

# **Cultural Awareness**

## **Podiatrists Board Policy**

Cultural Awareness requires a critical understanding of the historical, political and social contexts of the individual. Culture includes, but is not limited to: age, generation, whakapapa (geneology), gender, sexual orientation, disability, occupation, socio-economic status, ethnic origin or migrant experience and religious or spiritual belief.

Cultural awareness and cultural sensitivity are stepping stones to achieving cultural safety in podiatry practice. Practising in a culturally safe manner relates closely to the ethical consideration of promoting the client's autonomy in terms of their right to self-determination in all aspects of their health care.

Cultural awareness education should encourage Podiatrists to reflect on their histories, values and beliefs; in order to help them understand and accept differences in others. It aims to prepare the practitioner to listen to the client and family with respect and acceptance, and to also be aware of the unequal power relationship between them.

It is the responsibility of the Podiatrists Board, and the podiatry profession as a whole, to become aware of cultural and social diversity, and the Podiatrists Board recommends both formal and informal education to develop this outcome.

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