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Te Puna o te
NPM
National Psychotherapy Network

ENVIRONMENTAL | AUGUST 2020

Kia pūmahara ki whenua, me ngā ahatoa, me ngā tāne.
The earth has also acquired warmth, as also have footsteps and trees.

CONTENTS

Te Pūranga Nō Ngā Pou Matarua
Kaupapa Matua: People-Powered Ko Te Kōrero Matua: Tāngata Whai Kaupapa Rangahau: Privately Funded Research
NPM Researcher: Angela Kilford
Ngā Mahara Rangahau / Opportunities
NPM Journal
Nui / Conferences / Events
News & Announcements
Researchers in the News

TE PŪRONGO NŌ NGĀ POU MATARUA TO EXECUTIVE UPDATE

Education Minister Chris Hipkins's decision to remove Kura Reo's Jessie Utanga-Vaeau from the Māori Education Plan Group sparked much public debate and commentary this month. The decision affected a lot more than just Jessie and has become one of the most controversial issues in education for some time.

Jessie's work was to help develop the Māori Education Plan, which is the key to the Director of the COVID-19 Māori Wellbeing Research Centre at Canterbury University and a well-known internationally for her research in phonological awareness and children's early literacy development. She has [comprehensive written papers](#) featured in the Phonetics literature over

Exposure to her languages-in-atmosphere is among children's reading development, and the ability to read and write in both languages. Jessie's research has found that:

- By the time a speaker of strong children to learn rather than completely the English. The evidence suggests that learning to read initially in a language that is phonologically simple, such as Māori, provides children with a strong foundation for subsequent reading in less consistent languages like English.
- Māori children who learn to read in Māori first, and then in English, develop better reading systems – accelerating children's phonic awareness, powerful and sophisticated reading skills.
- More generally, the scientific literature has consistently highlighted the importance of cultural relevance and responsiveness within decodable readers for young children's reading development.

Associate Professor Anaru Te Ua, whose research focuses on Māori language revitalisation, also spoke with Māori and mainstream media about the harmful impacts of the decision to remove Jessie from the Māori Education Plan Group. Anaru's research has taken a similar approach which supports students to think and learn in Māori-medium environments.

Dr Vincent Olsen-Reeder, whose doctoral research investigated the effectiveness of Māori-medium education, also spoke with media about the importance of Jessie's role in the Māori Education Plan Group and the wrongful action of a Minister who makes the decisions without the support of the Māori Education Plan Group. Vincent's research has found that Māori words are frequently used in both Māori and English, and Māori students are as frequently used in New Zealand English speakers with both Māori and English.

We are ever grateful to our networks for their willingness to share their expertise and knowledge with us and the public. Please see the full list of researchers featured in the first seven stories at the end of this e-bulletin.

Ka kaha ra te Mauri!

Ngā Pou Matarua / Co-Directors

- Professor Tahu Kukutai
- Professor Pōtiki Bunse

KAUPAPA MATUA

People-Power Key for Rehabilitating Youth Offenders

Te Tiriti Studies Kaupapa

Jessie Utanga-Vaeau

Dr Tess Liffey-Tawiri Te Aroha, Ngā Tahu has worked for years in education, health and justice. She is a Research Associate Te Tiriti Studies Kaupapa at Auckland. Over the time she noticed the same issues with young people. Many Māori offenders also the experience of whānau.

Along with her co-investigator Dr Lana Pitman-Te Aroha, Tess worked to understand how a Māori-centred research project focussed on several cohorts of Māori youth offending and harm.

While the overall statistics for youth offending are declining, Māori youth are still over-represented in offending rates here and other, says Tess. "Māori have been over-offended by a process, and we've been over-represented in the justice system for a long time."

An important part of the research was to listen to the voices of protection officers, Police, and the young people who have been found the law-makers and the ones. "The young people have been through a lot, because the young people fall out of mainstream education, and they're not going to have their voices, or the voices of their whānau, heard."

Building trust within the weapon Māori social services community centres was vital. After many months of meeting with community members, Tess was able to do so.

According to Tess, there are far many Māori youth offenders than there are communities, time perpetrators, or victims. Rehabilitation is the most effective way to engage with people, people ought to be taught in their own culture, and in their own language, where with parents, to see as systems, and to be supported by whānau. Instead of whānau, where learning needs are met, and where they are supported by whānau. Negative interactions with teachers or police over time can impact on the ability of young people to want to be at the church. She says.

Tess says that Western notions of trauma and PTSD do not always apply to Māori. Māori who see life and see death in a different way, and have a different way of "trauma" or suffering also.

The research found critical disruptors to future offending were the community and whānau. Tess says that "Because of the trauma the weapons have experienced, they don't have the skills being able to trust people. They want to, but they don't have the skills to know who to trust. These are people who have been failed by the system, and who give their a hug when they need it," says Tess.

RANGAHAU / RESEARCH

Researcher Passionate About Pox, Pee and Prostate Health

Te Puna Hauora Kaiparoro

Sonia Hall-Jelinek, Researcher (Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Ngāi Tuahuriri, Ngāi Rauāwaru) has been fascinated by the transformation of substances from one state to another since she was a child. Her current research undertaken toward PhD aims to detect and attain of her fascination.

"There is a lot more to be done to overcome it" has biomarkers for all sorts of diseases and conditions, including cancer, and that's where my research comes in. Sonia and Hall-Jelinek's health is human waste," she says.

Wisdom is currently undertaking a PhD at the University of Auckland and is part of NPM's Māori Health Kaupapa. Her research is focused on the use of urine as a diagnostic tool to develop a simplified DNA test for prostate cancer in wastewater, and is now applications for the ability to identify the disease within communities.

"I'm looking at the use of urine as a diagnostic and prostate circulating cancer because the urine is a filtrate of blood and it can provide the prostate is probably as much, but PSA levels in wastewater (yet septic) can indicate which regions require more screening and education.

"The research is important because prostate cancer is the most common cancer affecting the country, and unfortunately, Māori and Pacific men are among the prostate rate of any other New Zealanders," says Wisdom.

Wisdom is collecting data from 15 wastewater plants throughout the motu, and has targeted the Māori and Pacific communities in Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga, Gisborne, Hawke's Bay, and Wairarapa. Wisdom is also working with Māori and Pacific communities where often there was a large % health population and a high % of Māori and Pacific people. These areas were essential to include in this research," she says.

Wisdom's research will be identifying the areas with the highest PSA levels (per capita) in order to target these areas for screening and education. Wisdom says that Māori have the highest levels. "We will be sending our research findings to the Ministry of Health and Māori Health Authority to help with decision-making around PSA testing in the future.

Community engagement and communication strategies are also a key part of Wisdom's research. "Māori are not always comfortable with the idea of PSA testing, and there is a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding available to the public. We have been developing resources to help with this.

Because Māori and Pacific communities have higher rates of prostate cancer, she says she will be working with Māori and Pacific communities to ensure that the research is culturally safe, and that the results are shared with them in a way that is meaningful and easily digestible by these communities. Once the results are known, Rhianne is also hoping to work with iwi and hapū to raise awareness about prostate cancer.

While access to health services is one issue, [research](#) also shows there is a reluctance to engage with health services when symptoms appear. "Men are not always the most proactive in their health.

"Research on prostate cancer is personal for me. My boss passed away from prostate cancer, and my grandfather was also diagnosed with it. I've seen the impact it has had on my family, and I'm passionate about helping to reduce the impact it has on other families. I'm also very proud of conservation. Prostate cancer does not mean a death sentence. Early detection and appropriate treatment can improve the chances of living a healthy life," says Wisdom.

KŌRERO WITH NPM RESEARCHERS

Each month we feature one of our NPM team researchers. This month Angela Kilford, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairoa, Ngāi Tuahuriri, Ngāi Rauāwaru, Hawke's Hill, Hawke's Bay, Māori, Māori, Māori