



Changing the Narrative on Long-Term Care for Kaumātua

Ikimoke Tamaki-Takarei
Waikato Māori Health & Wellbeing Leader

Kaumātua – Elder
Iwi – Tribe
Whānau – Family
Mokopuna – Grandchildren
Mana – Integrity
Mātauranga – Knowledge
Whakapapa – Genealogy
Tikanga – Protocols
Wairua - Spirit





Amohia ake te
ora o te iwi, ka puta ki te
wheiao.

The health and wellbeing of
the people is paramount

Kaumātua

A respected elder





Kaumātua as Carriers of Mātauranga (knowledge)

Kaumātua are holders of iwi
histories





Kaumātua as Carriers of Mātauranga (knowledge)

Their uniqueness is shaped by whakapapa (genealogy), lived experience, and cultural identity.



Kaumātua as Carriers of Mātauranga (knowledge)

Tikanga (protocols), and
intergenerational wisdom.





Kaumātua as Carriers of Mātauranga (knowledge)

Care models must uplift not dilute
this richness.



Shifting from Deficit to Dignity

Moving beyond clinical or age-based labels.



Shifting from Deficit to Dignity

Recognising kaumātua as storytellers, innovators, and cultural anchors.



Shifting from Deficit to Dignity

Long-term care must strengthen
wairua, mana, and connection.





Indigenous Intelligence Leading the Way

Tikanga-based approaches guide safer, more meaningful care.

Indigenous Intelligence Leading the Way

Whānau-centred design supports wellbeing and autonomy.





Designing Futures with Kaumātua Voices

Engage kaumātua as decision-makers, not passive recipients.



Designing Futures with Kaumātua Voices

Build environments that honour identity and belonging.

Designing Futures with Kaumātua Voices

It takes a village to raise a child



Designing Futures with Kaumātua Voices

It takes a village to care for our
kāumatua



He waka eke noa

We are all in this together

<https://youtu.be/t2ZRI13Clc8>



