**Research Committee Terms of Reference**

Name of the group: Research Committee / Komiti Rangahau

Title: Terms of Reference

Purpose / role of the group:

* To respond to requests for circulation of research proposals to regional members, in line with the NZCOM Research Strategy.
* To promote evidence-informed midwifery practice and guidelines in the Canterbury West Coast region.
* To generate interest in research and postgraduate study in the region.

Group established: 2016 by the Committee of NZCOM Canterbury West Coast

Aims:

* Increase research awareness of membership
* Advocate for Māori representation on the group
* Where this is not possible, research committee representatives keep Māori issues and equity at the forefront of discussions, plans and strategies.
* Support and enact sections of the regional strategic plan that come under the purposes and aims of this group.
* Be involved in organisation of JDMRC workshop in Chch in October

Membership:

3 to 5 members of NZCOM Canterbury West Coast

We are open and inclusive of representatives of other ethnicities and consumers.

Membership is reviewed annually at the AGM. Members can resign and new members are able to join in the interim.

The group can co-opt people for their research skills as needed for a certain project.

Accountability:

Group reports back to chair and regional meeting at least once per quarter. The group produces an annual report for the AGM. Financial decisions are discussed at the Business Committee meetings.

Review:

Terms of Reference is reviewed annually and reported on in the AGM report

Meeting:

2 monthly or more often ad hoc

Agenda: To be decided by 3 days prior to the meeting.

Minutes: To be taken by one of the members present

Quorum: 3 members

Defininitions:

Biculturalism: We have chosen to adapt Sullivan’s (1993) definition of biculturalism:

Aotearoa/New Zealand is a multi-ethnic Pacific nation founded on the Treaty of Waitangi, a bilateral agreement between *tangata whenua* and the British Crown. Under the Treaty, Māori agreed to British governance, *kawanatanga*, of their country, while retaining *tino rangatiratanga*, sovereignty. Since the signing of the Treaty, its spirit and the terms have been blatantly and consistently ignored by the Pākehā. Over the years as the Pākehā population has grown, Māori have been disenfranchised, their language and culture undermined and their lands taken over. These injustices are now starting to be redressed.

Although a largely British descendent group now make up the majority population, there are many others who have arrived from other parts of the Pacific and the wider world. The power of the British Crown in Aotearoa/New Zealand is now nominal rather than real, so if there is to be a modern partnership, this should be between *tangata whenua* and Pākehā together with all other groups and individuals who have arrived since. The concept of a Māori/Pākehā partnership in a bicultural context should be replaced by a Māori/Tauiwi relationship.

This interpretation of biculturalism acknowledges the rights of *tangata whenua* and also includes all non-Pākehā New Zealanders in this important partnership.