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Te Runanga o Raukawa
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. Justina, the Senior researcher on the project is presenting with Wheturangi Walsh-Tapiata--- the project manager, and rangatahi participants. Justina's research background is in action research with families while Wheturangi comes from a background in research on whanau, hapu and iwi development. 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.

You Say You've Listened, But Have You Heard? Lessons Learnt by Pakeke and Rangatahi Researchers About Research on Rangatahi Hauora

The view that youth are passive individuals waiting for adulthood has served to deny the possibility of young people exercising agency over their lives, making their own experiences and being engaged in purposeful and strategic analysis of social structures (Tuhiwai Smith, 2002:177).

Māori, in common with other indigenous peoples, face considerable problems with their youth. While there have been many attempts to address these issues, there has been limited involvement from Māori youth and their communities.

This paper will include a combined youth and adult presentation that explores strategies where Māori youth as researchers will examine their own health and wellbeing. The youth researchers will highlight some of the skills learnt through individual and focus group interviews conducted with a range of Māori youth leading towards the development of a youth-driven audit tool.

We will suggest that the active involvement of youth in seeking positive resolutions to their own issues makes a major contribution to their long term health and wellbeing.