

Principles and Procedures:

Conducting Research in a Maori Context

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Title:	Conducting Research in a Maori Context	Date Approved:	1999
Prepared by:	Research Office	Date of Last Revision	April 2010
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Section A – Principles and Procedures

1.0 Treaty of Waitangi

1.1 Implications for Researchers (Department of Psychology, 1997 and Health Research Council of NZ, 1998).

Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec) is committed in terms of its Charter to the spirit and intent of the Treaty of Waitangi. This includes the retention of Maori control (tino rangatiratanga) over Maori resources, including people.

Moreover, an approach consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi means that research conducted by staff or students of the Institution will honour the principles of partnership, participation and protection:

- 1.1.1 **Partnership** (derived from Article 1): Where Maori are major participants in research or they have a major stake in the outcome of a research project focussed on an issue of relevance to Maori, then working relationships based on collaboration and partnership should be established, between the researcher and these participants. This would include the mutual sharing of research skills and research outcomes.
- 1.1.2 **Protection** (derived from Article 2): The researcher must ensure the protection of Maori participants and Maori resources in the research process, including as far as possible protection from any negative impact that might result from the findings of the project being made public. This may include placing a moratorium on the research material for an agreed period of time or on keeping confidential certain material.

Protection goes beyond the requirement to obtain informed consent from the participant. As a general rule, consultation should occur if Maori are to be involved as participants in a project or the research project relates to an issue of importance to Maori. This consultation should also involve guiding the researcher to what needs to be protected and how this protection can be effected.

Generally, most research questions posed in the social sciences within New Zealand are likely to include Maori participants, unless the research is restricted on the basis of species (i.e. involves non-human subjects), ethnicity or cultural group.

Accordingly researchers should anticipate Maori involvement as participants and ensure that research protocols uphold the principles of protection, partnership and participation.

In order to determine whether Maori have an interest in the research question, consultation with appropriate Maori persons should occur in the early planning stages of the research.

- 1.1.3 **Participation** (derived from Article 3): As with all citizens, Maori have a right to participate in and enjoy society's benefits including those that might result from research, and Maori involvement in this research.

The rationale for including, or excluding, Maori participants in a research project, needs to be made clear. Research should empower the community involved and excluding Maori from a research project might simply serve to marginalise them further. However, a major section of the New Zealand population has been excluded from the research thereby limiting the generalisation of the results.

If there are no justifiable reasons for excluding Maori from participating in a research project, then suitable steps should be taken to ensure appropriate inclusion.

2.0 Protocols / Principles for Conducting Research in a Maori Context

The following principles/protocols are to be addressed by any researcher at Wintec who conducts Maori focussed research:

2.1 Ethics

- 2.1.1 The consent of the people involved in the research, where such people are identifiable, will be sought and confirmed before the research commences as well as on an ongoing basis. Where there are no identifiable persons or groups, then a Maori mentor/consultation group will be established for areas where public information/knowledge is cited. With regard to informed consent the researcher will need to establish who speaks for the community/Iwi and what the conditions of the informed consent will be. Appropriate institutional advice will be made available to guide the consultation process.
- 2.1.2 The aims of the research investigation as well as the anticipated outcome(s) of such an investigation will be conveyed to the people involved in the research in a clear, concise and appropriate way.
- 2.1.3 The rights, interests and sensitivities of the people being researched will be acknowledged and protected, including the protection of any intellectual property rights such as those pertaining to traditional Maori medicines.
- 2.1.4 Research tools and techniques which are open, direct and transparent should be used at all times, and secret or covert work will not be acceptable, except in very exceptional circumstances. All participants will be fully informed that they are involved in a research study before the study begins.
- 2.1.5 The people being studied have control over the results of the research process and as such have an absolute right to exercise control over the information they have volunteered. This includes the right to control it, to restrict access to it, or to withdraw part or all of the information from the

actual research project findings. It is the researcher's responsibility to clarify with research participants how this control might be exercised.

- 2.1.6 The researcher(s) must honestly and accurately represent their skills and experience to those involved in the research.
- 2.1.7 Researchers will not exploit informants, or the information gathered from the research, for personal gain or aggrandisement. Where possible and appropriate, fair return should be given for participants' help and services, which should be acknowledged in the final output.
- 2.1.8 The people involved in the research activities will have the right to appeal to the research mentors in the event of any problems arising in the research process. These mentors will be clearly identified before the research commences.
- 2.1.9 All the ethical principles outlined in the Human Ethics in Research Policy (GAA 9-43/96) will be adhered to in this policy, including the right of research participants to remain anonymous.
- 2.1.10 An important aspect of the question of ethics is values. Maori values must be acknowledged by incorporation within the research design and methodology of a project. These values are such things as: (refer to Section B – 1.0).
- Mana Maori. Ensure that mana Maori is upheld at all times.
 - Tikanga/Kawa Maori. Ensure that appropriate aspects of tikanga Maori are understood, acknowledged and upheld.
 - Te kawa o te marae. Strictly upheld and observed.
 - Tapu and noa. Ensure there are no conflicts of tapu and noa.
 - Whakawhanaungatanga. This process runs throughout the project when and where appropriate.
- 2.1.11 All individuals or groups involved in the research process will be given, at least, an executive summary of this policy/protocol.

2.2. Accountability

- 2.2.1 The researchers' main responsibility and accountability will be to the people involved in the activities being researched, who will be considered as having an equal interest in the project.
- 2.2.2 The people being studied have an absolute right to know as far as can be anticipated what will become of the information they have volunteered as well as its possible use and application.
- 2.2.3 Researchers must be willing at the outset of research projects to recognise that the results and outcomes of any research contributed by any individual or group will be presented to them in draft form for editing before any form of distribution or publication, ie they will have the right of veto or censure over their contribution.

2.2.4 The contribution of any individual or group consulted will be acknowledged in the final research report, except that all individuals or groups taking part in the research have a right to remain anonymous.

2.3 Participatory Approach

2.3.1 The terms of the research as well as the research question and methodology will be designed in consultation with, and having due consideration for, the expertise of the Maori individuals or groups who will form part of the research.

2.3.2 Continual monitoring of the research process will be shared equally by the researcher and the individual or group providing the information.

2.3.3 Integral to successful participatory research is the development of a true research partnership based on trust and one which does not prejudice the interest of any one partner making up the partnership.

2.3.4 As part of collaborative processes the research initiator will take responsibility for sharing and co-developing research skills with research participants.

2.4 Intellectual Property Rights of the Research

In the initial consultation stage it will be necessary to establish where the ownership of the end result of the research will reside - with the researcher, the researcher's institution, the sponsor(s), funding agency, the local community or another organisation.

There is a cross reference to the Institution's Intellectual Property Policy once this has been approved by the Executive.

2.5 Research Outcomes

2.5.1 The research will make a positive contribution to Maori needs, aims and aspirations as defined by Maori and the enhancement of mana. It is the researcher's responsibility to ensure that Maori participants are clear about the aim of the research.

2.5.2 The findings of the research will be presented in a format that is readily understandable and accessible to all stakeholders, and particularly to those who provide the basis for the research findings. Where appropriate, the research findings will be presented in oral, written and visual forms in both Maori and non-Maori publications and forums.

2.5.3 A summary of the final research report will be made available to any individual or group who provided information used in the final research report. A full report of the research will be held in the library of Witnec. In the case of an artwork and creative works, participating individuals or groups will be advised where it can be viewed.

Refer to Part A (Policy)

Section B – Associated Information

1.0 Definitions

Mana Maori – Prestige, authority or dignity

Tikanga Maori – Maori method or custom. Encompassing things or ways pertinent to an authentic Maori view or lifestyle

Te Kawa O Te Marae – etiquette and protocol associated with marae proceedings and meetings

Tapu – state of religious restriction or ‘mana of spiritual powers’¹. Sacred (modern)²

Noa – free from *tapu*. Ordinary

Whakawhanaungatanga – ongoing process of forming and maintaining relationships, often through geneological links

2.0 References

- Bishop, R. 1996. Collaborative Research Stories: Whakawhanaungatanga.
- Durie, A. 1992. Whaia Te Ara Tika: Research Methodologies and Maori
- Health Research Council of New Zealand. 1998. Guidelines for Researchers on Health Research Involving Maori.
- Department of Psychology, Waikato University. 1997. Psychology Department's Ethical Review Guidelines: The Treaty of Waitangi
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- Taurima, W. & Cash, M. 1998. Learning about Maori Business: Draft Protocol For Cultural Learning Exchange
- Teariki, C., Spoonley, P., Tomoana, N. 1992. Te Whakapakari Te Mana Tangata. The Politics and Process of Research for Maori.

¹ Shirres, Michael P. Tapu (Te Runanga o te Hahi Katorika ki Aotearoa: Ponsonby, N.Z., 1994) p5.

² Williams, H. W. Dictionary of the Maori language, 7th ed. (GP Publications: Wellington, 1992)p. 385.

Section C - Processes

Appendix A

Checklist for the Structure of the Research Project

PRELIMINARIES

	Yes	No	N/A
Iwi and stakeholders have been identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reasons for consulting have been clarified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Objectives in outcomes have been specified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The most appropriate methods and types of consultation to achieve the outcomes have been selected	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Costs have been calculated and available funds identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
The Human Ethics in Research Committee has processed the Research proposal	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Adequate lead-time for all participants to the consultative process is ensured	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

PREPARATION

Iwi and stakeholder groups are consulted and invited to participate	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Costs are discussed and negotiated eg paid expertise and koha	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Agreement is reached on an agenda and facilities needed to achieve objectives, including documentation, presentation speakers, venue, time and date, equipment and recording of input	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Tasks and timelines are listed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Responsibilities are allocated	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invitations are dispatched with plenty of time for participants to prepare themselves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feedback mechanisms and post-consultation strategies are agreed	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Any training and/or additional development needs of Iwi and stakeholder groups is identified	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

THE FACE-TO-FACE COLLABORATION

- | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| All necessary material is readily available and distributed | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Effort is made to ensure that research methods are understood | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| All reports, workshop proceedings, tapes and records are collected for subsequent processing | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Follow-up methods are decided and agreed upon | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Any disagreements or issues have been addressed | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Feedback mechanisms are agreed | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

POST-PARTICIPATION

- | | | | |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Consultation minutes and reports are finalised | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Consultation is evaluated by organising Committee | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Feedback is provided to all concerned according to agreed mechanisms | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Future improvements are planned in light of experience and evaluations | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Feedback from consultations is followed up | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Continual feedback occurs including explanations about why some community aspirations cannot be met | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Appendix B

Summary of Treaty of Waitangi implications on different research processes in Aotearoa/New Zealand

	Partnership	Protection	Participation
1. Fundamental non applied (e.g; developing computer data programme)	Research findings should be accessible to Māori.	If Māori participate (normal case), make sure that the research procedure is culturally sensitive (safe).	A random sample of participants should normally involve Māori.
2. Applied research with only general interest to Māori (e.g; Global climate change)	As above. To avoid assuming that Māori have only general interest in your research question, consultation with Kaumātua, Māori rep on Ethics Committee or Māori staff or Māori advisory committee.	As above. Māori participants and resources should be protected from any negative impact.	As above. You need to justify your method of recruiting participants if it is not actively including Māori.
3. Research with special interest to Māori (e.g., mental health (high incidence); Māori design)	A working relationship with Māori based on collaboration and partnership should be established. Make sure that research findings are actively disseminated to Māori.	All above. Make sure that Māori advice and collaboration is appropriately acknowledged and compensated.	The development of the method of recruiting participants needs to be done in collaboration with Māori. Opportunity for Māori to participate and contribute at all stages of the research processes should be maximised.
4. Research questions directly focussing on Māori concerns (e.g; What social support function do Māori whanau provide their members? Māori retention rates?)	As in 3 above, but Māori role needs to be extended to active research partnership which plays an important role in any research management decisions.	All above. Make sure that Māori advisors are protected from being burdened with unreasonable requests or expectations.	As in 3. above.

Reference: Reproduced from Department of Psychology. (1997). Ethical Review Guidelines Hamilton. University of Waikato

