

Illuminating Paths: The Whare Tukutuku Alcohol and Other Drug Approach and Indigenous Wellbeing

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Whare Tukutuku is the National Māori Addiction Centre that sits within the korowai of Te Rau Ora and have joined with other Indigenous People from around the world to amplify the voices of Indigenous Peoples that have long been absent from international drug policy discussions. In the Aotearoa drug policy landscape, this approach has emerged as a beacon of hope, transformation, empowerment and cultural resilience.

There is a disproportionate impact of drug use and policies on Indigenous Peoples, who bear the brunt of overdose fatalities, communicable diseases, and incarceration rates. These policies, entrenched in historical legacies of colonisation, racism, land dispossession, and cultural alienation, have profoundly disrupted traditional practices and access to alcohol and other drug (AOD) care among Indigenous communities.

Whare Tukutuku emphasise the critical need to genuinely incorporate Indigenous perspectives and wisdom in pursuit of inclusive drug policy development. This approach gathers insights from communities to ensure that initiatives are relevant to the needs of people experiencing AOD-related challenges, including highlighting the importance of lived experience within the workforce.

This presentation serves as an opportunity to raise awareness of how to redefine success in drug policy, using the wisdom and resilience of Indigenous Peoples to illuminate the path towards a more equitable, culturally responsive, and just approach to addressing AOD challenges.

Background <Insert text here>

Description of Model of Care/Intervention: <Insert text here>

Effectiveness/Acceptability/Implementation: <Insert text here>

Conclusion and Next Steps: <Insert text here>

Implications for Practice or Policy: <Insert text here>