

Reflections and Evaluation



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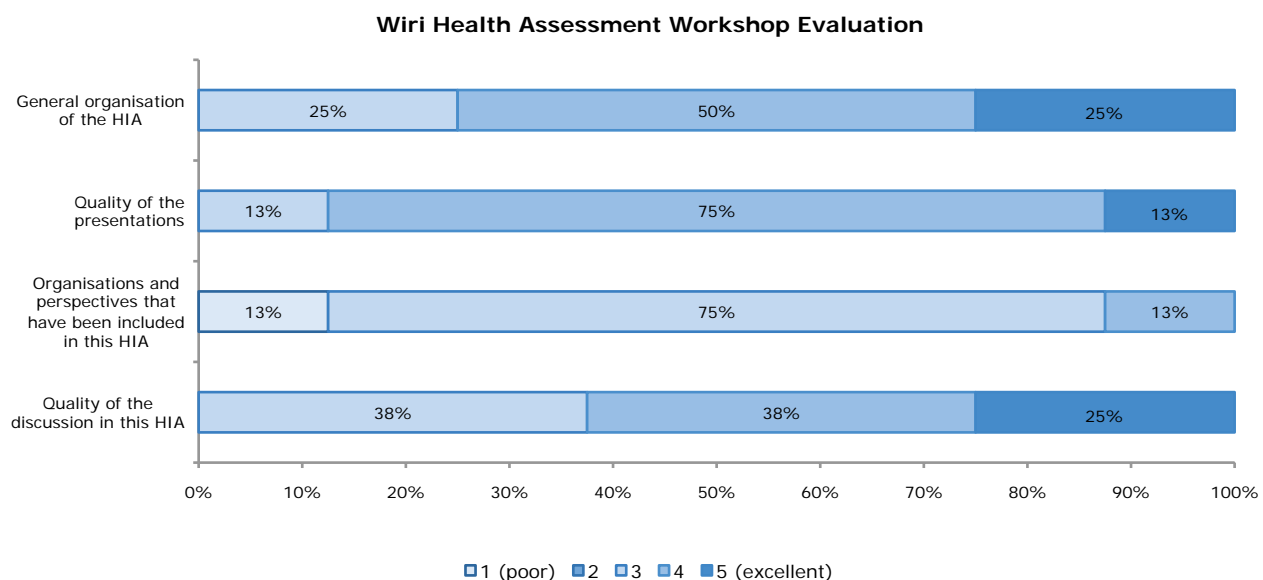
20 • HIA WORKSHOP FEEDBACK

This section reviews feedback from HIA participants on the process through which the HIA was conducted, and offers some early reflections on the process undertaken. Given that the HIA process was only completed in July 2010, it is too soon to identify the impacts of the HIA. It will be important however to monitor changes and developments in the area, and to ensure that this HIA remains a benchmark for the aspirations of the people of Wiri.

The two graphs below summarise the feedback across a range of questions that were asked by HIA workshop participants (at the general and Whanau Ora workshops). Overall, the workshops were received very positively by participants, with strong endorsement of the general organisation, the information and materials provided, and the quality of discussions.

20.1.1 Mainstream workshop feedback

The feedback from the mainstream workshop (directly below) indicates a greater range of organisations/perspectives would have been preferable for some participants. Note that the feedback from the mainstream workshop was from only eight respondents, as some had to leave before the completion of the workshop.



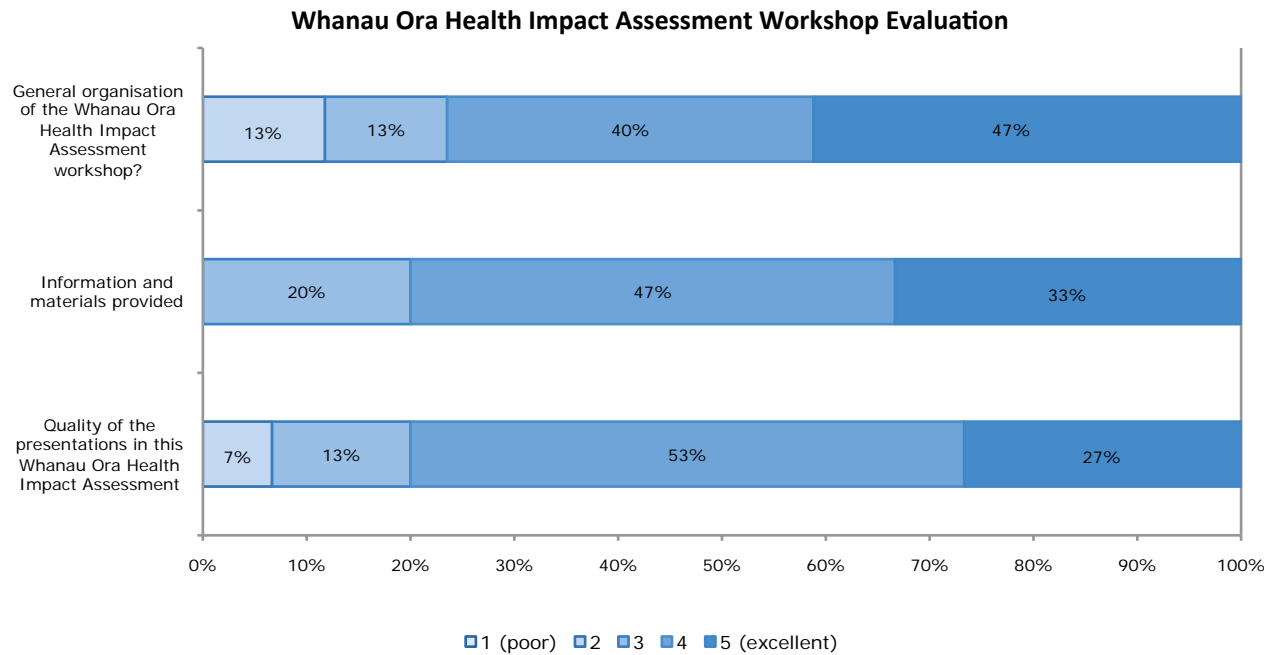
The most commonly mentioned feature of the mainstream workshop was the consultation with different groups, and the opportunity this provided to share views and insights. One of the participants noted the value in the attention to detail and ensuring smaller groups had an opportunity to participate. Another participant valued the new knowledge they gained about Wiri.

The most common gap identified by participants was the need for more participants, particularly local residents. This was partially addressed through subsequent phases of the consultation.

Suggestions for improvements to the HIA included having transport agencies participating, and to provide community stakeholders an opportunity to provide input at a time and place that is suitable to them.

In taking the HIA forward, the main theme was centred on promoting and obtaining local community consultation.

20.1.2 Whanau Ora workshop feedback
Feedback on the Whanau Ora workshop (15 responses) was generally very positive, as indicated below.



In general comments from WOHIA participants were positive, saying that the agenda was well organised and the presentations were well informed. There was one negative comment which noted that the presentation from Manukau City Council focused on the development in the Manukau CBD which highlighted disparities on communities at the risk of the lapsed urban community upgrade.

As with the mainstream workshop, the key gap that was identified by participants was the need for Wiri residents to attend the workshop, so that they could share their views of what it means to live in Wiri and what they think is important.

Many of the participants commented about how they learnt about the Te Pae Mahutonga model and acquired a better understanding of Whanau Ora HIA. Some of the participants also found important learning's in the information and knowledge they gained about Wiri and the local community. One of the participants stated that they most important learning for them was building new relationships.

Most of the participants would like to stay informed and attend related workshops. Some of the participants noted they would like to take a hands on approach to the area and apply the concepts from the Whanau Ora HIA to their work. One of the participants stated they are already in the process of exploring options to increase safety in homes, roads, schools and communities.

The key theme for future improvement is to include Wiri residents and community agencies. Some of the participants commented on the need to give participants more notice of when the workshops will be taking place and make available pre-reading to provide context about the issues and ideas that will be discussed. The need for Maori models / kaupapa to guide the process of the Whanau Ora HIA was also highlighted by a participant.

21 • STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

Following the completion of the HIA process, a series of five stakeholder interviews were held with people from organisations participating in the HIA

- Manukau City Council
- Papakura Marae
- Wiri Central School
- Counties Manukau District Health Board

This evaluation was completed to obtain their views on the HIA process, its strengths and improvements in the future.

Stakeholders felt the community development approach that was taken with the HIA was a major strength and an effective model to use, and that it embraced the local community.

The model engaged with service providers and people that live in the area. One of the interviewees felt it was very important that a Maori organisation led the Whanau Ora HIA and this was appreciated by those who attended the Maori workshops.

Involving the youth and giving them the opportunity to participate in the HIA process was considered a key strength. One of the interviewees felt involving the children from the local primary school was a great opportunity to hear their views and it was an effective method of involving the school. This was identified as a highlight for one of the interviewees.

The timeliness of the HIA was considered a major strength. The HIA was undertaken at a time where changes for local government and Wiri's infrastructure were about to take place. The HIA was seen to be a good reference point for the next wave of governmental and infrastructural change ahead. HIA was also perceived as being aspirational and forward thinking, and that the aspirations of the people of the Wiri community were captured by the HIA.

The HIA was perceived by many to have the buy in of the community and agency stakeholders, and that they had the opportunity to participate in the HIA process. One of the interviewees felt the HIA was useful as it supported many areas of his work.

Agency representatives felt they could have a direct influence on the impacts discussed during the HIA. The agencies could adjust their strategic plans and respond specifically to matters relating to their agencies.

Interviewees felt the HIA report was comprehensive, set the scene for the views of the community and captured the essence of Wiri very well. One of the interviewees found the key strength of the HIA was having a document that outlines the issues and views of the people of Wiri.

Some stakeholders stated that the timeframe of the HIA was very tight. If the timeframe of the HIA had been longer, a broader cross section of community engagement could have occurred. There was a view that stakeholders and community members should have been given more notice to ensure a high level of participation and representation.

One of the interviewees highlighted the importance of feeding information back into the community after the consultation process. This was considered as important as the consultation process. Another stakeholder noted the lengthy time between commissioning the HIA and getting it underway.

One interview suggested that there should have been more engagement with residents from Wiri. It was thought that many of the people who attended the HIA workshops were people who only worked in the area and it was important to capture the views of people who reside in Wiri. It was felt that many of the residents were not aware of the Wiri Spatial Structure Plan or the HIA. In order to obtain their buy in to the plan and HIA, it was seen as important to have them actively involved in the process (it should be noted however that residents input was obtained through a range of consultative mechanisms outside of the two appraisal workshops).

Some interviewees felt engaging with a broader range of community members could have been useful to explore equity issues further. Another interviewee mentioned it could have been useful to consult the business/industry sector to hear their views on the plan. It should be noted that several business owners were invited to the workshop however were not able to attend.

One of the interviewees noted concern about the initial placement of the Wiri Maori history and whakapapa section in the HIA report. They felt this section which describes the local identity of the area needed to be at the start of the report. This was seen to be an important aspect of abiding by the Treaty of Waitangi and an important cultural procedure for Maori.

Another issue raised was that the Wiri Spatial Structure plan was not made available to some of the stakeholders of the HIA. If stakeholders were given the plan to read prior to the HIA they could have discussed the perspectives of the agencies and groups they were representing before attending the workshops for the HIA.

The draft HIA report was thought by some to be too lengthy. It was suggested that a more succinct version be produced to provide feedback to the community.

21.1.1 Looking to the future

Interviewees felt the success of the HIA depends on the response by the new Auckland Council. Wiri needs to be selected by the Auckland Council as a project so there is an opportunity for the plan to be implemented and for the HIA recommendations to be incorporated, otherwise it may get overlooked. It was suggested that there is a need for a champion from the environment section of the council, to ensure the HIA report is adopted by the council.

It was thought that there was strong potential for the HIA to make an influence on Wiri's future, and possibly even the Auckland spatial plan (to be developed by the new Auckland Council). However this was seen to be dependent on an effective communications plan. The plan needs to be communicated to the right people and there needs to be resources to implement the communications plan.

Another suggestion was that future HIA's should be developed alongside plans and strategies, so that the HIA can have a greater influence on such plans.

The HIA was seen to adequately assess equity issues in the Wiri community; however, it was too early to see if these issues were resolved.

One of the interviewees noted that the HIA is not an end point, but that it is a formative process and other sectors such as environmental and social sectors need to be engaged in future HIA's to ensure their effectiveness and influence.

22 • REFLECTIONS ON THE HIA

A key strength of this HIA was the way it was able to work effectively in partnership with a range of agencies and organisations, building on the strength of the relationships established through the Wiri Improvement Project.

Organisations and interests involved in the HIA included:

- Housing New Zealand
- CMDHB and ARPHS
- Transport Planning MCC
- Urban Planning MCC
- Hapai te Hauora Tapui
- Education sector
- NZ Police
- Community members, including, child, youth, elderly, Maori and Pacific populations; all of whom were identified as vulnerable populations within the scoping meeting.
- Community groups including Rata Vine residents group, Sisters of Mercy, Wiri Business Association, and early childhood centres.

A further strength of this approach is that unlike the previous HIA on the Manukau City Centre Built Form and Spatial Structure Plan, engagement was able to occur at an early stage. The previous HIA was conducted after the SSP was completed. The early stage of the Wiri SSP gives this HIA much greater scope to influence its further development and implementation.

There was strong buy-in from the organisations taking part, and a general acceptance that the environment of Wiri plays a substantial part in the health and wellbeing of its residents, and that joint working across sectors is crucial to achieving health gains. The project highlighted a genuine desire among the individuals and organisations taking part to improve Wiri as a community, and the HIA provided a focal point for these aspirations.

This project raised the profile of health needs and putting health on the agenda in local government and governance for the area.

Healthy Cities, MCC with support of collaborative organisations advocated for HIA to be a part of standard practice in urban planning and policy design. This is still in process, but the willingness of urban design to collaborate on the HIA is a major strength of the project. The strong community approach embraced and showcased the Healthy Cities initiative / way of working and developed organisational processes for embedding HIA /WOHIA into local government.

This project has enabled us to build on the lessons learnt from previous HIAs, together with the collective knowledge of people living and working in the area, and help the process of embedding HIA within the council so this tool can be used effectively in other council projects to consider health and wellbeing.

This project has helped to strengthen the case for developing a Healthy Cities Advisory Group to open a pathway for embedding HIA into the new unitary council. We believe this project provides a good example of how HIA and Healthy Cities initiatives can support activities of local government across New Zealand.

This process embraced the principles of Kaupapa Maori research by way of centralising Maori concerns, setting out to make a positive difference for Maori, promoting equity, supporting Maori determination and employing a bottom up approach. The project provided a vehicle for continuing the partnership between Te Ora O Manukau and Pae Arahi Te Ora o Manukau.

Similarly, the project also actively sought the involvement of Pacific people, and successfully engaged with them.

Importantly, the project has covered off the key aims and objectives of the contract, and to some degree, exceeded them (by including for example consultation with children, young people and older adults). In so doing, the project has supported the main aims and objectives of the learning by doing investment to create capacity on HIA and build an evidence base of HIA practice.

22.1 Ongoing evaluation

As the SSP progresses, it will be important for the following evaluative questions to be posed to assess the effectiveness and influence of the HIA (recognising that these questions will be more relevant for the 2-5 year timeframe):

- Were there changes made to the spatial structure plan as a result of this HIA? If so what changed?
- Were the recommendations of the HIA accepted and implemented by policy makers? If so how, when, and if not why not?
- What unintended consequences resulted from the HIA?
- Have other projects/activities been initiated as a result of this HIA?

In the longer term, it will be important to assess the degree to which the community's aspirations have been followed through in actions by the council, Housing New Zealand and other agencies, and the residents themselves. A wider evaluation of the HIA and other community engagement activities in Wiri should explore the extent to which the community itself is more empowered to tackle the determinants of health raised in this report.

23 • REFERENCES

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