



The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI)

7 A, Business Centre, Wagener Place, Sandringham,
Auckland

History of TANI

In October 2000, the Auckland City Council organised the first Asian Forum to facilitate liaison and build rapport between various statutory and non-statutory agencies, and to raise awareness about issues faced by Asian peoples in the Auckland region. This event identified the need for a support network for Asian communities. The Asian Network Steering Committee was established to respond to this need. The Committee consisted of members from different ethnic groups, predominantly from Asian communities. The Committee worked with clearly defined objectives to advocate on behalf of Asian communities and provide opportunities for Asian communities to be heard in the public arena.

In December 2002, The Asian Network Steering Committee registered as an incorporated society under the new name of **The Asian Network Incorporated (TANI)**.

Aims of TANI: To ensure that Asian peoples enjoy optimal quality of life and wellbeing by:

- Providing an ongoing network to assist Asian communities in Auckland through information-sharing, providing training opportunities and making submissions on central and local government policy.
- Identifying and responding to the changing needs of Asian communities more effectively.
- Bridging the cultural gap between Asian peoples and other communities in Auckland.

Team TANI

- Currently TANI consists of nine Committee members.
- Members have strong connections with various Asian ethnic communities.
- There is one Project Co-ordinator who provides administrative and organisational support.
- Members are from different cultural and professional backgrounds.
- Members have connections with statutory and non-statutory agencies.
- TANI operates mainly on volunteer-based effort.

Achievements of TANI: TANI is primarily engaged in improving public health for Asian peoples and in networking with various government and non-governmental organisations.

- **Improving Public Health for Asian Peoples:**
Since its formation, TANI has worked in close co-operation with the Ministry of Health and with district health boards in disseminating information about the public health needs of Asian communities in and around the Auckland region.
- **General Networks Meetings:**
TANI organises general network meetings quarterly where community leaders and representatives from various service providers take part. These meetings feature presentations focusing on issues and services of interest to Asian communities in Auckland and beyond.

- **Research:**

TANI has taken a lead role in promoting and facilitating research to address gaps in knowledge about Asian communities in New Zealand, particularly in public health. Amongst other projects, TANI played a key role in the 'Asian Public Health Project' co-ordinated by the Ministry of Health, published the first systematic review of the health of Asian peoples in New Zealand in 2005, 'Asian Health in Aotearoa: an Analysis of the 2002/03 New Zealand Health Survey' and contributed to the 'Asian Health Chart Book 2006' published by the Ministry of Health.

- **Other Activities:**

TANI has sponsored Asian New Zealander students to attend conferences on youth health and Asian health and also sponsored work on identifying mental health issues in older Asian New Zealanders. TANI has also provided cultural advice to several organisations and been involved in other projects.

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Team TANI:



Left to right (Back row): Dr Kumanan Rasanathan, Mr Virinder Aggarwal, Dr Jennifer Hauraki and Dr Ekramul Hoque.

Left to right (Front row): Mr John Wong, Ms Vivian Cheung, Dr Lingappa Kalburgi, Mr Vishal Rishi and Mrs Nilima Venkat.