



MANU AO
Academy

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Dr Paul Whitinui

The Politics of Māori Health – Insights, limiy and possibilities

Underpinning our essence to live a full life, and be well, is our health. In an age of unprecedented global change, increasing population constraints, poverty and chronic disease - navigating our health is a tricky, complex and demanding business. As a strong advocate for improving Māori health outcomes; approaches to the issues and problems are as broad as they are deep. Three health positions are considered and include: the re-positioning, re-configuring and re-searching of Māori health; all of which are inextricably linked to how Māori health is currently positioned and framed. The details of which not only highlight our enduring ability to live and lead healthier lifestyles but also, our desire to participate in achieving the best standard of health care possible for future generations. Better health is as much about an inherent desire to enjoy a quality of life, where being healthy is akin to knowing more about who we are and indeed, what makes us well as a people.

Born and raised in Whakatane, Dr Paul Whitinui has tribal links to Ngā Puhī, Ngāti Uru and Ngāti Kuri. His research interests include investigating Māori and Indigenous people; their health, education and wellbeing. Dr Whitinui completed his PhD Thesis in 2007, which explored the educational benefits associated with Māori students participating in kapa haka (i.e., Māori performing groups) in four Central North Island mainstream secondary schools and its relationship to improving levels of Māori student participation in these settings. Other research interests include: Māori and Indigenous health, development and wellbeing, alternative community/iwi based learning environments, Indigenous auto-ethnography, Kaupapa Māori theorising, cultural responsiveness, ethics, and resiliency.