

Fwd: Hauora Taiwhenua June Newsletter 2023

From: Michelle Te Kira | PMAANZ Chair chair@pmaanzt.org.nz
To: Carole Unkovich | PMAANZ Admin admin@pmaanzt.org.nz
Date: Fri, 23 Jun 2023, 3:53 PM

For the website :)

Michelle Te Kira
Chair PMAANZ

From: Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network <communications@htrhn.org.nz>
Sent: Friday, June 23, 2023 3:28 PM
To: Michelle Te Kira | PMAANZ Chair <chair@pmaanzt.org.nz>
Subject: Hauora Taiwhenua June Newsletter 2023



**Hauora
Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

Welcome from Grant Davidson, Chief Executive



Kia ora tatou

It is great to stop and celebrate wins when they occur.

I hope many of you would have seen the recent announcement from Minister Verrall about the increase in medical school placements by a further 50 students. These will be spread across both Auckland and Otago Universities. While some may argue that this isn't enough, we think it is a great first step in the right direction.

Along with Auckland and Otago Universities, and the RNZ College of GPs, last year we put a proposal to the Minister of Health for a Joint Department of Rural Health. This proposal suggested coordinating the knowledge and expertise of rural academic staff across institutions to provide a consistent and accessible training pathway for rural health professions across the country. There needed to be pathways to ensure rural secondary school students gained the right level of training in STEM subjects, or got access to bridging courses; that practice placements were coordinated from a central service, that key infrastructure in rural areas and practices was funded to facilitate training, and that these concepts allowed for the training of true interprofessional rural teams over time (nurse, physios, pharmacists, therapists, doctors, etc.). The first step we asked for was the allocation of 50 new medical school places, with a focus on rural GP graduates to initiate this system.

We see the announcement from Minister Verrall as the first step in the vision of rural interprofessional health training being realised. We understand that the Tertiary Education Commission is seeking answers from Auckland and Otago as to how they can be assured that these extra placements will be targeted to ensure that graduates will have a greater likelihood of practising rurally, be general practitioners and be Māori or Pasifika.

We like to think that the metaphor for persistence, of water dripping on a rock eventually drilling a hole in the rock, is true of us in rural health. Over time, with a consistent voice and consistent message, and with the help of partners focussing on the same outcomes – we are making a difference and 'drilling that hole' in the perception of health funders, to get an "in rural, by rural, for rural" training scheme in place.

With the election looming, we will again work with our partners to agree on key advocacy messages to keep the 'water dripping' for the next steps in the pathway to our vision of an interprofessional school of rural health: funding for coordinating a nationwide approach, funding rural school student upskilling and funding rural infrastructure for training. Watch for when I am able to celebrate the next success we reach in this vision being achieved!

I also want to mention my recent visit to Fieldays at Mystery Creek in Hamilton. Thanks to the amazing efforts of the Mobile Health team of Mark, Andrew and others, there was once again a 'Hauora Taiwhenua Health and Wellbeing Hub' proudly in place. This allowed both rural and urban visitors to Fieldays (over 105,000 people over the four days) the chance to gain important insights in monitoring their own health and what to do to remain healthy and well – in all aspects from physical to mental to social wellness. We joined 40 other exhibitors making the Health and Wellbeing Hub a truly educational, interactive and fun place to be. We were helped by a number of doctors who volunteered their time, and a keen bunch of health students from around the Motu, who acted as 'health navigators', helping visitors to the hub understand and interact with other exhibitors. Those students were also able to engage with families who had young people interested in getting into health careers. The tertiary students could share their own experiences of embarking on a tertiary training programme – what the experience is like, good ideas and pitfalls. Thanks in particular to the staff and students from the Whakatane Rural Health Interprofessional Programme who came in numbers to help out (see article in this newsletter).

Thanks also to those who have taken the time in the evenings to attend our Winter Webinar series. The first two webinars on the 'Winter surge telehealth service' and 'Launch of the new HPV screening service' were well attended. Stay tuned for a session with Abbe Anderson, National Director of Commissioning at Te Whatu Ora, who will be hosting a session on the progress and direction for Localities in Rural New Zealand. This will be programmed for sometime in August and we will promote the date widely once confirmed.

The good news is that we are now on the other side of the Winter Solstice and every day from now on will see us getting more daylight hours!

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Grant Davidson

Chief Executive

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network



Advocacy

Conversations in Rural Health: Winter Webinar Series

A big thank you to those who attended our first webinar of our winter series last Wednesday, and apologies for the slight technical issues. As indicated by Grant in the webinar, we have made the Webinar available to our members, click the box above to view the first webinar in our series if you missed out!

We have confirmed two more dates for upcoming webinars, so save the dates in your calendars!

Wednesday 16 August, 5:30pm-6:30pm

<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAscuCvqjMjE9AK9nFxyQVNN9W3Pf4JeTjh>

Wednesday 23 August, 5:30pm-6:30pm

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZlIf-ytrD0oHNEbxRZzIq_4Q3zGMpXRnx_H

We will have more information to follow, but for now here is the registration link, we will send this link again once the theme is confirmed.

Rural Health Careers Programme

Rural School Visits Continue Charging Ahead into 2023!

Taranaki and Kaitaia/Northland locations for second trips of 2023



After a successful first round of trips in May, another twelve tertiary students from around Aotearoa New Zealand, will this time travel to Taranaki and Kaitiaki/Northland on the 26th of June as volunteers for the second rural school visits of 2023.

Shubham Gupta, University of Auckland, 2nd Year Optometry student, and volunteer for the 2022 Northland trip said, *“while I had learnt a lot about disparities in rural and Māori health, seeing the disparity in person when going from a big city like Auckland to small rural communities, was eye-opening. I realised that children from rural communities had far more obstacles to overcome and needed much more motivation to study in healthcare compared to the privileged position I was in, where everything was handed to us back in my high school”.*

Through a good mix of hands-on experience with medical and dental equipment and theory-based learning, these interactive workshops have something that suits everyone and are an excellent way to engage and inspire secondary school children to consider the various health disciplines available through tertiary education. The programme is also a practical way for tertiary health students to give back, with many being from rural backgrounds sharing their real-life experiences.

For information on the Rural Health Careers Promotion programme and how to get involved, or if you would like the programme to come to your area, please contact our Rural Health Careers Coordinator:

Samantha Hill

Email: samantha.hill@htrhn.org.nz

Phone: 022 374 7706

Website: [Rural Health Careers - Hauora Taiwhenua \(htrhn.org.nz\)](http://Rural Health Careers - Hauora Taiwhenua (htrhn.org.nz))

Rural Communities

Innovative Rural Clinical Experience for Some Health Students at University of Auckland.

By Denise Irvine, Rural Communities Chapter



Opening in 2012, the Rural Health Interprofessional Programme, based at Te Whatu Ora – Whakatane, had student numbers of seven with three disciplines: Medical Students, Registered Nurses and Occupational Therapists. Now in 2023, this exciting, innovative programme has expanded, with numbers increasing to approximately 70 students a year and includes a much wider variety of Health professionals, including Speech Language Therapists, Social Workers, Physiotherapists, Health Psychologists, Dieticians, Optometrists, Podiatrists, Pharmacists, Nurses, Paramedics and Occupational Therapists and Medical Imaging.

“The programme focuses on the provision of rural health care, chronic conditions management and principles of Hauora Māori within a collaborative framework.” (Course Handbook.)

This clinical placement is a joint initiative between the University of Auckland (UOA) and Te Whatu Ora - Bay of Plenty, funded by Manatū Hauora. The University of Otago provides the same program based in Gisborne, with both universities working in collaboration.

Recruitment and retention have always been a challenge in rural areas, so after much discussion with top health professionals, plans were developed to provide specific rural clinical education to enable students to gain experience in this rural environment. Māori, Pacific and Rural patients are included, with the possible outcome that after a positive experience, they will return to Whakatane or some other rural area to take up a role post-graduation.

Students are accommodated in three houses rented by the programme, and apart from food, all other costs are paid for by the programme. In living, studying, and working together, students learn from each other and learn to work in a collegial manner where discussions occur over coffee as they gather in their lounge at the end of a shift.

The programme, based in Whakatane, is five weeks long. Students experience a noho marae over the first two days, introducing students to a culture they often have had little to do with. Elliott Harris (pictured), a 5th-year Medical Student, thought the Marae experience was “amazing”, introducing him to a culture he had little previous understanding of. His clinical experience will be seeing patients under supervision at a Whakatane GP clinic, where this cultural experience will be of great assistance to him.

Eve Dixon, a Health Psychology student, was also very generous in her praise for the programme. She described how it had exposed her to the actual difficulties of the rural population, such as if consults could

happen sooner, the time people spent in the hospital could probably be much shorter. She felt rural is an extremely rewarding area to work in. “There is more scope in rural to care for people who really need it and find access extremely difficult.”

For more information on the Rural Health Interprofessional Programme, check out the handbook below!

RHIP COURSE HANDBOOK

Advocacy

URGENT: Te Mauri o Rongo - The NZ Health Charter

Please see the important information below from the New Zealand Health Charter, about important dates for hui they have upcoming.

As you may remember, the NZ Health Charter is required under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 and applies to all health service providers in Aotearoa, including those in the funded sector.

Since our engagements with you last year, health agencies have developed Te Mauri o Rongo I the NZ Health Charter. The purpose of the Charter is to guide us and help us to grow a positive culture inside Te Whatu Ora, Te Aka Whai Ora and the wider health sector.

We would like to invite you to attend one of our Webinar hui over the coming weeks. It is important to ensure your voices are captured in the Charter. Otherwise, if there are any queries, please do not hesitate to forward to nzhealthcharter@health.govt.nz

If you would prefer to hold meetings within your region, please advise the NZ Charter team and they will be in touch to provide scripts and materials to support your conversation.

Alternatively, please note below webinar dates, times and links. Please add the session that best suits you to your calendar.

1. Wednesday 21 June, 7pm – 8pm: Link [here](#)
2. Saturday 24 June, 10:30am – 11:30am: Link [here](#)
3. Monday 26 June, 7pm – 8pm: Link [here](#)
4. Thursday 29 June, 10:30am – 11:30am: Link [here](#)
5. Friday 30 June, 2pm – 3pm: Link [here](#)

Please note that feedback is required by Friday 30 June 2023 and you can send this to www.haveyoursaynzhealthcharter.co.nz

Rural Health Careers

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Student Research Scholarships and BNZ Rural Development Scholarship

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network is pleased to announce the availability of **THREE** Rural Student Research Scholarships for the 2023/24 year.

Two of the Scholarships are open to any 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 is available to any year two and above Medical Student for the same period.

A \$5,000 Scholarship will be paid to the successful recipients (students) and is intended to be used to help cover living expenses, as well as provide some spending money during the 12 weeks elective/research placement.

Samantha Menzies, fourth-year medical student at Tauranga Hospital and recipient of the BNZ Rural Development Scholarship in 2023, has been conducting a research project with Dr Kyle Eggleton.

"Our project was a rapid review of the available literature about rural healthcare ethics. It is the first research paper to describe rural doctors' unique ethical challenges compared to urban doctors. It is currently awaiting a peer review and is informing the development of a teaching resource about medical ethics for medical students."

She continued to describe how *"the scholarship has allowed me to explore my newfound interest in rural medicine. I got to "deep dive" into the literature and have in-depth but casual discussions with Dr Kyle about the reality (both the highs and lows) of being a rural doctor, so thank you Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network and BNZ for this opportunity"*.

The successful applicants are expected to write up the results of any research and attempt to get this published. In addition, the student is expected to provide an abstract for presentation at the National Rural Health Conference or comparable health conference.

Students wishing to apply should complete the attached application form and return to us by **1st August 2023**.

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW SCHOLARSHIPS](#)

[Advocacy](#)

Interim Manager Rural Health (Including Urgent Care and After-Hours Portfolios)

See below for communications from Te Whatu Ora, with an update regarding the Manager of Rural Health position.



Te Whatu Ora have made an interim appointment to the Manager Rural Health role (also covers urgent care and after-hours portfolios) whilst we undergo the change process in Te Whatu Ora. Once the change process is completed, permanent roles will be advertised and recruited into.

Martin Collison will be the interim manager. Martin has held a number of national roles including designing, negotiating and implementing national contracts for example the all of government ICT contracting framework on behalf of 260 government agencies, and implementing the Fees Free policy and

operations for the education sector. He has worked on transforming organisations to new ways of working that reflect their Te Tiriti obligations.

Most recently Martin has been working for Te Whatu Ora national commissioning to support the redesign of primary and community care, including leading work with Manatū Hauora and Te Aka Whai Ora on developing the work programme for new accountability and funding models for primary care and aged care.

Martin will start in the role on 26 June. I would like to thank Andrew Mardon for his contribution and wish him all the best in his new role.

Innovation

RFP for Rural Clinical Telehealth Service is Now Open

Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora are pleased to announce the Request for Proposal (RFP) for the Rural Clinical Telehealth Service posted on the Government website GETS. Please find the link to the RFP application below.

Applications will close end of day Wednesday 5 July, 2023. This new service aims to improve access and quality of care for people living rurally, with a focus on equitable health outcomes for Māori, Pacific peoples and disabled people/tāngata whaikaha.

This RFP has been designed to ensure a broader range of providers have an opportunity to apply for this contract. The service is intended to deliver a technically and clinically sound service that is also culturally appropriate for rural communities.

If you have any procurement related questions, please contact:
Alistair Baxter alistair.baxter@nzhp.health.nz

For any other questions, please contact:
Katherine Reweti-Russell kat.reweti-russell@health.govt.nz

RFP APPLICATION

Rural Health Careers

Mobile Health I Hauora Taiwhenua Rural New Zealand Health Scholarships Open for 2023 Applicants

The scholarships are open to secondary school students planning to enter tertiary study the following year. Applicants must reside in a rural region of New Zealand and have experienced financial and/or geographical hardships due to their rural residency. The Mobile Health I Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarships hope to encourage and support rural youth in their pursuit of an education in health by reducing financial hardships.

These scholarships are for rural youth entering their first year of full-time undergraduate study in Medicine, Nursing or Allied Health related courses at New Zealand Universities, Polytechnics, or PTEs. Each scholarship will be for one year, supporting a student's first year of study, accommodation, and resources.

We are glad to announce that the Mobile Health I Hauora Taiwhenua Rural New Zealand Health

Scholarships are open for applications in 2023. Schools have already been contacted by Samantha Hill, our Rural Health Careers Coordinator, but a reminder in case you missed it!

Click the link below for more info on this scholarship and the others available if you are stepping into tertiary study.

CLICK HERE

Advocacy

Self-Management Support (Programmes for People with Long Term Health Conditions) Project

See below communications from the Health Navigator Charitable Trust with key information about their self-management support project.

Health Navigator Charitable Trust, together with Health Literacy New Zealand, is undertaking a Te Whatu Ora sponsored project to develop best practice guidance and resources for self-management support for people with long-term health conditions. This will be developed with provider and community input. This project is an opportunity to highlight, celebrate and capture some of the great work that is being done across Aotearoa New Zealand to achieve equitable health outcomes.

An important part of this project will involve learning from national organisations, providers, community and whānau and understanding their experiences in this space.

We have a strong desire to hear from different rohe across the motu, so if you would like to contribute as a rural contact, or with your own diverse project, then please don't hesitate to get in touch. We are available to discuss this virtually or by phone if you would like to.

Please feel welcome to email Frances King, Project Manager on: frances@hnct.nz or call Frances on mobile: 021 861 426.

Innovation

Skin Cancer Symposiums - Advanced Dermatoscopy Course

As we all know, melanoma is a huge problem in New Zealand having one of the highest skin cancer rates in the world. With this in mind, Skin Cancers Symposiums provide CME-endorsed courses that empower GPs to detect and remove melanomas earlier and save kiwi lives.

We have held similar dermatoscopy events worldwide, including in London and Melbourne attended by surgeons, dermatologists and GPs. As you can see from the link below the feedback was extremely positive. This will be an excellent opportunity for New Zealand doctors to stay updated with relevant dermatological information and practices from world experts.

<https://nz.trustpilot.com/review/skincancersymposiums.co.uk>

Our next event is the weekend of 29-30th of July 2023.

See below for the attached flyer with further information on the event and how to get involved.

VIEW FLYER HERE

Innovation

Registrations Still Open for Rural Connectivity Scheme - A Message From Federated Farmers

If you have no or poor internet connectivity at your primary residence, we encourage you to consider registering your location with the Remote User Scheme. If you know anyone in this position, we similarly encourage you to help them enlist their location with the scheme.

Launched late last year, the scheme is a Government initiative targeted at those in rural and remote areas with no or poor connectivity at their primary residence. 'Poor connectivity' is defined by the Government as download speeds of 10mbps or less.

To register your location, go to the website [here](#).

For anyone lacking the connectivity to complete the online form, the registration form can be downloaded, completed by hand, and then mailed to the scheme. **The form is available [here](#).**

The registration stage of the process means Crown Infrastructure Partners, who are administering the scheme, can then approach providers about extending coverage of their existing networks. If a registered location is not covered by a provider, the scheme will provide a grant of up to \$2,000 to help cover the costs of setting up your own internet connection.

The scheme has received over 500 registrations thus far, with registrations staying open until its \$15m budget has been spent.



Nurse Practitioner Recruitment Initiative

We have funding available to a rural practice that is about to employ or has recently employed a Nurse Practitioner. The funding is available for 15 months. If you are interested in finding out more about this opportunity, please give Luke Baddington a call on 022 085 0437 or email luke.baddington@nzlocums.com



Innovation

Health Innovators – Apply for a Share of ACC’s Innovation Fund

The ACC Innovation Fund is now open!

ACC wants to hear from all health innovators who have an idea that will help injured people stay connected and engaged to their workplace and recover at work after an injury.

In relation to this year’s focus, your innovative health service initiative could be:

- introducing new or more efficient pathways of care
- a product that improves access to a service for clients in hard-to-reach places or for specific client groups
- a current process that could be improved to save you and our client’s time
- technology that provides insights on services our clients receive and their impact
- a new package of care that can be tailored around clients so they can achieve their best outcome.

Ultimately, they’re looking for ideas from the sector that will support and improve an injured person’s return and recovery at work after an injury.

If you think you have a great idea and want between \$10,000 and \$100,000 (ex GST) to implement it, then the ACC Innovation Fund could be for you.

Further details about the Fund and how to apply can be found on their [Innovation Fund webpage](#).

Subscribe to [ACC Innovation Fund on GETS](#) for all the application details. The Registration of Interest submission period is open from 19 May until 25 June 2023.

Innovation

Progress on the Review of Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive

See below communications from the Medical Aspects Team at Waka Kotahi, about the reviewing of the *Medical Aspects of Fitness to Drive* guide.

As we shared late last year, we're working with our Waka Kotahi Chief Medical Officers and specialist teams to update our existing guide. We are using the Australian standards from AustRoads, *Assessing Fitness to Drive*, and medical research commissioned by Monash University to help inform the standards we set. This will also make future updates simpler and more efficient.

We have started engaging with representatives who are experts in their fields, and have practical experience in using the guide, to support us in forming opinions on the more complex chapters.

To ensure you have all information to hand when we ask for feedback, we will issue the entire guide for review and submissions. The consultation process will mean you can either provide feedback on the chapters relevant to your expertise or area of interest, or the complete guide, as there will be some conditions that are represented across multiple chapters.

We will be attending the GP conferences in Rotorua in June, as well as Christchurch in August. If you're attending, please look out for us and visit our exhibition stand for a chat.

Get in touch:

In the meantime, you're welcome to [email us](#) with any feedback or comments on the current guide. If you have a colleague who might be interested in being informed or involved, please let us know their name, role, and email address – we will add them to our contact list. If you would prefer not to receive further updates, let us know and we will remove your name from our mailing list.



[Leaning on Fence Posts](#)

New Content Available on Leaning on Fence Posts



Leaning on the Fence Posts showcases contributions to keep this blog interesting, up-to-date and informative.

[Influence of a rural interprofessional education placement on the rural health workforce: working in primary care, rural settings, and with Māori.](#)

"Our study suggests that short rural immersion placements do not increase rural workforce participation during early healthcare careers." Although a little disheartening, the authors' findings are not that surprising given the design of their study".

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

[READ MORE](#)



**Hauora
Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network



**NZLocums
& NZMedJobs**

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