

We are all in this together

He waka eke noa

In 2018 the IACAPAP Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Children, Adolescents and Families to Mental Health and Wellbeing was made official as a tool for advocacy.

At the same time, IACAPAP formed a working party to focus upon uniting efforts in establishing and strengthening networks for improved indigenous child and adolescent mental health around the world.

The Working Party is engaging and bringing together champions of indigenous knowledge as an essential component in understanding the needs of indigenous children, adolescents and their families. Indigenous voices from around the globe are linking to inform policy and action by IACAPAP, WPA, AACAP and other leading mental health organisations.

Key activities include engaging in fora for sharing global indigenous experiences of resilience, wellbeing and self-determination, gathering information on global indigenous workforce development; exploring the links between indigenous intergenerational child, family and community wellbeing, and the impact of compensation for and reclaiming of indigenous lands, traditional practices and languages.

Indigenous communities have distinctive mental health needs. Cultural competence of Psychiatrists working in these communities is paramount. The working party established by IACAPAP is developing mechanisms for knowledge sharing about culturally meaningful ways to support improving world indigenous child and adolescent mental health.

