International Network for Food and Obesity/NCD Research, Monitoring and Action Support (INFORMAS)

**Pakiri meeting report**

Date: Thursday 13/03/2014 and Friday 14/03/2014

Venue: Pakiri beach, Auckland

**Report:**

INFORMAS is a global network of public-interest organisations and researchers that aims to monitor, benchmark and support public and private sector actions to create healthy food environments and reduce obesity and non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and their related inequalities. Following the launch of INFORMAS at an experts’ meeting in Bellagio, November 2012, a 14-paper supplement in Obesity Reviews outlining the monitoring framework for all 10 INFORMAS modules was published as phase one of the initiative. A second expert meeting was held at Pakiri Beach, Auckland to support phase 2 (protocol development and pilot testing of the modules). Module leaders provided updates on each of the INFORMAS modules. The University of Auckland co-ordination team described progress with the development and implementation of protocols and pilot testing and with funding applications. The methods and design of first national survey in New Zealand was presented and PhD students introduced their studies. Discussion was wide ranging and included approaches for INFORMAS in developing countries and those new to INFORMAS, capacity building, and feedback from researchers from Fiji, Thailand and Mexico, and Australia. Other matters covered in the meeting included: an update on the communications and knowledge exchange component of INFORMAS; INFORMAS governance, processes, structures, and logo; INFORMAS links with other organisations including: WISH, WOF, NOURISHING, and the UN; equity and sustainability indicators; crowdsourcing; links with the under-nutrition community; papers for publication; future meetings and other matters arising.