

# Research that is 'Responsive to Māori'

Responsiveness to Māori is critical to hearing and balance research. This document is here to be used as a support resource to help you carry out research that is responsive to Māori.

The Eisdell Moore Centre (EMC) was established in 2017 with a mission to reduce the impact of hearing and balance disability in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ) and the Pacific region through research, community education and the promotion of evidence based clinical services. EMC aims to support high-quality ear, hearing, and balance research that is guided by Māori, for Māori, with Māori.

EMC recognises Māori as tangata whenua and has a desire to reduce Māori health inequities in hearing and balance. In the context of health and disability, EMC and its members have a shared responsibility and commitment to uphold te Tiriti o Waitangi including:

- Article 1: Kāwanatanga - Māori have the right to good governance, that is just, fair, ethical and are provided with opportunities for active partnerships at a governance level.
- Article 2: Tino Rangatiratanga - Māori have paramount sovereignty and autonomy of themselves, their whenua, and taonga (which includes health), and are provided with opportunities for Māori leadership, engagement, active and informed participation in decision making of research processes and activities. The rights of Māori in research arise from tino rangatiratanga (self-determination). That is the right to be involved in research that aligns with the interests of Māori communities. All health research carried out in Aotearoa is of relevance to Māori. How relevant, is a decision to be made by Māori.
- Article 3: Ōritetanga and equity. A commitment to achieving health equity, reducing systematic inequities in the social determinants of health. Ensuring that research, programmes, interventions, services and outcomes are equitable for Māori and improve Māori health and well-being.

Responsiveness to Māori is crucial in health research. Health researchers in NZ are required to demonstrate research that is responsive to the needs and diversity of Māori. Being responsive to Māori is a call for EMC researchers to critically think about the relationship their research has with Māori, and create knowledge that contributes to equity for Māori.

It is strongly recommended that researchers consult with Māori during the planning of research and through the processes of the research. Hudson and Russell (2009) stated that for researchers to improve the relevance and responsiveness of their research project to Māori communities, researchers should consider their role in addressing ethical issues of concern for Māori as part of a partnership process. Therefore, researchers should explicitly involve consultation and practice reciprocity, equity, and benefit-sharing with Māori communities throughout their research. We hope this document will be of assistance through your collaborative journey.

HEARING  
AND  
BALANCE  
RESEARCH  
FOR  
MĀORI

# RESOURCES & TOOLS

NOTE: Click on box below or link to access resources/tools/materials. It is highly recommended that you use these resources and tools prior to contacting your Faculty/EMC Māori Advisor(s).

## HRC Māori Health Advancement Guidelines

HRC Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori. The HRC has introduced a transparent framework for the assessment of potential Māori health advancement in HRC funding applications. The purpose of their guidelines is to support health researchers in describing how their proposed research contributes to Māori health advancement.

## UoA Responsiveness to Māori Planning Tool

Jaylene Wehipeihana, Vision Mātauranga Research Manager at ORSI, provides an overview of the Responsiveness to Māori planning tool. The tool will help you to identify key points of strength but also gaps in your MHA and how to improve these gaps. It is a guide to how Māori should be included from research ideation and development to translation of your research. You can use this tool during the development stages and before you write the final proposal to identify the specific areas that you need support or guidance on from your Faculty/Institute/EMC Māori advisors. This planning tool should be used to help focus the research team (both internal and external members) on the key points that should be addressed as you plan your research proposal.

## Video Resources

### Māori Health Advancement HRC Videos -

Videos of researchers discussing the Māori Health Advancement initiative and the benefit of their engagement with Māori and of their genuine and mutual collaboration.

*LINK: <https://www.hrc.govt.nz/maori-health/maori-health-advancement>*

### Māori Health Advancement & Responsiveness to Māori Webinar -

Dr Sarah-Jane Paine from the Office of Tumuaki and HRC Māori Health Committee member provides a high level overview of Māori Health Advancement, discusses responsiveness to Māori activities conducted in health and disability, and what it entails for your research and proposal:

*LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOydiA1tk74&feature=youtu.be>*

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## Articles

Reid, P., Paine, S. J., Curtis, E., Jones, R., Anderson, A., Willing, E., & Harwood, M. (2017). Achieving health equity in Aotearoa: strengthening responsiveness to Māori in health research. *NZ Med J*, 130(1465), 96-103.

Link: <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/achieving-health-equity-in-aotearoa-strengthening-responsiveness-to-maori-in-health-research>

Hudson, M. L., & Russell, K. (2009). The Treaty of Waitangi and research ethics in Aotearoa. *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*, 6(1), 61-68.

Link: [http://www.smallfire.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/HudsonRussell2007\\_ToWResearchEthics.pdf](http://www.smallfire.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/HudsonRussell2007_ToWResearchEthics.pdf)

## Te Kupenga Hauora Māori - Responsiveness to Māori Guide

TKHM provide guidance on what you need to know about why you need to consider responsiveness to Māori in your research, and takes a look into the 'Te Ara Tika' Framework, a framework to ensure that research meets required ethical standards including that of Māori responsiveness.

## Te Ara Tika Framework

Developed by Pūtaiora (Māori members of ethics committees) and the National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) 'te Ara Tika' framework aims to focus the ethical deliberation towards a more constructive critique of research in terms of not only its ability to identify risks but its potential to enhance relationships through the creation of positive outcomes for Māori communities. We recommend using the Te Ara Tika framework to guide you through thinking about Māori Health Advancement while developing your research. The framework identifies progressive expectations of ethical research behaviour from minimum standards, to good practice and best practice, and provides useful guidance on the purpose of your research, the validity of the research proposal, cultural and social responsibility, and equity, justice and rights of Māori.

# EMC RESPONSIVENESS TO MĀORI GRANT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Criteria adapted from Health Research Council

Score	Criteria/Descriptor	Detail
7	Outstanding	<p>The applicants have clearly discussed how their project has the potential to significantly reduce or eliminate inequities and advance knowledge relevant to Māori health. The applicants have discussed how their research will be transformation for Māori.</p> <p>The rationale for the proposed research is extremely well made. The aims and (where appropriate) hypotheses are excellent. The proposed research may represent a highly original and innovative approach to addressing the health question. Original findings are highly likely to result.</p> <p>The applicants have discussed their understanding of their responsibilities under te Tiriti o Waitangi and how their research aligns with the articles of te Tiriti o Waitangi. The applicants have attempted to align the proposed research with the Eisdell Moore Centre Strategy and Vision Mātauranga.</p> <p>The research team are knowledgeable in the topic and have experience to undertake the proposed research. The application also indicates that culturally relevant and appropriate methods for dissemination are well understood and clearly demonstrated.</p> <p>Māori are given a kaitiaki (guardian) role within the research project with a view to ensure that tangible outcomes are realised within Māori communities. The project is Māori-led, and originated and is clearly driven by the aspirations of the community. The application is hosted by a suitable organisation and the ongoing community involvement is appropriate. The project will provide a Māori community with significant opportunities to build their research capacity and the capacity of the Māori health research workforce.</p> <p>The proposed study design is exceptional. The methods and proposed analyses are very comprehensive and clearly appropriate. The applicants demonstrate full awareness of the relevant technical issues, and clearly incorporate culturally appropriate methods for data handling and involvement of Māori participants. The statistical power (where appropriate) is sufficient to ensure a definitive outcome and the statistical analyses are well developed. The theory and methodology that underpins the research, the qualitative sampling and analytic frame (where appropriate) is provided and justified.</p>

# EMC RESPONSIVENESS TO MĀORI GRANT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Criteria adapted from Health Research Council

Score	Criteria/Descriptor	Detail
4	Good	<p>The project may reduce inequities in hearing and balance; and may advance knowledge relevant to Māori health. The applicants have outlined how their research will be transformational for Māori.</p> <p>The rationale for the study is well made. The aims, objectives, and (where appropriate) hypotheses are acceptable. Original findings may result.</p> <p>The applicants have some understanding of their responsibilities under te Tiriti o Waitangi and how their research aligns with the articles of te Tiriti o Waitangi. The applicants have attempted to align the proposed research with the Eisdell Moore Centre Strategy and Vision Mātauranga.</p> <p>Māori have been consulted with, and have some community involvement in the project. The project will provide a Māori community with some opportunities to build their research capacity. The project will provide some new knowledge relevant to Māori health.</p> <p>Collectively, the research team has adequate topic-based knowledge and experience to undertake the proposed research. Research proposals from iwi, hapū, and Māori organisations, have demonstrated application of relevant evidence-informed practice consistent with research principles in hearing and balance service developments and delivery for Māori. The application also indicates that culturally relevant and appropriate methods for dissemination are understood; however, there are some areas where this is not fully apparent.</p> <p>The study design is adequate. There may be either insufficient detail for parts of the method and proposed analyses, or the study would benefit significantly by improvements in one or more of these areas.</p>

# EMC RESPONSIVENESS TO MĀORI GRANT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Criteria adapted from Health Research Council

Score	Criteria/Descriptor	Detail
1	Poor	<p>The project may increase or exacerbate inequities in hearing and/or balance; and does not advance knowledge relevant to Māori health. The applicants have not outlined how their research will be transformational for Māori communities.</p> <p>The rationale, aims and hypotheses for the study are poor or absent. Original findings are unlikely to result.</p> <p>The applicants have not provided any evidence of their understanding of their responsibilities under te Tiriti o Waitangi, or how their research aligns with the articles of te Tiriti o Waitangi. The applicants have not aligned their proposed research with the Eisdell Moore Centre Strategy and Vision Mātauranga.</p> <p>No consultations has or will occur. There is no partnership between the researchers and Māori communities, and the project will not build research capacity.</p> <p>The research team have inadequate knowledge on the topic and are inexperienced to conduct the research. There is a risk/s the proposed research will cause harm to Māori communities.</p> <p>The proposed study design is unacceptable. The proposed methods and analyses are inappropriate and there is no or minimal detail proposed.</p>

The assessment criteria detail maintains that research projects should advance Māori health. This criteria is adapted from HRC's Māori Health Advancement assessment criteria. HRC proposes that Māori health advancement is underpinned by four broad domains across all types of research. That is research should:

- (1) have meaningful relationships between health researchers and Māori;
- (2) address issues of significance to Māori, including tangible improvements in health and wellbeing and/or other advances for Māori that should results;
- (3) be led by a research team that has the required skills and expertise to build capability and capacity of the Māori health research workforce;
- (4) be conducted in a culturally-appropriate manner through incorporating research approaches that align with or demonstrate Māori research principles and Māori ethics considerations.

Score	Criteria/Descriptor
7	Outstanding
6	Excellent
5	Very good
4	Good
3	Adequate
2	Unsatisfactory
1	Poor

# QUESTIONS

The following questions and considerations are not an exhaustive list, however may help guide the plan and proposal of your research:

- Discuss the rationale behind your project and your approach to research with Māori communities.
- Is your research topic a priority for Māori?
- How will your research mitigate inequities?
- Who will you seek advice and expertise from?
- How will you engage with whānau, hapū, iwi throughout your research?
- Who is included within the research decision making processes?
- Do you have specific and agreed Māori roles and responsibilities? If so who and what? Could a Māori researcher be the lead researcher?
- Potential risks and benefits of your research for Māori. How will you mitigate the risks?
- Will the outcomes of your research be transformational for Māori?
- Ensure protection of Māori rights including intellectual and cultural property rights.
- How are resources and funds allocated?

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# CONTACT

You could contact your Faculty/Department Māori Advisors to discuss how to expand and strengthen your Māori Health Advancement section. We recommend you familiarise yourself with the above guidelines, tools, and materials available and prepare a draft of your section prior to meeting your advisor so as to have the most beneficial discussion. It should be noted that engaging with these experts and the EMC Māori Research Co-ordinator does not constitute consultation with Māori, it is advice.

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