

# Focus on providing better health

Te Runanga o Ngati Irapuaia recently signed a major contract with the University of Auckland.

It is a Life and Living in Advanced Age — a Cohort Study in New Zealand (LILACS), Te Oranaga ki Te Koroheketanga, E Roopu Matautau.

The key objectives of the study are to identify predictors of successful advanced age, investigate the major causes of ill-health and health inequalities in Aoteroa, examining the provisions of health care and exploring ways in which health systems can be strengthened, and working with communities to help them enable to develop resources and strategy to improve their health and well being.

The proposed research fits these objectives and, in addition, upholds the Government's Positive Ageing Strategy and the Health for Older People Strategy.

The study will be conducted in the Tauranga Moana, Te Arawa, Mataatua and the Whanau a Apanui districts, and will interview and conduct health assessments with about 550 people aged 85 year and 600 older Maori, aged 80 to 90.

The University of Auckland Study Team are Professor Ngaire Kerse (principal investigator), Doctor Lorna Dyll (co-investigator), Dr Mere Kapa (senior research fellow, senior project manager and executive advisor Maori) and Karen Hayman (research fellow).

Alongside them are Te Roopu Kaitiaki o nga Tikanga Maori Hone Kameta, Florence Kameta, Paea Smith, Betty McPherson and Reipae Leiana Reynolds.



**SIGNING:** A study into advanced age has been signed and will begin this month.