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Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora  
c-/ Brittani Beavis

26 June 2020

Tēnā koutou Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora,

### **Formal Apology to Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora**

The Council would like to thank you for allowing us to join Day 2 of the wananga in Porirua in February. It was great to see so many dietitians there, meet everyone, share stories and hear about your discussions from the previous day. The Council would like to thank you for your honesty and professionalism in sharing your past experiences with us as we look to move forward together.

The Council acknowledges that in the mid 2000's, Māori dietitians informally established kōmiti (to support Māori dietitians) and formally named the rūpū Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora a few years later. At that time, Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora was exclusive to Dietitians NZ members only and were given observer status on the Dietitians NZ Executive tepu and so were unable to vote on decisions.

In 2014, Dietitians NZ moved to a skills-based Council and a Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora endorsed position was included. Despite policy governance training taking place, there were no clear guidelines, role descriptor or support for the Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora representative. We understand that this led to unrealistic expectations from the Council [on the representative] and this was a direct reflection of wider membership expectations [on Māori dietitians]. We acknowledge that the Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora endorsed representative and the rūpū were often asked to complete tasks which were viewed as tokenistic and we were not proactive in taking responsibility for our own cultural development. These combined with the previous disempowerment resulted in no tangata whenua worldview being a part of the Council for over 18 months.

The Council acknowledges that despite including the intent in our constitution to "Give meaning to Te Tiriti O Waitangi through recognition of the principles of partnership, protection and participation, and to act reasonably, honourably and in good faith", Dietitians NZ has breached Te Tiriti o Waitangi by our actions, inactions and governance policies [as described above] and that Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora and all Māori dietitians have

suffered prejudice as a result. On behalf of Dietitians NZ, the Council would like to formally apologise to Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora for the mamae Māori dietitians have endured in the past.

Dietitians NZ is committed to honouring Te Tiriti, including supporting the capability building within Te Kahui Manukura o Kai Ora and will ensure that adequate and appropriate resources are made available to do so. We would like to work in partnership with you and any other relevant stakeholders to grow the Māori dietetic workforce. We will continue to engage with AWE Consulting Ltd as cultural advisors as we move towards a Te Tiriti Relationship governance model; as well as enable Dietitians NZ members to deepen their understanding of Te Tiriti and improve their cultural development so that we can ensure spiritual and cultural beliefs are protected and normalized.

Once again, thank you for sharing your thoughts with us in February and please accept our apology for the mamae Māori dietitians have endured in the past.

Yours Sincerely

Alayne Healy  
Chair, Dietitians NZ  
On behalf of the Dietitians NZ Council