

WHAKAHĀ O TE PĀ HARAKEKE

REALISING THE VISION FOR A SMOKEFREE FUTURE

Welcome to the Whakahā o Te Pā Harakeke quarterly newsletter

Like so many in the smokefree community, we were thrilled to see the world-leading Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products (Smoked Tobacco) Amendment Act enacted and we welcome the opportunity to comment on regulations that will implement the Act's core measures. We have been working hard on our submission and appreciate the exchange of ideas within the ASPIRE Aotearoa Centre and between our group and other key voices, including the Cancer Society, Health Coalition Aotearoa, and Aukati Tupeka Aotearoa, among others. We appreciate the opportunities to share our ideas and learn from others' submissions.

The Whakahā o Te Pā Harakeke programme is conceptualised around a whariki, created from three whenu that comprise strands of related projects that are interwoven with miro, which represent our overarching themes.

Our miro detail our shared commitment to reducing health inequities, which we will achieve by developing evidence to reduce smoking prevalence among priority groups, and promoting the achievement of Smokefree Aotearoa for all peoples in New Zealand.

Society for Research into Nicotine and Tobacco

As we write, several ASPIRE members, along with other researchers and advocates from Aotearoa, are attending the Society for Research into Nicotine and Tobacco (SRNT) conference. Anaru Waa is a keynote speaker in the Presidential Symposium: Challenging Power in Commercial Tobacco Control Research: A Decolonizing Perspective. Selah Hart, CEO of Hāpai Te Hauora, is also a keynote speaker and we're thrilled to see Selah and Anaru acknowledged for their tireless work in leading smokefree research and advocacy.

We've listed overleaf the posters and papers being presented by ASPIRE members and especially want to acknowledge our new ASPIRE researchers' success. Lani Teddy is presenting on work from Whenu Toru (mapping the tobacco control systems); Anna Graham-DeMello has led a paper exploring how people who smoke perceive large reduction in tobacco retail outlets that will soon be introduced, and Dr Janine Nip has led several posters from the ITC/EASE study. It's great that our new researchers have hit the ground running and we are very proud to see they are already preparing such thoughtful and interesting outputs.

Welcome to new staff



We're delighted to welcome Ellen Ozarka, a science communication specialist, who has joined us recently; Ellen has proposed some new and different activities, some of which we hope to develop further for NZ Science Festival exhibits (watch this space!).



Welcome also to Antonia Quinn, who is providing some much needed administrative support.

Farewell (in part) to our summer students

We were very lucky to work with three excellent medical students over the summer. Olivia, Katie and Miriam have returned to their studies and we will be working on their findings to ensure these are written up and published. We've been very lucky to have had some amazing students through the studentship programme – watch this space as we will be sharing their findings in future newsletters. We also hope to do more to keep in touch with former students, who bring ideas, perspectives and wisdom that enhances our work.

2023 PUBLIC HEALTH SUMMER SCHOOL

Public Health Summer School

Led by Richard Edwards, the ASPIRE Centre ran a one day course at the recent Public Health Summer School. The day covered background to the new Smokefree legislation and considered challenges that lie ahead. Despite the challenges brought by the terrible storms, we had a great audience and some lively debates. The day ended with workshops that discussed questions noted during the day. Many thanks to the people who attended; we are currently working on a follow-up to the day and will be in touch.

Our next newsletter

If you have anything you would like to add to our next newsletter, please email Jacqui at jacqui.hadingham@otago.ac.nz

Webinar programme

Once we are back from SRNT, we hope to relaunch our webinar programme; we're keen to share our most recent findings but even more interested in finding out more about how well we're meeting our different communities' needs. We will send through details once we have finalised our programme.

Symposium

Save the date

We have been keen to run a symposium for some time but each time we have something planned, we seem to have gone into a new lockdown or encountered a new and rising Covid wave. This year, we've taken a punt and set **23 May** as a date when we will host our first programme and Centre symposium.

Programme update

We are presenting findings from each whenu at SRNT. COVID certainly presented many challenges as we first got underway with our programme but we feel we are coming back on course. It has been extremely hard work but it's very rewarding to see the different projects go from strength to strength.

Whenu tahi includes the Evidence for Achieving Smokefree Aotearoa Equitably (EASE) and INSPIRED projects. EASE is part of an international research programme which follows cohorts of people who smoke or who have recently quit smoking. Data collection for Wave 4 of the survey has been completed. INSPIRED is a study monitoring progress in the first six countries to adopt 'endgame goals' to minimise smoking prevalence (Aotearoa, Canada, Finland, Ireland, Scotland, and Sweden). We are in the process of collecting data on progress between 2018 and 2023.

Whenu rua involves several smaller projects; recent work has explored vaping access among young people aged 16 to 17 (i.e., not yet old enough to be sold vaping products); potential strategies to support retailers to transition away from smoked tobacco products when the retail reduction strategy comes into effect, and perceptions of very low nicotine labelling (and whether adding this information to packaging could reinforce erroneous views that nicotine is the harmful constituent in tobacco products).

Whenu toru is about to implement the Q Method study, which elucidates mental models and will provide new insights into influences within tobacco control. Findings from this work will inform the final study, which will see development of systems diagrams that map interactions within tobacco control systems; this final phase will be underway later in 2023.

Recent Publications

Ait Ouakrim D, Wilson T, Waa A, ... Edwards R, Wilson N. et al. Tobacco endgame intervention impacts on health gains and Māori:non-Māori health inequity: A simulation study of the Aotearoa/New Zealand Tobacco Action Plan. *Tobacco Control* Published Online First: 10 January 2023. doi: 10.1136/tc-2022-057655

Graham-DeMello, A., & Hoek, J. How do people who smoke perceive a tobacco retail outlet reduction policy in Aotearoa New Zealand? A qualitative analysis. *Tobacco Control*. Published Online First: 31 January 2023. doi: 10.1136/tc-2022-057834

Maddox R, Drummond A, Kennedy M ... Waa A, et al. Ethical publishing in 'Indigenous' contexts. *Tobacco Control*. Published Online First: 13 February 2023. doi: 10.1136/tc-2022-057702

Waa, A. Wise practices in commercial tobacco research to promote racial equity, *Nicotine & Tobacco Research*, 2023; ntad019. doi: 10.1093/ntr/ntad019

Ngā mihi nui

The ASPIRE Aotearoa team



Society for Research into Nicotine and Tobacco Outputs

Presidential Symposium abstracts (Challenging Power in Commercial Tobacco Control Research: A Decolonizing Perspective)

Hart S. Reflections on Indigenous leadership and the realisation of Aotearoa New Zealand's Commercial tobacco endgame.

Waa A. Ka Mua, Ka Muri - Walking backwards Into the future.

Paper presentations

Ait Ouakrim D, Summers J, Wilson T, Edwards R, Wilson N, Blakely T. Modelling the potential impacts of policies limiting nicotine vaping product supply to pharmacies or prescription-only.

Edwards R, Hoek J, Wilson N. Assessing cigarette smuggling at a time of border closure to international tourists: National survey of littered packs.

Gendall P, Gendall K, Branston J R, Edwards R, Wilson N, Hoek J. Cigarette pricing strategies post plain packaging and during a period of sustained annual excise tax increases in New Zealand.

Graham-DeMello A, Hoek J. The perceived impact of large reductions in tobacco retail outlets: a qualitative analysis of New Zealand smokers.

Hoek J, Graham-DeMello A. Perceptions of illicit tobacco trade following large reductions in tobacco retail outlets: a qualitative analysis of New Zealand smokers.

Hoek J, Muthumala C. Introducing a pharmacy-supply model for tobacco: A qualitative analysis of pharmacists' perspectives.

Teddy L, Waa A, Hepi M, MacDonald L, Walton M. Whose system, whose goals? Māori perspectives on addressing (commercial) tobacco harm in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Waa A M. Eliminating smoking inequities by pursuing an end for commercial tobacco: The experience of New Zealand Māori.

Poster presentations

Edwards R, Johnson E, Waa A, Nip J, Ball J, Stanley J, Tautolo E, Agar T, Quah A, Fong G. Capsule cigarette use in the ITC New Zealand (EASE) 2020-21 survey: Who is using them?

Edwards R, Nip J, Zhang J, Waa A, Stanley J, Ball J, Tautolo E, Agar T, Quah A, Fong G. Smoking related knowledge, quit attempts and intentions, regret, and perceived addiction among people who smoke in Aotearoa/New Zealand: findings from the ITC NZ (EASE) 2020-21 survey.

Edwards R, Nip J, Zhang J, Johnson E, Waa A, Ball J, Stanley J, Tautolo E, Agar T, Quah A, Fong G. Heated tobacco product use among people who smoke and recent quitters in Aotearoa/New Zealand: findings from the ITC NZ (EASE) 2020-21 survey.

Edwards R, Zhang J, Johnson E, Waa A, Nip J, Ball J, Tautolo E, Stanley J, Agar T, Quah A, Fong G. Electronic cigarette use among people who smoke and recent quitters in Aotearoa/New Zealand: findings from the ITC NZ (EASE) 2020-21 survey.

Fong G, Gravely S, Meng G, Borland R, Gartner C, McNeill A, Andler R, Mons U, Vardavas, C, Katanoda K, Tabuchi T, Willemsen M, Edwards R, Waa A, et al. Adult smokers' beliefs about the health harms of nicotine in 16 countries: findings from the ITC project.

Fong G, Indome E, Meng G, Craig L, Quah A, Cummings M, Hyland A, McNeill A, Borland R, Edwards R, Waa A, et al. Perceptions about the harmfulness of e-cigarettes, heated tobacco products, and cigarettes in 16 countries: findings from the ITC project.

Howe S, Ait Ouakrim D, Wilson T, Wilson N, Blakely T. Favourable net impact of the tobacco endgame on government finances if health-commensurate adjustments to the retirement age are made: modelled results for Aotearoa/New Zealand.

Kaai S, Martin N, Yan M, Quah A C K, Waa A, Stanley J, Tautolo E-S, Ball J, Hoek J, Fong G T, Edwards R. Common predictors of quit intentions among New Zealand smokers: Findings from the 2016 ITC New Zealand survey.

