

# Mr John WALDON

Taiarahia Black Te Pumanawa Hauora , Te Putahi-a-Toi School of Maori Studies  
Massey University

## Tihei Mauri Ora –Health Indicators And Well Being For Tamariki.

### Abstract

The health outcomes tools for indigenous people such as the Maori of New Zealand provide insight into our health priorities. Health outcomes tools that include self assessed health status provide a voice for children when establishing their health needs and health priorities. Health indicators such as vaccination status complement health outcomes tools and provide a more detailed picture of children's well being.

The health status of Maori children is currently based upon an analysis of selected health indicators in comparison with those of non-Maori children. This paper will explore the use of health indicators and describe the participation of children and the wider Maori community in the development of a health outcomes tool that combines self assessed health status with other health indicators. It was found that the health of Maori children extends beyond the absence of disease, abuse and illness. Child health includes measures of well-being, security and inclusion within family, inclusion in education, and unhindered spirituality. This paper will discuss the notion of health indicators because they are important for monitoring health service delivery, and health policy. It is no longer enough to say that we practice best practice in our clinics, hospitals or community centres. A method is required to better assess the effects of what we do and, in doing this, collect information that is going to be the most useful in response to the specific needs of indigenous children.

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