**HOPE –Selwyn Knowledge Exchange for Research on Ageing**

**Abstract**

**Title:** Adapting digital story-telling to record Maori whanau experiences of end of life care, tangihanga and bereavement to inform a visual educational resource.

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**Introduction:** Attributed with oral and holistic community traditions, Maori whanau carers are well positioned to increase public health knowledge and awareness about end of life care, cultural needs, tangihanga, bereavement and the symbolic meanings attached to these experiences through digital story-telling. This presentation reports on the appropriateness of the digital-story telling method, adapted with Kaupapa Maori research principles and processes, to explore older Maori end of life cultural needs and whanau carer experiences.

**Methods:** The Center for Digital Storytelling’s (CDS) 3-day workshop method was adapted to include Kaupapa Maori research principles and processes (powhiri engagement method and poroporoaki dissemination process) to ensure participant engagement and safety. Participants completed workshop evaluations to assess the appropriateness of the adapted digital story-telling method. Researchers participated in an evaluative debrief. Eight stories were completed (one man and seven women; including two researchers). A Kaupapa Maori thematic analysis was applied to the digital story-telling method and content.

**Results:** The adapted digital-story method was successful despite some participants’ difficulty with using digital computer technology. However, Kaupapa Maori research processes supported participants to tell their story. The stories were later collated into an educational DVD resource. Researcher commentary enhanced cultural understanding. Requests to make the educational resource publically accessible resulted in it being uploaded to You-Tube (Te Arai Conference, July 2015)

**Conclusions:** A Kaupapa Maori adapted digital story-telling method proved an innovative way to capture information about Maori end of life care, tangihanga and bereavement to inform public health awareness and understanding.