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**Abstract: SAANZ Conference 2008, 26-28 November University of Otago**

### **Young, brown, kapo, and invisible: A critical reading of the disabilities literature**

Within the international literature about disability little attention is given to indigenous children and young people with a disability. Here in Aotearoa, there is even less that focuses on tamariki/rangatahi Maori with a disability, especially literature that frames Maori in non-deficit ways. This paper discusses some initial findings from a literature and policy review of the *Growing up Kapo Maori: Whanau, identity, cultural well-being and health* study, which is a two year HRC funded project. From this review, this paper will provide a critical analysis of the ways in which tamariki/rangathi Maori and, in particular, those who are kapo are rendered invisible and silenced. It concludes by considering the impact that this has on the provision of services, the notion of equity, and on kapo Maori's human rights.

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