

Cancer and Maori Health

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The Main Issues

- A different pattern of morbidity & mortality
- Differential access to services
- Small capacity for Maori provision
- The organisation of cancer control
- Maori Health & the Cancer Control Strategy
- Cancer Control & Whanau Ora

Morbidity & Mortality

- Prevalence & death rates for many cancers higher for Maori
- Some cancer rates are lower
- Concern about robustness of ethnicity data
- Concern about lack of survival data

Cancers of concern

- Lung cancer
- Stomach
- Female cancers (type and age)
- Prostate
- Liver, pancreas

Cancers NOT of concern

- Colon
- Melanoma of skin
- Bladder

- But caution of under-counting

Differential Access to Services

- Primary care not providing good access for Maori
- Secondary care first line of defence
- Some evidence of differential access and treatment options

Small Capacity of Maori Providers

- Small number of Maori providers
- Doesn't cover range of cancers
- National coverage patchy

- Has to be a Maori + Mainstream effort

Cancer Control Strategy - Hui

- Relationship to other strategies
- Palliative care not well understood
- Environmental cancers (saw millers)
- Impact on, support for whanau
- Lack of information/fears
- Tobacco control important – more investment

Organisation of cancer

- Site
- Stage
- Service/Specialty

- Organisation of the cancer sector is spectacularly counter to a hauora or a whanau ora perspective

NGOs

- NGOs significant part of Cancer control
- Maori membership relatively low
- Maori already highly committed volunteers

Whanau Ora

- Maori Health Strategy is fully consistent with Cancer Control
- Whanau ora can also be a philosophy for NGOs and researchers
- Must plan at a DHB level – Maori are becoming well organised at a DHB level

A Maori Future in Cancer Control

- Clear leadership for Aotearoa/NZ
 - information, policy, implementation, monitoring
- District & Regional organisation
- Public and NGO are both Maori sectors
- Holistic and whanau oriented
- Responsive to Maori needs and expectations