

# ***“WHAKATAU MAI RA”: THE IMPACTS OF GAMBLING FOR MĀORI COMMUNITIES: A NATIONAL MĀORI COLLABORATIVE APPROACH***

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## ***ABSTRACT***

Gambling is a significant health issue for Māori in Aotearoa, both in terms of public health approaches to reducing gambling harm, and in the delivery of culturally appropriate services to minimise harm. Likewise, we know that gambling is also a significant issue facing other indigenous cultures worldwide.

An indepth national, collaborative study into the impacts of gambling for Māori communities was conducted over a one year period by Pou Tuia Rangahau, formerly known as the Research and Development Unit of Te Runanga O Kirikiriroa Trust Inc. The project was conducted in collaboration with six Māori health provider organisations (Māori Providers) throughout the country, working in the area of gambling.

The project has featured a number of unique factors. Firstly, the importance of collaboration with six Māori Providers nationwide, to talk about the issues and impacts of gambling within their communities. Secondly, the ability of the project to foster the research workforce capacity of the six Māori Providers involved in the project. Thirdly, the use of a kaupapa Māori research framework throughout the project. Finally, the information and key findings that have emerged from the project have particular meaning, relevance and long-term implications specific to Māori communities across the country.

Overall, the findings of this project clearly highlight that local, regional and national government agencies need to begin listening to, and actively engaging with Māori communities and Māori Providers, to ensure that the community voice is heard and responded to in a proactive manner, regarding the location, number and minimisation of gambling activities, including the reduction of gambling-related harm for Māori communities across the country.

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### ***Naina Wātene***

Naina Wātene is of Ngati Tipa, Ngati Mahanga, Ngati Te Ata and Waikato descent. Naina has a background in Māori and public health research and administration, and previously worked as a Researcher/Administrator for Te Roopu Rangahau Hauora A Eru Pomare, the Eru Pomare Māori Health Research Centre (formerly known as Te Pumanawa Hauora ki te Whanganui-a-Tara), based at the Wellington School of Medicine. Naina has also had previous experience working in the alcohol and drug field since 1987 in treatment, prevention and administration. For the last five years, Naina has particularly conducted health promotion activities and research in the area of gambling and gambling-related harm for communities in the Waikato area. As well, Naina has collaborated nationally with a range of Māori Health Providers to investigate the impacts of gambling harm for Māori communities. Throughout this experience, Naina has been committed to working for the retention of all components regarding things Māori, for the sake of future generations, such as her three children.