





**Rongoa Maori is the healing practice born of
this land,
this whenua**



What is Rongoa Maori?

Most commonly represented as;

- Mirimiri / romiromi (bodywork / physiotherapy)
- Rongoa rakau (plant medicines)
- Matakite (gift of 2nd sight, clairvoyance)
- Karakia & Wairua (spiritual healing)
- Maori arts (e.g. taonga puoro, raranga, waiata, whakairo)



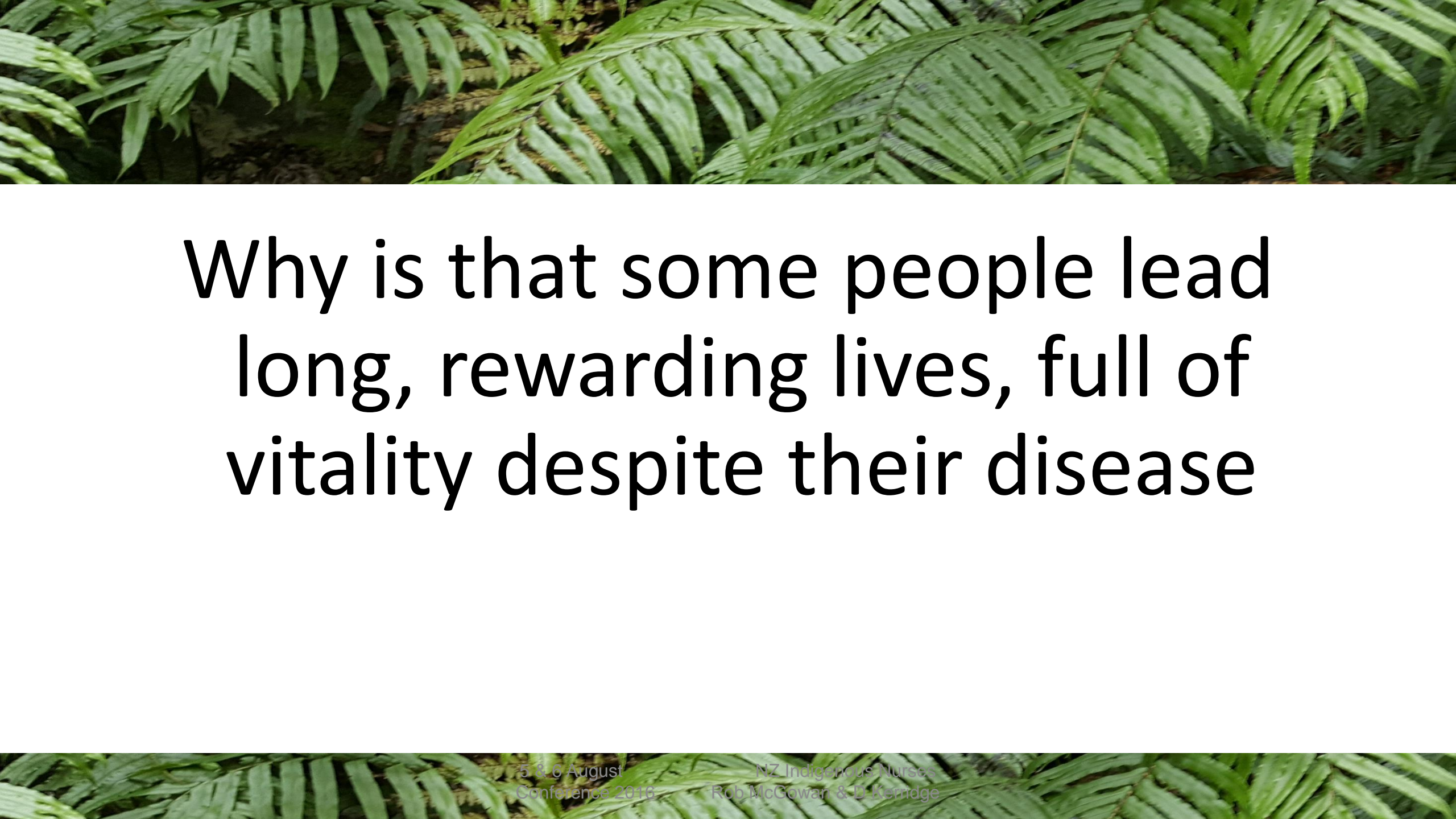
But Rongoa Maori is so much more...

It is;

A way of understanding our world and how to heal it

A way of living that recognises the web of connections that exist
between all things

About strengthening our connections to the whenua



Why is that some people lead
long, rewarding lives, full of
vitality despite their disease



Disease in our modern world refers to things like

- Coronary heart disease
- Stroke
- Alzheimer's disease
- COPD
- Lung Cancer
- Suicide



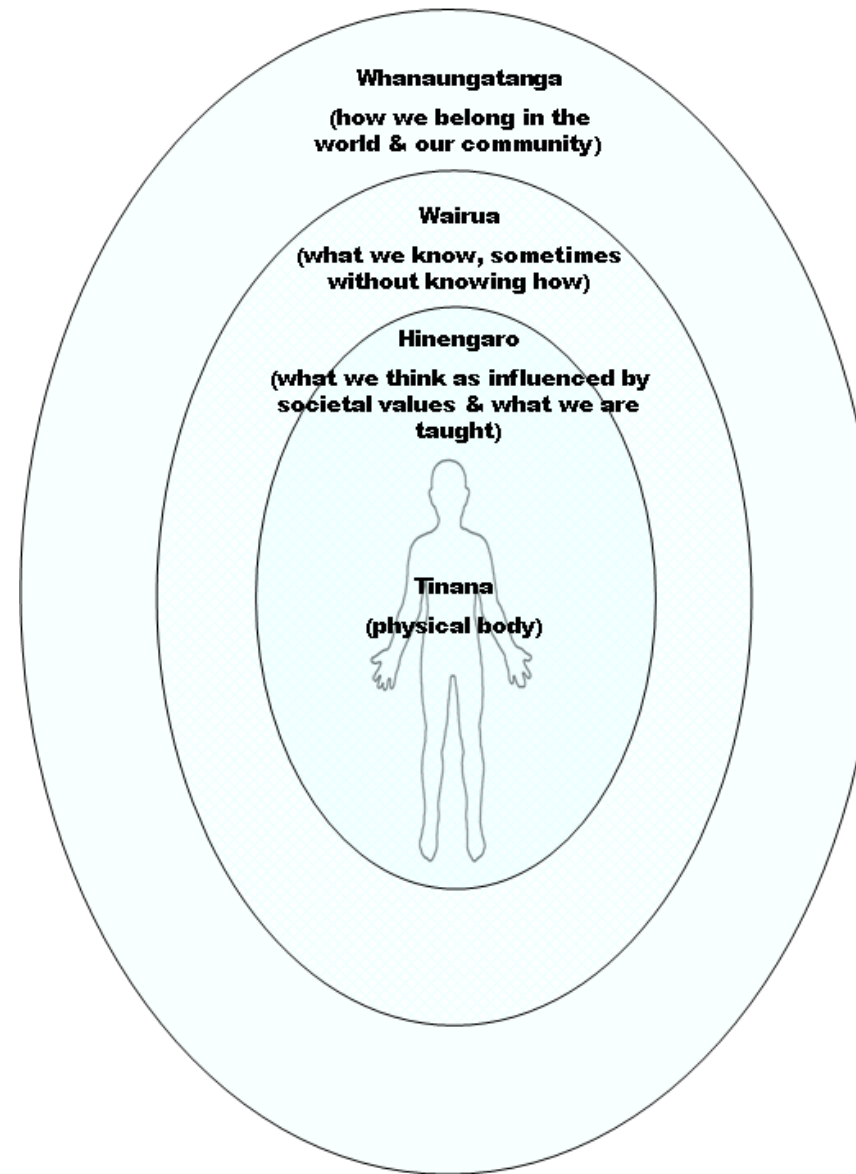
Disease in a rongoa Maori context includes

Loneliness / Shame

Hopelessness

Homelessness

Lack of purpose



Healing occurs;
- when we know how we belong and
- what we know and what we think are more alike than
different (we walk our truth).
When these things are attended to, then physical healing
ensues.



Rongoa Maori is in a state of Crisis

- Rapidly diminishing access to medicine plants
- Reducing pool of expert teachers
- Maori discomfort in the Maori world
- Increasing financial pressures on practitioners
- Impact of modern medicines
- Consumer expectations



Government Edicts

Modern legislation could have as profound effect on rongoa Maori as did the
Tohunga Suppression Act 1907 – 1962

Which saw healers withhold knowledge and destroy early rongoa writings to
keep people safe and law abiding. Rongoa and Maori health is still paying the
price for this today.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of lush green ferns, likely from a New Zealand forest. The fronds are detailed and layered, creating a textured, natural backdrop.

Medicines Act (1981)

The Medicines Act (1981) prevents rongoa Maori practitioners from supplying traditional remedies for therapeutic purposes unless they are approved medicines.



Health Practitioners Competency Assurance Act (2003)

Since August 2005 under Section 9 of the HPCAA, rongoa Maori practitioners were prevented from applying traditional manipulative techniques to restore function in patients if they involved high velocity, low amplitude manipulative techniques (HVLAMT) to cervical spinal joints.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of green fern fronds, showing their characteristic feathery structure and vibrant color.

Tikanga a Rongoa, NZ National Standard for Rongoa Maori (2014)

These standards were developed by the Ministry of Health ignoring the advice of their technical expert advisors (including rongoa Maori practitioners) and contrary to the agreed Standards New Zealand terms of reference for developing these standards.

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of lush green ferns, showing the intricate patterns of the fronds.

Proposed Natural Health Products Bill (2016)

The Natural Health Products Bill in its present form denies Maori the right to continue to make for sale rongoa Maori via a store front (including the internet) unless all intellectual property pertaining to ingredients, method of manufacture and therapeutic application, is disclosed to the Government, some of which will be made publically available . Maori are increasingly wary of the potential for commercial exploitation of matauranga Maori, which is not for sale.



Some Questions to Ponder

Do Maori have the right to practice their healing traditions unimpeded by the cultural values of others?

Is it appropriate that the safety and practice of rongoa Maori (based upon a Maori world view, values and tikanga), only be permitted, subject to the endorsement of another tradition and healing paradigm?

Who should define what is rongoa Maori tuturu?

The background of the slide is a close-up photograph of lush green ferns, with their fronds creating a dense, textured pattern.

Maori are the biggest 'public' in our health system

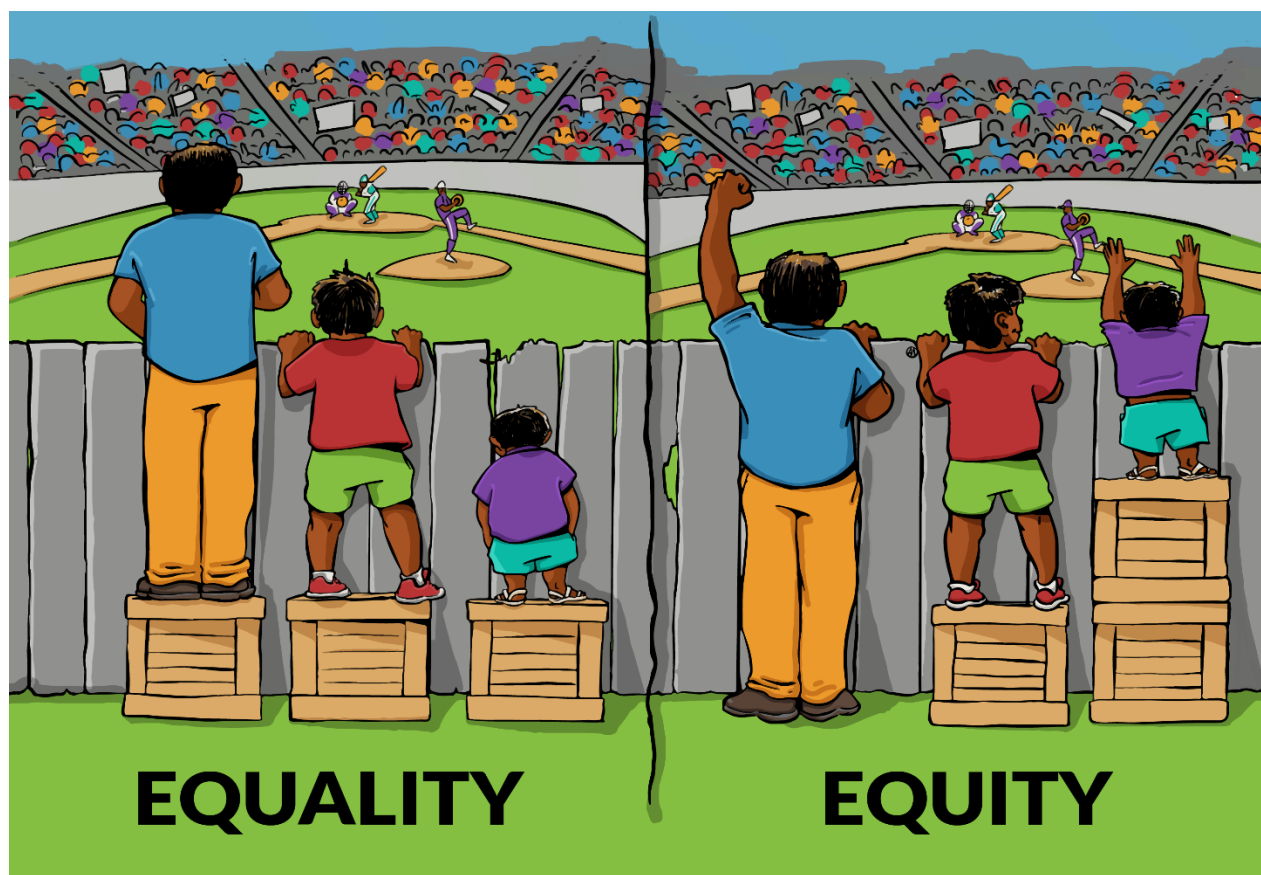
(Prof. Linda Smith)

So what's going wrong and who can fix it?



Despite significant investment, Maori health statistics remain grim reading. It is time for a new and co-operative approach between Maori medical professionals and traditional rongoa Maori practitioners. As Maori we need to take charge of our own health and wellbeing.






**The true measure
of equality in a
nation is
reflected in
equity within
health.**

(Prof. Linda Smith)

“Interaction Institute for Social Change | Artist: Angus Maguire.”



Rongoa Maori is a largely untapped opportunity to help achieve true parity in our health statistics for all peoples?



If so then;

Maori doctors and nurses have a very important role in helping to achieve this.



Whangia ka tupu, ka puawai

**(that which is
nurtured, blossoms
and grows).**

