



Canadian Academy of Health Sciences
Académie canadienne des sciences de la santé

Health solutions for indigenous health and well-being

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

LINDA TUHIWAI SMITH, UNIVERSITY OF WAIKATO, NEW
ZEALAND

It is time
It is possible
It needs a mind shift
It will take time

The indigenous example in Aotearoa New Zealand

change of discourse and mind set

indigenous control of indigenous health agenda

deeper engagements and relationships

drawing from indigenous knowledge, language and culture

co-production of new knowledge and practices with and across multi-‘stakeholders

capacity development of indigenous and non indigenous people and institutions across whole range of health expertise

investing in the cultural interface and cross cultural leadership and courage

moving beyond short term ‘programmatic and incremental change approaches’ to inter-generational and community paradigmatic approaches’

mapping and uncovering inequities while simultaneously searching for solutions

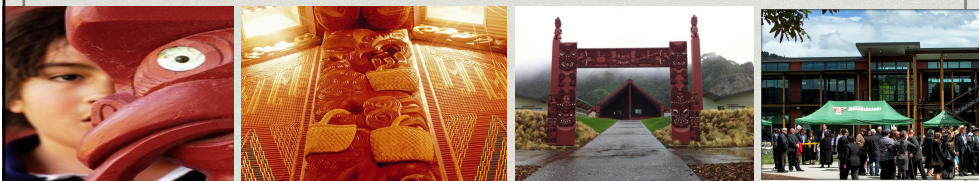
make policy matter as a facilitating instrument

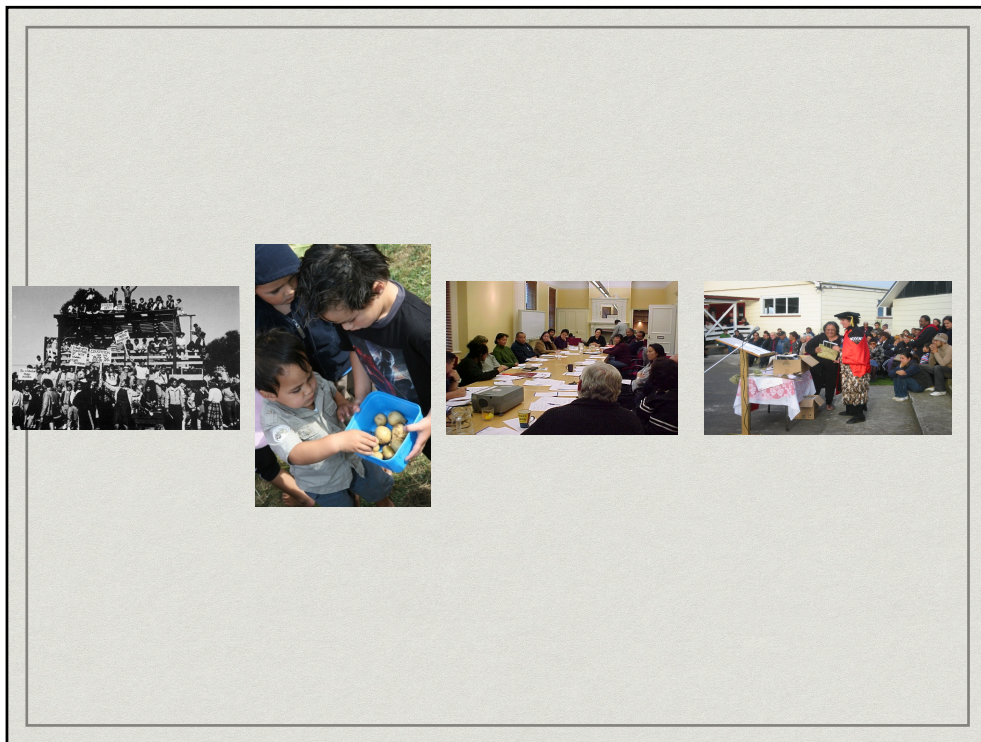
investing in translational research, sharing knowledge and success

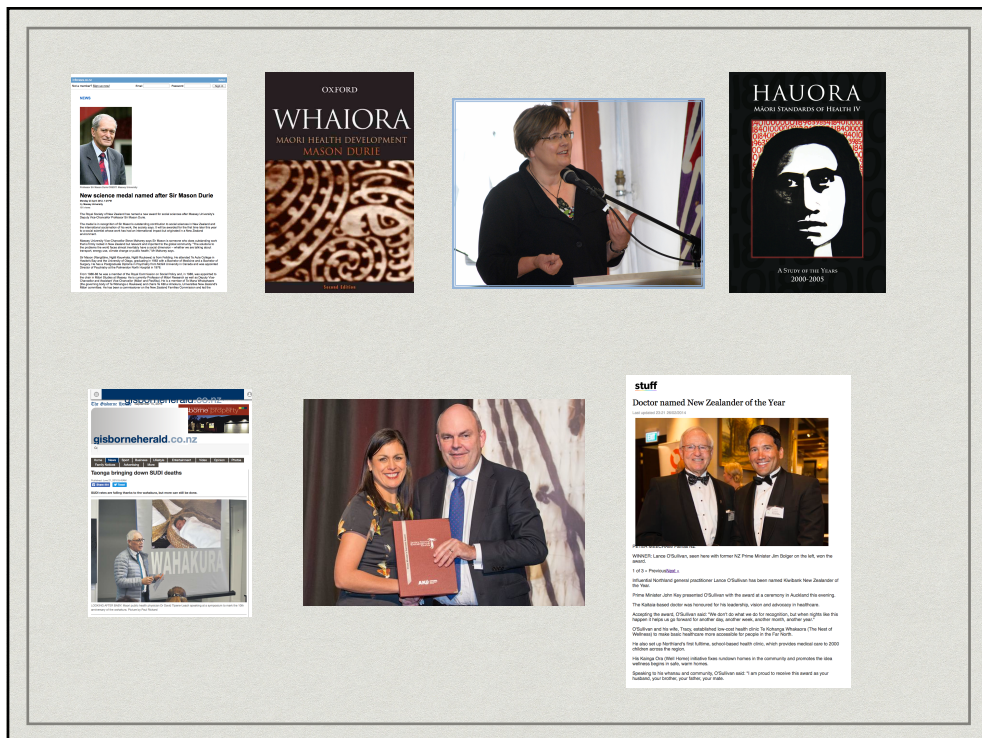
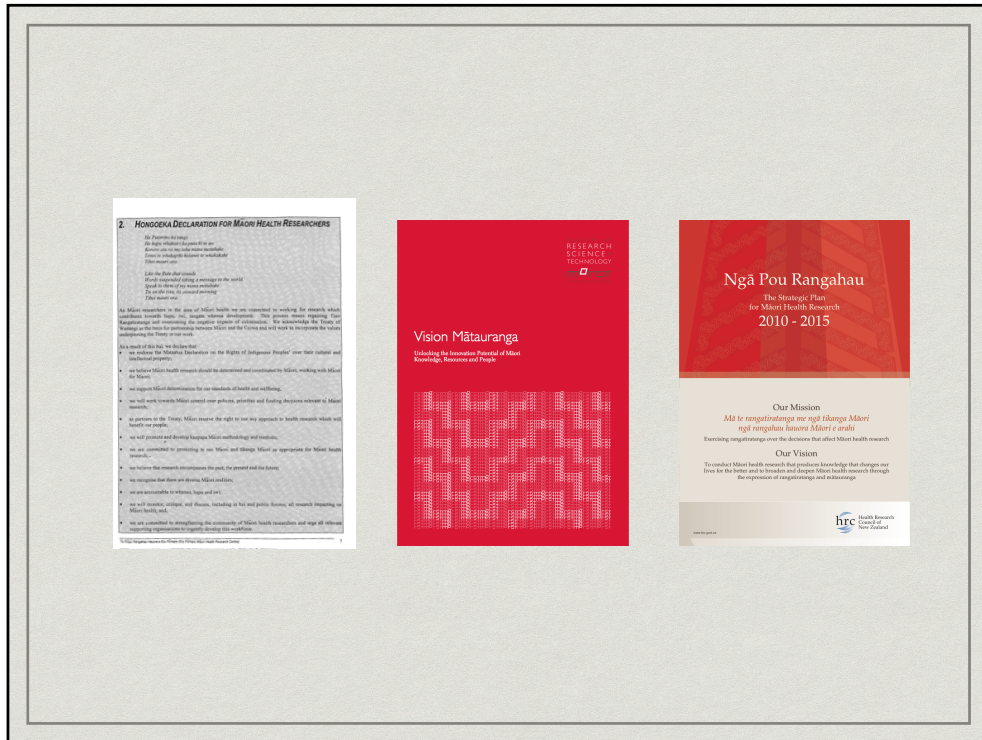
establishing new fit for purpose networks, connections, partnerships, organisations

‘giving things a go’ and going on the journey

having a theory of change







final thoughts

- indigenous capacity is important to indigenous health solutions
- indigenous engagement and participation requires system change otherwise it is simply another form of assimilation
- system capacity has to be fit for purpose not just tinkered with
- success begets success, aspirations change over time, indigenous peoples will need more not less support
- it is not possible to punish a people into good health or bore them to life with poorly conceived policies, badly implemented and evaluated and lacking in legitimacy
- a body of relevant scientific knowledge already exists, translation knowledge is patchy at best and many good ideas falter through poor implementation
- society is better off if indigenous people are healthy, better indigenous health does not mean poorer non indigenous health, good health is an expanding possibility not a finite resource that should be captured by the wealthy, and non indigenous communities