



Tikanga Māori & Forensic Services Project

2004 - 2006

Presented by Christine Allan

**On behalf of the Tikanga Māori
and Forensic Services Project Team**

Specialist Science Solutions

**Manaaki Tangata Taiao Hoki
protecting people and their environment through science**

Acknowledgements

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- **Kaunihera Kaumātua, Auckland District Health Board**
- **Hui participants & attendees**

ESR

underpinning the
**Public Health and Criminal
Justice systems**
in New Zealand

delivering solutions in
**Environmental Health and
Forensic Science**



Mt Albert Science Centre



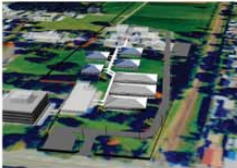
- Forensic Science

Kenepuru Science Centre



- Communicable Disease Labs
- Forensic Science
- Population & Environmental Health
- Pharmaceutical Testing Services

National Centre for Biosecurity and Infectious Diseases

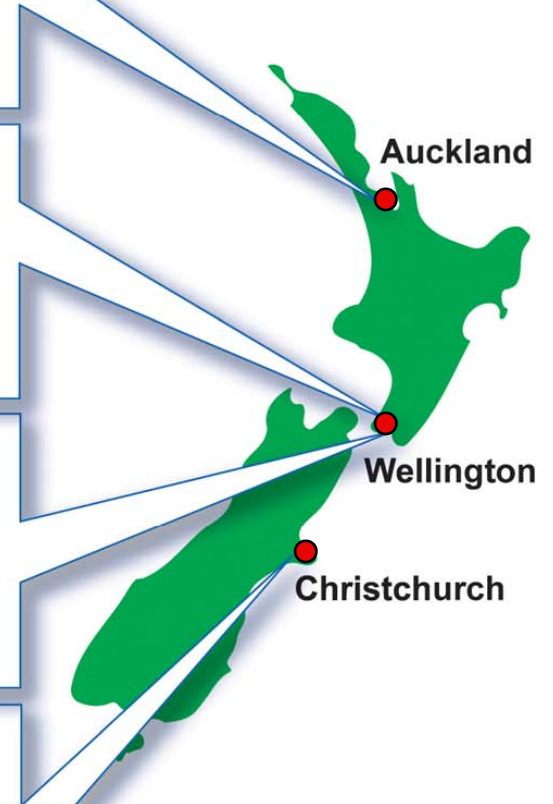


- Zoonoses research
- CBRE response
- Aberrant event surveillance

Christchurch Science Centre



- Food Safety Group
- Public Health Lab
- Water Management Group
- Forensic Science



What does ESR do?

Environmental Health

- Food safety
- Water management
- Communicable Disease
- Population and Environmental Health
- Public Health Surveillance

Forensic Science

- DNA
- Physical Evidence
- Crime Scene Investigation
- Criminal and Coronial Toxicology
- Illicit Drug Analysis

Pharmaceuticals Testing

Workplace Drug Testing

Human Biosecurity



Outline

- 1. What is Tikanga Māori?**
- 2. Rationale for the project**
- 3. Aims of the project**
- 4. Operation & outcomes of the project**
- 5. Feedback**



1. What is Tikanga Māori?



1. What is Tikanga Māori?

- **Tikanga - customs or practices**
- **Māori customs or practices**

2. Rationale for the project

- **Concerns from ESR forensic services staff and managers about tikanga Māori issues**
- **Developing relationships with local iwi**
- **Obligations under the CRI Act, 1992**



3. Aims of the project

- **Identify areas where forensic services and Māori values may conflict**
- **Minimise or eliminate identified areas of conflict, where possible**



4. Operation & outcomes of the project

- **Project team: good coverage of forensic disciplines and roles**
- **Review literature on:**
 - **Māori beliefs and practices around death and injury**
 - **Managing interface between forensic science and cultural/religious beliefs**
- **Review relevant legislation and policies**

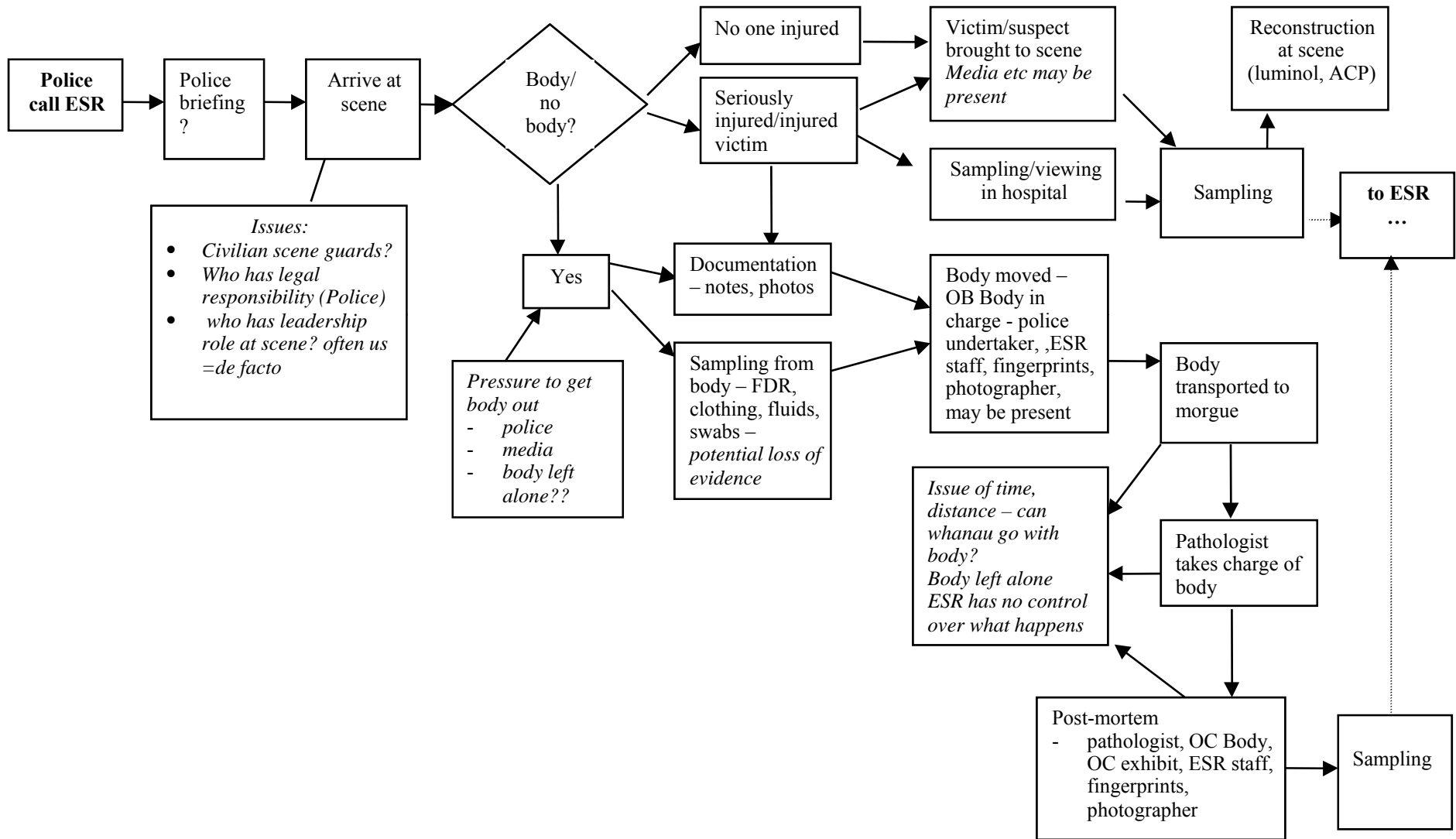


4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Use process analysis methods to:**
 - describe critical ESR forensic service practices
 - analyse critical ESR forensic service practices against tikanga Māori



Process mapping: crime scenes



4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Identify areas of actual and potential conflict and risk for ESR**



Risk analysis framework

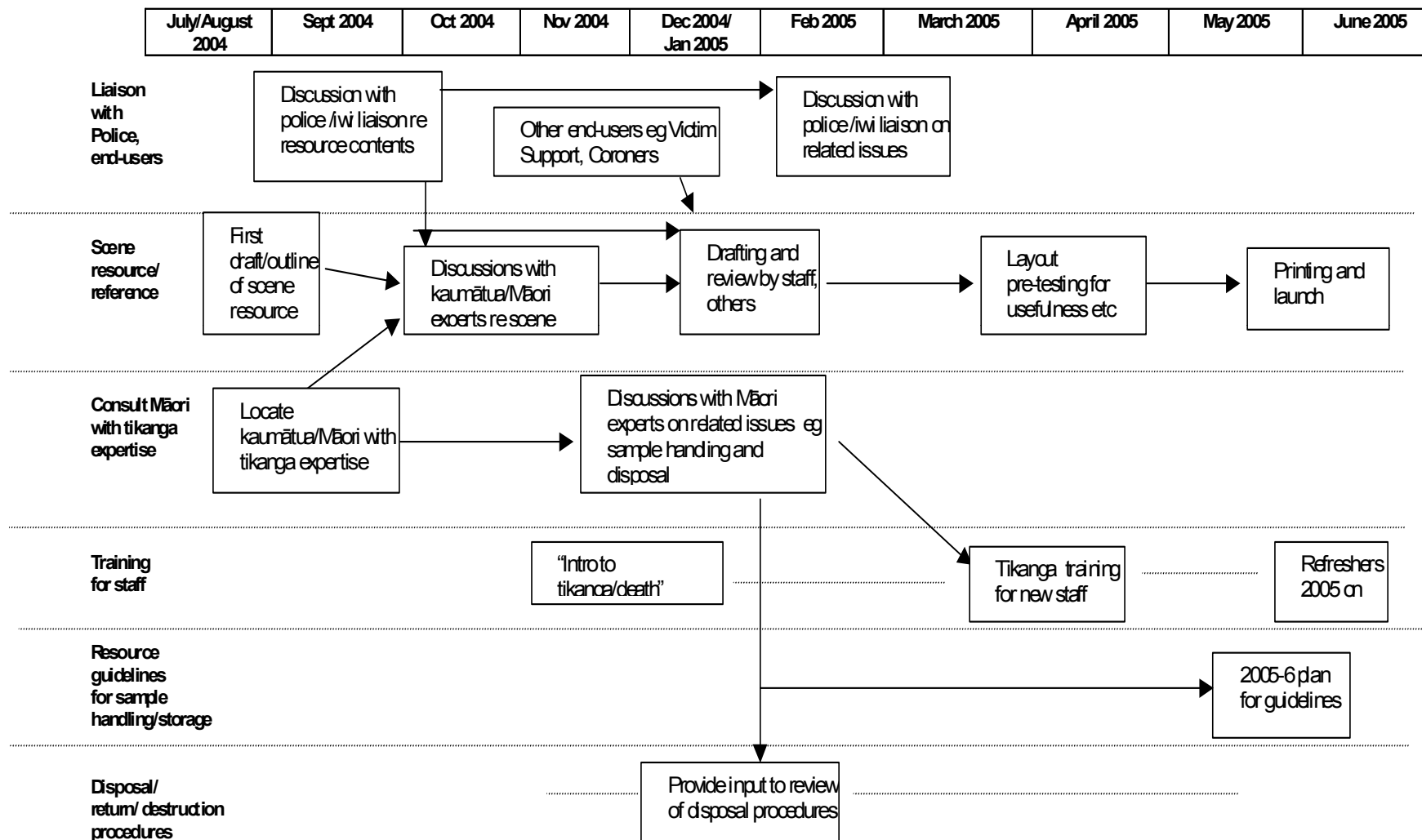
Process/event	Area of risk	Concern for Māori	Concern for ESR	Ways to manage risk
<i>Arrival at scene, management of scene</i>	<p>Problem if OC Scene does not have skills/confidence to identify/manage tikanga issues</p> <p>Pressure on ESR to get body out - by police and media</p> <p>Presence of whānau - managing their situation, providing information</p>	<p>Body may be left alone – very much against Māori beliefs and values</p> <p>Whānau may not be given needed information - distress</p>	<p>How to ensure that the scene is managed “safely” including appropriate consideration of cultural issues - minimise stress, conflict</p> <p>ESR not in charge of scene</p>	<p>Discuss with Police possible ways to manage eg providing resources</p> <p>Discuss with Victim Support appropriate information for whānau</p>
<i>Sampling from body</i>	<p>Taking items with blood, body fluids, personal items, clothing</p>	<p>What will happen? Tapu status of blood, body parts, may want items returned</p>	<p>Potential loss of evidence</p>	<p>Information for whānau on possibility of return if desired</p>
<i>Tapu-lifting or similar cleansing of scene</i>	<p>Contamination of scene possible if body still in situ or work continuing</p> <p>Work may be stopped</p>	<p>Tapu-lifting, cleansing the scene critical to releasing the spirit of the dead, cleansing injury</p> <p>Whānau may be distressed if not allowed to lift tapu</p>	<p>No consistency on when tapu-lifting done, often ESR not informed beforehand</p> <p>What is expected of us - are we tapu (having touched dead) - should we participate</p>	<p>Consult with tikanga Māori experts, develop options for staff in situations</p> <p>Discuss with Police, iwi liaison re timing, processes</p> <p>Training, resources for ESR staff</p>

4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Develop a project plan**
 - ✓ **Crime scenes, sample handling processes and sample disposal**
 - ✓ **Consultation with NZ Police and Māori**
 - X **Genetic data**
 - X **Biohazard issues**



Forensic Services and Tikanga Māori 2004-5 Risk reduction/prevention plan



The main Māori Tikanga issue encountered at crime scenes

- **Relate to practices and beliefs concerning death**
 - **Police and forensic personnel have a job to do**
 - **Māori want to follow tikanga relating to death**





4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Consultation with NZ Police and Māori**
- **Training package on tikanga Māori for ESR scene-attending staff**
 - **Module incorporated into Training manuals**
- **Pamphlet resource on tikanga Māori issues encountered at crime scenes**

Training Package

Aims:

- **To educate scene-attending staff about Māori practices and beliefs about death**
- **To promote understanding of certain practices and behaviours observed at scenes where Māori sudden death has occurred**

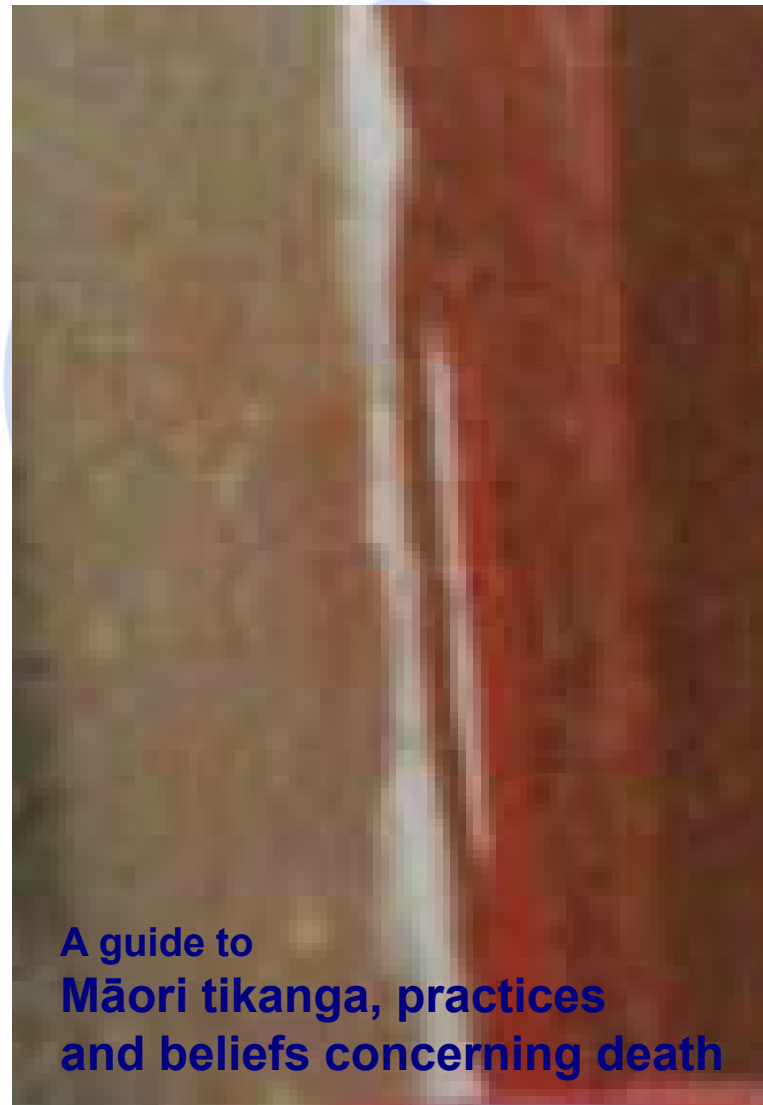


Training Package

Includes:

- **Training module for scene-attending staff**
- **Resources for trainers**
 - **Powerpoint presentation on Māori practices and beliefs around death**
 - **Real-life examples of tikanga Māori issues that have been encountered at crime scenes**

Pamphlet Resource



A guide to
Māori tikanga, practices
and beliefs concerning death

Resource Pamphlet

Aims:

- **To provide practical advice about what to do when dealing with Māori tikanga issues concerning death at crime scenes**
- **To support the training package**



Pamphlet Resource

- 1. Arrival at scene / Management of the scene**
- 2. Handling and sampling from the body**
- 3. Tapu-Lifting or similar cleansing of the scene**
- 4. Body moved, post mortem**
- 5. Handling and transport of samples to the lab**

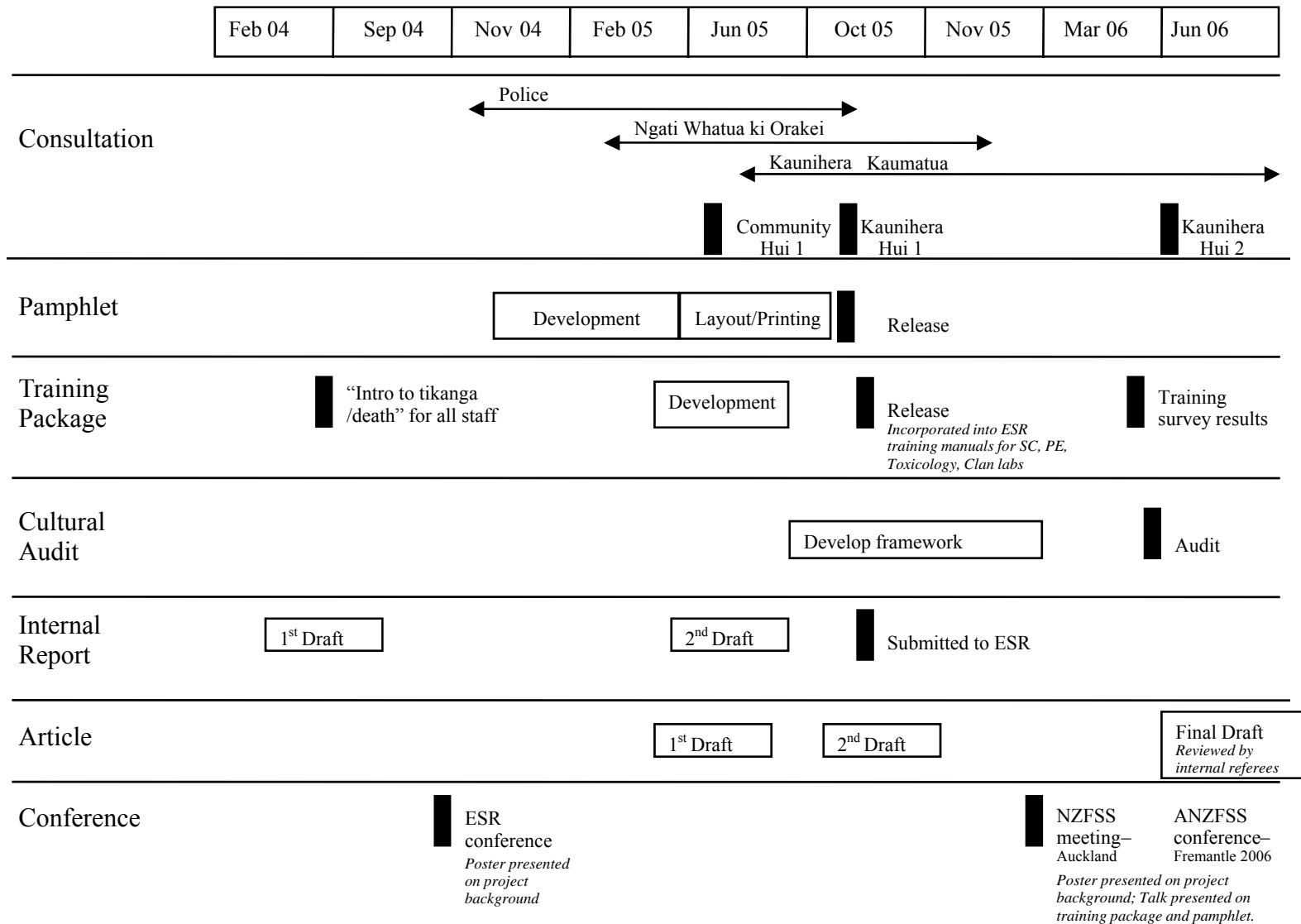


4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Māori Cultural Audit**
 - Initial thoughts
 - Findings of audit



Project Summary 20042006



4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Conference:**
 - **ESR conference, 2004 - poster**
 - **NZFSS Auckland branch meeting, 2006 - poster and oral presentation**
 - **ANZFSS Conference, Perth, 2006 - poster and oral presentation**



4. Operation & outcomes of the project *continued*

- **Article:**
 - **“The Impact of Māori Cultural Values on Forensic Science Practice in New Zealand,”** published online on 24 March 2008 in the **Journal of Forensic Sciences, volume 53, issue 2, pp 380 – 383**



5. Feedback

- **External:**
- **ANZFSS conference, April 2006**
 - Queensland Police have encountered tikanga Māori issues at crime scenes where Māori sudden death occurred
 - Interest in ESR forensic staff's views of usefulness of Tikanga Māori training
- **Australian Parliament Delegation, July 2006**
 - M.P. aware of similar issues his area

5. Feedback

- **Internal: ESR forensic staff**
 - **Oct/Nov 2005: Tikanga Māori training**
 - **Nov 2005 – Mar 2006: Informal feedback indicated information given in Tikanga Māori training useful**
 - **June, 2006: Survey indicated information given in Tikanga Māori training very useful**





Questions?