

Responsiveness to Māori

The Eisdell Moore Centre (EMC) recognises Māori as tangata whenua and has a desire to reduce Māori health inequities in hearing and balance. We are committed to meeting our obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi) through supporting EMC funded research activities that improve Māori health and eliminate inequities in hearing and balance.

Responsiveness to Māori is crucial in health research. Health researchers in Aotearoa New Zealand (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. 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.

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 their consultation process. Thus, research should explicitly involve consultation and practice of reciprocity, equity, and benefit-sharing between researchers and Māori communities.

What is Vision Mātauranga?

Vision Mātauranga is a policy framework created to provide strategic direction for research of relevance to Māori under four main themes:

1. Indigenous Innovation: Contributing to Economic Growth through Distinctive Research and Development.
2. Taiao: Achieving Environmental Sustainability through Iwi and Hapū Relationships with land and sea
3. Hauora/Oranga: Improving Health and Social Wellbeing.
4. Mātauranga: Exploring Indigenous knowledge and research, science and technology.

Increasingly, researchers in NZ are expected to express the tenets of Vision Mātauranga, designed to encourage research that strengthens Māori knowledge, resources and people. Whilst the framework points out challenges and opportunities arising within Māori communities, it too encourages research with Māori communities whose outcomes can make contributions to NZ as a whole.

Māori are important partners in research. EMC supports the Vision Mātauranga mission statement, that is “to improve Māori health through funding and supporting high-quality health research, that is driven by Māori health priorities and needs, consistent with tikanga Māori, and which generates mātauranga that is highly valued and used by tangata whenua and government agencies” p.14. EMC aims to support high-quality ear, hearing, and balance research that is guided by Māori, for Māori, with Māori.

Vision Mātauranga Policy Booklet: <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/assets/9916d28d7b/vision-matauranga-booklet.pdf>

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?
- Think about the notion of time in regards to investment (financial, knowledge, and people) and planning processes.

The below resources may assist you further:

Reid, P et al (2017). *Achieving health equity in Aotearoa: strengthening responsiveness to Māori in health research*. NZMJ, 130(1456).: <https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/achieving-health-equity-in-aotearoa-strengthening-responsiveness-to-maori-in-health-research>

Te Kupenga Hauora Māori; *Responsiveness to Māori*: <https://www.auckland.ac.nz/en/fmhs/about-the-faculty/tkkm/Responsiveness-to-Maori.html>

HRC Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Māori: https://gateway.hrc.govt.nz/funding/downloads/Guidelines_for_researchers_on_health_research_involving_M%C4%81ori.pdf

Hudson and Russell. (2009). *The Treaty of Waitangi and Research Ethics in Aotearoa: Achieving health equity in Aotearoa: strengthening responsiveness to Māori in health research*. http://www.smallfire.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/07/HudsonRussell2007_ToWResearchEthics.pdf

Waitangi Tribunal. *Meaning of the Treaty*: <https://www.waitangitribunal.govt.nz/treaty-of-waitangi/meaning-of-the-treaty/>

United Nations, *United Nations Declaration on the rights of Indigenous peoples*, United Nations, Editor. 2008, United Nations: Geneva.

Ministry of Health, *Tatau Kahukura: Māori Health Chart Book 2015 (3rd edition)*. 2015, Ministry of Health: Wellington

For further support please contact EMC Māori Research Coordinator:

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We will also be holding a question and answer zoom session: Wednesday 23rd September – 6:30 – 7:30pm. Link will be sent to EMC members.