

## PARTNERS IN PRIMARY AND COMMUNITY PĀNUI

Tēnā koutou katoa

As we look to transition from a state of emergency to recovery from recent weather events, I want to acknowledge the road ahead for our primary and community colleagues.

You have been, and continue to be, a pillar of strength for your communities. I know, this will have come at a personal cost to you.



Your wellbeing matters. We have worked with Vitae Early Response Services to give you access to a free TXT 2 Call service. Vitae has a dedicated, well-qualified team equipped to respond to workplace trauma, critical incidents, and other events that need an immediate response.

Your ability to recover also matters. We are partnering with Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network and Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand to match local workforce need requests with volunteers and locums from other parts of the country. This isn't just about covering gaps in services, but about giving you the breathing space to do what you need to be able to continue to support your community in the long run.

It was wonderful to see those who could attend the [Introducing the Regional Wayfinder hui](#) on Wednesday. I was able to introduce the Regional Wayfinders alongside our partners at Te Aka Whai Ora. It was grounding to recognise through their eyes the work that has occurred for generations to get us to the point where we are today. I draw strength from this as Te Whatu Ora looks to embark on a transformation to 'simplify to unify' its teams.

As mentioned in the hui, we will be proposing there will be locally-based functions supporting locality partnership groups to develop locality plans, as well as nationally based functions who will be our system architects across starting well, living well, ageing well, dying well and mentally well. And our Regional Wayfinders will be the key piece to weave together these national and local functions.

Thank you for walking this journey together with us.

Ngā mihi

**Abbe Anderson** (she/her)  
**National Director Commissioning**

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## Meeting our Regional Wayfinders

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend the session on Wednesday as we introduced our Regional Wayfinders.

- [Missed it? Watch the recording](#)

Thank you to Laura Aileone, GM Hospital and Specialists Services at Te Aka Whai Ora for stepping in for Jade Sewell, Deputy Chief Executive, Service Development and sharing an overview of the Te Aka Whai Ora journey so far.

It is humbling to reflect on the decades of hard work by many others before us, that enables us to be in this mahi today. We look forward to working in partnership on co-commissioning in the future as we work together in a one system approach.

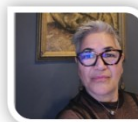
The Regional Wayfinders will co-chair the newly established Regional Integration Teams with Te Aka Whai Ora Regional Directors. They will be accountable for producing regional outputs such as population health needs assessments, clinical services plans, capital plans and localities establishment and support plans.

## Introducing the Regional Wayfinders



**Northern  
Danny Wu (Interim)**

**Central  
Tricia Keelan**  
Ngāti Porou,  
Ngāti Kahungunu,  
Te Aupouri,  
Rongomaiwahine



**Te Manawa Taki  
Nicola Ehau**  
Ngāti Porou

**Te Waipounamu  
Chiquita Hansen**



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## Emergency Response: Primary and community workforce

Across New Zealand, communities impacted by Cyclone Gabrielle and recent flooding events are beginning the transition from state of emergency to recovery.

We have seen the perseverance, care and compassion of frontline healthcare teams during this emergency phase. While impacted by the events, you continued to support communities with the delivery of care. Now, it is our turn to support you with feet on the ground.

Te Whatu Ora is working with Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network and Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand to match local workforce need requests with volunteers and locums from other parts of the country. As part of the short-term response, Te Whatu Ora will cover the cost of the locum's salary and will reimburse accommodation and travel where these cannot be covered by the requesting organisation or other resources.

**What to help:** Could you support regions as a short-term doctor, nurse, practice administrator, pharmacist, or pharmacy technician?

- If you are a rural hospital doctor, general practitioner, nurse practitioner or registered nurse and able to undertake a locum placement for between two to six weeks, register your interest: Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network - [GabrielleLocumSupport](#)
- If you are a pharmacist or a pharmacy technician and able to undertake a locum placement for between one to six weeks, register your interest: Pharmaceutical Society of New Zealand - [Locum Relief for Cyclone affected pharmacies](#)

**Need help:** Do you require the support of a short-term doctor, nurse, pharmacist, or technician?

If you need additional staff because your workforce has been significantly impacted by the cyclone and recent flooding events, please email - [workforcesectorrequest@health.govt.nz](mailto:workforcesectorrequest@health.govt.nz)


Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network will ensure locums are suitably qualified, eligible to work and best matched in the roles you have requested. They will also facilitate pastoral care such as supervision and mentoring support as required.

At this time, aged residential care and mental health workforce needs are being managed elsewhere in the response, however we will be happy to connect you to these support services if you contact us at [workforcesectorrequest@health.govt.nz](mailto:workforcesectorrequest@health.govt.nz)

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### Emergency Response:

**Your wellbeing matters TXT 2 Call – 3718**



*Your wellbeing matters*

**Having a tough time? Feeling distress in a challenging situation is normal. Talking to someone can really help.**

**TXT 3718 any day between 8am-8pm** to kōrero with a trained professional who can call you back for a supportive conversation about what's going on for you.

Cyclone Gabrielle has left our east coast communities in a state of distress. This is an upsetting time and it impacts us all in different ways. Feeling distress in a challenging situation is very common and a normal response. Talking to others can really help. Your wellbeing matters.

If you would like to talk to someone to get support with the way you're feeling or a particular issue you're facing, TXT **3718** any day between 8am–8pm to kōrero with a trained professional from Vitae Response Services who can call you back for a supportive conversation about what's going on for you.

TXT your full name, contact number, area location and preferred day/time for a call back – either morning, afternoon or evening. Māori or Pasifika responders can be requested.

Vitae has a dedicated, well-qualified team equipped to respond to workplace trauma, critical incidents, and other events that need an immediate response. Their team of trained professionals have been providing early response services for over 20 years. [Click here](#) to learn more about Vitae.

- **CONNECT:** If you have any questions about this TXT 2 Call support service, please connect with [primary.care@health.govt.nz](mailto:primary.care@health.govt.nz).

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## **Workforce:**

### **Funding offers to reduce pay gaps sent out to about 600 health care providers**

About 600 employers in aged residential care, hospices, home and community support services, and Māori and Pacific healthcare have this week received offers of additional funding to boost pay rates for eligible nurses and kaiāwhina.

This significant step was taken after the Ministers of Health and Finance formally approved \$40 million for these five sectors to reduce the pay gap of their eligible nurses and kaiāwhina with Te Whatu Ora-employed workers.

These providers will get funding from April to increase pay rates for their eligible nurses and kaiāwhina once they accept the offer. They then need to negotiate with their employees and unions directly to pass on this funding to lift pay rates for eligible staff.

This initiative aims to alleviate some workforce pressures and service impacts by reducing the flow of community-employed nurses and kaiāwhina to higher-paid roles within Te Whatu Ora. It is also about ensuring pay is fairer and more equitable for nurses and kaiāwhina who work in the community delivering much needed primary and community care.

Health Minister Dr Ayesha Verrall has asked Te Whatu Ora to work with other funded nursing sectors to ascertain if disparities in pay exist, including general practice nurses as well as Plunket, Family Planning, school nursing services, mental health and addiction, rural hospitals and telehealth.

General practice nurses were initially excluded from this pay disparities initiative when the Government announced it last November, because it was advised at the time that no disparity existed. However, it was made clear that the decision to exclude general practice nurses could change if evidence of disparity emerged in the future. Work is underway with the sector to understand any further disparity that may have arisen.

For all other funded sectors with eligible workforces, Te Whatu Ora is working with districts and sector representatives to incorporate the additional funding into contracts from 1 July 2023, pending approval decisions.

- **READ:** [new pay disparities web content](#)

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## **Mental Health and Addictions:**

### **New website to better connect people to free wellbeing services**

A new Te Whatu Ora website gives people and their whānau an easier pathway to find free support for mild and moderate mental health and addictions issues.

[www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz](http://www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz) provides a home for the Access and Choice primary mental health and addiction services all in one place. It gives those interested in accessing support a search tool to find their nearest providers.



Access and Choice services are made up of four streams, Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction (IPMHA) which is accessed via a general practice (GP), as well as specific Kaupapa Māori, Pacific and Youth providers. Services are free and there are no referral criteria. However, for services accessed in a GP setting, service users will need to be enrolled with that provider.

Every month, tens of thousands of New Zealanders experience the benefits of managing their mental wellbeing through the Access and Choice programme. The website has been developed now as we have a critical mass of providers across the country. This enables us to begin more widespread promotion of the programme.

More services will be added to the website each month as the rollout of the programme continues nationwide.

- **New website:** [www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz](http://www.wellbeingsupport.health.nz)

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## **Te Pae Tata:**

### **Kahu Taurima**

Kahu Taurima is the joint Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora approach to transform maternity and early years services for all whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.

This is about ensuring our services from pre-conception to five years old are flexible, responsive, and accessible for everyone, no matter where you live and who you are. It's also about supporting more comprehensive wrap-around services for whānau who are needing more support.

The name Kahu Taurima speaks to the contributions of everyone in ensuring the prosperity of our future generations and whakapapa.





Kahu speaks to the korowai of support that wraps itself around whānau and Taurima speaks to that which is most cherished – our pēpi, tamariki and whānau.

The tohu (pictured) has been designed to reflect hapūtanga, protection, development, and growth. It also represents the connection between māmā and pēpi.

### **Prioritised funding**

The Board of Te Aka Whai Ora has prioritised funding to support the delivery of Te Ao Māori solutions and you may have seen that an [RFP](#) for this went live last week.

This is an exciting opportunity for Hauora Māori Partners to change the face of health care in Aotearoa to reflect Te Ao Māori. It's also an example of how Te Aka Whai Ora is making progress to empower and further enable Hauora Māori Partners to shape and implement local solutions.

- **NOTE:** [RFP submissions will close on 27 March 2023.](#)

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### **Heads-up:**

#### **Primary, Community and Rural Early Actions Programme**

Join us for an online webinar updating you on the Primary, Community and Rural Early Actions programme. With joint oversight from Te Aka Whai Ora and Te Whatu Ora, this programme of work has been established to drive some of the early benefits described in Te Pae Tata interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022: to build the foundations of a sustainable, unified health system that better services our communities.

We'll be discussing the key priorities within the programme and the work that is currently underway, including:

- The Equity Adjustment to Capitation
- Workforce Development Funding
- Extended Care in primary and community settings
- Introduction of Comprehensive Primary and Community Care Teams, including the new roles of pharmacist, care co-ordinator, physiotherapist and kaiāwhina.

### **Who should attend?**

This webinar is an opportunity for those within the primary, community and rural sector or those who interact with the sector, to get a better idea of what's happening and find out about the next steps and implementation.

**Date:** Tuesday 14 March

**Time:** 7.00pm – 8.00pm

To register for this event, please email: [earlyactionsprogramme@health.govt.nz](mailto:earlyactionsprogramme@health.govt.nz)

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### **Missed it?**

#### **Media Release: Newly funded Meningococcal B vaccine**

Access to the Meningococcal B vaccine has been expanded for children aged under five years old providing better protection against meningococcal disease.

People aged between 13 and 25, in their first year living in boarding school hostels, tertiary education halls of residence, military barracks, or correctional facilities are also eligible for funded meningococcal B vaccine.

- **READ:** [Meningococcal B now funded available – Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand](#)

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### **Media Release: Call for tamariki and pregnant people to be immunised against whooping cough**

Following the recent tragic deaths of two people from whooping cough, Te Whatu Ora is calling on people to be alert to whooping cough symptoms, and to make sure tamariki, their caregivers and anyone pregnant are immunised against the illness.

- **READ:** [Call for tamariki and pregnant people to be immunised against whooping cough – Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand](#)

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### **Interim Board Chair – Naomi Ferguson**

This week, Naomi Ferguson was appointed as our interim Board Chair for Te Whatu Ora.

Naomi is a current Board member and a highly accomplished leader. She brings significant experience in both governance and executive roles, including having served as Commissioner and Chief Executive of Inland Revenue, where she led a major transformational change. Naomi is very focused on continuing our delivery under Te Pae Tata, ensuring we keep our strong focus on supporting our diverse workforce; and continuing our close partnership with Te Aka Whai Ora.



Naomi has expressed the Board's strong support for you and the work each of you do every day for our communities.

- **READ:** [Naomi's full bio is available on our Te Whatu Ora website.](#)

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### **Missed it – Quick links**

- [Stakeholder Hui 1 March](#)
- [Ruruku Stakeholder Update 10 March](#)
- [Ngā Karere Te Aka Whai Ora update 9 March](#)

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*This newsletter has been produced by the Communications and Engagement team at Te Whatu Ora. If you would like to recommend content, topics or have any questions about the newsletter, please reach out to [Natasha Hoskins, Strategic Lead – Commissioning, Communications and Engagement. \[Natasha.Hoskins@health.govt.nz\]\(mailto:Natasha.Hoskins@health.govt.nz\)](mailto:Natasha.Hoskins@health.govt.nz)*