Abuse of older people research symposium: Panel 1 – Understanding and measuring abuse of older people

- Gail Pacheco, Auckland University of Technology
- Tia Dawes, Wai Rangahau
- Pauline Gulliver, National Mortality Review

New Zealand Family Violence Clearinghouse

3 September 2024

Prevalence study of abuse of older people

Professor Gail Pacheco

NEW ZEALAND POLICY RESEARCH INSTITUTE
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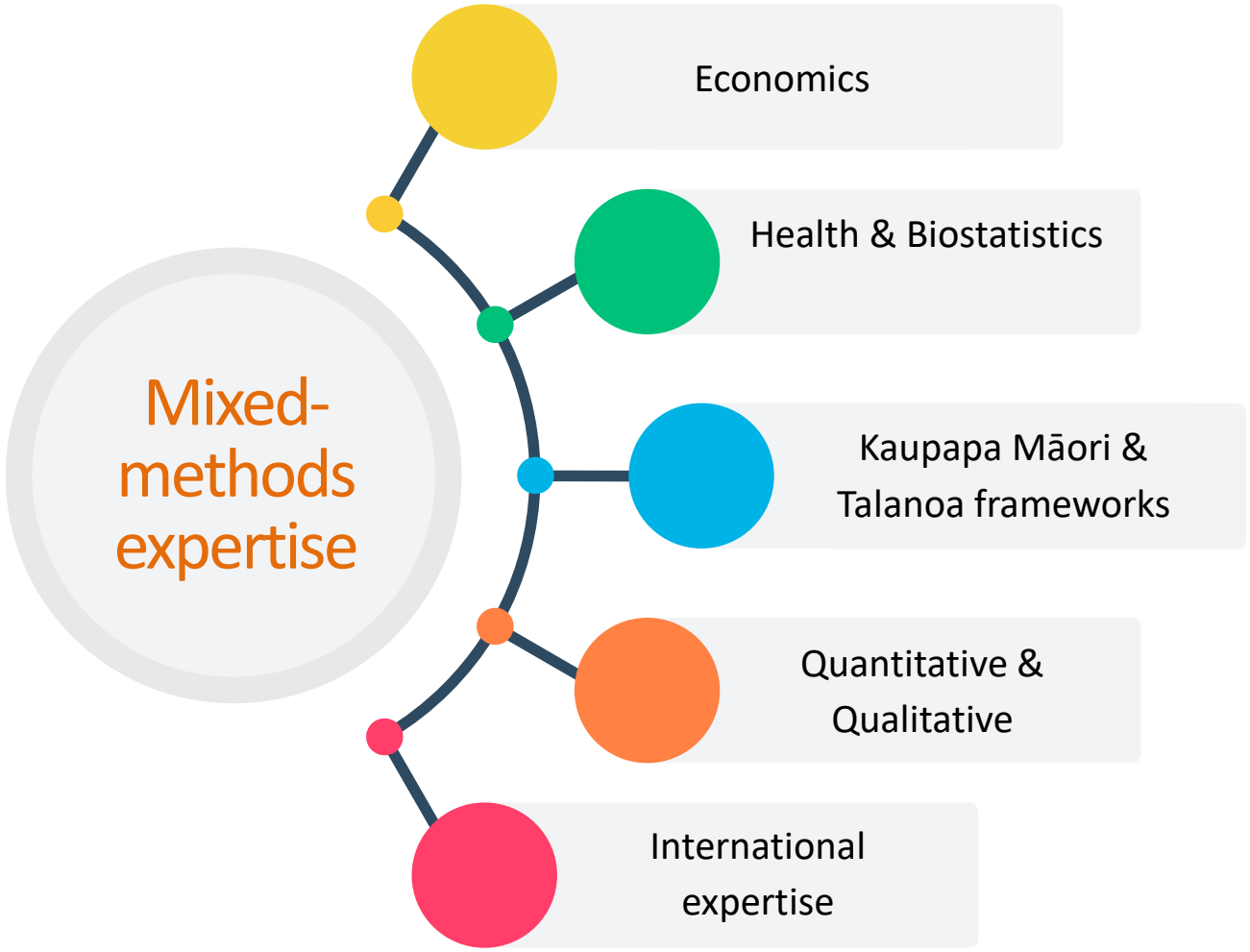
Complex issue



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UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND
Waipapa Taumata Rau
NEW ZEALAND

UCD DUBLIN

Our approach

“a single or repeated act or failure to act, including threats, that results in harm or distress to an older person. These occur where there is an expectation of trust and/or where there is a power imbalance between the party responsible and the older person”

Our approach

1. Using the IDI
2. National prevalence survey
3. Qualitative deep dives

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Prevalence of harm:

- Neglect
- Financial
- Psychological
- Physical
- Sexual
- Cultural

Demographics

Support networks

Mental and physical health

Attitudes towards abuse of older people

Help seeking

Perpetrator characteristics

Our approach

1. Using the IDI
2. National prevalence survey
3. Qualitative deep dives

Our perspective

How does this shape our understanding of wellbeing for older people?

NZ Policy Research Institute

gail.pacheco@aut.ac.nz

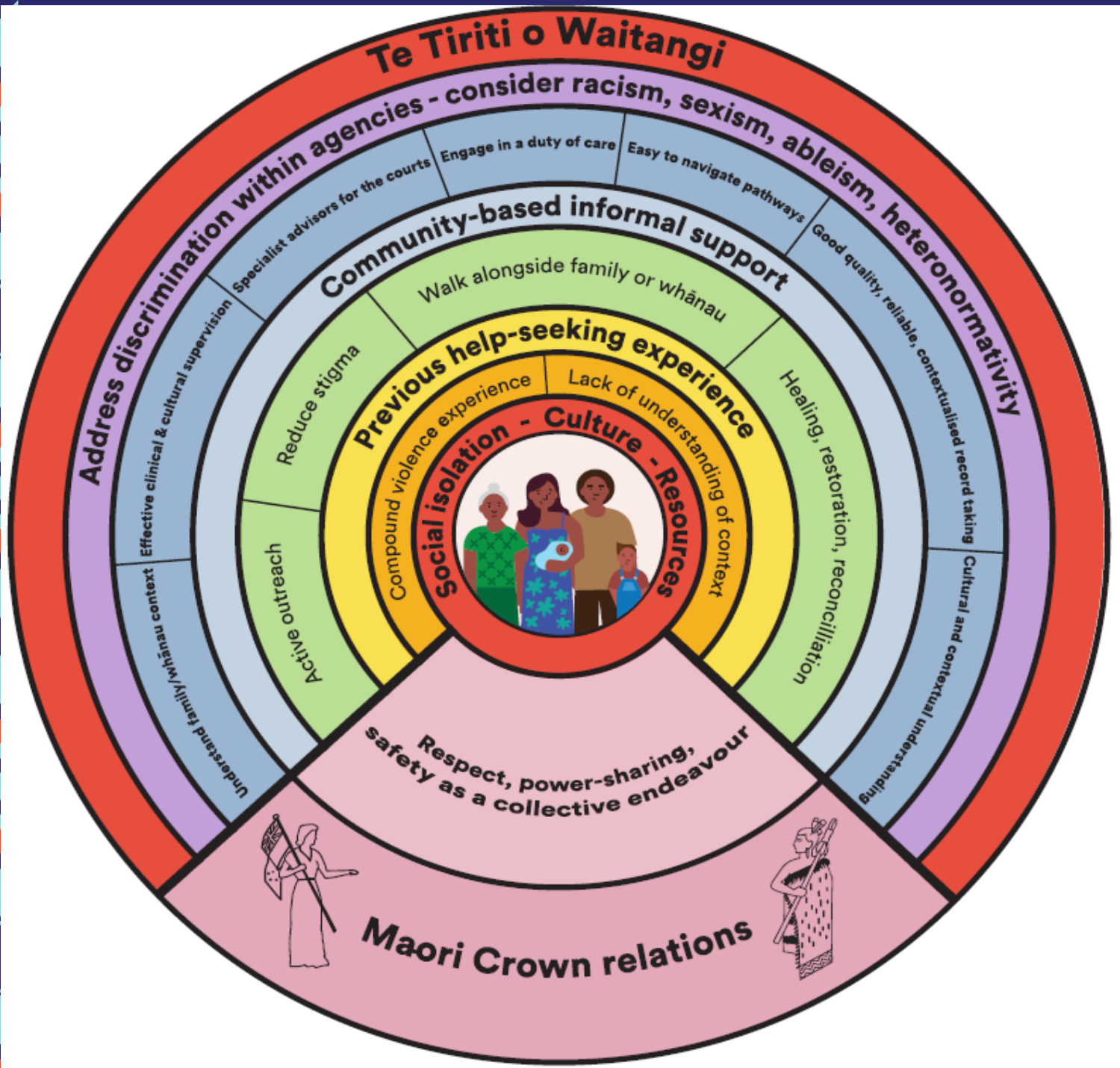
https://nzpri.aut.ac.nz/research/health-and-wellbeing-of-older-new-zealanders

Te Tāhū Hauora
Health Quality & Safety Commission

A perspective from mortality review

Pauline Gulliver

2 September 2024



Aging well

Life transitions

Identity

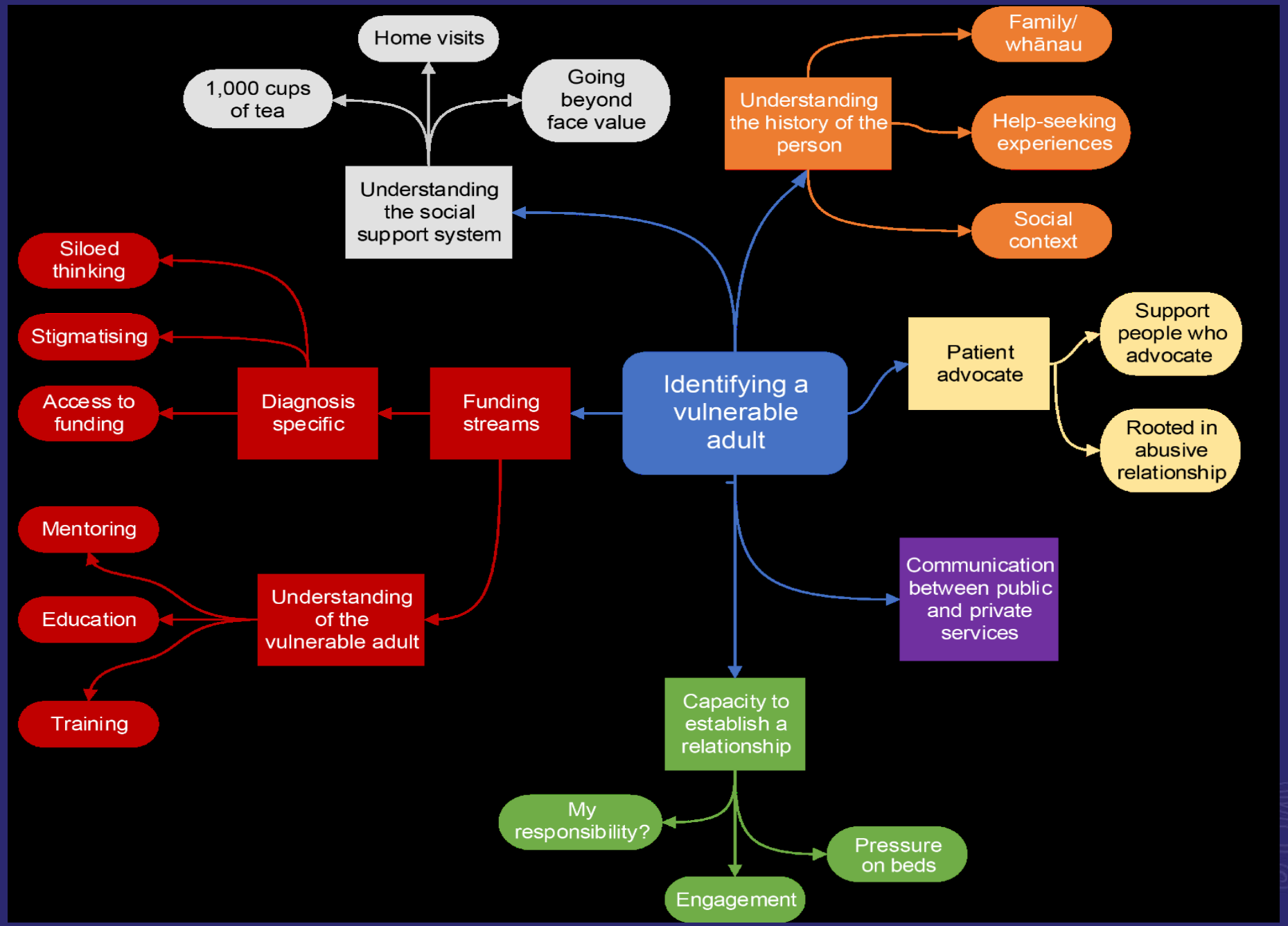
Chronic health conditions

Safety from a whole person – family – whānau perspective

Understanding from a research and policy perspective

- Definitions are good for research, not so much for ensuring comprehensive care:
  - Narrowly define the ‘condition’;
  - Encourage a siloed response;
  - Focus on the individual.

- Definitions are required for policy development. BUT…


Home visits
1,000 cups of tea
Going beyond face value
Understanding the social support system
Understanding the history of the person
Family/ whānau
Help-seeking experiences
Social context
Siloed thinking
Stigmatising
Access to funding
Diagnosis specific
Funding streams
Identifying a vulnerable adult
Patient advocate
Support people who advocate
Rooted in abusive relationship
Mentoring
Education
Training
Understanding of the vulnerable adult
Communication between public and private services
Capacity to establish a relationship
My responsibility?
Pressure on beds
Engagement

Workshop 1 questions

- How do the definitions of abuse of older people impact or limit the work that you do?

- How can we ensure research, policy and practice captures the actual experiences of older people?