

Marae Ora Kainga Ora (MOKO): Marae-based research methodology

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Theme: Te Ao Hurihuri The MOKO is an ambitious three-year Endeavour MBIE funded project that investigates the potential of five marae to strengthen their provision of kāinga in the contemporary urban context of South Auckland. Using a Kaupapa Māori (KM) approach to Community-Based Participatory Research (CBPR), this project is a mixed-methods study (both quantitative and qualitative) exploring the ancient Indigenous innovation of marae and kāinga to understand and co-create new culturally based initiatives to activate community development and wellbeing. While marae are highly valued by Māori communities as being critical to cultural sustainability and are recognised by government agencies as important community providers, there is a dearth of research about how contemporary urban marae operate, and about how they can work with, and for communities. MOKO provides the opportunity for marae and communities to develop culturally relevant strategic designs based on community aspirations and resources that also engage stakeholders to ensure intergenerational sustainability of marae ora and kāinga ora. In sum, MOKO is focussed on the intergenerational sustainability of the knowledge systems and replenishment of resources inherent within marae, our natural environment and kāinga ora. Enabling marae, communities and stakeholders to be an active part of developing the solutions and co-production of new knowledge and dissemination activities is critical for this kaupapa Māori research project to have maximum impact. Community participation is a prerequisite to understanding and enhancing community wellbeing and kāinga. In the MOKO project, the Marae Research Coordinators (nominated and/or supported by the marae themselves) are pivotal members of our research team, and have become a strength and feature of our research project. This presentation reflects on the participation and contribution of the Marae Research Coordinators as part of the kaupapa marae research methodology of MOKO.