

Thanks largely to the efforts of Dr Amohia Boulton, Whakauae has built up a number of international research partnerships over the past couple of years. The partnerships focus on a shared interest in indigenous health services research. Partners include: Professors Judith Dwyer at the Lowitja Institute, Flinders University and Dr Margaret Cargo from the School of Population Health at the University of South Australia, both located in Adelaide and Associate Professor Dr Josée Lavoie from Manitoba in Canada. In 2013 we had the pleasure of hosting two of these partners: Josée and Margaret.



Josée is currently the Director Manitoba First Nations- Centre for Aboriginal Health Research (CAHR) Faculty of Medicine, University of Manitoba. Josée's research interests focus on the policies and financing mechanisms set in place in Canada, Australia and New Zealand to support the continued development of indigenous primary health services and improve access to responsive primary health care services. During her visit we excitedly talked about future proposals and the opportunities to strengthen indigenous research workforce capacity across the three countries of Australia, NZ and Canada.

Margaret is an Australian Research Council (ARC) Future Fellow in the School of Population Health (Social Epidemiology and Evaluation Research Group (SEERG)). She completed a PhD in Health Care & Epidemiology at the University of British Columbia and an MSc in Health Behaviour at the University of Waterloo, in Canada. She held an appointment as Assistant Professor in the Division of Psychiatry at McGill University prior to relocating to Adelaide in 2007. Her expertise is at the intersection of participatory research, Aboriginal health promotion and the process evaluation of community-based programs and programs implemented in community and organisational settings. Her work evaluating Aboriginal type 2 diabetes prevention, tobacco control, parental engagement and early child development initiatives is aligned with participatory research principles and done in partnership with health councils and local communities, including elders. Her research uses mixed methods, program theory and cultural ways of knowing to strengthen the causal basis for understanding how and why programs generate outcomes to benefit Aboriginal people. Margaret also spent a week being hosted by Whakauae in 2013 where she participated in an invitational evaluation retreat on Indigenous evaluation along with Nan Wehipeihana and staff from the centre.



All three partnerships have resulted in joint conference presentations, joint publications and the opportunity to undertake collaborative research projects around commonly shared interests: indigenous health; health financing and delivery; and evaluation methods and principles.