

Who Cares about New Zealand's Waistline; Māori as a Civil Society View

Dr Heather Gifford
Whakauae Research
for Māori Health and Development
Whanganui

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Māori as civil society

- Māori organisations outside of government and health can and do represent Māori collectives
- They have a formal relationships with national government through a Treaty partnership
- They are concerned with protecting the interests of their members

What can civil society do that others can't

- Create, advocate, and develop sustainable policies and actions
- Freedom and mandate to act
- Monitor and hold other actors accountable
- Mobilise support and form alliances

Why should Māori care about NZ's waistline

- Māori are clearly disproportionately affected by the problem
- We may not see the problem in the same way both objectively and subjectively (Metcalf, International Journal of Obesity, 2000)
- The solutions may not be the same, for example increased activity (Rush, 2003, British Journal of Obesity, NZ National Childrens Nutrition Survey)

Knowing how to care; what and who's evidence do we use

We understand some of the problem through collection of ethnicity data in national surveys, independent research projects such as OPIC, however other research indicates need further examination of existing data, and need for ethnic specific research

Knowing how to care; what and who's evidence do we use

- General lack of outcome data from interventions for general pop and by ethnicity (Blair, 2004)
- In addition to inclusion of ethnicity outcomes in evaluations we need our own measurements of evidence; e.g. Te Tuhono Oranga Evaluation Framework (Boulton, 2010), *Assessing Cost-Effectiveness in Prevention ACE-Prevention* (2010 in development)

Mechanisms for engagement so we can care

National level examples

HEHA Māori Caucus

Te Hotu Manawa Māori

What is the evidence that civil society can make a difference even if we get the other evidence right?

Can civil engagement work?

- create, advocate, and develop sustainable policies and actions
 - freedom and mandate to act
 - monitor and hold other actors accountable
 - mobilise support and form alliances
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- On all points the ability of Māori to influence outcomes through the HEHA strategy was problematic

In summary is care enough

Yes if we get other things right

- Right people involved at the right time in the right place
- Right questions to ask based on what we know are cultural differences
- Right solutions, programmes tailored to fit