



An open letter to prospective Affiliate Members of the MPA
- What's in it for you?

Kia ora from

Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa
- The Māori Pharmacists' Association Limited

We would like to tell you about us and hope that you might share a similar vision. We are essentially a group of pharmacists who share a familial link with Māori and/or have a deep seated empathy for the health needs of Māori.

The Māori Pharmacists' Association (MPA) is a volunteer organisation that has been formed to represent a collective view of our members in a structured and unified manner. The MPA has a Certificate of Incorporation issued by the Registrar of Incorporated Societies and abides by the rules of incorporation as administered by the Ministry of Economic Development. Our stated aims and objectives are available on our web-site at www.mpa.maori.nz

We would like you to consider whether your group or organisation shares our vision and invite you to learn a bit about the organisation.

Affiliate Membership is open to groups or organisations who wish to commit to working with the Association towards achieving our stated aims and objectives.

We acknowledge Te Tiriti o Waitangi as our basic foundation and in summary our aims are to:

1. *Improve the health of Māori*
2. *Promote and protect the health of Māori by supporting those who share that vision, both from within our own whānau and from outside it as well*
3. *Provide a network for all members that is supportive and fosters collegial relationships within the MPA, as well as between the MPA and other professional bodies*
4. *Support all efforts to increase and retain the number and quality of Māori in the pharmacy workforce through all avenues of education.*

So what's in it for your group or organisation? That depends on you.



Benefits of Affiliate Membership

The MPA acts as a contact point for external groups with a vested interest in some, or all, of our aims and objectives. Affiliate Membership grants these groups an audience with us so that together we can solve some of the problems facing either the pharmacy sector or the wider Māori community.

The MPA is the only collective voice for Māori pharmacists and has the mandate to speak on the behalf of its members, but still allows individuals the right to represent their own personal views.

For those external groups who are not founded on a Māori philosophy, the MPA also provides a perspective that understands the importance of tikanga, and accepts the importance of customary processes and practices to Māori, as well as how that integrates with Māori concepts of ethics, values and spirituality and how that, in turn, reflects on the way that some Māori live their lives.

We do not, however, pretend to be the arbiters of Māori values and practices or the leading exponents of the process by which tikanga is observed. Our kaupapa, our mission, comes from just such a position of Māori values and concepts, but is universally applicable across all levels of pharmacy centred health care because they are based on best practice standards of care.

On one level the benefits may be in supporting a vision which you agree with, but aren't able to affect. On another level, the benefits are purely altruistic, and involve networking with peers of a like mind. Sometimes it is not very easy to right that which is wrong. The MPA is a vehicle for your group to do just that, as well as benefiting the profession.

We hope you can see the merit in supporting the MPA in achieving our goals.

We believe that Māori are entitled to parity with non-Māori in terms of health and well-being. Current statistics do not bear this out and Māori are over-represented in poor health statistics. We exist to do what we can to reverse that actuality. We will be asking for your ideas and opinions on a range of topics as we seek out your voice and that of our membership, our whānau. This is most definitely a collective effort and we thank you for your tautoko.

Executive Committee - Ngā Kaitiaki o Te Puna Rongoā o Aotearoa
- The Māori Pharmacists' Association Ltd.