



# Te Niwaha

## Research Project Impact Case Study

Mana-enhancing Research Strategy for Māori Living with HIV

### Key researchers

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### Impact

Our mahi has focused on weaving together kōrero, whakaaro, and experiences into a research model of practice for Toitū Te Ao, guided by Te Whiore o Te Whai. Translating Te Ao Māori concepts into a written framework that is both practical and true to tikanga was a delicate, iterative process. What has emerged is a strategy and framework that gives Toitū Te Ao clear direction, and for future research partners, a shared way of working, anchored in Māori values, mātauranga Māori, and Māori ways of approaching research engagements.

We engaged with the wider sexual health sector through the National HIV Forum, sharing our kaupapa and inviting feedback via a survey. This kōrero helped us understand the experiences and perspectives of those wanting to work with Māori in the HIV sector but are not sure how. We have addressed these insights in our framework, strengthening its usability and relevance.

Internationally, we have strengthened our connection with Yeena Thompson at the Wollotuka Institute, University of Newcastle, Australia. Sharing knowledge across Indigenous contexts has been enriching, and we hope to invite Yeena to Aotearoa to kōrero about the “Research Our Way” framework, which may inform a community-led approach to sexual and reproductive health research more broadly.

Challenges included identifying Māori researchers working in the HIV sector and the pressures of Toitū Te Ao’s rapid growth and developing capacity. Despite this, we now have a strong foundation to guide future Māori-led research, build capacity and meaningful engagement both with the HIV community nationally and our international connections too.