



# Indigenous leadership and wellbeing

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E te whānau,

It is my pleasure to provide a brief of our first Issue for 2017 where innovative indigenous leadership commentaries are embraced. Two book reviews add to this effort; one articulating the changing roles in leadership and the other the incorporation of traditional indigenous health approaches in collaboration with psychiatry contributing to wellbeing.

Research development in community-engaged scholarship is advocated in this issue by the encouragement of combining unique cultural traditions and discipline-specific scholarship to provide more meaningful examination and results for indigenous people.

Understanding the term *self-determination* in the context of health then drawing conclusions about collaborative efforts between government and indigenous communities to support community-controlled health care is explored. Holistic health; the impacts of colonisation and understandings of self still remains an important contribution. Also discussed is the contribution that youth are making for Indigenous justice on behalf of their families, communities, future generations, to preserve Mother Earth, the natural environment.

Ensuring youth mental wellbeing is stated as linked to the encouragement and maintenance of social and cultural connections during the

formative years. In addition, wellness workshops using arts-based methods such as theatre, video, and photography, with a group of indigenous youth, themed on healing, life, ceremony, relationships, and hope, encourages the same.

Indigenous women leaders are profiled as strong and resilient to change and challenges with the commentary claiming that central to the success of these leaders is staying connected to *whānau* (family) and friends, and being positively influenced by *tamariki* (children), *taura* (students) and employees.

I am certain the readership will benefit from the accounts within Volume 2, Issue 1 where indigenous wellbeing can be progressed by their application.

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