

Where are we now?

Exploring health needs in Waitemata

Epidemiological Data & Community Consultation

Background

- Waitemata DHB assesses the health needs of our populations on a regular basis through Health Needs Assessment (HNA)
- HNA
 - contains information about major health issues, inequalities and health service provision and use
 - underpins our planning and funding of services
 - in the past was based on epidemiological data with little, if any, community consultation
- For the HNA undertaken in 2008 Waitemata DHB sought to obtain a better understanding of the health needs of Maori, Pacific and Asian communities through consultation with them

Objectives

- To undertake separate Maori, Pacific and Asian HNAs
- To undertake community consultation for each of these HNAs

Method

1. Separate **working groups** were formed for each HNA
2. An **initial round of community consultation** was undertaken to ensure the structure of each HNA would meet the needs of each community
3. **Epidemiological information** was then collected from a wide variety of sources and analysed
4. A **second round of consultation events** was undertaken to gain community perspectives on important health issues and needs
5. Draft documents were **peer reviewed** by community leaders and researchers
6. Finalised documents and summary versions were **published** on the Waitemata DHB website

Findings

What we heard from the community

- Communities strongly supported being involved
- Communities provided valuable information and improved the usefulness of the HNAs

Our learnings

- We need to make sure communities are involved early enough and that we have enough time to take on board their advice
- We need to develop stronger relationships with our communities on an ongoing basis
- Reporting back to communities on the results and next steps is important

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