prescription Subsidy Card
- Other condition-specific programs
Overview of Health Care System - New Zealand (2)

Māori health and health care included under the authority of the Ministry of Health
(\textit{Te Kete Hauora} Māori Health Business Unit : advisory group)

- **District Health Boards**
  - Board must have at least 2 Māori members, out of 11
  - \textit{Iwi} (tribe) Health Board/DHB Partnerships

- **Māori Health Providers** (Part of Māori Health Strategy)
  - NZ$170 million (2014/15)
  - 1.49\% of DHBs’ overall Crown funding for health services (2014/15)

- **Rongoā Māori (traditional healing) Providers** (Part of Māori Health Strategy)
  - Approx. NZ$1.9 million in Ministry of Health contracts (2015)
  - Some also contracted by PHOs
Overview of Health Care System - Australia (1)

- **Medicare System**: Universally accessible and affordable health care funded by Commonwealth government
  → $162 billion, 10% of GDP (2014/15)

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<th>System Component</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Health Services Delivery</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Medicare Benefits Schedule</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Public hospitals and primary health care (state/territory)</td>
<td><strong>Injury Compensation Funds</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• National Health Reform: 31 Primary Health Networks</td>
<td><strong>Chronic Medical Condition Assistance</strong></td>
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<td>• Private health care</td>
<td><strong>Medicare Safety Net</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Drugs and Medication</strong></td>
<td><strong>Medicare Indigenous Access Program</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>• Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme</td>
<td><em>Private insurance</em></td>
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<td>• Co-payment ($36.10 maximum)</td>
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<td><strong>Low-income Health Card</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Concession and health care cards</strong></td>
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<td><em>Private insurance</em></td>
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Overview of Health Care System - Australia (2)

- **Aboriginal and Torres Islander Strait health** under authority of Department of Health
- **National Indigenous Reform Act** (2008) endorsed by *Council of Australian Governments*

**Closing the Gap Framework:** Health equality by 2031
- Implementation Plan
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Performance Framework

National Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Organizations
- Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services
Overview of Health Care System - Canada (1)

- **Primary health care mainly publicly funded**
  - CAD$219.1 billion (anticipated, 2015)
  - Total health expenditure: 10.9% of GDP (anticipated, 2015)

- **Source of funds**:
  - 71% Public
  - 29% Private

- **Administered on a provincial or territorial basis**, within guidelines set by the federal government *(Canada Health Act 1984)*
Overview of Health Care System - Canada (2)

Special branch for Indigenous peoples within Health Canada:

FIRST NATIONS & INUIT HEALTH BRANCH (FNIHB)

- Overview and role of FNIHB
- Programs managed under this branch
  → Non-Insured Health Benefits Program
  → Community programs
  → Primary Health Care
  → Public Health

- Legacy Medicine Chest Clause, Treaty 6
  → “That a medicine chest shall be kept at the house of each Indian Agent for the use and benefit of the Indians at the direction of such agent.”
  - Treaty Texts - Treaty No. 6 (transcript from 1876)
Promising initiatives in Indigenous Health - New Zealand


*He Korowai Oranga* ("The Cloak of Wellness")

- Based on the *Pae Ora* vision for Māori Health
- **Extensive consultation** throughout New Zealand

**Reference group**:

- Policy practitioners, including the Ministry of Māori Development
- District Health Boards representatives
- Iwi-based (rural) & pan-Maori (urban) organisations
- Māori scientists and researchers
- Community and disability representatives

**Whakata taka** ("Weaving Strands") Action Plan
Promising initiatives in Indigenous Health - New Zealand (2)

- Whakata țaka Action Plan - Main initiatives:
  - Māori Health Plans (DHBs, in partnership with Iwi Health Boards)
  - Māori Health Providers
  - Rongoā Māori (traditional healing) Providers
  - Whānau Ora - Extended family wellbeing program
    - Mahere - Information system designed to support health and social service providers work collaboratively with whānau
  - Kia Ora Hauora - National Māori health workforce development program
  - Hauora Māori Scholarships in health and disability studies
  - Te Pātaka Auahatanga Hauora Māori (The Storehouse of Māori Health Innovation), financed by the Te Ao Auahatanga Hauora Māori Innovation Fund
Promising initiatives in Indigenous Health - Australia

National Initiative
- *Closing the Gap* commitment, additional funding and prioritizing partnership

Aboriginal Community-Controlled Health Services
- Delivering holistic, comprehensive, and culturally appropriate health care to the community which controls it

**Anangu Ngangkari Tjutaku Aboriginal Corporation**
- Coordination, administration, and delivery of *ngangkari* (traditional healers) services

→ Ngangkari clinics
→ Educational workshops
→ Training

→ Individual Consultations and treatments
→ Cleansing buildings, healthcare facilities, houses, outdoor areas
Promising initiatives in Indigenous Health - Canada


- Transformative Change Accord: First Nations Health Plan, 2006
- Design, management, and delivery of First Nations health programming in BC transferred to the new First Nations Health Authority
- First Nations ownership and decision-making

→ Healthy living
→ Environmental Health
→ Health and Wellness

→ Communicable disease control
→ Research, Knowledge Exchange, Evaluation
→ Health and Wellness Planning

→ Nursing Services
→ eHealth

→ Maternal, Child and Family Health
→ Health Human Resources

→ Mental Wellness and Substance Use
→ Funding Arrangements

→ Traditional Healing
Conclusions and Key Findings

Key attributes for successful Indigenous health initiatives

- Context-specific
- Indigenous Vision of Health - Holism
- Social Determinants of Health and Health Equity
- Self-determination

"[There is great] diversity of language, culture and practice across Indigenous peoples within the [...] countries. While this is a major source of strength and pride, it poses administratively the challenge that "one size doesn’t fit all" – what works for one Indigenous group, may not work for another". - WHO, 2010