



# Te Niwaha

## Research Project Impact Case Study

### Project Title

Lifting Immunisation rates in vulnerable communities within Waikato/Counties Manukau regions

### Short Research Title

Raakai | Immunisation evaluation in the Tainui waka rohe

### Key researchers

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## Introduction

### Research Purpose:

To understand the hauora provider immunisation ecosystem contexts and how that impacts whānau oranga including the uptake and provision of immunisation (and improved immunisation rates).

### Research Approach:

The project takes a developmental evaluation and tikanga-led kaupapa Māori approach to engaging with partners, whānau and community. It utilises desktop data review and an analysis of literature about successful immunisation responses. Interviews, focus groups, wānanga and surveys are utilised to engage with evaluation participants.

### Alignment with Te Niwha:

This strategic project enables grounded contextual knowledge to be gained about their immunisation ecosystem and what works to help inform and lift childhood immunisation rates, optimise hauora service delivery, and support whānau and communities to make informed decisions about immunisation. This project also has opportunity to help shape strategic conversations between hauora providers about immunisation and strengthening the immunisation ecosystem.

## Results

Evaluation engagement with two Counties Manukau Providers has led to insights into the complexity and the uncertainty of the business and environmental contexts of hauora service provision for whānau, including immunisation provision. As such, the evaluation team is undertaking evaluative activities to better understand the immunisation ecosystem that the providers are having to navigate while providing hauora services. This includes conducting contextual analysis of immunisation ecosystem and how that impacts whānau oranga including the uptake and provision of immunisation. The insights gained from this are expected to enable providers to have informed strategic conversations with Te Whatu Ora and other like-minded providers, especially Māori providers, about immunisation with the objective of strengthening the immunisation ecosystem. This line of inquiry will inform the engagement of providers within the Tainui waka rohe (Waikato).

Ongoing analysis of data from community engagement of whānau at the recent Turangawaewae Regatta, and at Te Matatini is occurring. An example of preliminary insights emerging from engagement team analysis of whānau feedback regarding immunisation behaviour is described here. Three prominent age-groups have been identified, each with differing immunisation requirements and characteristics. Those under 25 years of age with children under 5 years wanted to know more about vaccination in general, about side effects and what the overall options around vaccination are. The majority of those around 25 to 53 years of age with tamariki and/or mokopuna tend to have competing priorities e.g., paying mortgage, job sustainability, paying for children's education, staying afloat, that vie for attention, energy and money. However, for this group, if the timing and cost for supporting their children and mokopuna to get vaccinated were suitable, they will likely drive vaccination for their whānau. Those 53 years of age and over tend to advocate for vaccination but are not the key decision-makers, preferring to defer to their children to make decisions for their tamariki. Ongoing data collection and analysis will further shape these insights and help determine potential impacts they might make to immunisation. These types of insights will inform discussion and feedback sessions between the evaluation team and key networks such as regional NPHS Immunisation teams.

## Impact

The expected impact the research will have now and in the future is that:

- It is expected to enable providers to have informed strategic conversations with Te Whatu Ora and other like-minded providers, especially Māori providers, about immunisation and strengthening the immunisation ecosystem. This will be a key future impact for Māori providers and wider systems partners, providing benefit to all partners, especially Māori providers.

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- Ongoing data collection and analysis will further shape insights gained from whānau data collection and help determine potential impacts they might make to immunisation. This includes the opportunity to socialise learnings with the Minister and potentially impacting policy around supporting strengthened Māori provider immunisation ecosystems within the Counties Manukau/Waikato rohe.

### Future directions

In conclusion, the case study highlights the importance of the next phase for the evaluation to achieve key results.

The next phase includes deepening the exploration of immunisation ecosystems for two Counties Manukau providers, which takes into consideration an environment of complexity and business/environment uncertainty in which the providers operate to provide appropriate hauora services for whānau in their rohe.

Another key focus in the next phase is proactive engagement of Tainui waka rohe providers to understand what enables and hinders successful whānau oranga around immunisation. This may also lead to taking an immunisation ecosystems approach to the evaluation inquiry.

Lastly, further community engagement e.g., selected whānau group interviews, and ongoing data collection will provide more insights around whānau immunisation behaviours and enhance opportunities for whānau to make well informed decisions about immunisation and where this sits in the whānau oranga landscape for them.