



**Toku reo, toku ia atamira**

**My language, my sovereignty**

Jean Mitaera

Chief Advisor Pacific

The title

***Te atamira o te ui ariki*** was the theme for the 2016 Te Maeva Nui: Cook Islands Constitution Celebrations. 'Atamira' refers to the royal stool the ariki sits upon.

We adapted the concept of 'atamira' for our 2016 Wellington Cook Islands Language Week celebrations:

***Toku reo, toku ia atamira - My language, my sovereignty.***

It is also the title of a collection of purua/ poems by members of the Cook Islands communities of Wellington and published me for the 2017 Cook Islands Language Week.



The Cartwright Inquiry (1987 – 1988) is still viewed as a defining moment for patient rights in Aotearoa and globally. It led to establishing a system of accountability to patients through its ethics committees and the creation of the role of the Health and Disability Commissioner. **Health researchers and clinicians' duty of care to their patients.**

Sandra Coney argued that the whole inquiry was initiated **by women for women**, an example of a feminist challenge to patriarchal medical structures.

Linda Tuhiwai Smith's revolutionary book **Decolonizing Methodologies** (1999) outlined a set of **principles and broad-based philosophy of Kaupapa Maori** as an approach to any research which relates to Maori, irrespective of methodological approach.

Maggie Walter and Michele Suina (2018) argue **that indigenous peoples' longstanding avoidance and distrust of quantitative research** is because quantitative research has frequently positioned Indigenous peoples within a deficit discourse under the guise of 'objectivity'. Inevitably this pairs up Indigenous with qualitative and Western with quantitative.

## **The Whole of Government Pacific Wellbeing Strategy**

**"Pacific communities want a pathway to wellbeing** that learns from the past and builds on success for the future. The Strategy's values-based approach recognises Pacific communities as the owners of their cultures, identities and languages and must therefore lead decisions that affect their lives."

Hon Minister Aupito Su'a William Sio

## Recent work programme:

- \* Cultural humility framework
- \* Pacific Perspectives - Cook Islands Chronic Kidney Disease research project
- \* Rebranding of the Pacific Education Centre to the Centre for Pacific Languages
- \* Nursing Pacific - Porirua and Rarotonga; Graduate Diploma in Nursing Pacific
- \* Runanga 'Uri Reo o te Whanganui a Tara; Cultural Advisor/Translator
- \* Two Senior Academic Advisors

## Pacific data sovereignty

Pacific data should be subject to:

- \* Pacific governance **TURANGA**
- \* Pacific approaches to collection, dissemination, security and access **AKAU'E'ANGA**
- \* pursue and uphold the fulfilment of Pacific peoples aspirations for themselves, their families and communities... **PIRI'ANGA**

beginning with our languages

Kōpu tangata

Komakoma

'Uipā'anga

Tā'onga rima

The willing and capable of us will continue to forge Pacific pathways forward for all of us. And as we grow in our thinking and begin to construct our cathedrals of knowledge may we exercise cultural humility for our neighbours and not fall to the use of labels of convenience.



## References

Cartwright, S. (5 August 1988). *The Report of the Committee of Inquiry into Allegations Concerning the Treatment of Cervical Cancer at National Women's Hospital and into Other Related Matters*. Auckland: Government Printing Office.

Coney, S. (1988). *The unfortunate experiment: The full story behind the inquiry into cervical cancer treatment*. Auckland, N.Z.: Penguin Books.

Davis, M. (2016). Data and the United Nations declarations on the rights of indigenous peoples. In T. Kukutai & J. Taylor (eds), *Indigenous data sovereignty: Towards an agenda* (pp. 25-38). Canberra: CAEPR Research Monograph, 2016/34. ANU Press.

James, A., Mitaera, J., and Rongo-Raea, A. (2012). *Tūranga Maori: A Cook Islands Conceptual Framework transforming family violence restoring wellbeing*. Ministry of Social Development.

Mafile'o, T., Mitaera, J., Ledoux-Taua'aletoa, S., and Temoana, S. (2021). *Cultural Humility Framework: Growing the Aotearoa New Zealand children's workforce capability to work with Pacific families*. Oranga Tamariki Pacific Working Group.

Tuhiwai Smith, L. (1999). *Decolonising Methodologies*. London: Zed Books.

Walter, Maggie & Suina, Michele. (2019) Indigenous data, indigenous methodologies and indigenous data sovereignty. *International Journal of Social Research Methodology*, 22:3, 233-243, DOI: 10.1080/13645579.2018.1531228

**Kia orana e kia manuia**