



Dr John Waldon

Ma te Tamaiti – Measuring Child Well-being

The development of a child health self assessment tool for children whose first language is te reo Māori arose from the lack of such a tool for monitoring the population health and well-being of children as part of the Health Monitor maintained by The Ministry of Health. Māori child health is a health priority area that is not informed directly by children under sixteen years of age. Youth07 was the second research project to establish health self assessment in te reo Māori, the first was my PhD research funded by the HRC (03/485 -Te Ahuatanga o Ngā Tamariki Māori).

Research to date has confirmed that differing understanding of health concepts by children, challenges assumed equivalence between child and adult perspectives. These differences in understanding became evident after Māori children were included in the translation and validation process. The success psychometric and cultural validation of the Child Health Questionnaire in New Zealand has provided the precedent to have such tools translated and validated in the indigenous languages, appropriate for Australia and Canada

John is of Tuhoe and Ngāti Kahungunu descent. He was awarded the Health Research Council's Eru Pomare Post Doctoral Fellow in Māori Health research in 2009. John is hosted at the Centre for Māori Health Research and Development at Massey University. Alongside his interest in child health, John has a ministerial appointment to the Cancer Control NZ and has voluntary positions with the Cancer Society, a Trustee for The NZ Drug Foundation and also holds a conjoint appointment in the Faculty of Medicine at The University of New South Wales (Australia) and an honorary fellowship at The University of Western Australia. John is a life member of the Cancer Society.