

Title: Integrated services to improve the health of Pacific peoples in Aotearoa New Zealand

Symposium Description

Symposium Lead (name and affiliation):

Professor Jacqueline Cumming, Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington

Rationale for Symposium:

In this symposium members of the research team seek to share and discuss the variety of methods and perspectives employed in this research. This will be an opportunity not only to share our research findings and process to date, but debate the use of realist research methods – a burgeoning research field – and the challenges and benefits of blending Pacific research methods with realist methods in a qualitative study in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Topic description:

This symposium will focus around an HRC funded project 17/367 *Integrated Services to improve the health of Pacific peoples*. In this research, we are interested in understanding the health and social service delivery experiences of Pacific families with complex needs. Services for this population are usually delivered by a large group of professionals working across different organisations. The fragmented service delivery that results can lead to major inconvenience, wasted resources and poor health and social outcomes. More integrated care is seen as key to improving quality of care and health outcomes for service users and to ensuring better use of resources. This research will provide a greater understanding of social and cultural processes and practices that underpin Pacific family's experiences of health and social services, how they experience fragmentation, and what is needed to enhance integrated health care and social services policy & delivery. It will also provide a perspective on Pacific worldviews and make a substantial contribution to the realist methodological literature in NZ.

Presentation one:

Integrated care in Aotearoa New Zealand

Authors and affiliations:

Prof Jacqueline Cumming, Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington

Overview:

In our research, 'integrated care' is viewed as the outcome from a service user perspective, emphasising health services delivery that is well coordinated, with a seamless journey as people are supported by individual health professionals working across different health care delivery organisations. In NZ, the emphasis has been on achieving more integrated care horizontally within primary health care (PHC) and community settings, and vertically between PHC/community and hospital settings, as well as between health and social services. This presentation will explore the policy implications of integrated care in Aotearoa NZ.

Presentation two:

Pacific peoples experience of integrated care: A literature review

Authors and affiliations:

Dr Debbie Ryan, Pacific Perspectives Ltd

Overview:

This presentation will provide an overview of the international and national research literature about integrated health and social services with a focus on how services respond to the needs of Pacific peoples and families in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Presentation three:

Realist and Pacific research methodologies

Authors and affiliations:

Dr Ausaga Fa'asalele Tanuvasa, Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington

Overview:

Our research project is be guided by a realist methodology which recognises that not all initiatives are successful at achieving their outcomes in all contexts all of the time. The approach emphasises identifying 'what works, for whom and in what circumstances (contexts)'. Within this overarching realist framework, we will take an interpretive approach that draws on an indigenous worldview unique to Pacific peoples. This presentation will explore the approach taken by the research team to employ these research methods.

Presentation four:

Conducting qualitative realist research with Pacific families

Authors and affiliations:

Dr Marianna Churchward, Health Services Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington

Overview:

Six focus groups were held in Phase 2 of the HRC17/367 Integrated Services project. Focus Groups were held in Porirua, Wellington and South Auckland, attended by 43 individuals making up 25 families. We are currently in Phase 3 of the project which involves a 12-month case study of [up to] 15 Pacific families. In this presentation we will describe our experiences of conducting qualitative realist research with Pacific families in Aotearoa New Zealand.