

Mary Morrissey



**Hauora
Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network

NEWSLETTER DECEMBER 2023

Welcome from Dr Grant Davidson, Chief Executive



Kia ora tātou

As I sit writing this last communication for the year, our office is winding down and we are all having a two-week break until January 8th. While we all need the rest, I feel a bit of a fraud as I know many of you on the front line are going to be working and not able to have the break that the rest of New Zealand are hanging out for. Radio and TV are already talking about the multitudes heading for their favourite holiday spots. The early opening of SH25a to the Coromandel will draw bigger crowds to that region, while RNZ this morning talked about record numbers booked to go to Kaiteriteri. I can only assume it is the same in other favoured rural holiday spots around the country. Thanks for the critical and valued health services you continue to offer your communities right around the country during this time.

With that reality in mind, along with the latest outbreaks of the latest COVID

strains, it is timely to think of some of the positives we have achieved this year that we hope have helped:

- Funding to put emergency locums into cyclone-ravaged areas of Northland and the East Cape
- Funding of PRIME medical emergencies and teleconsults
- Release of the first-ever Rural Health Strategy which will lead to the

✉ chair@pmaanz.org.nz / priorities

📞 +64 21 131 5101 24 hours telehealth service (Ka Ora) being stood up in time for the summer surge

- Start of a pilot for a rural hospital locum service
- Placement of more than 80 long-term and permanent locums into rural practices along with a large number of short-term locum placements to give breaks to rural doctors
- Visiting over 90 schools over the year with volunteers from our Student Chapter to inspire the next generation to embark on a health career
- Advocated strongly for greater rural-specific health training for doctors, nurses and all other health professions

And most recently, we achieved a pilot, until June 2024, of relocation funding being available through Te Whatu Ora for overseas trained doctors coming to New Zealand to work long-term in rural practices. As I write this, we have heard of the first practice being successful in applying for this, with the feedback from the practice that the process was fairly easy and the response to the application timely. Great stuff.

We have a challenging work programme set out for when we come back in the New Year, and the team here will be ready to roll their sleeves up and help you all wherever we can. The visits around New Zealand to rural practices to find out what is happening on the ground, and what the pressure points are, are some of our most enjoyable and productive times. We want to increase our visits to the regions next year.

Our National Rural Health Conference is looking like it will be one of our best ever. An unprecedented number of abstract submissions have come in covering a vast array of subject material. On top of that, we have a diverse and inspirational group of keynote speakers lined up. I can't wait to see you all here in Wellington to learn, network, chew-the-fat and party.

You will notice a call for nominations for the Peter Snow Award later in this newsletter. Please take a few moments to nominate someone you think has been pivotal in the progress of rural health efforts in this country. It is really important to celebrate and recognise the achievements of our own champions. We will present this award at the conference in April.

And so, best wishes to you and your teams, your whānau, friends and colleagues for the festive season. On behalf of the staff and Board members here at Hauora Taiwhenua and NZLocums & NZMedJobs we hope you have a relaxing and fun-filled Christmas and New Year. We hope the sun shines and that you all find peace in whatever environment works for you.

Meri Kirihimete

Mauri ora

Dr Grant Davidson

Chief Executive

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network

Advocacy

General Practice Leaders' Forum - Letter to the Minister of Health

The General Practice Leaders' Forum (GPLF) is a collaboration of organisations that represent various aspects of general practice. The organisations include Hauora Taiwhenua, General Practice New Zealand (GPNZ), General Practice Owners (GenPro), Practice Managers and Administrators of New Zealand (PMAANZ), The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners (RNZCGP), New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO), and New Zealand College of Primary Care Nurses.

All health workers represented by these organisations work in the community, deliver close to 23 million consultations a year, see the highest health needs of those communities, and the impact of policies that affect health outcomes. GPLF recognises that with any coalition agreement there must be compromise.

We the undersigned are concerned that the compromises of this coalition agreement may have serious impact on health outcomes for New Zealanders and take the focus of health care away from critical areas that have a significant impact.

To read the full letter, click below:

GPLF Letter to the Minister of Health

A note from the board - Mark Eager

Kia ora koutou,

I have had the privilege of being on the Hauora

I have had the privilege of being on the Hauora Taiwhenua Board since 2022. However, I was a founding member of **RHAANZ** (The Rural Health Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand) and was involved in its set-up to provide solutions and influence policy affecting the health and well-being of rural communities. I am also Chair of the National **PRIME** (Primary Response in Medical Emergencies) Committee, which has been developed to provide both the coordinated response and appropriate management of emergencies in rural locations.



As the Chief Executive of Mobile Health Group, advocating for rural health is not difficult. I grew up in Hokitika - my journey in health care began at a young age when I learned that nursing was normal for men as Seaview Hospital employed 50 percent of males. When speaking to the nurses, they informed me that it was a great career opportunity. I went on to complete my hospital nursing training in Christchurch and bridged comprehensive nursing later. The beautiful garden city of Christchurch is now my home where I live with my wonderful wife, Rosie. We have a blended family of four adult boys who have graced me with eight Grandchildren! So, there's always a birthday party, family celebration, and a sausage roll to be had!

I have been a part of Mobile Health Group for 16 years and have witnessed many chapters of growth for our organisation. All these eventful chapters will leave any avid reader turning the page and absorbing our story. The underlying theme is Equity. This is the common thread of our services - helping specialised healthcare and hauora services be accessible everywhere in New Zealand. Mobile Health Group is about providing patients with accessibility. No matter where people live, we believe people should be able to access the medical care they need. Most people know about the surgical unit, otherwise known as the 'big blue bus' that travels across the country to provide elective surgery and health services to rural communities. However, many people are not so familiar with My Health Hub - our medical education programme that provides regular online education sessions intended for nurses, GPs, and other health providers working in primary care, secondary care, residential care, and community settings.

Our team visits most rural towns in New Zealand and has relationships in Primary Care, Rural Hospitals, DHBs, and Te Whatu Ora. They first-hand get to witness the health issues communities face and directly talk to the people. It has been distressing to see the decline of health services in many rural areas and recruitment and retention of staff as the common theme. Money is a big part of the issues at hand, but there is also a lack of investment in people and infrastructure. There is no magic solution. However, I think a 'rural health Tinder app' would be helpful where we see more people swipe right to love living rurally!

Our organisations are in a unique position to shape the future for generations to come and make rural the preferred place to work. Our organisation is focused on generating innovative ideas to solve the problems we face. The formation of Hauora Taiwhenua has been the best thing to happen in the rural health space. We now have a united voice that people are listening to.

Ngā mihi nui,
Mark Eager, Chief Executive Mobile Health Group

Advocacy



**Hauora
Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network



Important information about the process to renew, or apply for, a Rural General Practice Services Contract with ACC

Many of you who currently hold a RGP Services Contract with ACC will have received an advance notice of the need to reapply for this in January. We know this will have created some concern among you as rural general practice is already under pressure, and the holiday season adds to this.

We know that applying for a contract you already hold is an extra stressor. With this in mind, we met with ACC to make sure the process could be as simple as possible within Government contracting requirements. They are committed to making this process as straightforward as possible and also recognise the pressure the sector is under.

Please click below for the full information on how to help prepare and make the process as stress-free as possible.

Ngā mihi nui
Dr Grant Davidson
Chief Executive
Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network

Maura Thompson
Chief Executive Officer
General Practice New Zealand

GO WELL - PREPARING FOR SUMMER



Here are some tips on how you can stay healthy and Go Well this summer.

BEFORE CHRISTMAS

Opening hours of doctors, hauora providers and community pharmacies may change over the summer period. Be sure to get in touch early if there is anything you need over the holidays, including:

- Regular prescription medicines
- RATs and masks
- Covid booster, if you are eligible, and/or measles (MMR) vaccine
- Basics you may need over the break, like paracetamol and first aid supplies

MANAGING THE HEAT AND SUN



Some summer days will be very hot, so be prepared and look out for those who are more likely to be affected by the heat, including older whānau.

- Plan ahead - check the forecast daily
- Drink plenty of water and have water available throughout the day
- Stay out of the sun during the hottest part of the day, find shade outside wherever possible
- When outside, wear high-SPF sunscreen, a hat, sunglasses and loose clothing that covers your skin
- Cars can get very hot in the sun so please don't leave children or pets in them unattended
- Exercise or do outdoor activities early in the morning or later in the evening

HEALTHCARE SUPPORT



Call Healthline on 0800 611 116 for free medical advice 24/7, 365 days a year. Interpreter support and Māori clinicians are available.

Healthline is important if you don't have access to your regular doctor, or if you are unsure if you should go to hospital or not. Save the Healthline number to your phone so it is handy if you need it.

In an emergency call 111 or go directly to your closest Hospital Emergency Department.

TRAVELLING OR LIVING RURALLY

Health services and pharmacies may be limited, particularly in remote areas. Have on hand:

- Regular medication/prescriptions
 - Plenty of sunblock
 - A first aid kit
 - Thermometer
 - Pain relief
 - RATs
 - Masks
 - Hand sanitiser
 - Insect repellent
- 
- 



Find out more
info.health.nz/go-well



Rural Careers Promotion Programme

Raglan Noho Marae Visit Inspiring Health Students: A Cultural Immersion Experience

Earlier in November, the Raglan community and Poihākena Marae welcomed fifteen tertiary health students from around Aotearoa New Zealand, for a Noho Marae as part of Hauora Taiwhenua's Rural Health Careers Programme.

Noho Marae are a significant aspect of the programme, as a unique opportunity that bridges the gap between tertiary students aspiring for rural health careers and the kaupapa of Māori health.

Through workshops, cultural interactions, and visits to local practices, students are immersed in the rich tapestry of traditional Māori health, gaining insights beyond the textbooks.

Bianca Bisogno, a Social Work student who attended the wānanga, shared her experience in Whaingaroa and her keenness to apply.

Her motivation stemmed from a desire to bridge the gap in healthcare accessibility, particularly for Māori communities. She was recently offered a job where she would be working specifically with Māori, aligning with her commitment to understanding the challenges they face in accessing medical care.

Yet this experience brought much more than this, not only fostering her

understanding of Māori healthcare but also providing an opportunity to connect with her taha Māori.

After reflecting on having lost some of her connection to Māori due to the stigmatisation faced by her grandmother, Kaumatua Russell Riki gave Bianca the opportunity to perform a Karanga at Taupiri Maunga.

“For me, it was a very deeply spiritual experience. My partner and my daughter whakapapa to Taupiri so it was very humbling. It was a little bit of that reclamation, and I am very grateful for it because if I had not come here then I would not have had this experience.”

Bianca praised Kaumātua Russell Riki and the mana whenua for making all students feel welcome, regardless of their backgrounds.

“Te Ao Māori is a space where a lot of people can come and bring their own beliefs in and connect them to things that exist in this space. I think the way that the mana whenua invited us to engage in Te Ao Māori by bringing ourselves, what we carry and what is important to us is a really beautiful thing because it’s so inclusive.”

“A lot of our group here aren’t Māori, but at the same time a lot of us will work with Māori people in the health sector. With the way mana whenua brought everyone in makes people feel comfortable and my hope is that we all would feel that comfort and be able to take that with us from this experience.”

As Bianca continues her social work career, and as do those from the range of disciplines that too were welcomed on Poihākena Marae, their commitment to understanding the unique challenges Māori face displays the potential for positive change in the healthcare sector.

Upon reflection, Bianca notes how these experiences will only help build the next generation's prioritisation of both professional competence and the cultural nuances that are interwoven within.

"It's not just about knowing your job, the important lessons from this trip go beyond just health stuff. That's what will have a lasting impact on shaping Aotearoa's health landscape for the better."



Rural Communities

New nationwide telehealth service launched to support rural communities

Ka Ora Telecare, a new telehealth service offering after hours health support for people living rurally, celebrated its nationwide launch in November.

Three existing telehealth providers, Reach Aotearoa, Practice Plus and Emergency Consult, have come together to form Ka Ora. Ka Ora was awarded the contract from Te Whatu Ora following an RFP process earlier in 2023. With each business already operating in telehealth, the bidding team could draw on their expertise and processes in order to be able to quickly scale up to a new nationwide after hours and overflow model.

The new system is designed to a) ensure rural communities can easily access health care after hours (or when their local GP practice is overloaded) in their own community via phone or video calls and b) reduce the strain on rural GP practices. Typically used for after hours care from 5pm to 8am on weekdays and 24 hours on weekends and holidays, the service also offers the flexibility of overflow care should a GP practice be struggling to manage patient load at other times.

“It’s a really flexible model – we tell rural practices they can use us as little or as much as they want,” says Jess White, Director of Ka Ora. “Rural practices have the option of switching their telephony over to Ka Ora to automatically divert calls, patients can also call our 0800 number directly or they can use our online booking portal. The focus has been entirely on ensuring continuity of care for patients remains with their enrolled provider.”

Greeted on the call by a kaiawhina (assistant) who ascertains the patient’s locality, the patient will go through to a robust nurse triage and then, if required, will be connected with either a GP or Nurse Practitioner for a phone or video consultation. From 10pm onwards, a nurse will answer the phone directly and will connect with an Emergency Department clinician if

further support is required.

In terms of cost, due to funding from Te Whatu Ora, there is no cost to rural practices and no 'clawback' from Ka Ora if they see a practice's patient. All patient fees align with the Rural GP model, including free care for under 14-year-olds. "We have put mechanisms into the model of care to ensure we complement rural GP care and sustainability, not undermine it," says Jess.

After-Hours Care for Rural Communities

KA ORA
TELECARE



No matter the distance,
healthcare is closer than you think.

Ka Ora Telecare's rural after-hours service is an extension of your local medical centre, where you can access a same-day phone or video consultation with our Telehealth team. We connect you to medical care quickly through a phone, tablet or laptop.

Book an appointment online or call our freephone number to connect with a friendly team member.

KAORA.CO.NZ
0800 2 KA ORA
0800 2 52 672

WEEKNIGHTS
5pm-8am
WEEKENDS \ HOLIDAYS
24hrs

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The Ka Ora team is currently busy with onboarding rural practices in the lead-up to the holiday season as GP practices in summer hotspots are often quickly overloaded with the influx of tourists. Typically, a person visiting a rural area who requires health care will contact a local medical centre. Under the Ka Ora model, that medical centre can choose, based on their workload and staffing levels to either offer their own service or to redirect to Ka Ora.

“The summer holiday period can be an incredibly stressful time for rural practices,” says Jess. “Being able to offer the option of an additional remote team to support the local health workforce is another significant benefit of the Ka Ora model.”

To find out more about Ka Ora, go to www.kaora.co.nz.



Conference

Peter Snow Memorial Award 2023 - Nominations Now Open

Pictured above: 2022 Peter Snow Award winner, Branko Sijnja

Nominations are now open for the Peter Snow Memorial Award 2023. The

Peter Snow Memorial Award celebrates Peter Snow's contribution to rural communities as well as recognising an individual for their outstanding contribution to rural health in either service, health research or innovation.

An individual can be nominated for either an **Innovation or Service** or a **Research Project** related to rural health in New Zealand.

The award will be presented at the National Rural Health Conference in April 2024, with it expected that the recipient of the award will present a paper at a future conference based on their project or service.

Click the button below for the nomination form, or for further information on how to nominate, head to our website link here: <https://htrhn.org.nz/peter-snow-memorial-award/>

Previous Recipients

2022	Branko Sijnja	Service
2021	Grahame Jelley	Service
2020	Tania Kemp	Service
2019	John Burton	Service
2018	Kieth Buswell	Service
2017	Chris Henry	Innovation and Service
	Andrea Judd	Innovation and Service
2016	Leonie Howie	Service
	Ivan Howie	Service
2015	Kati Blattner	Service and Research
2014	Kim Gosman	Service
	Janne Bills	Service
2013	Robin Steed	Service
	Graeme Fenton	Service
2012	Kirsty Murrell-McMillan	Service
2011	Martin London	Service
2010	Tom Malloy	Service
2009	Gary Nixon	Service and Research
2008	Jean Ross	Research
	Pat Farry	Research
2007	Ron James	Research

Nomination Form

Research

Modular POCUS Training - University of Auckland Survey

The University of Auckland is interested in developing a modular point of care ultrasound course for clinicians, including rural GPs. They would appreciate it if rural GPs could indicate their interest in undertaking modular training in Point of Care Ultrasound e.g. short courses that lead towards a post graduate certificate. Find below for the link to the survey:

Rural Health Careers Programme

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Student Research Scholarship winners announced

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network is pleased to announce the winners of the three Rural Student Research Scholarships for the 2023/24 year. Two of the Scholarships were to support health students to support a 12-week elective/studentship, and/or research placement within a rural community of the student's choice. A BNZ Rural Development scholarship was also available to any year two and above Medical Student for the same period.

The last of our Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Student Research Scholarships was awarded to Anna Donaldson. Read below for a summary of the research that she will be undertaking below.



Discrepancies in clinical coding in rural vs. urban hospitals

Last summer, I completed the Te Kōunga o Te Hiringa Gary Coghlan Studentship Programme through Te Whatu Ora Te Tai o Poutini. As part of a team, we developed a framework for health volunteers in the Greymouth area so that they could be better utilised by the hospital.

This summer, I will be completing a rural research studentship looking at any discrepancies in clinical diagnosis codes for interhospital transfer between rural and urban hospitals. I will be based rurally on the West Coast of the South Island for the completion of this.

The aims of this project are to:

1. Determine for patients that undergo an interhospital transfer between a rural and an urban hospital whether there are any discrepancies in the clinical diagnosis code assigned in the National Minimum Dataset (NMDS) by the rural and urban hospitals for the same health encounter;
2. Identify which clinical conditions any discrepancies tend to occur in.

Identifying any discrepancies is important because this determines the accuracy of population-based analysis of administrative datasets and may limit the accuracy of any reporting of rural-urban differences in health outcomes. I will be supervised by Dr Rory Miller, a rural hospital doctor and GP and a rural-based academic for the University of Otago Department of General Practice and Rural Health.

Our study will be a retrospective observational analysis using NMDS. An abstract for presentation at the National Rural Health Conference will be submitted and the findings will be presented in a peer-reviewed open-access journal and promoted on other open-access platforms.



Students of Rural Health Aotearoa

2023 SoRHA Co-Chair on her embedded passion for rural health.

Click the video to hear from 2023 SoRHA co-chair and recent University of Auckland graduate, Kate Dunstall, talking about her experience studying, her passion for rural medicine and her involvement in SoRHA programmes such as the rural school visits and noho marae.

Find the full article here: [Graduate's passion for rural medicine has roots in field trip - The University of Auckland](#)

Joint Briefing to Incoming Cabinet Ministers on Pay Parity

Leaders Debate: 28 September 2023

Paddy Gower: “Do you think that nurses who work for GPs should be paid the same as nurses who work in hospitals?”

Christopher Luxon: “Yes. Whether they’re in aged care, whether they’re at GP community practices, whether they’re in the DHB equivalent system they should be paid the same.”

Paddy Gower: “So you will do that if you win?”

Christopher Luxon: “Yes.”

Aotearoa New Zealand’s leading primary, community, and telehealth care organisations welcome the campaign commitment from the now Prime Minister, to achieve pay parity for their nursing and health care workers.

This briefing expresses our support for Mr Luxon’s commitment, reinforces the importance of pay parity for our sector, and seeks to understand how the new Government intends to implement pay parity.

To read the full letter, click below:

Joint BIM on Pay Parity

2023
ipl
Inaugural Professorial Lecture

UNIVERSITY OF OTAGO
Te Whare Hīkaka o Ōtago
NEW ZEALAND

On solid ground:
Rural Health in Aotearoa
and New Zealand

Professor Garry Nixon
Department of General Practice and Rural Health

Monday 20 November 2023 | 5:30pm
Earnsclough Hall, Central Otago

Registration for this event is required.
To register your attendance please email RSVP.events@otago.ac.nz

Find above the link to Professor Gary Nixon's Inaugural Professorial Lecture, held on November 20th 2023.

Professor Garry Nixon continues to live and practice as a rural doctor in the same Central Otago community he has always worked in. His research focuses on health outcomes and improving health services for rural communities like his own.

His earlier research centred on point-of-care diagnostic technologies, including ultrasound and laboratory testing, examining their safety and impact on patient care. In more recent times he has led a team of researchers who have developed and validated a new urban rural classification for health and are using it to compare urban and rural health outcomes and access to services.

He has collaborated closely with rural researchers in other parts of the country including the Far North and Waikato. He has PhD students researching rural chest pain assessment pathways, the scopes of practice of rural allied health professionals, healthcare consumption across the urban rural spectrum and the workforce outcomes of rural interventions in the undergraduate medical programme.

Innovation

Cyber Incident Response playbook for Primary Health

Te Whatu Ora Security team have developed an Incident Response playbook for Primary Health, which provides an invaluable overview of what to do in the event of a cyber incident. This playbook is now at Te Whatu Ora Cyber Hub website – Cyber Incident Advice for Primary Health. Please find the link below:

<https://www.tewhatauora.govt.nz/our-health-system/digital-health/cyber-hub/cyber-incident-advice-for-primary-health/>.

Rural Research and Education

GIS Techniques in health research and policy

Are you interested in learning how to apply geographic techniques (GIS) and use spatial data to create reports, make decisions and conduct health research?

The PHSS Organising team are delighted to confirm that international

expert, Dr Amber Pearson from Michigan State University will be offering the following short course at our upcoming Public Health Summer School.

This course is a great opportunity for people working in urban planning, disease prevention, outbreak detection, health resource allocation, healthcare policy or services, epidemiology, or exposure assessment.

GIS techniques in health research and policy

When: 19/20 February 2024

Course length: 1 and 2-day options

Where: University of Otago, Wellington (Newtown)The 2024 programme also offers a further **17 courses** on a range of important areas including public health communication, Hauora Māori, Pacific health, and health research methods.

To see a summary of all courses available, please view the: [Summer School flyer](#) (PDF format)

To register or to view more information on each course, please visit: [Public Health Summer School](#)

Rural Communities

Rural families urged to use summer holiday season for Meningococcal jabs for teens

Rural parents with teens going off to boarding school or university halls of residences are being reminded to use the relative downtime of the summer season to get Meningococcal immunisations underway.

Now offered free for young people between 13-25 years who are entering close living situations, there are two different Meningococcal vaccines available covering the A,C, Y, W and B strains of the disease. With the disease having a rapid onset and potential severe consequences, health officials are encouraging uptake of the vaccines prior to students entering hostels, halls of residence and military barracks.

Rural Women member and lifelong rural resident, Malvina Dick, says the key for rural parents is to have a plan to get the immunisations done through the summer months before farming life gets busy again. “The farming timetable through the year is really tricky to work around,” says Malvina. “It’s not much use trying to schedule appointments in during the middle of calving or lambing and in Term 4 senior students are all on study leave or completing exams. For this reason, the quieter period over high summer is a great time to get the immunisations done.”

With the illness spread through sneezing, coughing, sharing utensils or drink bottles and kissing, teens are at high risk of coming into contact with the disease. Furthermore, symptoms can vary and can quickly escalate requiring immediate hospital care. Healthcare professionals stress that given meningitis can kill in hours it is important young people are protected prior to leaving home.

To find out where to go in your region, go to the [Healthpoint website here](#) to search by region and by vaccine type for a list of locations.

For more information on symptoms and prevention, go to <https://www.meningitis.org.nz/prevention>

Rural Health Careers

Become a Rural Seeds Ambassador

Calling to all young rural health professionals and students. Rural Seeds are looking for new Rural Seeds Ambassadors. They are looking for young, dedicated colleagues to be advocates for rural practice around the world and represent Rural Seeds whenever possible. It's a great opportunity to promote rural health care and promote your career. Please see the advert below:

APPLY NOW!



**OPEN 25th October
until 1st December**

Become a Rural Seeds Ambassador

ROLE OF AMBASSADORS

1. Promote Rural Health and its continuing development
2. Help to inform and guide members of Rural Seeds
3. Represent Rural Seeds at events and congresses
4. Construct together with (and not for) the members the plans and projects
5. Advocate for the health of rural communities and for rural healthcare workers
6. Encourage engagement and collaboration across different sectors
7. Work closely with Project Leads to develop and promote projects/activities.

POSITIONS AVAILABLE

North America & Caribbean 1x
Ibero America 2x
Pacific 2x
South Asia 2x
Eastern Mediterranean 2x
Europe 2x

APPLY HERE



For more details go to:
ruralseeds.net

For any queries:
ruralseeds@gmail.com

Advocacy

Early investment: A key to reversing intergenerational disadvantage and inequity in Aotearoa New Zealand

Report by Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures

With intergenerational disadvantage resulting in up to 30 percent of Aotearoa New Zealand children not having their basic needs met, independent think tank Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures is calling

for the country's investment in the earliest life stages to be stepped up and well implemented.

Increased spending on health, upskilling and social support for parents and families over the first 2000 days, starting from conception and continuing through pregnancy and childhood, would be one of the most cost-effective interventions possible, say researchers Dr Felicia Low and Dr Johan Morreau.

Dr Low, who leads the Knowledge Hub for Maternal and Child Health at Koi Tū which is based at Waipapa Taumata Rau, University of Auckland, and Dr Morreau, a retired general and community paediatrician and former chief medical advisor at Lakes District Health Board, have produced an evidence brief on the need for and benefits of early investment in breaking the cycle of disadvantage. They also provide solutions regarding the services and systems essential to successful implementation.

“Early investment to minimise the much greater later life cost of largely preventable issues for our children and young people cannot be overstated,” says Dr Low, whose work is funded by the Wright Family Foundation.

To read the full media release and report: [click below](#):

Media Release

Koi Tu Early Investment Evidence Brief



Have you signed up for Checking-in yet?

It's about supporting rural people with the community connection and

wellbeing tools needed to get through a tough season like this one.

Head to www.checking-in.co.nz to find your local community event and sign-up for online tools & tips for personal and family wellbeing.

Checking-in is a wellbeing project brought to you by Agri-Women's Development Trust, Rural Women New Zealand, Farmstrong, the Rural Support Trust, and the Ministry for Primary Industries.

Innovation

Skin Cancer Symposiums Introduction to Dermatoscopy 2024

Skin Cancer Symposiums are delighted to invite you to the upcoming course Introduction to Dermatoscopy and Certificate of Skin Cancer Management held at the state-of-the-art Whenua Pupuke Clinical Centre at North Shore Hospital, Auckland on 16th / 17th March 2024. Delegates can enroll for either or both days. The courses have been accredited by the Royal NZ College of GPs.

Date: 16th March & 17th March 2024

Time: 08.15 am – 17.00 pm

Venue: Whenua Pupuke Clinical Skills Centre, North Shore Hospital, Auckland

The Introduction to Dermatoscopy is designed to introduce the skill of dermatoscopy to beginners and upskill intermediates. Importantly, dermatoscopy is now recognized by the Australasian Melanoma guidelines as a grade A recommendation for all involved in the management of pigmented skin lesions. Professor Cliff Rosendahl from the University of Queensland has published extensively and is a world leader in the study of Dermatoscopy. He is a dynamic presenter who uses wit, and a sincere passion in his wish to pass on to colleagues the lifesaving skills and knowledge in Dermatoscopy.

To register or for further information, please go to:
www.skincancersymposiums.com

Leaning on Fence Posts

New Content Available on Leaning on Fence Posts



What does it mean to be an allied health professional working in rural Aotearoa New Zealand?

Great to feature home grown allied health research on this blog, as our medical colleagues usually predominant in this rural space! Sarah's paper, part of her PhD, resonated loudly with me as a physiotherapist who has worked in both urban and rural practice. This research is the building block for growing the rural allied health workforce and it's fantastic to have someone with Sarah's passion to champion the cause of allied rural health professions in Aotearoa NZ. I look forward to seeing where this leads. (Lynne Clay)

Check out the latest content on the University of Otago's Leaning on Fence Posts Blog via the button below.

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**Hauora
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