

Supplementary Material

He mana tō te mātauranga – knowledge is power: a qualitative study of sexual and reproductive healthcare experiences of wāhine Māori

Chelsea Harris^{A,}, Susan Bidwell^B, Ben Hudson^A, Maira Patu^C, Christina McKerchar^B and Ibrahim S Al-Busaidi^A*

^ADepartment of Primary Care and Clinical Simulation, University of Otago, PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

^BDepartment of Population Health, University of Otago, PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

^CMāori/Indigenous Health Innovation, University of Otago, PO Box 4345, Christchurch 8140, New Zealand

*Correspondence to: Email: Chelsea.harris@otago.ac.nz

Research Project (“The Māori Woman’s Experience of Sexual Healthcare”) Interview Guide

Prior to commencement of recording (instructions for interviewer):

Tell the participant a bit about yourself, ask them a bit about themselves, including are they connected to whānau / hapu, iwi, where are they from? Thank them for taking the time and effort to come today, acknowledging that they are helping you. Clarify that you are not there as a doctor today but a researcher, and that their participation will not impact on their medical care going forward.

Why we are doing the study: To learn about the experiences Māori women have when receiving healthcare related to sexual well-being. Sexual health care can be a difficult aspect of health care for any patient to engage with regardless of ethnicity, and I think it’s important for health care providers to be aware of how people with different cultural backgrounds and/or worldviews might engage with different healthcare approaches. If the delivery of the care is suitable, then patients will feel more comfortable disclosing personal information, raising sensitive issues and asking questions. They are then more likely to leave a medical consult feeling empowered and informed. This would hopefully contribute to improved sexual health outcomes for Māori.

Stress that the woman doesn’t need to go into details about her sex life or her personal health issues, but rather that we are here to talk about her experiences with the health care system.

The questions in **bold** are to be explicitly asked, with the subsequent prompts being used as needed. The natural flow of conversation may result in focusing on only a couple of the prompts, or the wāhine may raise discussion points not listed – be flexible and follow the conversation wherever it takes you, referring to the pre-designated prompts if stuck.

-Can you tell me about experiences you’ve had with doctors, or nurses, regarding your sexual health?

(If asked what is meant by sexual health, this includes contraception, pregnancy planning and care, delivery of babies, termination of pregnancy, STIs, issues pertaining to sexuality, cervical screening, or anything else the woman thinks is relevant).

-Prompts:

-Who said what to raise the subject?

-Were you able to ask all the questions you had?

-Did you feel like the doctor(s) heard your concerns?

-Did you feel comfortable disclosing all relevant information to the doctor (eg. about your sexuality, use or non-use of contraception, concerns, etc)?

-Were you provided with information and options? How? Was it presented in a way that was easy to understand?

-Was anything said that made you feel particularly heard / comfortable, or the opposite (including feeling judged or lectured)?

- Did you feel you had the information, space and time to make a decision?
- Do you usually feel comfortable? Did the doctor(s) seem comfortable?
- Would you go back to the same doctor to discuss sexual well-being again?
- Do you have any fears or concerns about discussing your sexual health with a doctor?

-How do you think clinicians could provide a better service for Māori wahine (specifically regarding sexual healthcare)?

-Prompts:

-Who do you think should raise the subject of sex in a doctor's consult – should the doctor raise it as part of a well-being check, or if it is relevant to the patient's problem; or should it be left to the patient to bring it up if they have concerns?

-Tell me about the place of discussions of sexuality in a doctor's consult.

-Do doctors make any assumptions about how people view sex and sexuality (and related issues) that don't fit with everyone's worldviews?

-If you had a problem to do with your sexual wellbeing, how would you like that doctors' consult to go? What would that ideal consult look like?

-(if they've discussed a negative experience with a doctor earlier in the interview): looking back at the time that (X) happened, if you could talk to that doctor and give them feedback, what would you say? How could they improve?

-What do you wish doctors' knew about caring for Māori patients with sexual health issues?

-Does anything stop you from accessing sexual healthcare?

-If you were to learn more about sexual wellbeing, how would you prefer to access that information? (eg. being taught by doctor, written information, websites, free educational seminars, free online learning modules)

-If a free sexual health educational session was offered to people enrolled at the practice, would you think this was a positive thing? If so, do you think this would need to be single-gender sessions, or would mixed gender be acceptable?

-People define sexual well-being differently. For some it's about controlling pregnancy, for some it's about protecting against infections, and for others it can be about being comfortable with your sexuality. Can you please tell me what sexual wellbeing means to you?

-Prompts:

-Important? Why / why not?

-What does it look like to have good and poor sexual wellbeing?

-How is it talked about between you and your friends / loved ones?

-Are there any taboos against discussing sexual wellbeing?

-Experience of the subject of sexual wellbeing when growing up (eg. did your parents talk about it all? Any prominent attitudes?)

-(If not mentioned): what role does sexuality play in sexual well-being?

-Can you tell me how you learnt about sexual health?

-Prompts:

-Where? Who from? What kind of stuff did you learn?

-If not mentioned, ask: what about sexuality?

-Did you feel able to ask questions? If not, did you take your questions elsewhere?

-Who or where would you go to answer any questions you might have about sexual health?

-Where / how do you think people access information about sexual health these days?

Ask what the wāhine thinks about the idea of free community wānanga / seminars where women could come to learn about sexual health from a healthcare professional

Thank you so much for this korero. Is there anything else you would like to say or ask before we close?