

## Hone – case study

*Useful to explore legal framework in the context of Maori whānau.*

### Whānau – support networks and history

Hone is a 54 year-old man of Ngāti Kahungunu descent, who lives with his wife Mere and their two adult children. Hone teaches whakairo (Māori carving), at the local kura (school). Both Hone's parents and his two siblings are deceased.

### Wairua – cultural identity

Both Hone and Mere whakapapa (have genealogy) to the local iwi (tribe) and hold mana on their marae. Hone and his whānau have a fear and distrust of health services, largely due to experiences of racism and perceived lack of care experienced in the past.

### Tinana – physical health and functioning

Hone was diagnosed with congestive heart failure 3-years ago. He started the prescribed medications but stopped as they made him feel worse. Hone is registered with a general practice but does not feel a connection with any GP as he sees a different one each time.

When unwell, Hone visits either his acupuncturist or rongoā (traditional Māori medicine) practitioner. He has been seeing his rongoā practitioner more frequently recently, as he has been experiencing increasing fatigue, weakness, leg swelling and shortness of breath. He knows and accepts that his health is deteriorating.

### Hinengaro – tikanga, mana protection, emotional well-being

Hone has refused to be considered for a heart transplant. He told Mere, "I absolutely do not want a stranger's heart placed in my chest". Hone and Mere have made a verbal agreement to always protect each other and be each other's Enduring Power of Attorney for health and welfare.

### Current Concern

Hone entered the hospital emergency department via ambulance. He is unconscious, following a fall from a tree that he was pruning. He has a head injury and an unstable hip fracture which requires surgery. His wife and children are with him.

The treating clinician has asked Mere and their children what Hone has previously told them about his care and treatment preferences. Their son Matt has taken the role of key whānau spokesperson. He has advised the healthcare team that Hone requested that their whānau decide what was to be done for him if he was unable to speak for himself. Mere says Hone has always been adamant that he doesn't want 'anyone cutting him up'.

### Issues for discussion

1. Can Hone's reported statements about not wanting surgery, be regarded as a valid advance directive? (He needs surgery to fix his hip fracture.) Why? / Why not?
2. If not, who decides whether to proceed with the surgery?
3. What is his whānau's role in deciding whether to proceed?