

Inequity of Access to Allergy Health Services in New Zealand

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About Allergy New Zealand

Established in 1981

Registered National
Charity

National Volunteer
Network & Medical
Panel

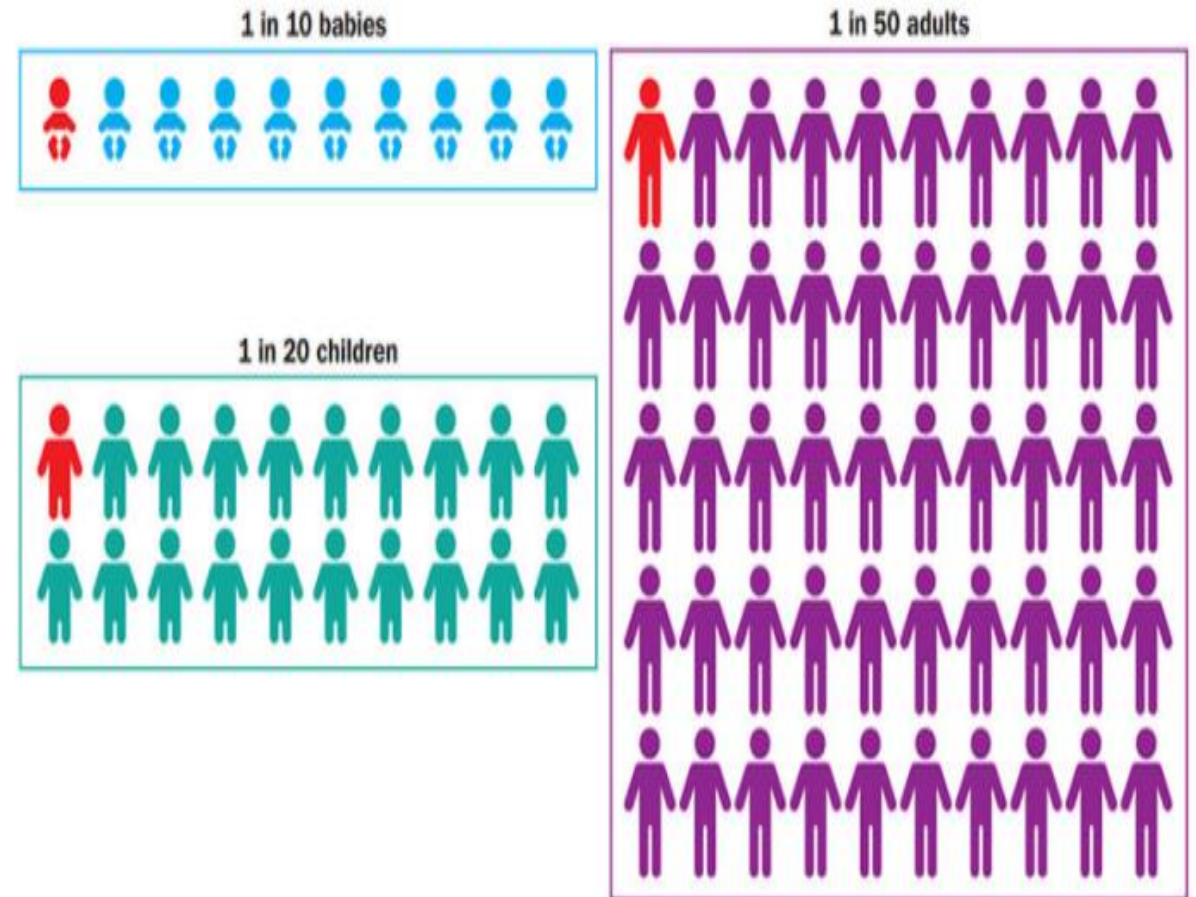
Mission: To
improve quality of
life for people living
with allergies.

Improve access to
allergy health
services for ALL
communities

Food Allergy in New Zealand

Prevalence and patterns in NZ

- 10% doctor-diagnosed with allergies at age 2 years, mainly to milk, eggs and peanuts
- Reduces to 5% by adolescence.
- Mainly peanuts, tree-nuts, fish & shellfish in older children, adults
- Sesame and kiwifruit increasingly common in NZ
- Milk, soy and wheat allergies recognised as complex to manage.



Community Inequities?

2016 : Adult food-induced anaphylaxis hospital presentations in New Zealand

- **1.7 fold increase 2002-2011, mainly attributable to a disproportionate increase in rates in the Pacific Island population.**
- During the period reviewed, rate per 100 000 people rose from 6.0 to 20.6 (**more than 3-fold**) for **Pacific people**, compared with 3.5 – 5.2 for New Zealand Europeans.



Community Inequities cont'd?

2017 : Paediatric food-induced anaphylaxis

- **2.8-fold increase** in the overall annualised rate for the 10-year period 2006 – 2015
- **Admission rates significantly higher among Asian and Pacific children** than Maori and NZ European children.
- Where the trigger food was documented (67.7% of cases),
 - nuts (48%), specifically **peanuts (26%)**, were the most commonly reported allergen
 - followed by **cow's milk (21%)**.



Speakman et al. **Paediatric food-induced anaphylaxis hospital presentations in New Zealand**. Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health, 2017.



Why?

- NZ has a very different population mix
- Further change in recent years due to high migration levels.
- Migration itself is considered a risk factor for the development of allergies,
 - And there are indications of higher levels of Food Allergy in NZ's Asian and Pacific communities (Migrant communities), than in NZ European or Māori.
- At the same time, many Māori and Pacific whānau (families) are more likely to be living in socially and economically stressed communities.

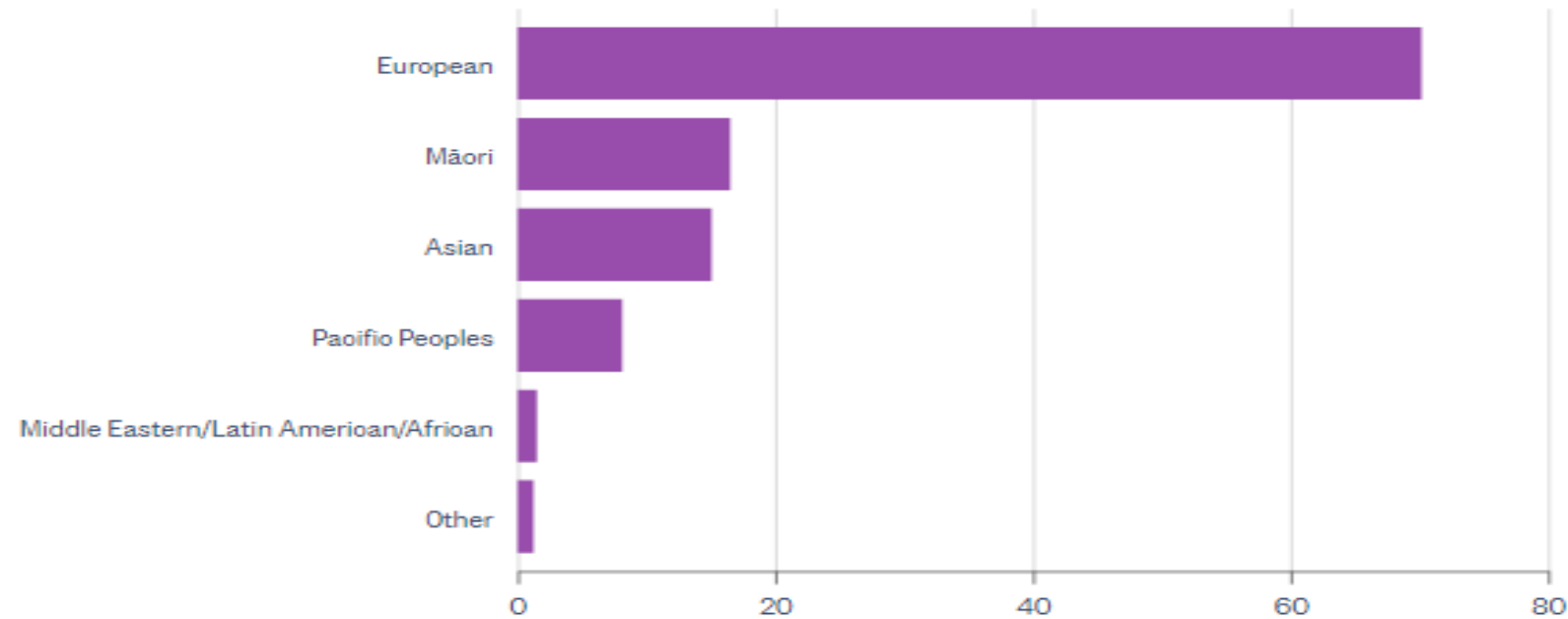
NZ's Population Blend

New Zealand Population by Major Ethnic-Origin Group, 2018

Ethnic groups in New Zealand

2018 Census, % of people where information available

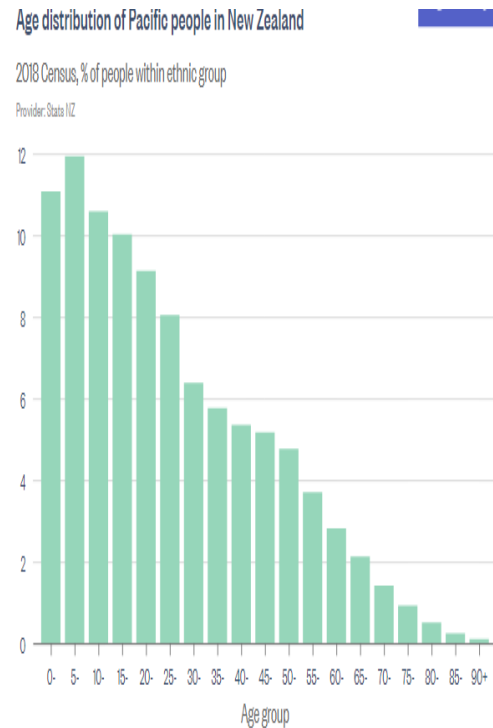
Provider: Stats NZ



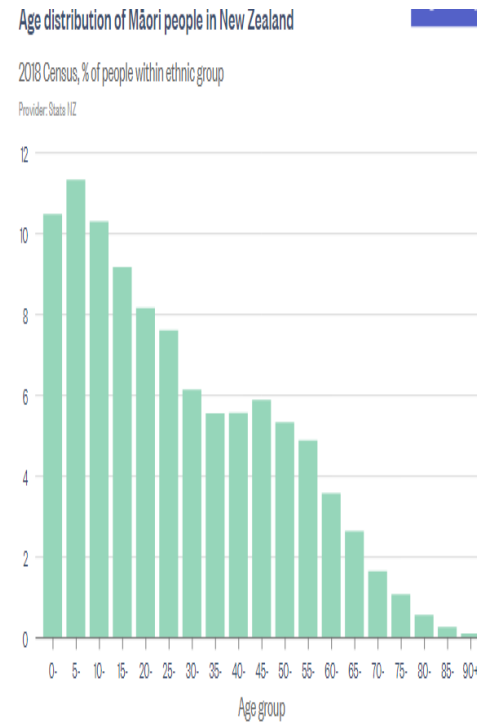
Source: Statistics New Zealand, "Major Ethnic Groups in New Zealand," updated January 28, 2015

NZ Age Distribution of Pacific, Māori & Asian (2018)

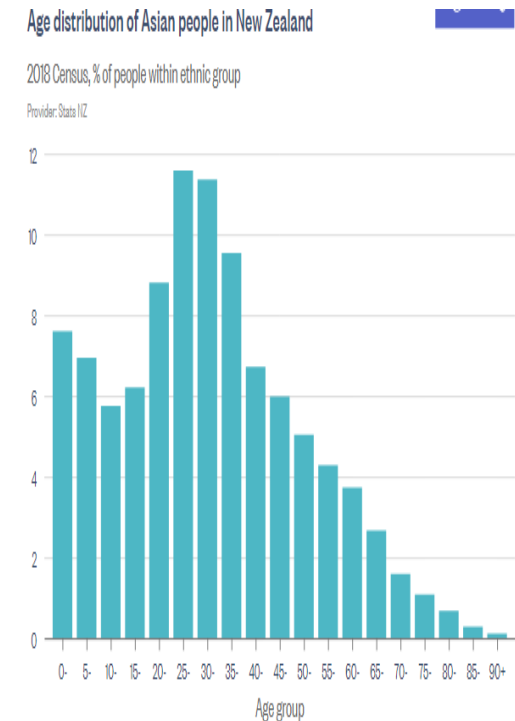
Pacific People in NZ by Age



Māori People in NZ by Age



Asian People in NZ by Age



Source: Statistics New Zealand, Age Distribution of Major Ethnic Groups in New Zealand, Census Data, 2018

Language, Culture & Poverty



reduced health literacy

Difficulty in
reading health
materials

English not first
language

Information
overload in formal
English

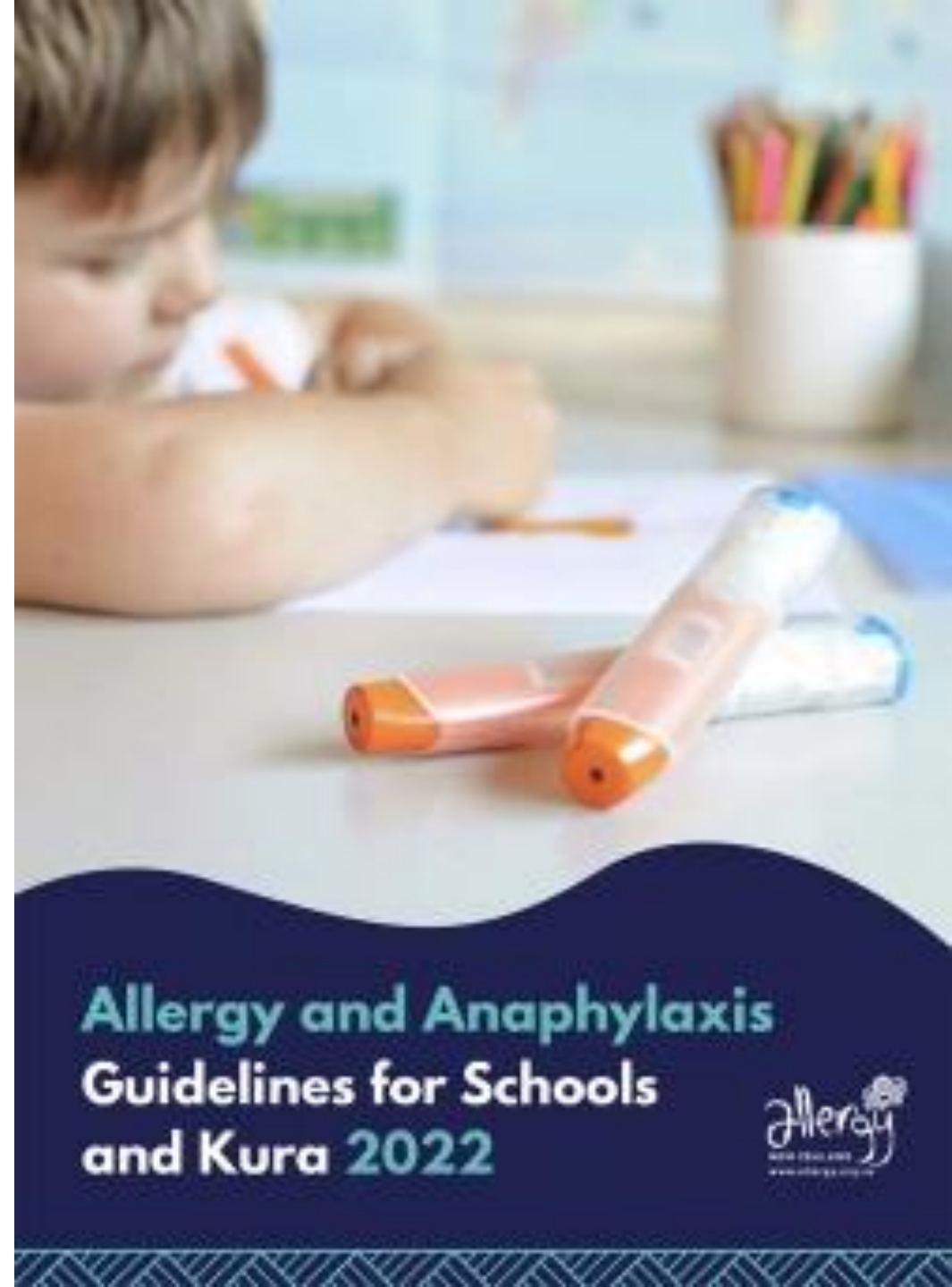
Social media, Dr
Google, well-
meaning friends.

Inconsistent
treatment
pathways

Unsure how to
find credible and
affordable advice.

Allergy NZ - Pilot

- Update and Peer Review the Allergy & Anaphylaxis Guidelines for Schools and Kura
 - Launched August 2022 - www.allergy.org.nz
 - Targets School Leadership, Management and Teachers
 - I.e. Not parents or children
- Select a large diverse NZ school campus
 - Manurewa High School
 - High percentage of Māori & Pacific Island families
- Engage, collaborate and refine guidelines
- Transition allergy messaging to align with visual and linguistic cues for Maori, Pacific & Asian student families.



**Allergy and Anaphylaxis
Guidelines for Schools
and Kura 2022**



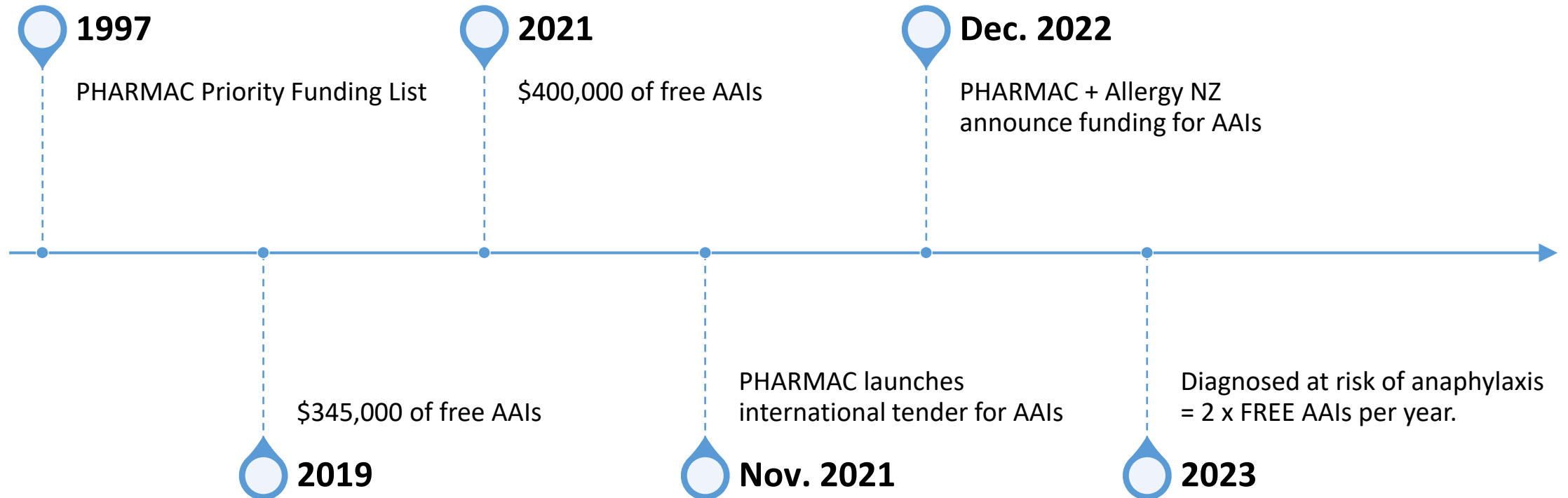
Community Health Agencies

- **South Seas Healthcare Trust (SSHT)**
 - Health Service Hub
 - Strong existing connections with our target communities
 - Credible and authentic service provider
- Pasifika messaging experts
- Allergy NZ has the relevant allergy information
- SSHT has the necessary transition & delivery resource



Authentic Collaborations

FundaPen Breakthrough



Our sincere thanks to the many of you here at FAMS 23 who have contributed and collaborated with us over the last 40 years+.

