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**TĀNIKO:**  
*Public Participation,  
Young Māori Women, & Whānau Health*

A thesis presented in partial fulfilment of the requirements for  
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## ABSTRACT

Recent Māori, sexual, and primary health developments have been influenced by the principle of participation. For example, the use of a whānau-centred approach, of community development, and of Primary Health Organisations allows participation in decision-making. However, none of the abovenamed strategies adequately explain how young Māori women can participate in decision-making in one common area: Māori, sexual, primary health policy.

This thesis explores how Primary Health Organisations can work with young Māori women to promote sexual health to whānau by focusing on policymaking processes and effective participation mechanisms. Māori health development from colonial Contact to 2005 is reviewed before the broad health framework (the *New Zealand Health Strategy* and the *New Zealand Public Health and Disability Act 2000*) is defined. A critique of relevant policy, in particular *He Korowai Oranga* (2002), the *Sexual and Reproductive Health Strategy* (2001), and *The Primary Health Care Strategy* (2001), reveals scope for participation and whānau-centredness. Primary Health Organisations pose challenges to whānau sexual health promotion. However, with public participation from young Māori women, like the thesis participants, new opportunities can be realised.

The research was conducted in accordance with a Mana Wāhine-based methodology called “Tāniko”. The four parts (*Mana Wāhine*, *Te Ao Tawhito*, *Te Ao Hou*, and *Te Ao Mārama*) defined the research aim and objectives. A qualitative strategy employing semi-structured interviews with three young Māori women was followed by a confirmatory stage of content analysis utilising a deductive public participation evaluation tool: the Tāniko instrument. The instrument analysed four policymaking decisions and two mechanisms: organised peer groups and the wāhine-centred approach. The research concluded that when defining how, by whom, and to whom information is presented, organised peer groups can be utilised at the coordination and evaluation policymaking stages. The wāhine-centred approach can share or manage participation through problem definition, consultation, decision, and implementation.

**HE RAU AROHA**

This thesis is dedicated to the memory of my Nannies  
Who passed during its writing

**Te Pikonga Mahue Hughes (aka Mary Lawton)**

Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga, Ngāti Maniapoto

*1925-2003*

**&**

**Pinenga Margaret Gray (nee Yates)**

Ngāti Rangiwēwehi, Ngāti Raukawa

*1935-2005*

Beautiful, clever, funny women  
Who brought light to this world  
And continue to guide from the next

Hei Tōna wā.

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I te ngākau mokemoke  
Nō te Kuratahi tēnei  
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