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| **The Kai Ora Fund – A collaborative way to realign local food availability** |
| **Setting/problem**Northland, New Zealand has fertile soils and a climate great for growing. However, in some area’s it’s almost impossible to find fresh, healthy food. Food is key for the health and wellbeing of people, it is also important for income and connection in communities through local trade and reciprocity. **Intervention**The Far North District Council and Te Tai Tokerau Primary Health Organisation created the Kai Ora Fund at a community local food meeting to support passionate people wanting to grow, produce, share and sell local food. The fund is a small grants process to support communities, organisations and groups wanting to try something new to improve local food to increase the health and economic resilience of the region. Climate change will affect food systems. Keeping knowledge and skills in growing food, and fostering a strong network of growers and producers using sustainable growing methods will increase resilience in times of adverse weather events. Kai Ora prioritises projects using sustainable practices and aims to increase equity (by ensuring those communities and groups who would most benefit are supported) to create inclusive food habitats. Funded projects attend a workshop to meet and connect and be part of a Kai Ora network of people and projects passionate about healthy food in Northland. **Outcomes**The key to this project is partnership and connectivity, fostering inclusivity with community organisations and groups already working in the space and the encouragement of collaboration between projects.Supporting communities to generate their own solutions to make healthy food available has diversified the food landscape across the region and resulted in many successful projects and businesses getting off the ground which will keep money in the region and foster a sense of pride and community. Examples include local food box schemes, local markets, community gardens and the documentation of local food sources and mapping by Marae. **Implications**A strength of Kai Ora has been the development of networks, and partnerships. In 2017, Manaia Primary Health Organisation, Te Puni Kōkiri and Northland Inc partnered to extend the reach of Kai Ora and provide business tools and support to the network. Evaluating and strengthening the project to meet the requirements of all of the partners (who all have a differing focus and reasoning of being involved) and find out what projects need to move forward and stay strong is a priority. **Preferred presentation format**Oral |