



PHA: Special Interest Group on Institutional Racism
Annual Report – October 2017 – August 2018

Formed in 2013 the PHA SIG is a nationwide network of public health professionals and activist scholars committed to ending institutional racism within the administration of the public health sector. Early in 2015 we rebranded as STIR: Stop Institutional Racism. The current membership of STIR is: Dr Nicole Coupe, Claire Doole, Trevor Simpson, Dr Tim McCreanor, Grant Berghan (Co-chair), Emma Rawson, Sue Turner, Sonya Te Mata, Lee Tuki, Ngaire Rae, Lisa McNab, and Dr Heather Came (Co-Chair). Collectively we are passionate about public health, addressing health inequities, advancing social justice and ending institutional racism.

A highlight for us this year was our co-chair Grant Berghan being named Public Health Association 2017 Public Health Champion. The award celebrated Grant lifetime contribution to public health around Māori leadership, ethics, mentoring, anti-racism mahi etc. His award had carved into it a *legacy of tino rangatiratanga*. We are delighted his contribution has been acknowledged within the sector.



2017 PHA Public Health Champion – Grant Berghan STIR co-chair. (Photo: Denis Came-Friar).

This year we have engaged in a range of projects pursuant of our goal of ending institutional racism in the public health sector and promoting engagement with te Tiriti o Waitangi.

1. Tiriti-based practice

In January 2018 we launched our first E-book - *Tiriti-based practice in health promotion* - at the Health Promotion Forum in Auckland. Dr Heather Came led the development of this resource which was based on interviews with senior health promotion practitioners and insights from the authors. It attempted to reengage with the legacy of Dr Irihapeti Ramsden and refresh some of the thinking from *Treaty Understanding of Hauora in Aotearoa-New Zealand* (Health Promotion Forum 1999).



Sione Tutahi talking at the book launch and Claire Doole founding member STIR. Photo: Denis Came-Friar

Dr Moana Jackson, said in his forward to the e-book that this resource:

"It offers guidance for all who work in the health sector to manage and develop their Treaty based practice ... and recognises power relationships and also the historical, political, and economic context ... Good health and good health practice come from a shared interest in the just-ness of a society. Perhaps more than anything else it is the hope and promise of such just-ness that te Tiriti most enshrines".

Berghan, G., Came, H., Doole, C., Coupe, N., Fay, J., McCreanor, T., & Simpson, T. (2017). *Te Tiriti-based practice in health promotion*. Auckland, New Zealand: STIR: Stop Institutional Racism.

It can be downloaded for free from the Treaty Resource Centre website

<https://trc.org.nz/sites/trc.org.nz/files/ToW%20practice%20in%20HP%20online.pdf>

The book continues to be well received within the sector. We understand it is being used within the sector to inform training sessions about Tiriti-based practice. Likewise, it is appearing on reading lists across New Zealand universities.

As a follow up to this work STIR is negotiated to offer some training workshops based on the E-book. Likewise we are in the process of finalising a paper about strengthening teaching about te Tiriti o Waitangi to health practitioners within tertiary education settings.

2. WAI 2575 – Health kaupapa claim

We have been receiving positive feedback that various claimants involved in the WAI 2575 health kaupapa claim have been drawing on evidence we have pulled together about institutional racism in the health sector. We have been invited by several groups to be expert witnesses and thus far we have produced two evidence briefs that will be heard during stage one of the hearings in October at Turangawaewae Marae.

The first is a critical review of the Primary Health Care Strategy (2001) and the second focusses on the Crown's inaction in relation to addressing institutional racism. The briefs are publicly available from the Waitangi Tribunal website. We are currently reframing them into academic papers in the hope they will be peer reviewed before the hearings.

3. Building the evidence base

STIR continues to undertake research about sites of institutional racism and anti-racism praxis. This year our paper about how ten years of public health policy talks about te Tiriti has been published.

- **Came, H., Cornes, R., & McCreanor, T. (2018).** Treaty of Waitangi in New Zealand public health policy 2006-2016 *New Zealand Medical Journal*, 131(1469), 32-27.

We have a chapter due out in the next few months in an international textbook about racism and public health about embracing anti-racism praxis for allies.

We are several other papers under review exploring:

- Cultural competencies of the regulated workforce
- Māori and Pacific perceptions of public health advisory group processes
- Fat shaming in public health – moving past racism to indigenous solutions

We also have several papers under development one about how health policy talks about Māori health, one about ethnic pay disparities, and another chapter for a textbook about ethnic health policy.

4. United Nations

In February 2018 STIR led a coalition of NGOs (Te Rūnanga o Aotearoa, New Zealand Nurses Organisation, Auckland University of Technology, Pukenga Consultancy Ltd, Tāmaki Tiriti Workers, Health Promotion Forum, Waka Oranga and the New Zealand Public Health Association) to write a shadow report to the United Nations CESCR committee in relation to the New Zealand Governments compliance with Convention on the *Economic Social and Cultural Rights* (UN 1976). We produced a comprehensive report drawing on the expertise of 10 co-authors who outlined twenty one substantive issues and made 49 recommendations to the committee.

- Azarmandi, M, Berghan, G, Came, H, Chenery, C, Goza, T, Mikahere-Hall, A, Hickey, H, Manson, L, McCreanor,

T, Nairn, R, Wilson, D. (2018). *Shadow report for Committee On Economic Social and Cultural Rights*. STIR. Auckland, New Zealand.

In August 2018 we submitted a short submission to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade around the draft New Zealand report for the Universal Periodic Review.

5. Anti-racism awareness gigs

The team continues to accept invitations to speak about institutional racism and anti-racism praxis. We have presented to the following organisations, conferences/hui in the last year:

- (12 July 2018). *TOAH-NNEST Taiuiwi Caucus Webinar Series* available on youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EO-v15fplX4>
- (June 2018). *Waikato District Health Board*, Hamilton, NZ.
- (May 2018). *Combined Trade Unions*, Auckland, NZ.
- (7 Feb 2018). *Te Tiriti o Waitangi Forum*, Massey University, Albany Campus, Auckland, NZ.
- (Dec 2017). *3rd International Higher Education Curriculum Design & Academic Leadership Symposia*, Hamilton, New Zealand.
- (Nov 2017). *50th Anniversary Black Power*, Deakin University, Melbourne, Australia.
- (Oct 2017). *North Richmond Community Health*, Melbourne, Australia.

STIR will also jointly host our annual Anti-Racism Master Class in November 2018 with Tāmaki Tiriti Workers and Network Waitangi Whangarei.

6. Media Outreach

STIR continues to get occasional media coverage about our work. We also continue to host a closed facebook page with nearly 250 Associates and plans to build a STIR web page.



Jam TV interview (Photo: Denis Came-Friar).

- Interviewed for a documentary on racism by Jam TV (26/7/2018).
- Day, S. (3/12/2017). Taking NZ's institutional racism in health to the UN *The Spinoff*

Fiscal Update

As of 27/7/2018 we have a balance of \$4459.47

Our plans looking forward

Looking ahead to 2019 we continue to be proactive in maintaining the backbone of our group so that we have a sustainable platform to affect change. Feel free to get in touch if you want further information about any part of our work or if you want to become part of our wider e-network and/or facebook presence. Contact co-chairs of STIR grant.berghan@xtra.co.nz or heather.came@aut.ac.nz