

Thanks for the feedback opportunity.

There was a discussion on this framework between the three departments: 'Asian, Migrants and former refugees of the Planning and Funding, Waitemata and Auckland DHBs', 'Asian Support Services of Waitemata DHB' and 'Asian International Collaboration of Waitemata DHB'.

We all support the national approach being explicit about the ethical values and principles with an equity lens. This is a significant framework for all New Zealanders, namely Maori, Pacific Peoples, Asian, MELAA, Europeans, migrants, former refugees/asylum seekers and people affected by disability. We would like to raise three matters related to the framework as follows :

- The framework will be used by decision makers e.g. in a DHB, in allocating resources in times of scarcity. It would be very important for the ethnic groups such as Asian, Pacific Peoples, MELAA, migrants, former refugees/asylum to be referred to in this framework. Then, the revised version of the framework would be used as a guide in resource allocation in our two DHBs. We/the DHBs need to make sure the ethnic diverse communities have confidence in our planning and funding healthcare services, in particular, in times of resource scarcity.
- The Asian population is significant in terms of both its contribution to the total population and its absolute size in the Auckland region, which makes it perhaps not only relevant but also necessary for the framework to address this diverse population group specifically/explicitly (Asians are very diverse in many areas including deprivation). In Auckland DHB, Asian accounts for roughly 33% of the DHB's total population and it is 25% in Waitemata DHB. The sum of the Asian population in the two DHBs is projected as 322,050 in 2020, according to the '2019 population projection update' by Stats NZ/MoH. The total Asian population in the Auckland region is 487,650 in 2020.
- Racism and stigmatization were/are an outstanding issue not only in other countries but also in New Zealand. 'Getting Through Together: Ethical Values for a Pandemic' is a very useful framework for us to use when New Zealand fights against racism and stigmatization (reference: [Work together to combat COVID-19, PHA New Zealand](#)). Chinese and some other Asians were and perhaps are still the targets of this kind of stigmatization, with the progression of the pandemic of COVID-19. Currently, Asian cases of COVID-19 took about 23% of the total in Northland and Auckland metro DHBs. Appropriate resources will be needed for providing up-to-standard healthcare and support services for these cases and people/family related.