



Position statement **Cultural Safety/ Kawa Whakaruruhau**

The purpose of this position statement is to outline key considerations relating to Cultural Safety in nursing practice.

The concept of 'partnership in practice' recognises the New Zealand commitment to biculturalism and working with Tangata Whenua Health providers support effective nursing practice of a person or family from another culture, as determined by that person or family. Cultural safety is about the provision of nursing care that meets the needs and is defined by the recipient of care which is the client and their family/whanau. Culture includes age or generation; gender; sexual orientation; occupation and socioeconomic status; ethnic origin or migrant experience; religious or spiritual belief; and disability.

The Nurse delivering nursing care will;

- have undertaken a process of reflection on his or her own cultural identity and will recognise the impact that his or her personal culture has on his or her professional practice
- have an understanding of cultural differences and have explored their own perceptions and attitudes in order to be effective in their work with people of diverse cultures
- meet the Nursing Council of New Zealand competencies for culturally safe practice

Nurse leaders address nursing actions that are identified as unsafe cultural practice, which comprises any action which diminishes, demeans or disempowers the cultural identity and wellbeing of an individual.

Nurse leaders ensure that cultural safety is intrinsic to service delivery in order to improve the health status of New Zealanders; enhances delivery of health and disability services; applies to all relationships; and is broad in its application. This includes: supporting Maori self-determination over health; working with Maori with the mutual aim of improving outcomes by Maori; recognising that health is a taonga and taking action to protect it; and recognition of the need for equitable access and participation in health services and delivery at all levels.

Nurse Leader Considerations

- Each organisation should state clearly the importance of cultural safety and expectations of professional activity
- Cultural safety is an intrinsic requirement of the Professional Development and Recognition Programme, as approved by Nursing Council of New Zealand

Key Documents

Nursing Council of New Zealand. (2011). Guidelines for Cultural Safety, the Treaty of Waitangi and Maori Health in Nursing Education and Practice