

Takitini: A collective approach to Whānau Ora action research

Nan Wehipeihana

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Kinnect
group

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A principle of collectivity

*“Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi.
Engari taku toa he toa takitini.”*

*“Success can not be achieved alone
Success is achieved by the contribution of many.”*



Takitini Research Collective

- Born from
 - A belief in the potential of whanaungatanga
 - Value add of a collective of highly skilled and experienced researchers /evaluators to the Whānau Ora action research programme

We saw the benefit of working together

- 15 evaluators/researchers
 - 12 Māori 3 Pacific
 - Mainly Auckland, Bay of Plenty, Wellington
- Whanaungatanga
 - Professional, whakapapa, kaupapa



Our collective offering

Extensive research, evaluation and community development experience with

- whānau, iwi and Māori providers, iwi
- pan Pacific; Samoan and Tongan

Breadth of experience

- Large national projects, small local projects
- Across a range of sectors e.g. health, education, social development, Māori development

Long term and existing relationships with providers and communities

- Iwi and Māori Provider Success
- ECB 100 iwi/Māori providers of social services
- Extensive community / whānau projects



Our collective offering

Utilise collective skills, competencies and knowledge of Takitini

- Within Takitini e.g. tools, templates
- Across Takitini action research projects e.g. the PATH process
- With the wider action researcher collectives e.g. VFM

Internal peer review and quality assurance

Economies of scale

- Tools, templates, communication

Collective contract management beneficial

- For Te Puni Kōkiri
- For individual researchers/evaluators

A good mix of skills, experience and networks



What have we learned about...

Engaging with Whānau Ora provider Collectives?

Good things take time

- Despite existing relationships with individual providers
- Engaging with a collective, who are in turn developing their own relationships and ways of working as a collective

Move at the pace of the provider collective

- Provider collective determines the pace
- Maintain communications with Te Puni Kōkiri
- Re-negotiate timeframes



What have we learned about...

Engaging with Whānau Ora provider Collectives?

Variable evaluation/research capability and understanding

- Careful preparation and a range of ways to explain research, action research, evaluation
- Utilise existing providers research knowledge, expertise and preferences

Provide support/contribute to 'non-traditional' research scoping tasks

- Facilitate organisational strategic planning
- Support community engagement



What have we learned about...

Engaging with Te Puni Kōkiri

Macro picture and information needs broadly consistent

- Micro elements subject to change
- Emergent learning
- Priorities change e.g. Christchurch, Better Public Service

Responding to multiple audiences

- Ministers
- Agencies
- Whānau Ora Governance Group
- Internal operational requirements
- Progress /outcomes - *What's happening for whānau?*



What have we learned about...

Engaging with Te Puni Kōkiri

The Whānau Ora environment is complex

- Action research is only one part of an overall performance and monitoring information system
- Overlap and intersection – pragmatically and methodologically with other researchers/evaluators and provider collectives
- The reality of the operational environment of Whānau Ora for provider collectives – and the interface of action research

What's required from action researchers subject to change



What have we learned about...

Being Takitini

- Takitini a new collective with multiple new relationships
- Can't assume we are all on the same page
- Harnessing collective capability has not been straightforward
- Growing our capacity and capability to operate as an effective research collective is on going
- Develop processes, tools and templates – partial answer
- But need to develop and agree ways of working/shared understandings
- Create opportunities to discuss values / principles which underpin ways of working



