



He Rourou Whai Painga, an Aotearoa New Zealand Dietary Pattern for Metabolic Health and Whānau Wellbeing: Protocol for a randomised controlled trial

F.E. Lithander^{1,2}, A. Braakhuis², R. Gearty³, T. Merry¹, M. Foster⁴, C. Ross⁵, A. Parry Strong⁵, J. Krebs⁶, D. Conroy⁷, A. Rolleston⁸, M. Weatherall⁶ and J. Mullaney⁹

¹Liggins Institute, University of Auckland, 1142, New Zealand

²Department of Nutrition and Dietetics, University of Auckland, 1142, New Zealand

³Department of Medicine, Christchurch, University of Otago, 8140, New Zealand

⁴Edible Research, Canterbury, New Zealand

⁵Centre for Endocrine, Diabetes and Obesity Research, Wellington Regional Hospital, Wellington, New Zealand

⁶University of Otago, Wellington, New Zealand

⁷Mt Albert Research Centre, 120 Mt Albert Road, Sandringham, Auckland 1025, New Zealand

⁸The Centre for Health, 103 Third Ave, Tauranga, 3110, New Zealand

⁹High Value Nutrition, University of Auckland, 1142, New Zealand

Cardiometabolic diseases are highly prevalent in Aotearoa New Zealand⁽¹⁾. Dietary intake is a modifiable risk factor for such diseases and certain dietary patterns, specifically the Mediterranean diet (MedDiet), are associated with improved metabolic health⁽²⁾. This study aims to test whether an intervention of a Mediterranean dietary pattern incorporating high quality New Zealand foods (NZMedDiet pattern) using behaviour change science can improve the metabolic health of participants and their household/whānau. This is a multi-centre, three-stage trial, with two randomised controlled trials (RCTs), both parallel groups, superiority trials, and a longitudinal cohort study. The first RCT (RCT1) is a comparison of the NZMedDiet pattern implemented using behaviour science compared to usual diet for 12 weeks, and the second (RCT2) is a behaviour-change intervention compared to no intervention for 12 weeks, administered after participants have been exposed to the intervention in RCT1. The third stage is a longitudinal cohort study where all participants are followed for up to a year. The primary outcome measure for each stage is the metabolic syndrome severity score (MetSSS). Two hundred index participants and their household/whānau have been recruited and randomised into the trial. Participants are from four centres, two of which are University research units (University of Auckland (n = 57) and University of Otago, Christchurch (n = 60)), one a community-based traditional meeting place (Tū Kotahi Māori Asthma and Research Trust at Kōkiri Marae in Lower Hutt, Wellington (n = 19)), and the other based at a hospital-based research unit (the Centre for Endocrine Diabetes and Obesity Research (CEDOR) in Wellington (n = 64)). The trial will test whether the NZMedDiet pattern and behaviour change support improves the cardiometabolic health of people in New Zealand.

Keywords: metabolic syndrome; dietary pattern; Mediterranean diet; behaviour change support

Ethics Declaration

Yes

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