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He Kāinga Pai Rawa: Building community-university research partnerships

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Background: Māori home ownership has dropped at a time when Māori birth rates are increasing. These downward rates of Māori and kaumātua home ownership put pressure on both kaumātua and whānau in terms of resources. Such pressure is evident in rising rates of Māori living in overcrowded, temporary, and poor housing and over-representation of Māori in waiting lists for social housing and as tenants of social housing. To address these various challenges and problems, a number of Māori organisations and iwi/hapu have sought to develop their own housing solutions to meet their communities’ needs. Other Māori organisations and iwi/hapu could benefit from the learnings developed through the building process to better understand the needs and aspirations of their own communities in order to help build and contribute to vibrant and thriving communities.

Utilising the toolkit developed in our previous research, He Kainga Pai Rawa (2017-2019) this study aims to develop research capacity of three Māori organisations in order to document the processes and outcomes of the housing villages they are building. A key outcome will be a revised toolkit and various forms of evidence for Māori organisations and iwi/hapu that describe a process for achieving housing villages that contribute to thriving communities.

Research Design and Methods: The research involves a long-standing collaborative partnership among Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa (develops kaumātua and intergenerational housing), Rauawaawa Kaumātua Charitable Trust (kaumātua services provider), and The University of Waikato, who together studied a successful kaumātua housing village. These three partners will “walk alongside” three community organisations to guide the development and building of a housing village. The research team will also support at least one community researcher from each organisation to systematically study and document the challenges and successes along the building process.

The research methodology is guided by Kaupapa Māori and He Pikinga Waiora Implementation Framework (HPW) and emphasises self-determination and mātauranga Māori. HPW utilises co-design, co-implementation and co-evaluation of interventions with communities and end users. HPW is firstly grounded in kaupapa Māori and mātauranga Māori, coupled with the transformational approach of strong community engagement. Secondly HPW involves co-design from start to finish, with Māori communities having agency and influence throughout the research process. Thirdly, HPW includes systems
thinking to actively engage and work through complex issues associated with housing challenges. Finally, because various end users are involved early and throughout the research process, HPW increases the likelihood of implementation effectiveness and sustainability.

This paper reports on the initial phase of the study and in particular developing relationships between the Māori community organisations that are each constructing a kaumātua/intergenerational village and the University-Community research team. Key themes will be presented at the conference.

**Implications:** We anticipate the relationships to be fundamental to the research outcomes. We also expect the project to have a direct impact in physical builds and outcomes that enhance hauora and mana motuhake at individual, whānau and community levels. This is a crucial element of integrated knowledge translation and supporting research-to-practice aspirations.

**Biography of presenting authors**

**Yvonne Wilson**

Ms Yvonne Wilson Kahungunu ki Wairarapa is the Housing Manager at Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa (Hamilton). Yvonne has vast expertise in working across the housing continuum within New Zealand. She has overseen kaumātua and inter-generational housing builds and currently manages a large team working in Emergency, Transitional and Public Housing. She is the primary contact in supporting the three communities during their design and building phases. She was involved in He Kainga Pai Rawa (2017-2019) research including the creation of the toolkit, and winner of the *Te Auaha Pitomata* New and Emerging Community Researcher Tangata Whenua/Whanau ora Community Researcher Award (2019).

**Sophie Nock**

Dr Sophie Nock is a senior lecturer in Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao/Faculty of Māori & Indigenous Studies at the University of Waikato, New Zealand. Sophie Nock is of Ngāti Kurī descent from the Far North. She has been primarily involved in the teaching and researching of te reo Māori, and has published in these areas. She is a CO-PI and AI on several research projects investigating housing concerns, health and wellbeing-related outcomes for kaumātua. She was a researcher with *He Kainga Pai Rawa* (2017-2019) and now also with a concussion recovery assessments in adolescence and childhood project.