|  |
| --- |
| **Hangaia Ngaa Tikanga Me Ngaa Kawanatanga o taatou ma taatou**Strengthening opposition to alcohol licensing applications through successful partnership with Māori Wardens |
| **Setting**Alcohol was first brewed in New Zealand by Captain Cook’s men in 1773. Māori at the time were unimpressed by alcohol, which held little significance, naming it waipiro –“stinking water” or “wai kaha” strong water. Since then, Māori have faced land loss, discrimination and increased pressure to attain European status commodities, all of which have radically altered their relationship with waipiro. Māori now have the worst alcohol related outcomes across the social and health spectrum in New Zealand.In 1949, Māori Wardens were appointed to mitigate the harmful effects of alcohol on Māori. Turehou Māori Wardens Ki Otara Trust is particularly concerned with openings of alcohol outlets, which are more concentrated in areas with higher Māori populations such as South Auckland. There can be challenges for Māori working with the Crown in a way that reflects the Treaty principles.Auckland Regional Public Health Service (ARPHS) is the regulatory public health agency in Auckland, and is one of three alcohol licensing enforcement agencies as per the Sale and Supply of Alcohol Act 2012. ARPHS recognises the need to improve true consultation and partnership with Māori for better outcomes in licensing applications.**Intervention**ARPHS responded to a call to action from Māori Wardens to address the detrimental effects of alcohol on Māori in South Auckland. ARPHS and Māori Wardens met in open, face to face meetings to establish better consultation methods. ARPHS’ process of reporting on applications was then reviewed to incorporate expertise from Māori Wardens as a first step. Priority areas in South Auckland were identified and incorporated into ARPHS’ regulatory protocol. A contracted specialist provided training to Māori Wardens to foster better participation in legal settings.**Outcomes**ARPHS compliance officers now notify Māori Wardens of every upcoming alcohol licence application in the priority areas, new or renewal, before reporting on an application. The strengthened area knowledge and experience brought about from Māori Wardens is providing good results for communities. Information gathering and sharing, including of licensing concerns, have led to alcohol licenses being declined. This coordinated approach is a commitment to the partnership, protection and participation principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and the Ottawa Charter.**Implications**ARPHS has a model of a true successful collaboration with Māori and is implementing this across other programmes.**Preferred presentation format:** Poster |