

WALSH-TAPIATA, Wheturangi

Rangatahi Rangahau

Te Runanga o Raukawa Inc

New Zealand

Whaia te Hauora o nga Rangatahi is a 3 year HRC/FORST funded research project under the mantel of Te Runanga o Raukawa. The group presenting is a combination of pakeke and rangatahi researchers. Wheturangi Walsh-Tapiata is the project manager. He is presenting alongside Justina Webster--- the Senior researcher, and rangatahi participants. Wheturangi comes from a background in research on whanau, hapu and iwi development while Justina's research background is in action research with families. The rangatahi have been nominated by their iwi/Maori organisation and have spent the last year not only learning about research but also creating a research approach that ensures rangatahi perspectives.

What Can We Learn From the Past That Could Strengthen Rangatahi Hauora?

Traditionally rangatahi were nurtured within the social structures of whānau, hapu and iwi. In addition, the attributes connected with our rangatahi ensured that they were able to address the issues that they faced. The impact of colonization has led to traumatic change in the lives of rangatahi, creating major problems that they are currently having to contend with. Recent research concerning rangatahi hauora suggests that tikanga, te reo, whānau and traditional Māori practices may offer some positive solutions to the issues they are confronting (*Adolescent Health Research*: 2004, Walsh-Tapiata and Webster: 2005). This paper analyzes the historical literature on rangatahi and considers principles that could be transposed and applied to address present day hauora issues.