



# NZ Population Conference 2023

Chasing Rainbows  
(still)

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# Aotearoa – Land of Long White Inequities

Why is equity so elusive?

# Outline

- Recap of Covid-19
- Pacific Demographics
- Health Determinants
- Bula Sautu – NZQSC Window on Quality
- Acting on Inequities – Pae Ora & Te Mana Ola
- Summary

# Acknowledgements

- Debbie Ryan
- Corina Grey
- Api Talemaitoga

# Questions

- Are inequities entrenched in our political system?
- If inequities are avoidable, why have we not made meaningful impact after decades of advocacy?
- What opportunities are offered by the Health Reforms?
- Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act – enabling, encouraging but ..
- What is needed to ensure Te Mana Ola has impact?

# Pacific Populations: Youthful, Diverse & Multiethnic

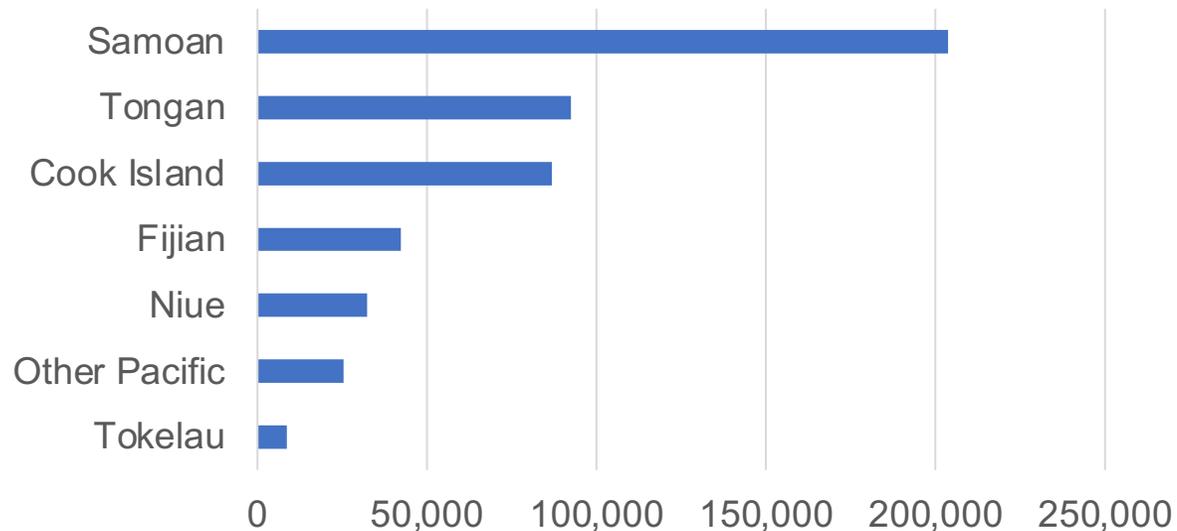
459,200 people in NZ (9.0% of the population)\*

**Youthful:** Median age 23.4 (41.4 for Europeans)

Over the next 20 years, Pacific will increase from:

- 9% to 11% of the total population
- 14% to 19% of children aged 0-14

**Diverse:**



**Multiethnic:**

40% of Pacific peoples identify with 2+ ethnic groups

<15y	15-49y	≥50y
54%	32%	13%

\*NZ population from 2022-base national population projections released 27 July 2022

# Covid-19 Outbreak in Aotearoa/NZ

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- World class response undermined by failure to act effectively on inequities
- Failure to learn the lessons of history
- Pacific (and Maori) disproportionately affected – old news, predictable
- Disproportionate number new cases, hospitalisations, deaths
- Underlying determinants - story of chronic inequities in Aotearoa/NZ
- Prevalence of Co-morbidities
- Access and quality of care

# Determinants of Health – Whitehead



# Inequalities in Health

**"Health inequalities that are avoidable, unnecessary, and unfair are unjust."**

Whitehead and Dahlgren

# Aotearoa/NZ Ministry of Health

In Aotearoa/New Zealand, people have differences in health that are not only avoidable but unfair and unjust. Equity recognises different people with different levels of advantage require different approaches and resources to get equitable health outcomes.

The background of the slide features four 3D house models of increasing size, arranged in a line from left to right on a wooden surface. Each house has a grey body and a red roof. The word 'Housing' is written in white text over the first two houses.

# Housing

- Critical factor in health and wellbeing; general deterioration in housing conditions for many
- > 50% live in houses > 5 persons, compared with 20% NZ. Benefits of intergenerational living – language transmission, older people
- Declining home ownership over previous 30 years – 50% owner/occupier in 1986, 33% in 2018. Benefits of home ownership
- Houses are too small for some families, unsuitable for many

# HSQC Bula Sautu

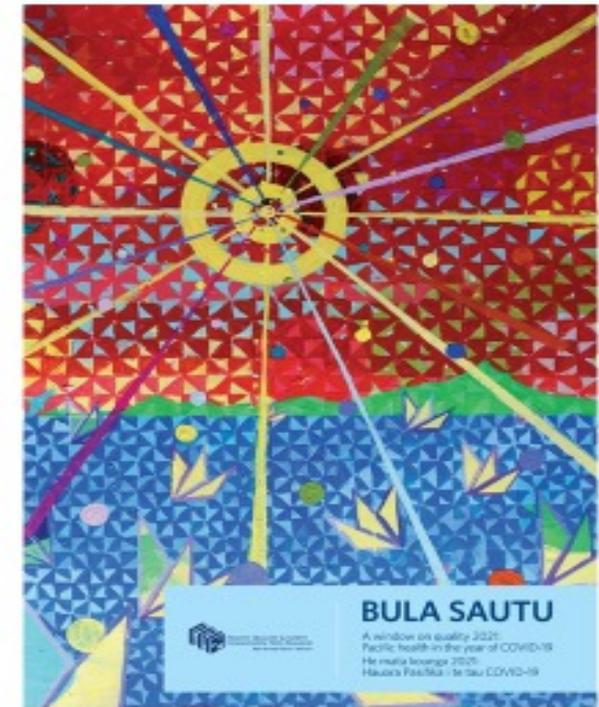


HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY  
COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND  
*Kupu Taurangi Hauora o Aotearoa*

## Bula Sautu – A window on quality 2021: Pacific health in the year of COVID-19

'Bula Sautu' is a Fijian saying expressing an aspirational goal for 'good health that is lived to its full potential; a life of abundance'.

To be launched at the Grand Hall, Parliament House 5 July 2021.



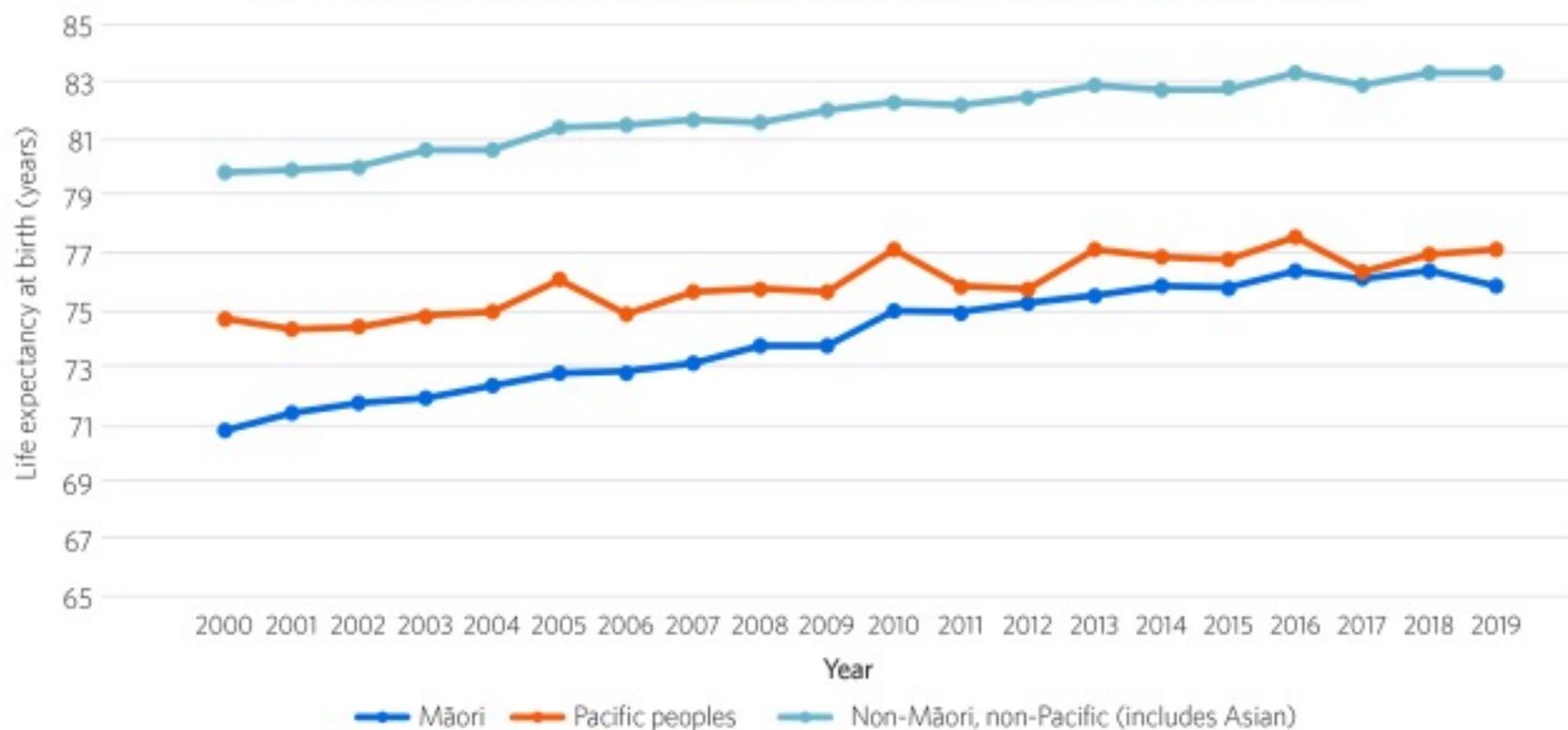


HEALTH QUALITY & SAFETY  
COMMISSION NEW ZEALAND  
*Ngā Rauemi o Te Hauora o Aotearoa*

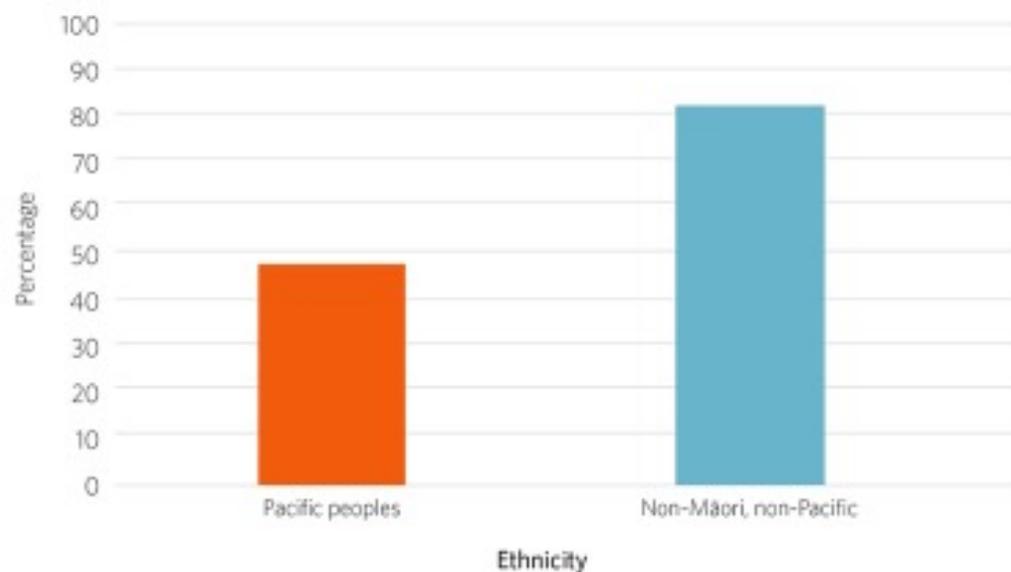
# BULA SAUTU

A window on quality 2021:  
Pacific health in the year of COVID-19

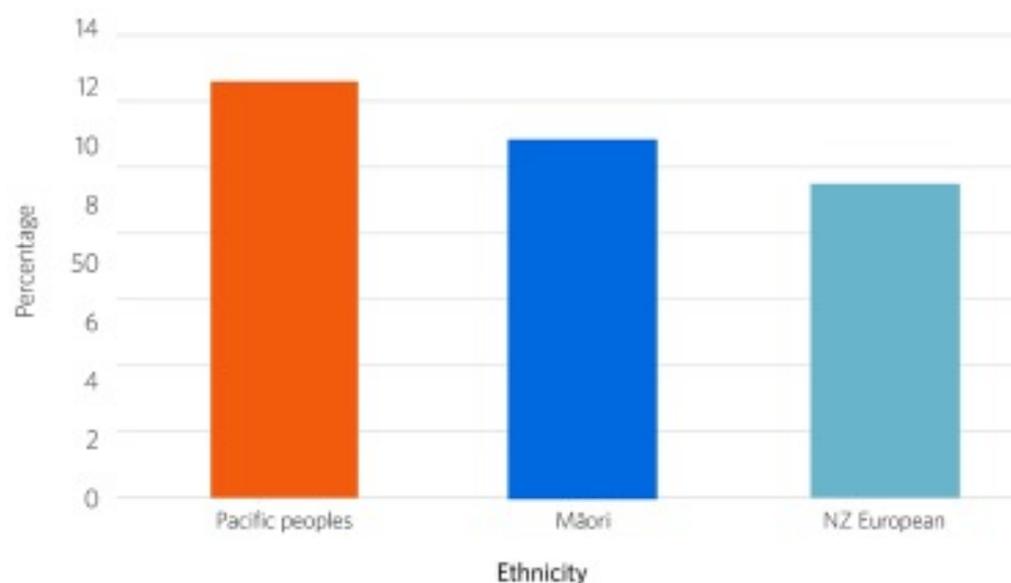
## Pacific people live six fewer years of life. Why?



**Less than half of pregnant Pacific women are enrolled with a midwife for health checks ...**



**... and Pacific babies have higher perinatal mortality rates than Māori or European babies.**



\* Deaths between 20 wks gestation and 27th day of life, per 1000 births, 2014-18. Source: PMMRC



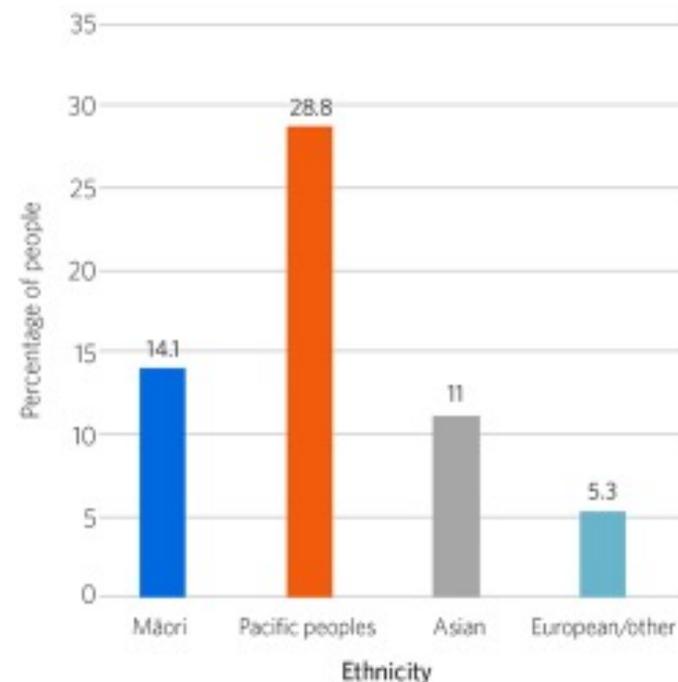
## Long-term conditions in Pacific adults are a major issue

Type II diabetes affects Pacific peoples more than any other ethnicity, through all age groups. **Nearly a third of working-age adults 45-64 have diabetes** (see right).

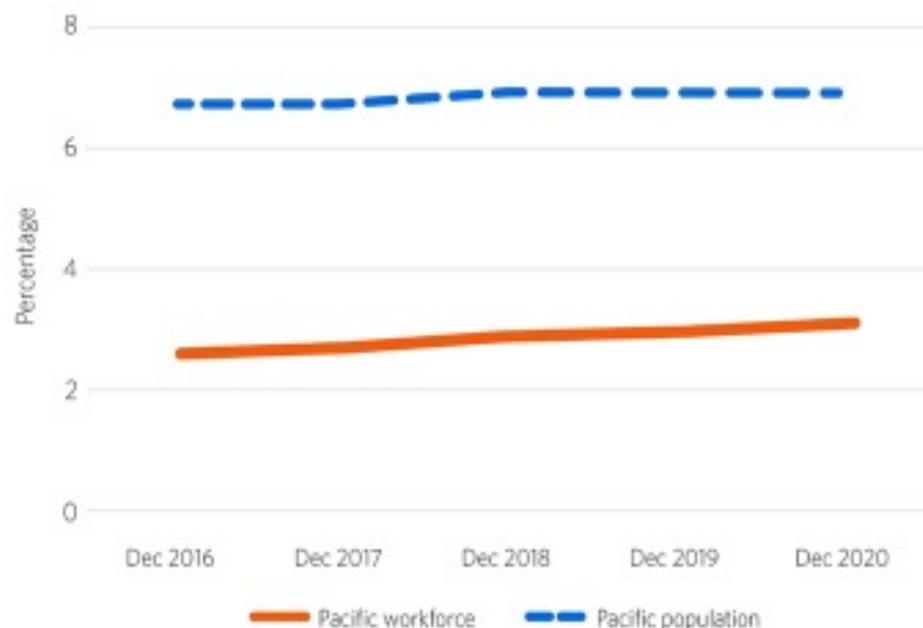
Half of Pacific elders over 65 have diabetes.

Pacific peoples with diabetes experience a trifecta of issues:

- earlier onset leading to earlier and worse complications
- inadequate management and control of diabetes
- worse hospitalisation rates relative to other ethnic groups.



Pacific peoples are not adequately represented in the health workforce...



... but the Pacific COVID response was innovative and successful.



# Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Legislation

- **Health sector principles**
- For the purpose of this Act, the health sector principles are as follows:
  - (a)
    - the health sector should be equitable, which includes ensuring Māori and other population groups—
      - (i)
        - have access to services in proportion to their health needs; and
      - (ii)
        - receive equitable levels of service; and
      - (iii)
        - achieve equitable health outcomes:

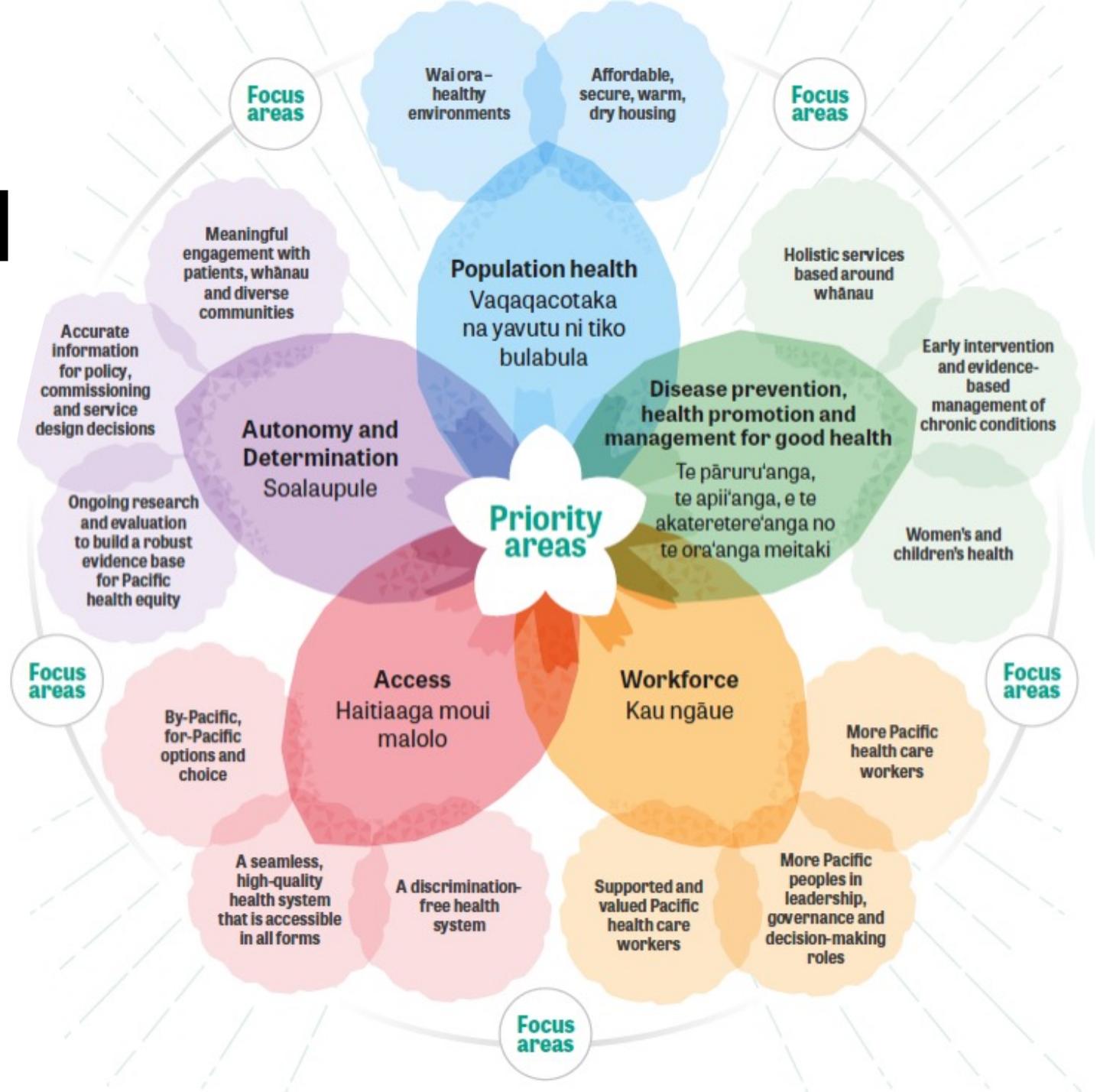
The background of the image is a vibrant, multi-colored surface with a woven or textured appearance. It is decorated with numerous colorful paper cutouts of various shapes, including birds, butterflies, ferns, and abstract geometric forms. A central white oval contains the text 'Te Mana Ola' in a bold, green, sans-serif font. The text is flanked by small, stylized green zigzag symbols. Below the main title, the subtitle 'The Pacific Health Strategy' is written in a smaller, green, sans-serif font.

**Te  
Mana  
Ola**

The Pacific  
Health Strategy

# Five Interconnected Priority Areas

1. Population Health
2. Disease prevention, health promotion and management for good health
3. Autonomy and determination
4. Access to health care
5. Workforce





# Implementing Te Mana Ola

- Ensuring priorities are incorporated into the Government Policy Statement
- Updating Ola Manuia: Pacific Health Plan (Te Whatu Ora)
- Working with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples as part of the All-of-Government Strategy (Lalanga Fou)
- Contributing to other cross-agency work on the wider determinants
- Implementing a Pacific health intelligence and monitoring function



# Summary

- Pacific peoples political
- Overall health status has deteriorated
- High health needs, significant avoidable, unfair inequities – largely unmet, implications for Aotearoa/NZ as a whole
- What additional effective actions can we take?
- How do we influence the broader determinants of health? Housing, Food, Access to and Quality of Care?
- Opportunities in the Pae Ora Legislation, Te Mana Ola?



