



Research Project Impact Case Study

Specific expansion of collaboration for research to inform
tuberculosis elimination for Māori

Key researchers

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Te Niwha Research Project - Impact Case Study

Introduction

Tuberculosis (TB) is a leading infectious disease globally. In New Zealand, approximately 300 cases (in New Zealand (NZ), approximately 300 cases of TB are diagnosed each year.) While the majority are people born outside of NZ (81.8% in 2019), amongst NZ-born cases, half (49%) are of Māori ethnicity, with a rate for Māori of 3.6 per 100,000, over five times the 0.7 per 100,000 in NZ Europeans.

Our study has the overall aim to co-design a Māori model of care to contribute to the control and elimination of TB in NZ. This is an HRC funded research project. The collaboration with Te Niwha enables the collaboration with an economist and social science researcher to map the connections between and around TB and latent TB cases to provide a more complete picture of the dynamics, networks and connectivity of TB spread within a social structure; and secondly to apply a culturally appropriate economic analysis of the TB elimination approach that could inform policy decisions for wider rollout to other regions of NZ.

Impact

The potential impact of this is to have an approach which uses Kaupapa Māori methods for a more appropriate public health response to TB to clear the pathogen from the population.

The overall HRC project in which this Te Niwha component is embedded continues to reveal gaps in the current delivery of TB care for Māori. Our results have exposed the limitations and capacity of public health units to engage with, and meet the needs for Māori with TB, and reveal a missing link with community partners. These gaps have provided evidence to support a further research application to partner with Māori community health partners.