

13 May 2024

To: South Taranaki District Council  
[PlanChange@STDC.govt.nz](mailto:PlanChange@STDC.govt.nz)

Name of Submitter: Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki

Submission to: Plan Change 3: Papakāinga Development

Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki or I **could not** gain an advantage in trade competition through this submission.

Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki **does** wish to be heard in support of this submission and **would not** consider presenting a joint case with others who make a similar submission.

Specific provisions of the proposal that this submission relates to are:

The provisions that enable papakāinga development within the South Taranaki District.

#### Submission

Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ) leads the day-to-day running of the health system across Aotearoa New Zealand, and either provides or commissions services at local, regional, and national levels. Under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, one of the key objectives of Health NZ is “to promote health and prevent, reduce, and delay ill-health, including by collaborating with other agencies, organisations, and individuals to address the determinants of health.”

The National Public Health Service (NPHS) is a division of Health NZ and leads the delivery of Health Protection, Health Promotion and Prevention services, as well as working with the Public Health Agency (PHA) and Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (MoH) on intelligence, population health and policy. As a Tiriti o Waitangi partner, NPHS advocates for equitable health outcomes, by striving to eliminate health differences, particularly for Māori, and build towards Pae Ora (healthy futures) for everyone.

It is understood that health is more than the absence of disease or infirmity<sup>1</sup>. The New Zealand Health Strategy includes a broad definition of health for the achievement of Pae Ora (healthy futures) and includes the goals of achieving health equity and improving health outcomes for all New Zealanders. An important part of this is promoting and supporting *mauri ora* (healthy individuals and ways of living), *whānau ora* (healthy families), and *wai ora* (healthy environments). The New Zealand Health Strategy recognises that there are multiple factors that influence health and wellbeing, including our communities and places people live and work<sup>2</sup>.

Ensuring that there is sufficient, appropriate and healthy housing to meet the needs of the population now and into the future is critical to maintaining and improving public health. Housing is an essential social determinant of health; housing is also a key influence on inequitable health outcomes for Māori<sup>3</sup>. The concept of papakāinga can mean different things to Māori and ensuring that a broad understanding of this is included in provisions for development is essential<sup>4</sup>. Providing increased opportunities for papakāinga developments also supports intergenerational wellbeing and allows Māori to exercise Tino Rangatiratanga over their land and to develop homes that go beyond physical structures and are places where there is a connection to whenua (land) and whakapapa (genealogy)<sup>5,6</sup>. Including provisions in the South Taranaki District Plan that are enabling for papakāinga development is a way for the South Taranaki District Council to support improved health, economic and cultural wellbeing outcomes for Māori and an opportunity for South Taranaki District Council to further meet its obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi<sup>7,8</sup>.

Residential development can bring many other benefits to communities, including opportunities for economic growth and increasing population. Ensuring a diversity of housing options in a community gives people of all life stages and income levels the ability to live in warm, dry, healthy housing<sup>9</sup>. It is important that housing options are planned to meet the needs of the community, both now and into the future.

### Decision Sought

Health NZ National Public Health Service Te Manawa Taki supports increased provision for papakāinga development in the South Taranaki District Council District Plan.

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<sup>1</sup> WHO. [Constitution of the World Health Organization \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int)

<sup>2</sup> Ministry of Health. 2023. New Zealand Health Strategy. Wellington: Ministry of Health. [New Zealand Health Strategy](#)

<sup>3</sup> New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine. (2023). Housing Policy Statement. [2023 NZCPHM Housing Policy Statement.pdf](#)

<sup>4</sup> Smith, D. L., Oetzel, J. G., Simpson, M. L., Wilson, Y., Nock, S., & Reddy, R. (2024). Kaumātua needs and perspectives regarding urban papakāinga: a mixed methods observational study. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 1-22.

<sup>5</sup> Smith, D. L., Oetzel, J. G., Simpson, M. L., Wilson, Y., Nock, S., & Reddy, R. (2024). Kaumātua needs and perspectives regarding urban papakāinga: a mixed methods observational study. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 1-22.

<sup>6</sup> Boulton, A., Allport, T., Kaiwai, H., Harker, R., & Potaka Osborne, G. (2022). Māori perceptions of 'home': Māori housing needs, wellbeing and policy. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 17(1), 44–55.

<sup>7</sup> Smith, D. L., Oetzel, J. G., Simpson, M. L., Wilson, Y., Nock, S., & Reddy, R. (2024). Kaumātua needs and perspectives regarding urban papakāinga: a mixed methods observational study. *Kōtuitui: New Zealand Journal of Social Sciences Online*, 1-22.

<sup>8</sup> New Zealand College of Public Health Medicine. (2023). Housing Policy Statement. [2023 NZCPHM Housing Policy Statement.pdf](#)

<sup>9</sup> Health in All Policies Team, Community and Public Health (2019). *Integrated Planning Guide for a healthy sustainable and resilient future*. Christchurch, New Zealand: Canterbury District Health Board.



To protect and enhance public health the following suggestions are provided for consideration:

- Ensure the definition of papakāinga is clear and incorporates a broad understanding of what papakāinga and 'home' represent to Māori.
- Ensure that there is a focus on increasing health and wellbeing outcomes when the provisions of this plan change are applied to applications for development, including addressing social determinants of health and increasing the availability of healthy housing for Māori as well as enabling Māori whānau and hapū to live in a way that reflects their own priorities and aspirations.
- Ensure that there is a communication plan associated with this plan change so that residents, whānau, iwi and hapū are aware of the opportunities for development that may be available to them.

Should the Council require any further information to support the decision making for this or other initiatives related to healthy housing, please do not hesitate to contact me.

#### Details

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Ngā mihi



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