

# Pathways to health equity and cultural safety

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Cultural safety is a crucial pathway to health equity for Māori. It is also intended to be applied across various dimensions, including ethnicity, gender, age, Tāngata whaikaha/disability, and Rainbow/Takātapui communities. The Council for Medical Colleges' Cultural Safety Training Plan for Vocational Medicine provides a framework for developing cultural safety among medical practitioners.

The training plan identifies crucial proficiencies for medical practitioners, including the ongoing development of critical consciousness, addressing power imbalances, committing to transformative action, and ensuring that 'safety' is determined by patients and communities. Additionally, it guides colleges in implementing the plan, emphasising the creation of culturally safe environments and integrating training into curricula tailored to the needs of specialist colleges.

Ensuring cultural safety among clinical educators is paramount to effectively implement the plan. This presentation will provide an overview of cultural safety and delve into the key components of the training plan. It will also underscore the need to extend cultural safety proficiencies beyond patient care and integrate them into teaching, clinical supervision, assessment, and culturally safe learning environments.

The emphasis on cultural safety training in medical education represents a significant step towards promoting health equity for Māori and addressing systemic barriers in healthcare delivery. By embracing the principles of cultural safety, medical practitioners and educators can aspire to create inclusive and culturally safe environments that prioritise the well-being and autonomy of all patients, irrespective of their cultural backgrounds.