

Meaningful partnerships with Māori



Awahi te Tangata

Guided by our kaumātua, we collaborate with Whānau and Māori organisations to improve access to healthcare for Māori and to ensure that our services meet both the health and cultural needs of Māori.



We've developed a Māori health plan based on the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and led by our Māori Health manager. This plan is embedded in the organisation and supported by our cultural training programme Awahi te Tangata.

Our Māori Health Plan incorporates He Korowai Oranga, the Māori Health Strategy and Whakatataka, the Māori Health Action Plan, with the ultimate goal of supporting Māori families to achieve their maximum health and well-being as expressed in Whānau ora. The plan contains a commitment to work to achieve the aims of these pathways and a designated annual budget to support this work.

We've committed to regularly monitor our success in achieving the aims of the Māori Health Plan and to take advice from Māori on the best ways to invest the available resources of time, people and money.

Our Māori Health Plan is seen in action every day within the organisation; for example, in our partnerships with Māori health providers to improve Māori access to mental health services.

Meaningful partnerships with Māori (cont)



Kaupapa Māori Residential Services

We have two Kaupapa Māori services - one based in Gisborne and the other in Levin.

Gisborne

The service caters for five residents and has strong whānau links to local iwi in the area. Residents and staff are well known and regularly visit marae and numerous Māori hui.

Because Gisborne has a high number of Māori native speakers, Māori is a common form of communication between staff and residents of the house. Karakia (prayer) is interwoven with all activities that residents and staff participate in on a daily basis to ensure spiritual and physical well-being and cultural acknowledgement and respect.

Creating an environment of support in which tikanga Māori is the norm has empowered Māori residents and staff. This is constantly reflected in the well-being and happiness of all whānau in the whare and the normal activities of daily life.

Whare Aroha - Levin

Whare Aroha is a kaupapa Māori house that was set up to support community living for Māori people in Levin who were exiting the Kimberley Centre. Whare Aroha opened in December 2005 with three residents.

Local iwi took part in the opening and also had input into the development of the service through the Muaupoko Tribal Authority (MTA). This relationship is being carried on with a Muaupoko kaumātua exercise group visiting the house every month.

Whānau of Whare Aroha residents, staff and families are strongly committed to upholding Māori values and tikanga in support of each other and all visitors to the house. Recent audits have been very complimentary about the house, its values and support of residents. One audit team was going to recommend to other similar kaupapa services to visit and learn how the Whare provides services.

Whare Aroha has integrated well into the local community, especially the Māori community, and because of this the lives of residents and staff are being enriched.