

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS BETWEEN HEALTH PROMOTERS AND ACADEMIA

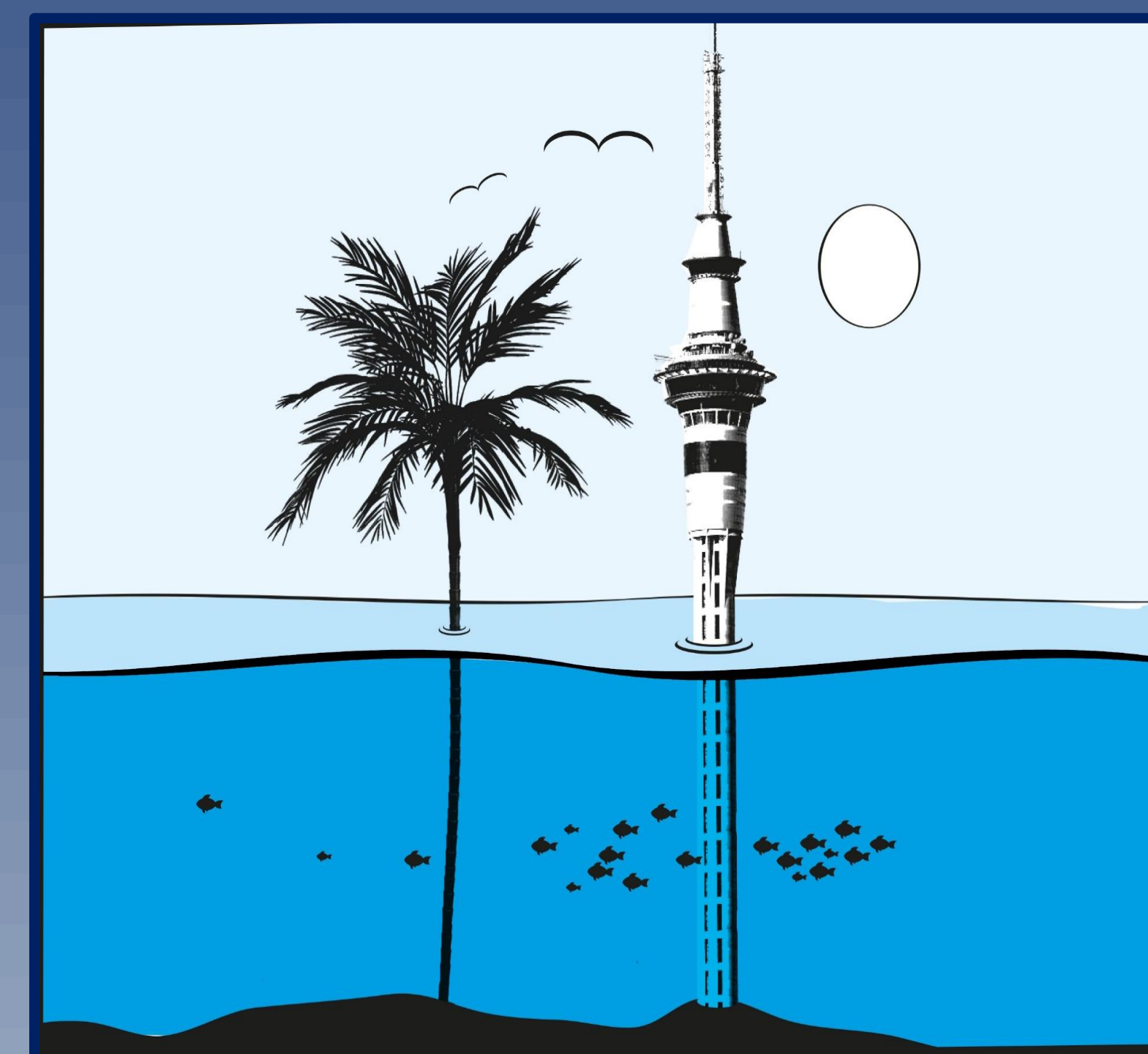
METHODOLOGICAL CONSIDERATIONS WHEN PARTNERING WITH PACIFIC COMMUNITIES

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Background

- Pacific communities in Aotearoa New Zealand face a myriad of sexual health challenges, further exacerbated by cross-generational taboos and sensitivity in relation to understandings of sexuality.
- Village Collective is an Auckland based Pacific-centric organisation that supports Pacific youth, families and communities with relevant knowledge, resources and information relating to sexual health and wellbeing.
- Village Collective recognise that effective health promotion requires strong partnerships that exist across diverse environments, including local communities, government and their respective agencies, Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), private enterprises and tertiary institutions.
- In 2017, Village Collective engaged in a partnership with the Centre for Community Research and Evaluation (CCRE) at the University of Auckland to strengthen their evaluative capacity.
- As a result of this partnership, a co-constructed evaluation framework and a programme logic model that drew on Pacific principles and western research approaches were developed and implemented with Pacific clients.



What we learned

1) SHARED VISION: IMPROVING HEALTH & WELLBEING

- Village Collective and the Centre for Community Research and Evaluation share the aspiration of improving health and wellbeing outcomes for New Zealand communities.
- This evaluation partnership presented opportunities to:
 - ❖ determine the strengths and growth areas for Village Collective,
 - ❖ reflect and develop the evaluation capacity of Village Collective staff, and
 - ❖ explore how the learnings from this evaluation would support Village Collective in the wide range of services offered.

2) COMMITMENT TO GENUINE RELATIONSHIPS THAT ACKNOWLEDGE MULTIPLE WORLDVIEWS

- Effective partnerships thrive on a foundation built on trust, meaningful engagement and effective communication.
- An appreciation of Pacific worldviews and health status is essential, acknowledging holistic understandings of health and the diversity that exists across and within Pacific communities.
 - ❖ Pacific communities are the fourth largest major ethnic group (7.4% of the total NZ population)
 - ❖ 62.3% (181,791) of Pacific are born in New Zealand
 - ❖ Youthful population (46.1% are less than 20 years old)
 - ❖ Within many Pacific communities family and spirituality play an important part in daily life (83% are Christian).

3) LEADERSHIP & RESOURCING

- Effective health promotion and collaborative partnerships require strong leadership and adequate resourcing.
- The development of the evaluation framework and logic model demonstrates Village Collective's commitment to undertaking research-informed practice.
- A broad range of interwoven components are required to ensure sustainable health promotion infrastructures. These include
 - ❖ adequate time,
 - ❖ financial resources,
 - ❖ professional development, and
 - ❖ political and administrative leadership.

Where to next

- This partnership provided an opportunity for staff in Village Collective and the Centre for Community Research and Evaluation to connect and work together on a shared goal, with an ultimate aim of improving the health and wellbeing of Pacific communities in Aotearoa.
- This partnership enabled members to gain a deeper appreciation of various worldviews and of the diverse evaluation measures that can be utilised to further strengthen programmes and services.
- As a result of this partnership, Village Collective have drawn on the evaluation learnings and are exploring comprehensive evaluation activities of its various services.

SEXUAL HEALTH SECTOR

- The lessons from this partnership resonate with concerns shared by the New Zealand Sexual Health sector. How can we continue to provide support and training for staff and organisations working in an environment with contested and limited resources? Without sacrificing quality and culturally enhancing service delivery?



Image of Kawarau River valley

- ❖ *Pūtahi Rangahau Ngātahi* is the te reo translation of the Centre for Community Research and Evaluation. *Pūtahi* implies a coming together from different places, an intersection; it broadly translates to 'research collaboration'.
- ❖ The merging of two rivers, depicted in the above image, represents the notion of partnership, the flow of ideas and the weaving together of collaborations.
- ❖ The Centre's core mission is to bring together practitioners, researchers, students, and other stakeholders, to advance evidence for the social sector.

Acknowledgements

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