



Worksheet #3: Defining Your What

How to define the problem your mahi is addressing—so your impact starts from real need and shared understanding.

What's the issue?

Describe the core problem as clearly and specifically as possible. Avoid general terms—e.g. “housing insecurity”—and be precise: “50% of whānau in our rohe report living in overcrowded homes.”

Who's affected?

Identify those most impacted. Who is experiencing this most directly or severely? What are the impacts on different groups?

Example:

“Whānau with young tamariki face disrupted routines and cramped conditions.”

Why does it matter?




Discuss why the issue is urgent or significant. What's at stake? How does this affect the wellbeing of the whānau and hapori? What will happen as a result of not addressing the issue?

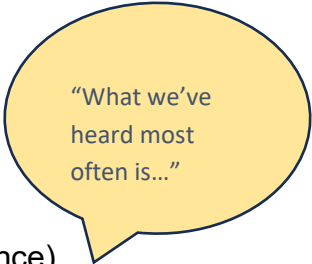
Example:

“Children in overcrowded homes are more likely to suffer poor health and disrupted learning.”

What do we know?

Back up your understanding with insight:

-  Data or research (local stats, trends)
-  Community voice (hui, kōrero, lived experience)
-  Cultural framing (kaupapa Māori, Pasifika perspectives)



“What we’ve heard most often is...”

Example:

“Whānau say affordable, healthy housing is their biggest concern.”

What’s causing it?

Explore the root causes—not just symptoms. What systems, policies, or barriers are making this worse? E.g. “Low supply of affordable rentals, limited access to support services.”

Why now?

Clarify the urgency. What risks grow if we delay? What opportunities for change exist?

Example:

“With rising housing costs, more whānau risk losing stable homes.”

🌀 Final Summary Statement

Combine all of the above in one clear sentence:

“Many whānau in our rohe are facing overcrowded housing, which impacts health, wellbeing, and learning. Without action, this will worsen. Our mahi supports stable, culturally safe housing solutions.”