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| **Biophilic public health: shaping policy and practice** |
| **Setting/problem**On average, we are healthier and living longer than ever before in human history. However, with our current model of development this has come at substantial ecological cost in terms of biodiversity loss; land, soil and water degradation; and disruption of the climate system. Current challenges to the health of the population therefore not only relate to conditions associated with our development model such as obesity, diabetes and cardiovascular disease, but now also to the current and future health impacts of this ecological loss, damage and degradation. Unless we are able to transform our models of progress and development, including our models of public health, this accumulating ecological debt may mean that we could be experiencing the time in history of ‘peak human health’. Public health requires a transformation of policy and practice that has at its heart a transformation in our relationship with the natural world, and in particular how we value and nurture the natural world, in a ‘Health for All’ approach where the ‘All’ includes the health of other species and ecosystems. **Intervention**Biophilic public health draws on the theory, ideas and practice of biophilic design and biophilic cities to describe a model of public health defined by our innate ‘love, awe and respect’ for nature. Biophilic policies and practices that value and nurture nature improve health and well-being in the places where we live, learn, work and play, as well as helping address planetary health concerns across varying scales from the local to the global.**Outcomes**Toi Te Ora Public Health, the public health service for the Bay of Plenty and Lakes areas in New Zealand, has included biophilic public health into its strategic approach to improving health and reducing health inequities. Using examples and case studies, this presentation discusses how the concepts, policy and practice of biophilic public health are being developed to transform the range of health promotion programmes and interventions.**Implications**Biophilic public health provides an ecological model of public health that allows us to re-imagine public health policy and practice as is necessary for current local and global health and ecological challenges. **Preferred presentation format**Oral presentation |