



CULTURAL, ETHICAL, RESEARCH, LEGAL AND SCIENTIFIC (CERLS) ISSUES OF RONGOĀ MĀORI RESEARCH

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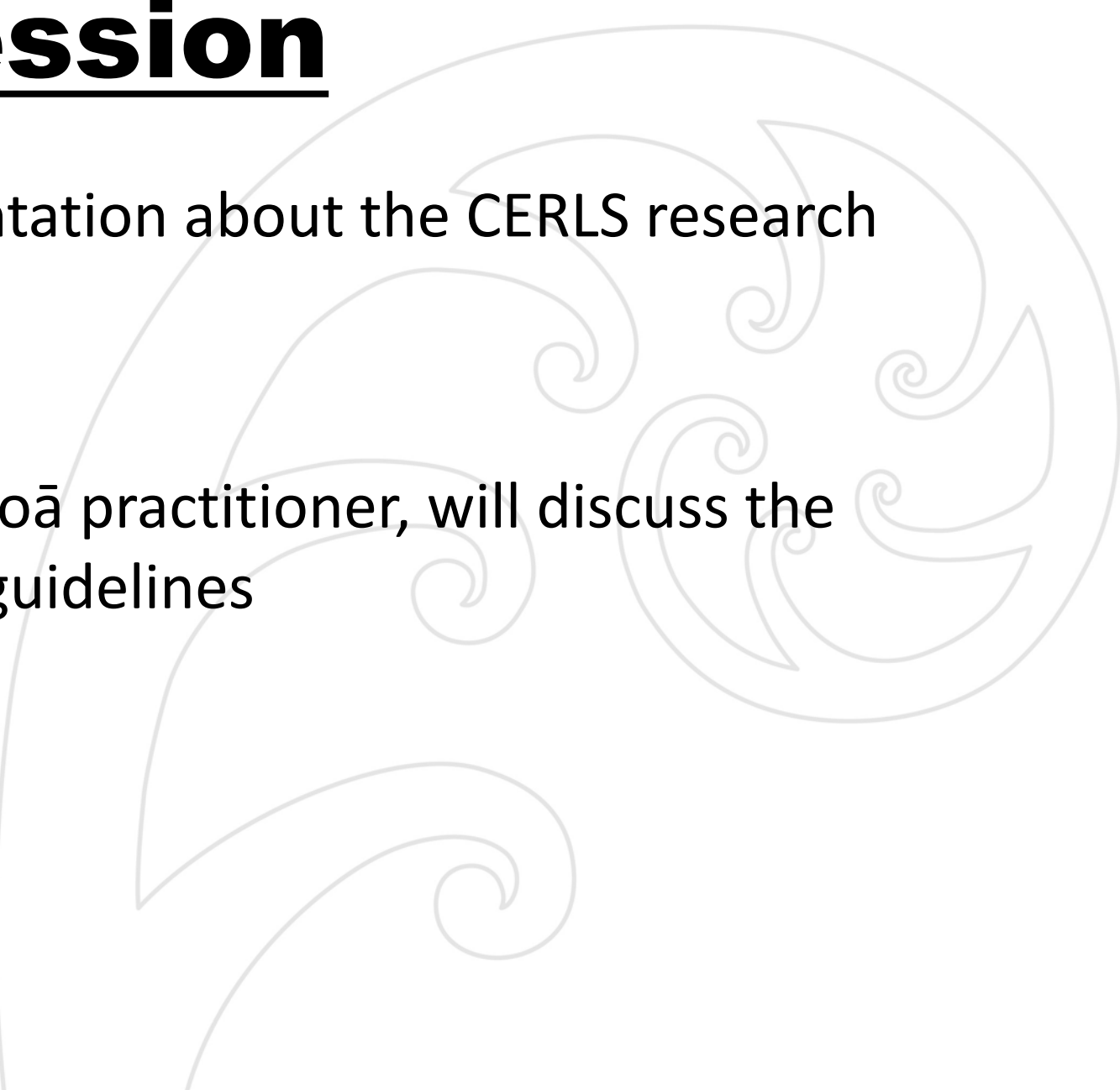
Whakauae Research for Māori Health and Development





Today's session

- Research team presentation about the CERLS research
 - Questions and answers

 - Donna Kerridge, Rongoā practitioner, will discuss the potential uses of the guidelines
 - Questions and answers
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Motivation/Inspiration

Why we wanted to do this research

What we wanted to achieve

The whole point



Overview

Methodology

- Reflexivity/Challenges
- Results

Recommendations

Implications

Future research

CERLS guidelines





Methodology

Kaupapa Māori approach

Influenced design of study, how questions were posed, underlying assumption of the value of Rongoā Māori

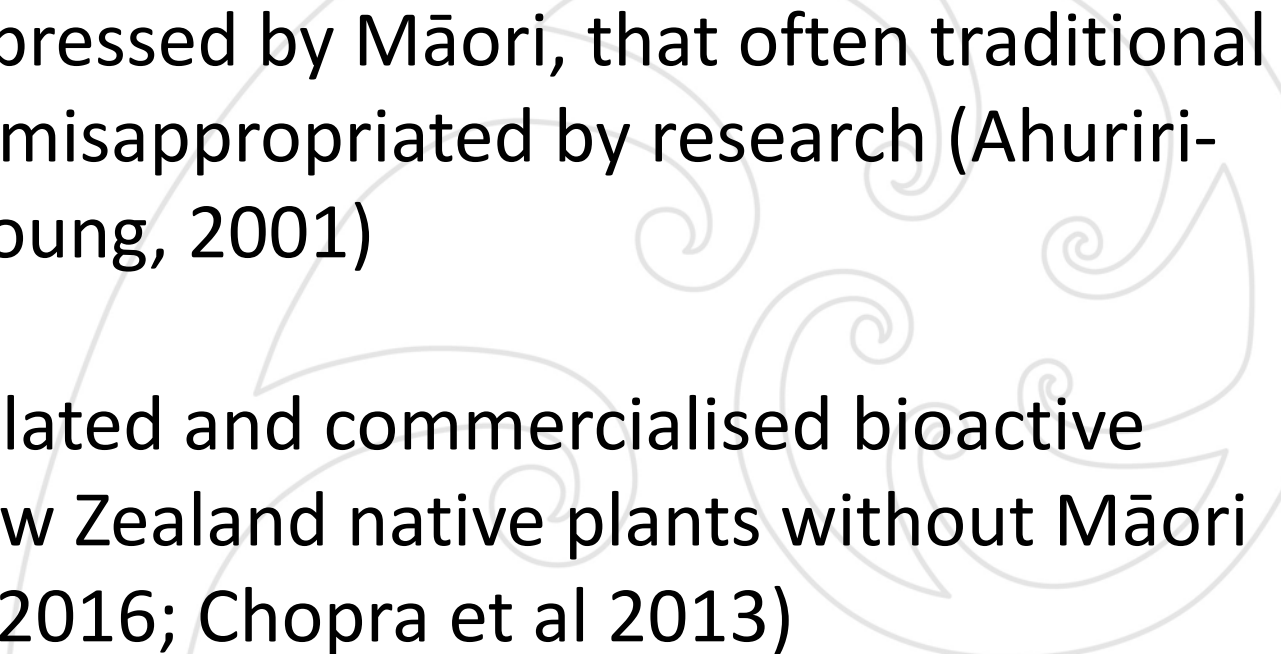
Allowed for great degree of reflexivity, debate and rigour in the analysis of data

Utility of the results





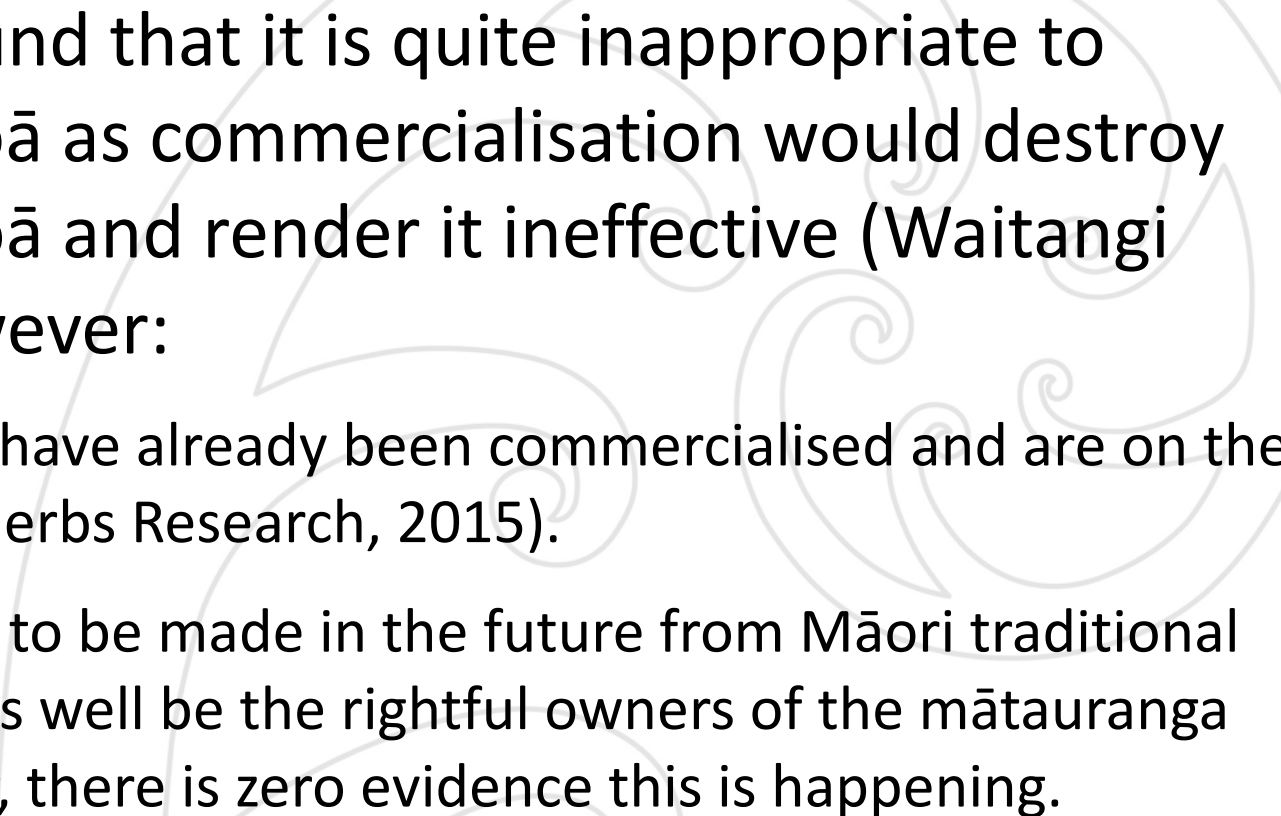
Literature review

- Concern has been expressed by Māori, that often traditional knowledge has been misappropriated by research (Ahuriri-Driscoll et al, 2009; Young, 2001)
 - Laboratories have isolated and commercialised bioactive constituents from New Zealand native plants without Māori consultation (Buenz, 2016; Chopra et al 2013)
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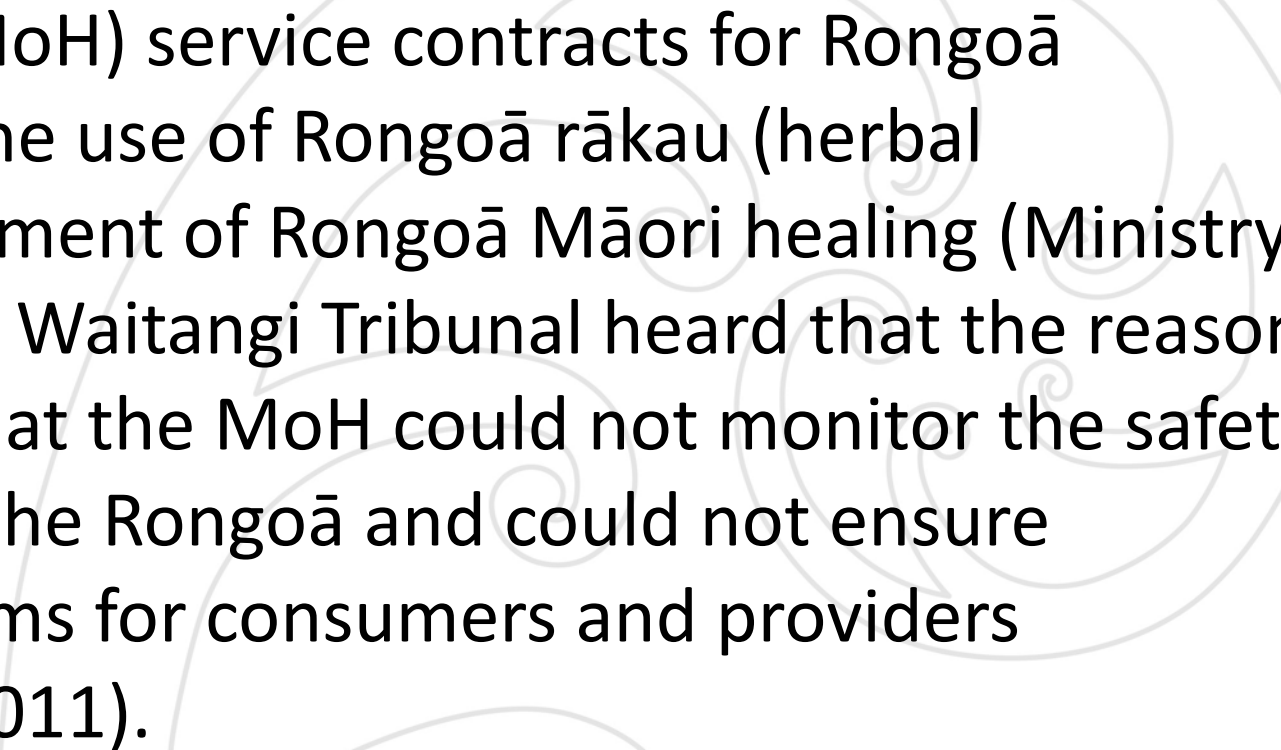
Literature review

- Waitangi Tribunal found that it is quite inappropriate to commercialise Rongoā as commercialisation would destroy the essence of Rongoā and render it ineffective (Waitangi Tribunal, 2015). However:
 - some types of Rongoā have already been commercialised and are on the market today (Forest Herbs Research, 2015).
 - there is a lot of money to be made in the future from Māori traditional remedies, and it may as well be the rightful owners of the mātauranga who benefit. However, there is zero evidence this is happening.
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Literature review

- Ministry of Health (MoH) service contracts for Rongoā specifically exclude the use of Rongoā rākau (herbal remedies); a core element of Rongoā Māori healing (Ministry of Health, 2014). The Waitangi Tribunal heard that the reason for the exclusion is that the MoH could not monitor the safety or quality control of the Rongoā and could not ensure protection mechanisms for consumers and providers (Waitangi Tribunal, 2011).
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Methodology

Three objectives:

To explore and identify the cultural, ethical, research, legal and scientific (CERLS) issues inherent in Rongoā Māori research

To ascertain effective strategies to address the identified CERLS issues in Rongoā Māori research

To inform the development of further research on Rongoā Māori

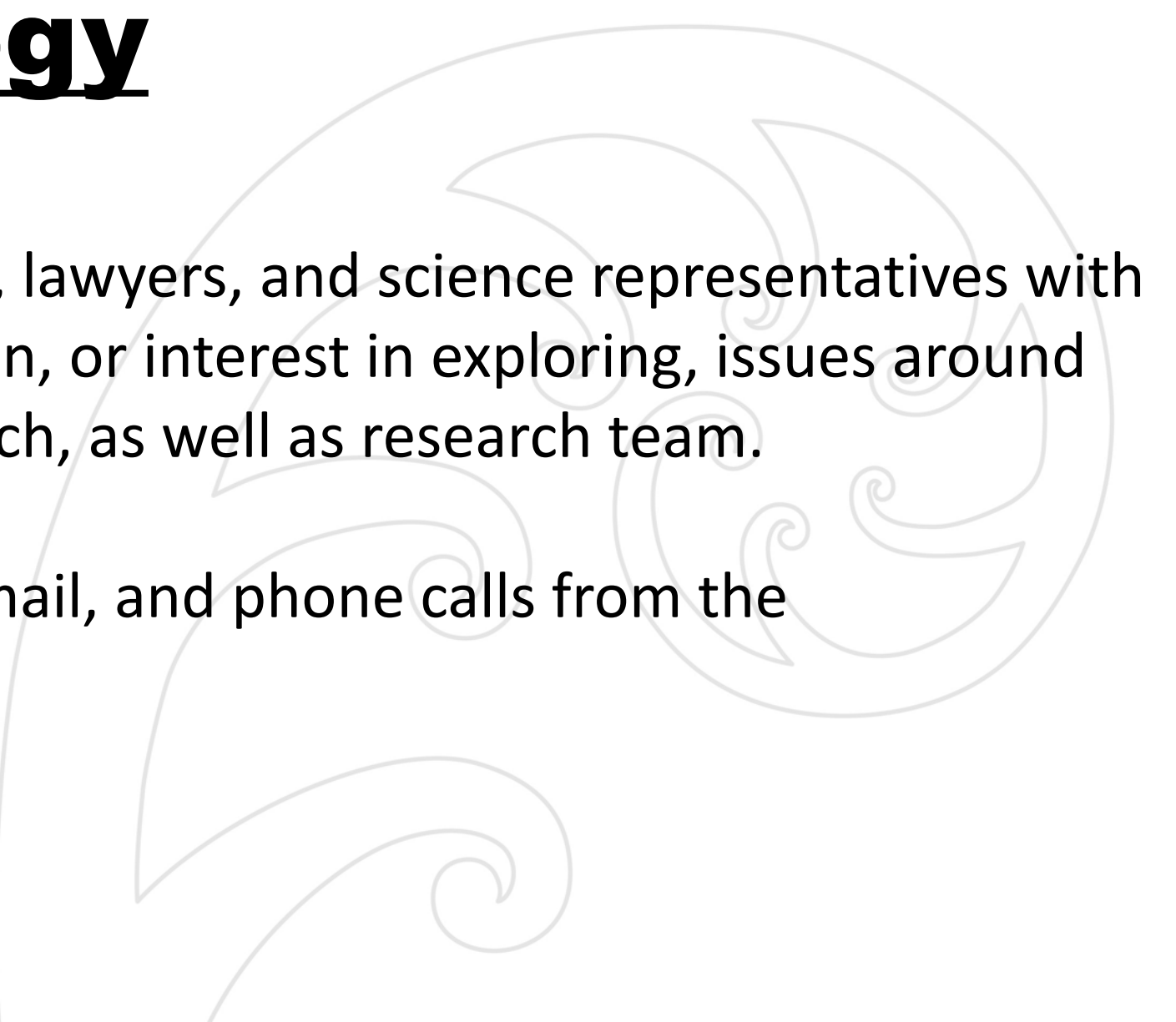
Ethics granted from the New Zealand Ethics Committee: NZEC Application 2017_01





Methodology

PARTICIPANTS

- Rongoā practitioners, lawyers, and science representatives with previous experience in, or interest in exploring, issues around Rongoā Māori research, as well as research team.
 - Recruited through email, and phone calls from the research team
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Methodology

INTERVIEWS

At two interviews, participants were asked:

- What are the cultural, ethical, research, legal and scientific (CERLS) issues that are inherent in research on Rongoā Māori plants and healing?
 - What are effective strategies to address each of these issues appropriately?
 - From your perspective and experience, how do you think future research should be conducted on Rongoā Māori plants and healing?
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Research methods

ANALYSIS/DISSEMINATION

- A participant dissemination hui was held where feedback was given
- CERLS guidelines were drafted, reviewed, and finalised by the research team



Reflexivity/Challenges

- Discussion of a wide range of issues eg was it our job to change scientific perceptions about rongoā
- Contemplation about what was best for rongoā eg should rongoā plants be scientifically dissected
- Commitment to include what was best for rongoā practitioners eg ensuring clear and open communication between researchers and healers





Results

A set of main themes for each CERLS category with a set of statements for Rongoā practitioners and researchers exploring each theme further eg Cultural

RONGOĀ PRACTITIONERS		RESEARCHERS	
Cultural integrity of Rongoā Māori is maintained			
Healers should feel as though Rongoā Māori philosophy and values are respected in the research.		The philosophy and values of Rongoā Māori healing should be reflected in all research processes.	
Healers should feel that Māori customs and values are appreciated and respected in all research processes.		Researchers should have an appreciation of Te Ao Māori (the Māori world) worldviews and values and respect basic Māori customs.	
Healers should expect that even if the research focuses only on active ingredients, the researchers will take into consideration the Rongoā Māori cultural context behind the use of the plant.		Researchers should endeavour to include significant reference to the cultural context behind the use of Rongoā plant species. Healers are often suspicious when researchers want to know how a plant works, without wanting to learn about the Rongoā Māori cultural context behind the use of that plant.	





Results

In addition to participant data, we included additional sections that reflected participant input and for added clarity, as follow:

Cultural

A series of suggestions of how to incorporate healing principles into research

Ethics

Information relating to ethics committees, Te Ara Tika, rongoā regulations and standards, and indigenous rights guideline

Legal

Information regarding a variety of legal statutes, the Treaty of Waitangi and information on intellectual property

Ethics, Research, Legal recommendations





Overview of CERLS issues

Cultural

- Cultural integrity of Rongoā is maintained.
- Research is patient/participant centered, just as Rongoā is patient focused.
- Values: aroha, wairua, kaitiakitanga, utu, equity are upheld in the research.
- Healer rights: to keep the tapu and to be accepted for their uniqueness.
- Researchers need to be educated about Rongoā, te ao Māori and involvement in the community.





Overview of CERLS issues

Ethical

- Full ethical informed consent should be gained.
- Comprehensive consultation with Māori, appropriate to the Rongoā topic and area.
- Safety during research participation.
- Dissemination beyond the project end.
- Ethical Dilemmas that need to be addressed.



Overview of CERLS issues

Research

- Research design should reflect Rongoā healing principles.
- Research contemplation and discussion with healers from conceptual stage.
- The importance of comprehensive literature review.
- Recruiting in Rongoā research.
- Interviewing should reflect Māori cultural customary ways of being and Rongoā Māori healing principles.
- Payment of Rongoā research participants.
- Participant feedback in data analysis is valuable.
- Research dissemination communication.
- Research funding.





Overview of CERLS issues

Legal

- The divine right of healers to hold and to give knowledge.
- Full disclosure of intellectual property ownership intent.
- Protection of the ownership of research data should be clearly communicated.





Overview of CERLS issues

Scientific

- Conducting scientific Rongoā research according to Rongoā Māori healing principles.
- Awareness that the whole in Rongoā Māori healing is greater than the single constituent.
- Issues around science meeting Rongoā.
- Accountability for the Rongoā research data and information.



Recommendations

A set of Ethical, Research and Legal recommendations were made that reflected participant input and served to highlight significant issues that need to be addressed or implemented around rongoā Māori research



Recommendations

Ethics Recommendation

- A suitably experienced and qualified Rongoā and/or Māori research ethics committee including Rongoā Māori practitioners and researchers, would be ideal to approve Māori research ethics. It is difficult for research ethics to be granted for Rongoā Māori by committees with no expertise in either Māori topics or Rongoā Māori. Rongoā Māori research ethics should be specific to Māori traditional knowledge and mātauranga.



Recommendations

Research recommendation

- There should be an appropriate representative at funding levels, who has the relevant qualifications and skills to assess each application, for consideration of Rongoā research funding applications.





Recommendations

Legal recommendations

- A professional body, advocating for Rongoā Māori knowledge protection, may assist researchers or Rongoā Māori practitioners working on issues such as patents or intellectual property relating specifically to Rongoā Māori.
- The Crown provide an appropriate and comprehensive response to the Wai 262 Claim that was made to the Waitangi Tribunal.



Implications

Ideally guidelines will be used:

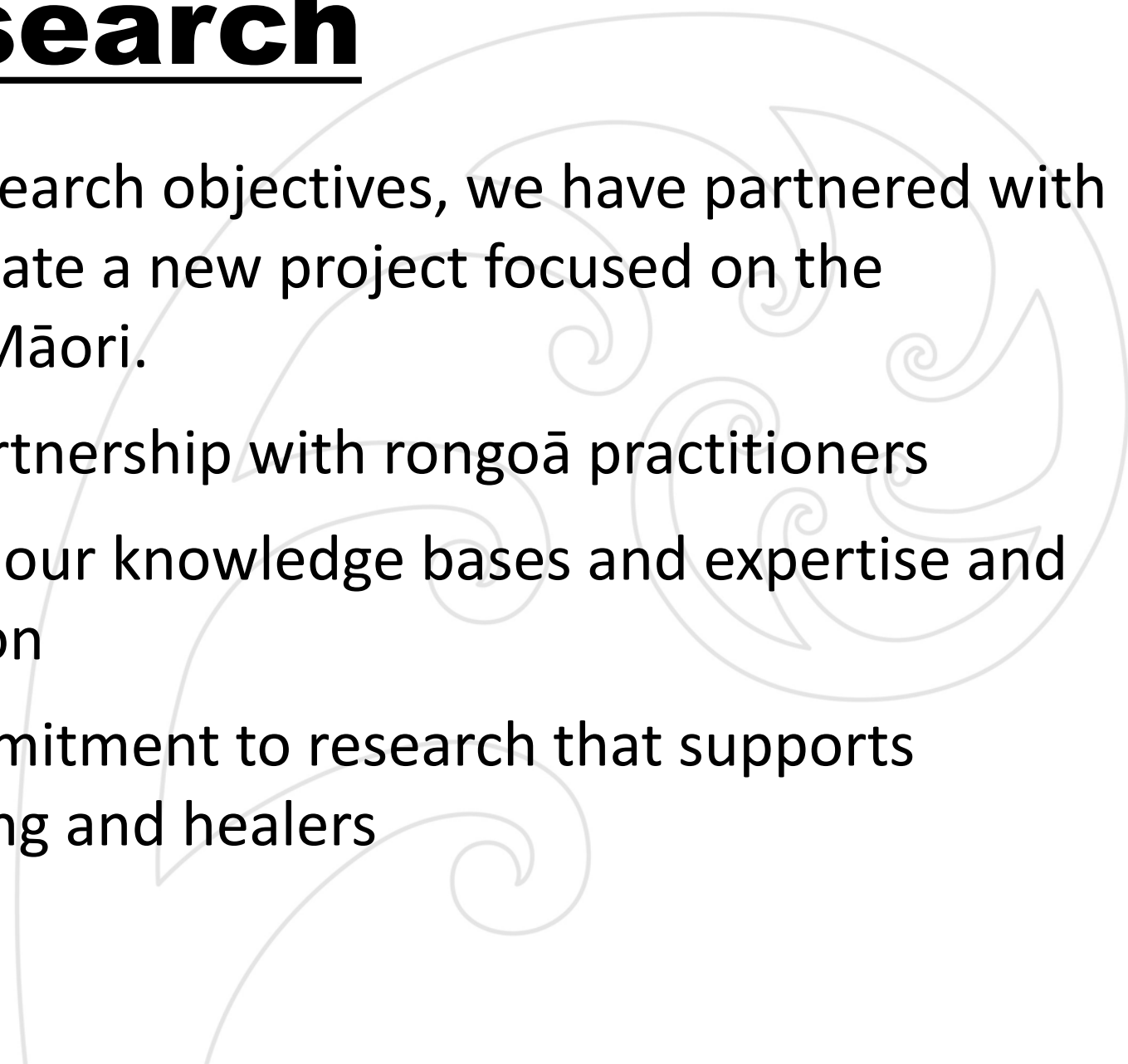
- by researchers to conduct research in partnership with rongoā practitioners
- by rongoā practitioners to be informed their research rights and responsibilities
- to conduct research on rongoā Māori that aligns with healing principles in partnership with rongoā practitioners





Future research

In fulfilment of our research objectives, we have partnered with Donna Kerridge to initiate a new project focused on the economics of rongoā Māori.

- In full and equal partnership with rongoā practitioners
 - With full respect of our knowledge bases and expertise and open communication
 - In a continued commitment to research that supports rongoā Māori healing and healers
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Ongoing commitment

Review the document every 2 years, starting in 2020

Open to feedback providing an email address for comment:
cerlsguidelines@gmail.com



Acknowledgements

We would like to thank our research participants for their contribution to the guidelines

We would like to thank our funders



References

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If you would like a copy, please feel free to attend our CERLS guidelines launch!





INVITE TO CERLS **GUIDELINES LAUNCH**

Tuesday 11 December

1.00 – 3.00 pm

Owen G Glenn Building, Room 260-210

12 Grafton Road

University of Auckland City campus

The research team, Dr Amohia Boulton, Dr Glenis Mark and Dr Marion Johnson, will present the research methodology and results.

Donna Kerridge, Rongoā practitioner, will discuss the potential application of the guidelines. Afternoon tea will be provided.

