

SPENDING HABITS OF MĀORI WOMEN

Māori women may be doubly disadvantaged in financial opportunities. The disproportionate incidence of smoking and consequential ill health among Māori women, for example, compounds financial disadvantage.

The disparity between Māori and other groups in New Zealand is also evident from the PISA (2012) report where one of the key findings was that Māori students achieved lower financial literacy scores than the average for New Zealand (Whitney, May, & Lamy, 2014).

“It is impossible to understand or to intervene in any issue without some understanding of this country’s colonial past.”

The focus was on two groups of Māori women – 17 to 25 years and 35 to 50 years. However, in some cases, participants themselves determined the age breakdown through who took part in which group.



RELY ON FAMILY/FRIENDS WHEN MAKING MAJOR FINANCIAL DECISIONS



PAID A BILL LATE AT LEAST ONCE IN THE LAST SIX MONTHS



NEARLY 60% DON'T SAVE ANY OF THEIR INCOME EACH MONTH

BUDGETING



Don't budget for major purchases



Indicated purchases may be planned even if funds aren't there



Don't budget or track spending

SAVINGS FOR RETIREMENT



Don't have any savings for retirement



Do have savings for retirement

- Opportunity to identify disparities in financial management practices of young Māori women at a national level, in comparison to other young New Zealanders, at a national level, and to support Māori women to enhance their financial management practices.

- Financial literacy training should be championed by Māori leaders and should be delivered on Māori terms fully engaging with Māori-centred methodologies.

- Opportunity to combine financial literacy education with other areas of learning.

“We are not stupid, far from it, we know what needs to be done, we just need to learn how and then be prepared for a major mind shift.”

- Financial literacy education for Māori women should be outcome-focused.

- Opportunity exists for further investigation into the differences in financial management behaviours between different groups of Māori women.

- Opportunity exists for comparative research between Māori women and the broader New Zealand population.

- If financial literacy programmes are delivered for Māori women, pre and post engagement assessments should be completed, to understand whether participant’s financial management practices change and whether changes in financial practices and spending habits are sustainable.