

He kuaka marangaranga, kotahi mahu I tau ki te tahuna, tau atu, tau atu.

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Cannabis for recreational use by adults has been legalised in several parts of the world in recent years. Cannabis use has also been decriminalised in a number of jurisdictions. New Zealand has a pending referendum on the legalisation of cannabis in 2020 at the same time as the general election.

Leading up to the cannabis referendum the Prime Minister's Chief Science Advisor is coordinating an accessible and unbiased summary of the evidence for the harms and benefits of legalised cannabis in order to support people in their deliberations and decision making for the referendum. A team of leading local scientists, researchers and practitioners in the broad areas impacted by cannabis, its effects, and the impacts of changes in legislation overseas, are bringing the information together.

This paper will discuss issues pertinent to the cannabis referendum from the perspectives of working with whānau, and documented evidence in the context of mental health with a particular focus on Māori.