



UROLOGICAL SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA AND NEW ZEALAND

Aotearoa New Zealand Section of the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand

Position Statement on Institutional Racism

The New Zealand Section of the Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (NZ Section) is committed to eliminating both interpersonal and institutional racism. The Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand (USANZ) shares this commitment and has a zero-tolerance approach for any discrimination or racism. USANZ and the NZ Section undertake to act at all times to prevent, identify and stop racism.

We acknowledge the wealth of evidence confirming significant inequity exists for Māori in healthcare and this includes inequity of access, inequity of quality, and unequal benefit of quality improvement, all of which lead to inequity of outcomes¹. In urological care, this inequity is especially obvious in cancer care and outcomes.

“Upholding te Tiriti o Waitangi should eliminate institutional racism against Māori and contribute to the achievement of health equity for Maori”².

USANZ will support the NZ Section to develop an equity focused strategic plan to ensure that te Tiriti o Waitangi is upheld at all levels in the Section. This plan will be developed in partnership with the Māori Health Advisory group of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons (RACS) Indigenous Health committee. It will incorporate the principles of tino rangatiratanga (Māori sovereignty), partnership, active protection, options and equity, as recommended by the WAI 2575 Hauora Report³ and support the objectives of Te Rautaki Māori 2020 – 2023⁴, the RACS Māori Health Action Plan.

While the strategic plan is being developed, a number of actions will be taken. These will include supporting USANZ members professional development to increase their levels of cultural competence. The NZ Section will also work with RACS through the Board of Urology to increase Māori in the urological workforce. Finally, the NZ Section will partner with relevant organisations to promote the elimination of inequities in healthcare and become outspoken advocates for racism free healthcare in Aotearoa.

¹ A window on Aotearoa New Zealand’s Health Care 2019. Health Quality and Safety Commission https://www.hqsc.govt.nz/assets/Health-Quality-Evaluation/PR/Window_2019_web_final.pdf

² Came H, McCreanor T, Manson L. 2019. Upholding Te Tiriti, ending institutional racism and Crown inaction on health equity. *New Zealand Medical Journal* 132(1492): 61–6.

³ Waitangi Tribunal. 2019. HAUORA: Report on Stage One of the Health Services and Outcomes Kaupapa Inquiry. Wellington. Waitangi Tribunal

⁴ Te Rautaki Māori 2020 – 2023, Royal Australasian College of Surgeons https://www.surgeons.org/-/media/Project/RACS/surgeons-org/files/interest-groups-sections/indigenous-health/Te-Rautaki-Maori-2020---2023_FINAL_web-version.pdf