

RPH response to Stats New Zealand Ethnicity standard classification consultation

1. Classification structure

- a) Looking at the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.0, do you agree with the ethnicity categories and how the classification is structured?

YES

- b) Looking at the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.0 sub-categories (ethnicities listed under each top level category/group, please expand the view to see), do they adequately cover each grouping?

YES

2. Ethnicities in the classification

- a) Looking at the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.0, do you see all of your own, or the group you are representing's, ethnicities?

YES

- b) In your view, or the group you are representing's view, is the terminology/name of your ethnicities correctly shown in the classification?

YES RPH supports the use of terminology as determined by groups themselves. We also support the move away from colonial terminology in the descriptor. RPH considers the use of 'other' should be used to describe groups as infrequently as possible.

3. Definitions

- a) Looking at the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification 2005 V2.0, would you find additional text explaining each classification category helpful?

NO.

4. Further information you would like to share

Is there any other information you would like to share to help us update the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification?

Regional Public Health (RPH) serves the greater Wellington region, through its three district health boards (DHBs): Capital & Coast, Hutt Valley and Wairarapa, and is based at the Hutt Valley District Health Board.

We work with our community to make it a healthier and safer place to live. We promote good health, prevent disease, and improve the quality of life for our population, with a particular focus on children, Māori and working with primary care organisations.

Regional Public Health uses the Ethnicity New Zealand Standard Classification for data collection and output across all its work areas. The use of the ethnicity classification helps us monitor and report on key indicators by ethnicity, and measure our progress towards eliminating ethnic inequities in health status.

Improving public health requires action over the long term and relies on accurate and consistent time series data. Prior to 1996, the health sector had difficulty accessing reliable data for ethnic populations, particularly the Māori population, because classification was not consistent across data sources. RPH strongly supports consistency in the classification of ethnicity, across datasets and over time.