

Media Release

20 June 2018.

Te Atawhai o Te Ao welcomes favourable mid-term review by the Health Research Council of New Zealand.

Te Atawhai o Te Ao is one of four research organisations awarded long-term funding, following a mid-term review completed by the Health Research Council under the Council's Independent Research Organisations (IRO) funding initiative.

“Our roots within our whānau, hapū, iwi and community have given us a distinct advantage to the research we undertake and the many outcomes we have delivered beyond our funding contract”, says Co-Director of Te Atawhai o Te Ao, Dr Cheryl Smith.

Dr Smith notes that Māori leadership across the research sector has grown within the Whanganui region, through professional development and capacity and capability building of research staff, and community members, as well as student supervision and related support initiatives, such as scholarships, mentoring, advisory services and advocacy.

“Te Atawhai o Te Ao has produced publications and presented at hui, seminars and conferences. Through roadshow presentations, the institute has been able to utilise Kaupapa Māori methodologies of dissemination by accessing a range of audiences to discuss face-to-face, the outcomes of our research” says Dr Smith. “The research has been accessed by service providers, policy makers, whānau and hapū and other researchers, both nationally and internationally. Change to the national discourse within Aotearoa on trauma has occurred through key research collaborations, nationally and internationally. Policy initiatives are now much more cognisant of the health impacts of historical and intergenerational trauma and Māori trauma informed care”.

The second tranche of funding will allow Te Atawhai o Te Ao to continue to build capacity, as well as advance innovative research methodologies and solutions. Four new research projects are currently being developed, incorporated under the theme *He Kokonga Ngākau*. “These projects will continue to draw on Māori ways of healing, recovery, and well being” says Dr Rawiri Tinirau, the Co-Director of Te Atawhai o te Ao.

Investment by the Health Research Council into the work being completed by Te Atawhai o Te Ao has led to outcomes beyond the research sector, including health, cultural, social and economic transformation and gains. “IRO funding has been critical for Te Atawhai o Te Ao to respond quickly to the needs of Māori and indigenous peoples” says Dr Smith.

Te Atawhai o Te Ao is an independent Māori research institute, based in Whanganui. The institute employs nine staff members and works collaboratively and contractually with other researchers, both nationally and internationally, on a range of research projects. Our research focus is Māori and indigenous health and the environment.

For media enquiries, please contact the office on (06) 345 2680.

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