



*“Ko te whakaaro tahi ki te whakapono”
This whakataūākī reminds us of the need to be of one thought, one mind
committed to working together for the betterment of our people.*

Feeding the Fires of Occupation

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BACKGROUND

This poster reports on a health promotion project collaboration between a New Zealand Māori¹ health provider and a rural community of Māori living around a traditional tribal gathering place known as a marae. The project, Te Puawai o Te Ahi Kaa (TPoTAK), aims to enhance the well-being of the tribal members by better understanding their needs and working with them to improve access to, and availability of, health services that better meet their needs. A key component of TPoTAK is utilising Māori ways of doing things and reconnecting families back to the marae. Collaboration across services and a holistic view of health, as well as a focus on families as a whole rather than simply as individuals within those families, are critical parts of the approach. Two community members have been employed to engage with families and co-ordinate project activity.



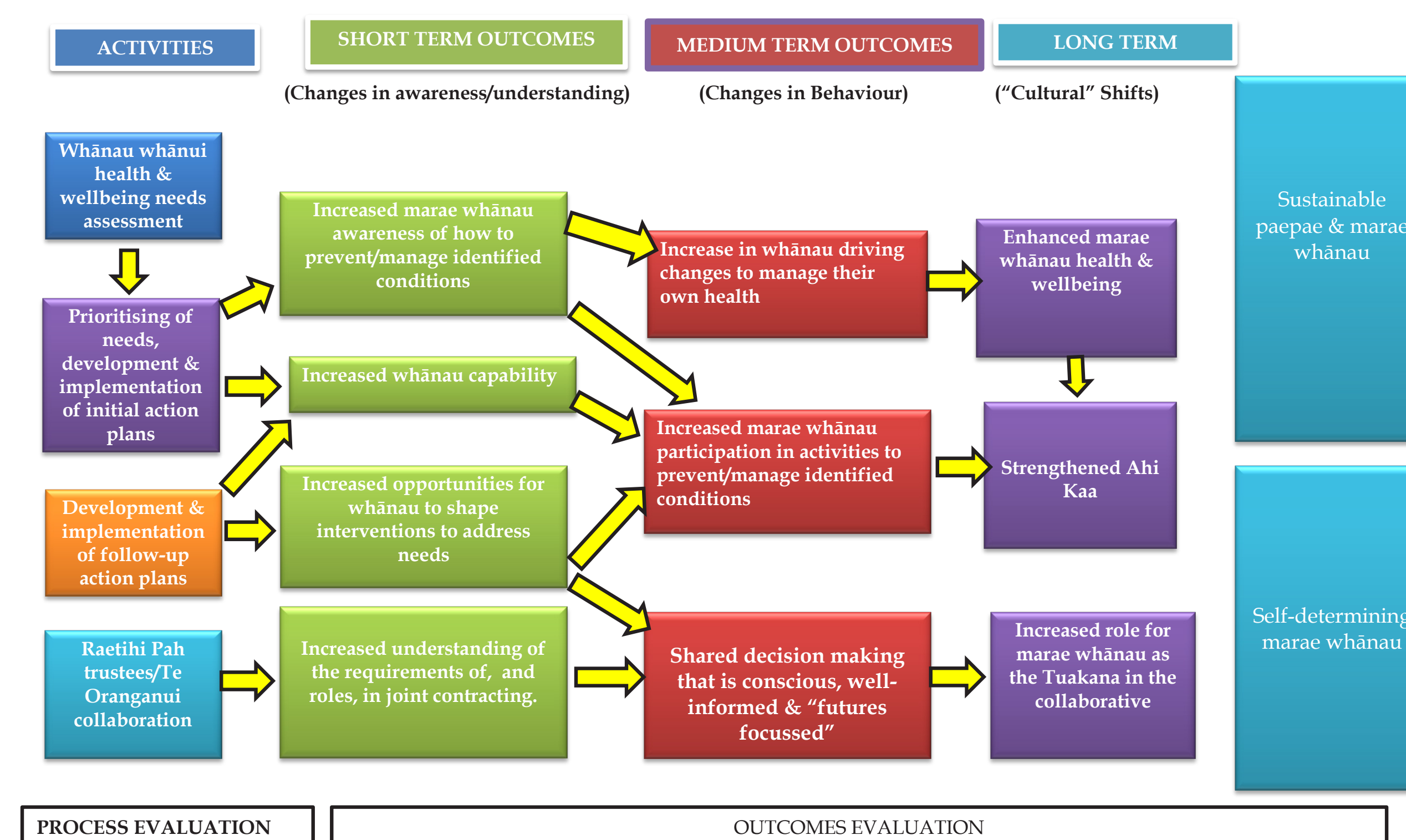
THE PROJECT

Initial project activities included a health needs assessment (HNA) developed and administered by TPoTAK. Fifty one out of a possible 100 families completed the assessment. HNA results identified a high prevalence of asthma, eczema, tobacco smoking and oral health issues. Gaps in the availability and accessibility of services were also identified. One of the strategies to address these issues has been the development of a community programme of action. Its purpose is to improve referral pathways and encourage greater community participation in health promotion and treatment activities. The project is supported by Ministry of Health Te Ao Auahatanga Māori Health innovation funding.

¹ Indigenous peoples of Aotearoa New Zealand

EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

A process and outcomes evaluation is being carried out using a Māori-centred approach alongside traditional evaluation methods. The evaluation is an observational study utilising a qualitative evaluation design and a participatory approach. Data collection and subsequent analysis is guided by Māori values and principles to better engage with marae families. Traditional methods include collaborative development of a logic model that acts both as a project road map for families/whānau and as a framework for the evaluation.

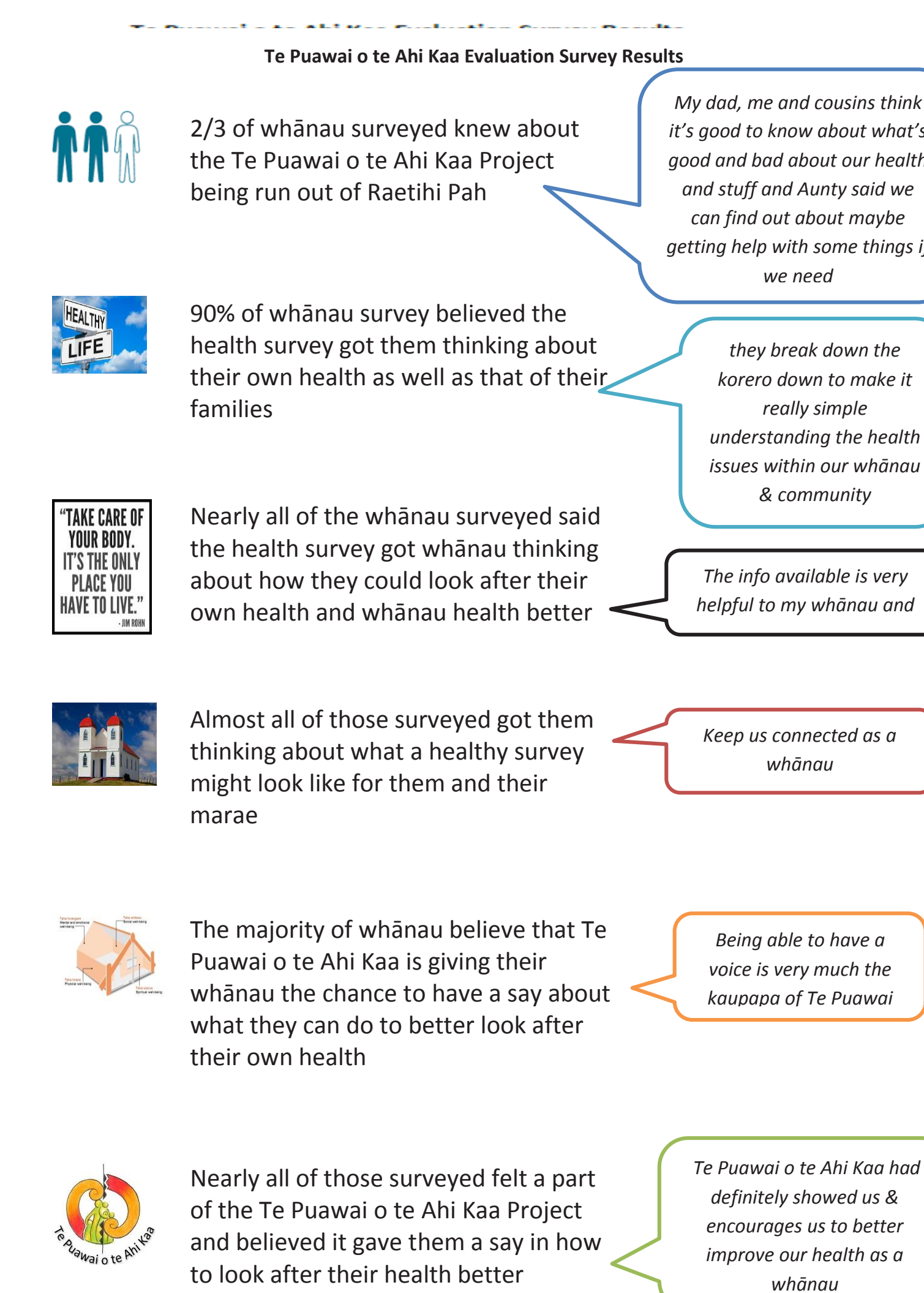


Te Puawai o te Ahi Kaa Logic Model

Other data collection methods include key informant interviews and surveys as well as interactive methods, such as muralling, to determine if and how the wellbeing of marae families is being impacted. Rubrics tables, developed in consultation with TPoTAK, are being used to guide evaluative decision making.

EARLY RESULTS

Participation in evaluation and project activities has been a positive experience for marae families. The HNA process has contributed to increased awareness of family health issues and informed development of strategies for addressing these. Evaluation activities include ‘sense-making’ sessions where early results are fed back to families so that these can be tested and refined.



CONCLUSION

Innovative projects led by Indigenous communities themselves can be a catalyst for change. Indigenous led external evaluation, carried out alongside such projects, can develop provider evaluation skills and support project implementation.