



**Te Kōhao
Health**

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Māori Health Providers Unite to Scale Home-Based Care Across Central and Eastern North Island

Te Kōhao Health says new regional partnership provides a stronger platform to address health inequities, ageing and increasing demand for community-based care

A new regional partnership between six experienced Kaupapa Māori health providers to strengthen the delivery of whānau-centred home and community-based health services across the central and eastern North Island.

Together, the six providers; Ngāti Porou Oranga (Gisborne), Te Puna Ora o Mataatua Charitable Trust (Whakatāne), Te Kōhao Health (Hamilton), Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki Inc (Paeroa), Whaioranga Trust (Tauranga), and Ngāti Ranginui Home & Community Support Services Company Limited (Tauranga) have established Te Kāhui o te Manawa Taki.

It will respond to growing demand for community care, address long-standing health inequities, and ensure services are designed around the needs and aspirations of whānau.

It offers the potential to strengthen access to home and community-based care for up to 280,000 Māori across the central and eastern North Island, with a particular focus on kaumātua, whānau living with chronic health conditions, and communities experiencing barriers to healthcare access.

Te Kōhao Health Managing Director, Lady Tureiti Moxon says many whānau require healthcare models that come to them, rather than expecting them to navigate complex systems alone.

“Too many of our people are still experiencing barriers to accessing healthcare, whether that is distance, cost, transport, workforce shortages or services that do not reflect the realities of whānau lives,” she said.

“Healthcare cannot only respond when people reach crisis point. We need models that support prevention, early intervention and wellbeing in the places where people live, raise their whānau and maintain their connections.”

The Te Manawa Taki region has one of the largest Māori populations in Aotearoa, with significant numbers of Māori living across urban, rural and remote communities. The region also experiences some of the highest levels of health need, including chronic disease, preventable hospitalisations and barriers to accessing primary and community care.

Te Kōhao Health says demand for home-based health services is increasing as:

- the Māori population continues to grow;
- the number of kaumātua requiring support to age well at home increases;
- more whānau live with long-term health conditions requiring ongoing management;
- rural communities continue to face challenges accessing timely healthcare;
- the health system moves toward greater community-based care and reducing pressure on hospitals.

Lady Tureiti says Māori providers are uniquely positioned to deliver solutions because they are embedded within communities and understand health as interconnected with whānau, whenua, culture and social wellbeing.

“For Māori, wellbeing has always been collective. A person’s health is connected to their whānau, their environment, their identity and their ability to participate fully in life.”



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“Our providers have spent decades building trust with whānau. We know the communities, we know the challenges and we know what works.”

“This partnership allows us to bring together that experience and capability to support a stronger, more responsive model of care for the future.”

Te Kāhui o te Manawa Taki aligns with the wider direction of health system reform, including greater investment in prevention, strengthening primary and community care, improving equity outcomes and supporting people to remain well in their homes.

Together, the six providers bring decades of collective experience and a comprehensive mix of kaupapa Māori health and community care expertise. This includes primary healthcare, community nursing, kaumātua support, Whānau Ora navigation, disability services, mental health and addiction support, palliative care, health promotion, and rural outreach, creating a stronger regional platform for whānau-centred care at scale.

Lady Tureiti says the partnership demonstrates the capability of Māori providers to contribute at regional scale while remaining accountable to local communities.

“This is about ensuring whānau receive care that is timely, accessible and grounded in who they are. Healthcare must be built alongside whānau, not simply delivered to them. Māori providers have the relationships, workforce and experience to help lead that future.”

Together, the six providers bring more than 180 years of collective experience delivering kaupapa Māori health and community services, creating a strong foundation for Te Kāhui o te Manawa Taki to expand whānau-centred care across the Te Manawa Taki region.

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