

What does equity look like in surgery?

Dr Rachelle Love FRACS

Ngāpuhi me Te Arawa

Otolaryngologist, Head and Neck Surgeon



@DrRachelleENT

www.rachellelove.nz



Disclosures



- Surgeon at CDHB
- RACS Māori Health advisory group, Urutā, MCNZ
- Just getting grumpier with time



What does inequity look like in surgery?





HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY
COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND
Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa



POMRC
Perioperative Mortality
Review Committee

Perioperative Mortality in New Zealand |
Te Mate Whai Muri mai i te Poka ki Aotearoa

Eighth report of the Perioperative Mortality Review Committee |
Te pūrongo tuawaru o te Komiti Arotake Mate Whai Muri mai i te Poka

Report to the Health Quality & Safety Commission New Zealand |
He pūrongo ki a Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa

December 2019 | Hakihea 2019



Māori are dying at higher rates and at much younger ages than non-Māori **following emergency laparotomy.**



Māori are over-represented and dying at much higher rates in the **highest socioeconomic deprived areas.**



Māori are dying at higher rates with a **higher burden of comorbidities, including diabetes.**



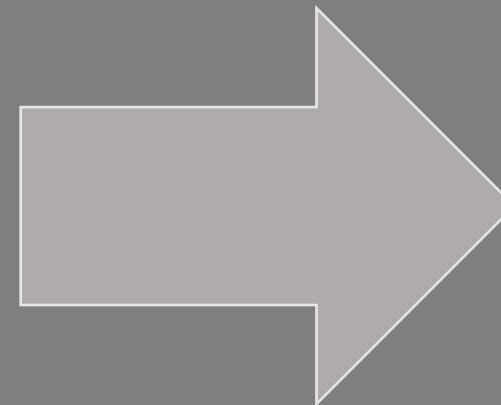
Māori have a **higher burden of disease**, which correlates to higher mortality.



Even at younger ages, Māori have a higher mortality rate, demonstrating a higher burden of disease at younger ages in Māori.



Multivariate analysis shows the percentage increased mortality from each factor:
15% socioeconomic deprivation, 18% comorbidities, 9% complications and 11% racial disparities.



Unsatisfactory health outcomes

Unsatisfactory health experiences

Who is responsible?



A close-up portrait of Professor Papārangī Reid, a Māori woman with a traditional moko (facial tattoo) on her chin. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a blurred green, suggesting an outdoor setting. A dark green vertical bar is on the left side of the image. A light grey speech bubble is overlaid on the left side, containing the text 'Be a good New Zealander'.



Be a good New Zealander

Professor Papārangī Reid

What are we going to do about it?



Anti-racism training



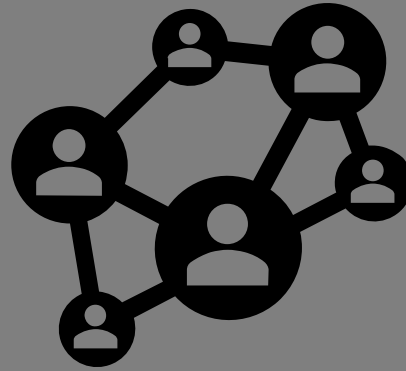
**10 things you
should know
about systemic
racism**

By Luke Pearson and Mick O'Loughlin 2 Feb 2021

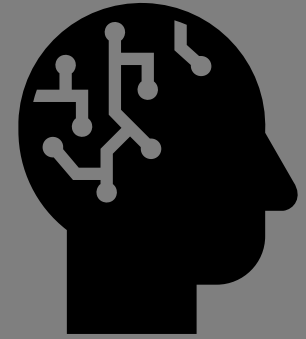




Institutional

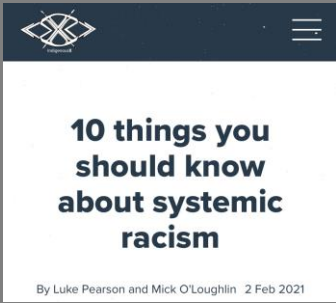


Interpersonal



Internalised





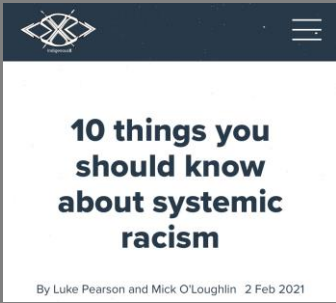
What do we need to know about racism?



Angela Davis

“In a racist society,
it is not enough to
be non-racist, we
must be anti-racist”

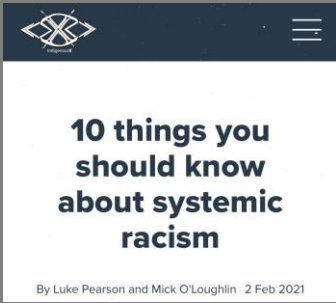




What do we need to know about racism?

- Anti-racism is not a value set. It's a skill set

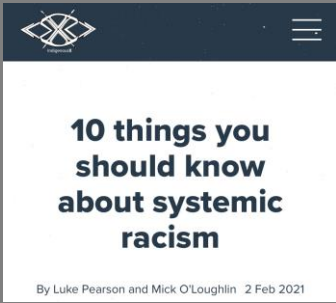




What do we need to know about racism?

- Anti-racism doesn't happen by proximity





What do we need to know about racism?

- Anti-racism doesn't happen by osmosis

Order your kawhe coffee in Māori!

Phrases
Ngā rārangī kōrero

Mōrena/ Āta mārie
Good morning

Ngā mihi o te ahiahi
Good afternoon

He... { Can I have a ... } **...koa** { ...please }

Size Rahi
S Paku M Waenga L Nui

Pronunciation
Whakahuatanga

Vowels Oropuare
There are five vowel sounds in Māori. They can be pronounced 'short' or 'long'. The long vowel is marked with a macron, e.g. ā.

Consonants Orokatī
There are 10 consonants, they are: h, k, m, n, ng, p, r, t, w, wh.

Terms
Ngā kupu

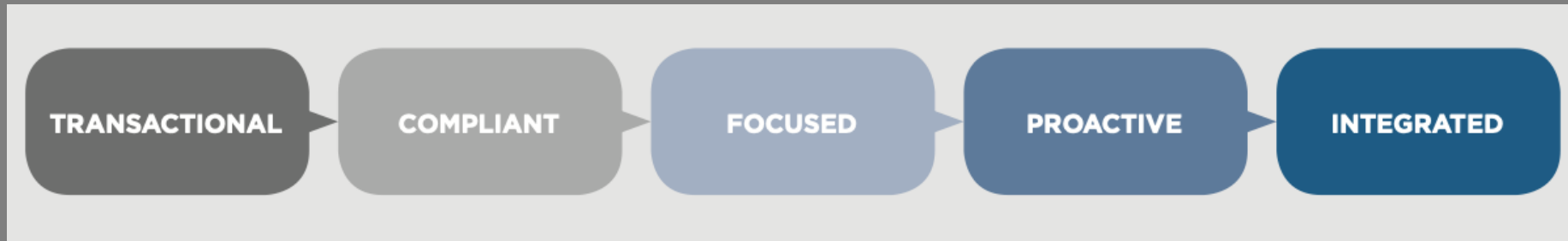
Kawhe kutē
Espresso

Tea Ti
Kaputi Cup of tea
Ti ingarihi English Breakfast tea
Ti kākārikī Green tea
Ti hioi Peppermint tea

Tēnā koe
Hi/thank you
Namunamuā Delicious
Ka kite anō See you later
Hei konā rā Goodbye



Drawing from across the spectrum



How to apply an equity response in ORL



Problem

Goal

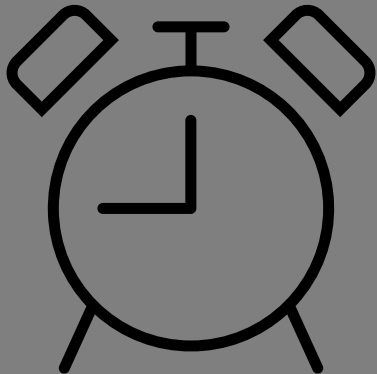
Solution

Referred later

Mitigate effect of
delay

Reviewed and re-triage

Up-prioritise



How to apply an equity response in ORL



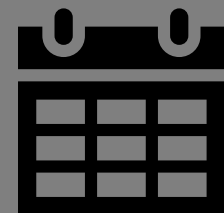
Problem

Inaccessible
appointments

Goal

Eliminate
differences

Solution



How to apply an equity response in ORL



Problem

Offered surgery less frequently

Goal

Prioritise surgery for Māori

Solution

Preferential booking on lists

Priority on outplaced lists

CPAC triaging

How to apply an equity response in ORL



Problem

Goal

Solution

Research is unsafe

Foreground
Kaupapa Māori
research

ANZ Journal
of Surgery

Royal Australasian
College of Surgeons

PERSPECTIVES | [Free Access](#)

Protecting Indigenous Māori in surgical research: a collective stance

Jamie-Lee Rahiri MBChB, PhD, Jonathan Koea MBChB, MD, FACS, FRACS, Suzanne Pitama BA, MA, PhD, Matire Harwood MBChB, PhD, Jaclyn Aramoana MBChB, Lisa Brown MBChB, PhD, FRACS, Rachelle Love MBChB, FRACS, Elana Curtis MBChB, FNZCPHM, MD, Papaarangi Reid MBChB, FNZCPHM, Maxine Ronald MBChB, FRACS ... [See fewer authors](#)

First published: 17 December 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/ans.16356>



Māori Leadership and Engagement

- **Description:** Involves Māori in all levels of the research ¹⁴
- Employs Māori and non-Māori methods, contemporary research and analytical tools ¹⁵
- Māori as investigators (not as passive protocol reviewers)



Advocacy for Health Equity

- **Description:** researchers are committed to reducing/eliminating health disparities and inequities for Māori
- Cites up to date literature surrounding health inequities ⁴
- Presents strategies on how to address Māori health inequities ¹



Opposes Deficit Analysis

- **Description:** Critiques structural processes, systems, organisations and policies and does not position Māori as 'the problem'
- Performs robust analyses that seek to evaluate contributing structural factors to observed disparities and inequities ¹⁴



Rejects Racism

- **Description:** Acknowledges that racism is a social determinant of health
- Applies and critically examines the three levels of racism ¹⁶



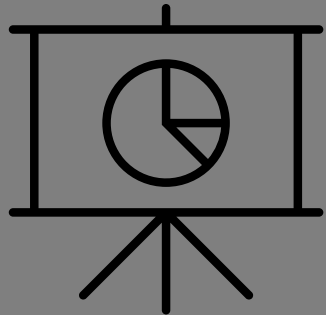
Indigenous Data Sovereignty

- **Description:** Acknowledges mainstream control and 'gatekeeping' of datasets and data analysis
- Seeks out Māori researchers for safe data collection and analysis ¹
- Applies the CONSIDER statement to ensure responsiveness to Māori ¹²

How to apply an equity response in ORL



Problem



Goal

ORL service

Ethnicity data
collection by
protocols 2017

Solution

Audits of process

Audits of delays

Community feedback

Reporting pathways

How to apply an equity response in ORL



Problem

Goal

Solution

We are supporting a colonized, racist system

Culturally safe

Embed cultural safety



PERSPECTIVES

Cultural competency in otolaryngology-head and neck surgery training in Aotearoa, New Zealand

Rachelle L. Love FRACS, Rebecca Garland FRACS, Maxine Ronald FRACS, Patrick Alley FRACS, John Mutu-Grigg FRACS, Jaclyn Aramoana-Arlidge MBChB, Andrew Hill MD, FRACS, Benjamin Cribb FRACS, Joshua Erceg MBChB, Chayce Glass MBChB, Jonathan Koea FRACS ... [See fewer authors](#) ^

First published: 17 December 2020 | <https://doi.org/10.1111/ans.15787>

I'll walk with you, but I can't do the work for you

Wrap up



- Status quo is unacceptable
- It's your responsibility to act
- Acquire an anti-racism skill set
- Apply an equity lens to your work