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| **Title of Innovation in policy and practice presentation** (Sentence case)  Whakawhanaungatanga: Building sustainable relationships in education settings |
| **Maximum 2500 characters (including spaces but excluding title)**  **Setting/problem**  To promote health and wellbeing in education settings in the Waikato, authentic relationships are being established and maintained to ensure sustainable outcomes for staff, tamariki, rangatahi, tauira/students along with whaanau.  **Intervention**  Relationships are critical to all health improvement engagement in a settings approach. This presentation will discuss the value of whakawhanaungatanga in supporting sustainable and authentic connections essential to long-term engagement and action with education settings and their communities.  The whakawhanaungatanga approach as described by Kaupapa Māori theory facilitates a climate of collaboration and genuine power-sharing that is essential to engagement and constitutes best practice. It brings people together supporting strong relationships through sharing connections and experiences.  Whakawhanaungatanga is an ongoing process connecting with other people, places or settings to establish understanding and meanings of belonging. This may begin with sharing your name and where you are from, however, the process continues with every interaction. Transparent and reciprocal relationships are developed and maintained through a process of engagement informed by the whakawhanaungatanga approach.  Our presentation will highlight examples of how whakawhanaungatanga frames all of our health improvement interactions with education settings. Using three case studies we will show the ways we have used the whakawhanaungatanga approach with early childhood education services and secondary schools in the Waikato.  **Outcomes**  The health and wellbeing of staff, tamariki, rangatahi, tauira/students along with whanau will be enhanced and educational achievements increased by developing sustainable relationships through the whakawhanaungatanga approach. People in education settings will have better information about and access to health services through ongoing collaborative and interconnected relationships with health improvement advisors and services.  **Implications**  Intentional and focussed engagement supports and encourages authentic collaborative relationships that will act to safeguard networks that have been established and ensure ongoing opportunities for collaboration between people working in health and education settings.  **Preferred presentation format**  Presentation or poster |