



# Whānau Ora Action Research Collaboration

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# Presentation Aims

- To tell a story about the development of a NZ indigenous programme of action research to evaluate a significant social policy initiative.



# Setting

- Number of key players
- Ambitious reform agenda
- High expectations to deliver
- Well established sophisticated systems –some emerging
- Evaluation is prescribed but also developmental
- Indigenous lead at all levels



# What happened first six months

- Came together as matched pairs
  - providers chose evaluators (whakapapa)
- relationship agreement
- Worked out what we wanted to do through a shared evaluation plan
- met, talked, read, watched, waited and reported



# What happened next six months

- More planning and talking -Logic Model
- Met, talked, read, watched, waited and reported to providers and funders



# Provider view of AR

- A koha process- reciprocity
- Requires whanaungatanga
- Enables mana-enhancing evaluation- respectful, inclusive valuing
- Is not set in stone

“As we go research”



# What is working so far

- Relationships
- Shared & strong leadership
- Flexibility & adaptability
- A favourable political and social climate



# What is working for the provider

- Step-by-step approach
  - Each phase explained, defined, agreed
- Moving at our pace
- Benefits of working with a Māori research provider
- Informed approach – not lost in translation





# Utility from provider perspective

- Reflection process
- “Seeing the forest for the trees”



# Challenges we are dealing with

- Interventions dynamic learning initiatives- ever changing, complex, methodologically challenging
- lengthy implementation process as everyone builds capacity – we wait



# Challenges we are dealing with

- Significant scrutiny of all partners in the AR
  - funders, researchers and providers
  - Game of instant results within a political cycle



# What can we do better

- “Catch-up” research at times
  - researchers not engaged to document every step in the process
- Immediate focus on whānau and evidence of quick returns
  - belief that an opportunity to detail and describe the development phase, potentially rich with data, may have been overlooked



Thank you from all the partners

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