

A Report From The National Standing Committee On Bicultural Issues

At its last meeting in July the Committee revised a preliminary draft of its aims, objectives and mission statement. The aims document is reproduced below for the information of Society members. Comment, discussion, and ideas about implementation of the goals for 1992-1994, are welcome.

Below are the interim aims and objectives of the NSCBI. *Specific and general comment is requested and should be directed to Linda Waimarie Nikora or David Thomas at Psychology Dept, Waikato University, PB 3105, Hamilton. Fax(07)8562158; email D.Thomas@waikato.ac.nz*

A. Mission Statement - August 1992

- A1. To initiate social changes which will facilitate recognition and development of Maori psychology.
 - A2. To influence the theory, teaching and practice of psychology in Aotearoa to recognise the plurality of cultural perspectives, knowledge and practices.
 - A3. To assist psychologists working in Aotearoa to acknowledge their obligations to the Treaty of Waitangi and, accordingly, to develop appropriate teaching and practice.
-

B. General Objectives

- B1. To facilitate the development of Maori psychology in Aotearoa.
- B2. To initiate changes in the teaching of psychology at universities and other educational institutions in Aotearoa, so that such teaching reflects the cultural and ethnic diversity within Aotearoa.
- B3. To facilitate the recruitment and retention of Maori in training programmes in psychology.
- B4. To assist the regional branches of the New Zealand Psychological Society to acknowledge their obligations to the Treaty of Waitangi and to provide guidance on how they might facilitate appropriate teaching and practice in their region.
- B5. To facilitate psychological research for purposes determined by Maori people.
- B6. To initiate and participate in analysis of social policies in which knowledge about psychology and biculturalism can contribute to the development of more culturally appropriate and socially responsible policies.
- B7. To network with national and regional Maori organisations.

C. Specific Goals for the Period July 1992 - July 1994

- C1. To prepare a statement of the obligations of psychologists which arise from the Treaty of Waitangi, and which can be incorporated in psychological research, teaching and practice.
- C2. To prepare a document to assist branch office holders to meet bicultural objectives.
- C3. To undertake a review of the teaching of all university first year courses in psychology to find out the extent to which Maori and bicultural perspectives and knowledge are incorporated in such courses.
- C4. To prepare a document which sets out options and issues for incorporating Maori and bicultural perspectives and knowledge in the teaching of first year psychology courses.
- C5. To contribute to changes in the Psychologists Act, the operations of the Psychologists Board and the registration of psychologists.
- C6. To initiate dialogue with Maori consumer groups to begin to define competent psychological service provision for Maori.
- C7. To facilitate the development of a document which sets out how psychologists might incorporate bicultural practices in the delivery of psychological services.