**Plain English Press Release**

This research was run by three teams - Mana Pounamu Consulting, the Donald Beasley Institute, and Ihi Research.

Each team worked on its own research project, looking at the New Zealand Police to find out if Police systems are fair and equal for all the people the Police have contact with.

The research looked at how police respond to people in different communities and how police make decisions about

1. stopping people,

2. using force on people,

3. charging people with crimes.

The research also looked at the effects of Police decisions on the community and the importance of building relationships with communities to create trust between the community and the Police.

This research is the first of its kind in the world.

This research used different research methods (ways) to collect the information.

The researchers made sure that this research listened to the opinions of Māori, Pasifika, tāgata whaikaha (Māori disabled people), D/deaf, disabled people, takatāpui (LGBTQIA+ people), and gang whānau.

Some researchers went to the Police College and watched Police Recruits while they did frontline policing around Aotearoa New Zealand.

The findings of this research can be used to make positive changes within the New Zealand Police to make policing more fair and equal.

This research took one and a half years to complete, and across the three research teams, 18 reports were produced.

Although they worked separately, all three research teams believe their results say that the New Zealand Police could change how they do Police work to be safer for people with different backgrounds and needs and treat everyone with human dignity.

**Findings**

The findings from the three studies show what is working and what is unfair in current policing practices. It also shows where the Police are creating positive changes.

The findings also show that the power structure within the Police can stop Police from learning from the people and communities they work with. How Police behave, not having enough resources and Police becoming tired from the emotions of policing stop communities from trusting Police.

This research also found that sometimes force is used (using physical force on people) when de-escalation (using words to talk to the person involved to calm the situation) would be better for the person and Police. All studies identified whanaungatanga (building connections) as important for developing positive relationships between communities and Police.

Professor Khylee Quince led the panel that ran the UPD research programme. She said that this research is based on listening to people who have had experiences of being treated unfairly by the New Zealand Police and listening to the Police themselves. She said the research had strong results because of the way it was carried out and because of the large number of people who were asked about their experiences with policing in Aotearoa. Professor Quince hopes the Police will make changes based on the findings of this research as quickly as possible.

Mana Pounamu, The Donald Beasley Institute and Ihi Research will talk about key parts from their reports at a news briefing from 10.30am to 11.30am today at BGI, 3 MacDonald Cresent, Wellington CBD.

ENDS