

# Ensuring Māori wellbeing during Covid-19: Sovereignty, Relationships and the Significance of Culture

Invited Keynote by Dr Amohia Boulton  
for the Millet Indigenous Cultural Foundation, Taiwan  
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# Overview

Whakauae  
Research Services  
Ltd

Covid-19 in  
Aotearoa/NZ

The Māori  
(Indigenous)  
response

Success Factors



Whakauae Research  
Services Ltd

Whakauae  
established in 2005

Purpose:

- to develop Ngāti Hauiti research capacity
- to undertake Kaupapa Māori research to benefit Ngāti Hauiti and Māori



Iwi/Tribe: Ngāti Hauiti

One of four tribes  
in the Mōkai Pātea  
Nui Tonu  
Confederation

Work together on  
issues of critical  
importance

All descended from  
the ancestor,  
Tamatea Pōkai  
Whenua



# Covid-19 in Aotearoa

Experience of infectious disease and impact of pandemic is part of our oral history

- 28 Feb 2020, first local case
- 14 March 2020, Alert Level framework initiated
- 17 March 2020, TRT begin to meet
- 25 March 2020, country moved to Alert Level 4 “lockdown”



# Māori Responses

Priority was to maintain the whakapapa/genealogy

How?

By keeping communities safe:

- Practical support: food and baby packs, firewood, roadblocks
- Mobilising a workforce



# Māori Responses

## Keeping Communities Safe:

- Advocacy and leadership at local and central government level
- Maintaining a balance between official advice and mātauranga Māori e.g. tangihanga/funerals



# Success Factors

Strong and immediate leadership

Deep knowledge of the people/community

Adherence to cultural values

Communication and transparency



Questions?



# Acknowledgments

The many Māori communities who kept our people safe during lockdown

The Leadership of Te Ranga Tupua and of Ngāti Hauiti

The team at Whakauae

For more information:

McClintock K., & Boulton, A. (2020). *Ko toku ara rā Aotearoa, Our Journey, New Zealand COVID19 2020*, Te Kīwai Rangahau, Te Rau Ora & Whakauae Research Centre, Hamilton, New Zealand.  
<https://terauora.com/news/te-rau-ora-covid-19-publication/>



Nō reira  
tēnā kautau  
tēnā kautau  
tēnā rā tātau katoa

Thank you  
Ngā mihi ki a koutou