

What does working together really mean?

McPherson K

Laura Fergusson Chair, AUT University, Auckland

Email: Kathryn.McPherson@aut.ac.nz

This presentation responds to an invitation to address the theme of the conference - *Working together: research and practice*. Issues related to four areas of working together will be examined:

- a) **clinicians working together:** how do teams work, what are the barriers to teamwork and how can we get the best results from team work?
- b) **clinicians working with researchers:** it has been argued that in order for research to produce findings that matter to clinicians and, to ensure translation of research findings into practice, clinicians and researchers need to work together. Are there effective strategies for doing this and importantly - does it make any difference to patients?
- c) **working with clients and their whanau/family:** it is increasingly suggested that in order for efficacious interventions to be effective in the real world, engaging and working with clients and their whanau / family is central. Just how can one do this?
- d) **working with policy makers and decision makers:** The wider environment we work in with regard to funders, systems and policy makers impacts on every thing we do. What are the best ways to interact and share knowledge with these key stakeholders to deliver optimum outcomes for patients?

The basis of what we do and how we do it will be examined with a specific reference to research that indicates the key issues in each of these domains and how, if we are willing, we could do it all better.