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**The importance of establishing an integrated approach to  
diabetic care for Māori patients within the Taranaki region.**

**Master Health Science**

**Māori Health**

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## Abstract

**“Ki te kahore he whakakitenga ka ngaro te iwi”** - *Without foresight or vision the people will be lost.*

Health and wellbeing discrepancies exist within Aotearoa, with the Māori population showing signs of lagging health status, due to long standing experiences of poor socio-economic determinants, access to health care, and quality services essential for good health. This thesis will therefore explore the determinants and foundations of health, along with historical events which have shaped contemporary Māori health, with particular reference to diabetes mellitus.

This qualitative research is directed by kaupapa Māori, with the kaupapa of the topic expanding on previous research conducted by the research. This research presented has provided the opportunity to discuss ‘The importance of establishing an integrated approach to diabetic care for Māori patients within the Taranaki region’. The aim of this research is to explore diabetic status within New Zealand, using Taranaki as a particular focal point. This will be completed by utilising various health professionals, and the services they provide in Taranaki. The thesis also provides a platform to analyse integrated services within Taranaki, and assess how patient participation can be encouraged to ensure and safeguard Māori health and well being for future generations.

Māori health research is an essential area for continual research, which will ensure future health developments for the indigenous population of New Zealand. Thus being said, this research will contribute new information, and respond to a relatively unknown area of Māori health. This project has the ability to direct future leadership for ongoing service integration and development. Questions will be

posed, and recommendations will be proposed throughout the research which has the potential to enhance understanding of Māori health needs, and direct Māori health development.

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