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Waipapa
Taumata Rau
University
of Auckland



Participant Information Sheet (PIS)

Project title: Allied health innovations: Collaborative strategies for equitable healthcare

Date Created: 26 June 2025

Name of Principal Investigator/Supervisor (PI): Dr. Heleen Reid

Name of Co-investigators: Professor John Parsons, Professor Leigh Hale, Associate Professor Clare McCann, Dr. Daniel O'Brien, Ms. Emma Quigan, Associate Professor Mershen Pillay, Mrs. Annabel Grant, Dr. Mike Frecklington, Geraint Phillips, Dr. Elizabeth Holt

You are invited to participate in a research study to develop innovative allied health solutions for New Zealanders. This study is being led by Heleen Reid from Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand and a team of researchers from Auckland University of Technology, the University of Auckland, Massey University, and Otago University. This study has been funded by the Health Research Council of New Zealand. Thank you for your interest in participating in this study. Please read this information sheet in full before deciding to participate. [To express an interest in participating in this study, please complete the expression of interest form HERE, no later than the 14th of July.](#)

What is the purpose of this research?

This research will use a process called 'collaborative design' where professionals, consumers and researchers come together to identify gaps and plan for the future. In this study, we are interested in the gaps in the health service and opportunities for collaborative allied health innovations. The focus of the innovations will be on supporting priority groups who may have unmet needs at present.

The wānanga/workshops where this co-design process will take place will include health care consumers, advocates/representatives of priority patient groups, health care providers, allied health education providers, and allied health professionals. Together, we aim to identify and plan innovations that can be supported by an interdisciplinary allied health workforce. The outcomes of the study will be well-thought-out, innovative projects that incorporate a wide range of allied health professionals. This will lead to future funding applications that test these ideas.

What will participation involve?

If you choose to participate, you will be asked to share your experiences, knowledge and be part of idea generation in a series of workshops/wānanga. You will be asked to attend three workshops/wānanga, held one month apart, in your local hub (Auckland, Rotorua, Wellington or Dunedin). Each wānanga will be 4-5 hours long, and kai/food will be provided. Each wānanga will be attended by 8-15 people, and you will be asked to engage in a series of activities. These activities may include arts-based activities, brainstorming, or discussion and sharing of ideas. You may also be asked to bring items, such as photographs, to the sessions. These will not be collected or shared, but will be used to promote discussion and storytelling of your experiences and understanding of health and wellbeing.

Each wānanga will build on the previous one. Researchers will collate the ideas and feedback throughout the sessions. Then, in between the sessions, ideas will be collated across the four hubs, with ideas shared across all the hubs at the end and start of each wānanga. This is to ensure maximum idea generation across the project and problem solving that is not limited by your location or who is in the room.

Participants can choose to attend the three wānanga at one of the following locations:

- Auckland - AUT South Campus, Manurewa, Auckland. To be held on Monday 28th July, Monday 1st September, and Monday 6th October
- Rotorua - Rotorua Library. To be held on Thursday 31st July, Wednesday 3rd September, and Tuesday 7th October
- Wellington - Wellington Regional Hospital. To be held on Thursday 31st July, Wednesday 3rd September, and Thursday 9th October
- Dunedin - School of Physiotherapy To be held on Monday 28th July, Monday 1st September, and Monday 6th October.

The costs associated with participating will be your time, knowledge and transport to the venue. Participating in this study will give you a voice in the future of health services in New Zealand and give you the opportunity to share your valuable experiences. Should you decide not to participate in the study, you are free to do so, and you may withdraw from the study at any time; however, once the first workshop has started, you will not be able to withdraw information already provided. This is because this information is co-created and contributes to the work of the group as a whole; therefore, individual contributions cannot be removed.

Expression of Interest and Participant Selection

To express an interest in participating in this study, please complete the expression of interest form [HERE](#), no later than the 14th of July. This form asks for some key demographic information and details about your experiences interacting with the health service. This

information will be used to aid recruitment and ensure that we have a diverse group of people invited, allowing us to capture a broad range of ideas.

If the sessions are over-subscribed, we will select participants based on the information provided to ensure a diverse representation of healthcare professionals, healthcare consumers, age groups, and ethnicities across the four wānanga. Your interest in participation will be confirmed within one week of your application. Confirmation of your involvement and additional information about the venues will be sent out at least one week before the scheduled wānanga.

Deidentification, Confidentiality, Data Storage, Destruction and Use

Any materials produced in these sessions will be collected by the research team, and names will be replaced with an ID number for storage. Physical items will be collected, photographed and stored electronically on the Auckland University of Technology server. These items will then be destroyed or returned to you (if requested). All researcher notes, images, artwork, data provided, and data analysis will be stored in a secure electronic file for 6 years, or until there is no longer interest in the study's findings. Originals will be destroyed once these have been digitised. Confidentiality of information and participation will be preserved to the extent allowed by law.

The data obtained from the wānanga will be analysed to identify key ideas and concepts, and reviewed at the next session. These data will also be used to apply for future grants. The consent form you will sign will be kept separate from the data collected at the wānanga, and all efforts will be made to ensure your data remains confidential. However, please be aware that there is a risk that your information may be shared. As the data is collected in a group setting, there is the risk that the information you share may be shared outside of the group setting by other participants. Although we request that this does not happen, we (the research team) cannot be held responsible if it does occur.

This research study employs an iterative co-design methodology, which involves formulating, creating, and revisiting ideas and themes throughout the workshops. The research team's notes recorded throughout the meetings will be used to supplement these ideas and to ensure that key ideas are not missed. The key themes will be revisited at the start of the next wānanga to review their accuracy and bring a focus to the discussion. Any data or quotations used in publications will be de-identified to protect your identity; that is, names will be replaced with pseudonyms, and other identifying features will be removed. Some demographic information, such as age, gender, ethnicity or profession, may also be reported, but identifying demographics will be carefully removed to ensure quotes cannot be linked to you.

All data will be stored in locked storage or in a password-protected electronic file on the Auckland University of Technology server. All information you provide will be kept strictly confidential and held by Auckland University of Technology for 6 years, or for as long as there is

interest in the study findings. It will then be destroyed in accordance with Auckland University of Technology procedures. You will be kept informed of the outcomes and the ideas generated through the workshops, and a summary of findings will be provided to you after the study, if you request it.

Benefits and Risks associated with participation

There are no direct benefits to you for taking part in this study. However, the views and ideas that you share will contribute to future initiatives within the health service that may indirectly benefit you and your whānau. The risks associated with participating in this study are minimal. Whilst the content of the wānanga is not designed to be upsetting or challenging, the activities may remind you of a past distressing experience or period in your life. For some people, participating in open-ended research where they are asked to share their professional or personal experiences may be distressing. For example, people may reflect on experiences of discrimination or health issues that can lead to feelings of stress or worry. If discussing these topics is likely to risk your well-being, I request that you reconsider and decline to participate. In summary, there is a small possibility that some of the questions may cause upset or distress. If this happens, then I will recommend that you seek support from an appropriate person or organisation.

All efforts will be made to create a warm, friendly and welcoming environment where everyone can share their experiences as valid and important additions to the discussion. As a research team, our view is that everyone has had different experiences that we can learn from, and collectively, these can provide support for the necessary changes that need to be made.

Additionally, while we do not ask questions about specific environments, healthcare settings or workplaces, in some instances, there may be questions that require reflection on your experiences. These reflections may result in comments about colleagues, employers or services that may be upsetting.

It is important that you are aware that the confidentiality of others is adhered to and understand that stories shared are valid and respected. We, the research team, will remind participants of the importance of this at each of the wānanga.

Conflicts of Interest

To recruit a broad spectrum of participants, we will advertise in many ways, including word of mouth, personal invitations, social media advertisements, and by asking organisations to promote this project. We have included invitations to colleagues, friends, and other associates to participate. We want you to know there are many people that we could approach for this project, so you are in no way required to volunteer, but we welcome your knowledge and sharing of experiences. We will not treat you any differently if you do or do not choose to participate, and there are no right or wrong answers that we are looking for.

Right to Withdraw from Participation

Your participation in this research is voluntary, and whether you choose to participate will neither advantage nor disadvantage you. You have the right to withdraw from participation at any time by informing the researcher. You may do so without giving a reason, including after agreeing to participate and at any point during your participation. If you choose to withdraw from the study, then information collected up until your withdrawal from the study will continue to be used and included in the study to protect its quality.

By the end of the three wānanga/workshops, we aim for the ideas generated to develop into robust plans that can be piloted with further funding. The information obtained from you at the wānanga may be presented at public and academic conferences or published in public or academic journals.

The data collected will also be used to apply for future funding to pilot these innovative ideas. You will not be identifiable in any publication.

Māori data sovereignty

Māori data sovereignty is about protecting information or knowledge that pertains to (or originates from) Māori people. We recognise the taonga of the data collected for this study. To help protect this taonga, we have consulted with Emma Quigan about the collection, ownership, and use of study data. We allow Māori organisations to access de-identified study data for uses that may benefit Māori.

What do I do if I have concerns about this research?

Any concerns regarding the nature of this project should be notified in the first instance to the Primary Investigator, Dr. Heleen Reid, heleen.reid@aut.ac.nz, and (+649) 921 9999 ext 7782. If you have any questions about the study, you may contact Josie Tait, Project Manager at josie.tait@aut.ac.nz.

Concerns regarding the conduct of the research should be notified to the Executive Secretary of AUTECH, ethics@aut.ac.nz, (+649) 921 9999 ext 6038.

Thank you for taking the time to read this information and for your interest in taking part in the study.

[If you wish to take part in the study, please click here to complete the expression of interest form.](#)

*Approved by the Auckland University of Technology Ethics Committee on 1 July 2025.
AUTECH Reference number 25/168.*