

## **Whanau Ora Awards acknowledge vision for Whanau Ora**

The vision for Whanau Ora was firmly established in 2002 in He Korowai Oranga, the Māori Health Strategy and the Whanau Ora vision reoriented the whole Māori health sector towards wellness and wholeness, demanding new approaches to ongoing health and disability issues.

In He Korowai Oranga Whanau Ora is about Maori families being supported to achieve their health and wellbeing. Whanau (kuia, koroua, pākēkē, rangatahi and tamariki) is recognised as the foundation of Maori society. As a principal source of strength, support, security and identity, whanau plays a central role in the wellbeing of Maori individually and collectively.

The inaugural Whanau Ora Awards in 2004 were designed to recognize Whānau Ora innovation in the Maori health sector. The Awards programme was proposed in Whakatataka Tuatahi (Maori Health Action Plan) which was the action plan designed to progress the Maori health sector toward achieving Whanau Ora. The 2004 Awards were a huge success and response to the 2006 Awards programme has also been tremendous.

Within the context of the Awards, the Ministry aims to promote successful models of service delivery (or initiatives) that increase whanau health and wellbeing by building on the strengths and assets of whanau and Maori communities. The focus is on Whanau Ora implementation and outcomes in the delivery of services to whanau, hapu iwi and Maori communities.

From over 35 applicants who asked to be considered for this year's Whanau Ora Awards programme, twenty were selected as finalists in one of three categories. Small Maori Provider organisations, (less than five employees or full time equivalent), Medium Maori Providers (between five and twenty employees or full time equivalent) and Large Maori Provider organisations (more than twenty employees or full time equivalent).

In total this year there will be seven awards given, with runners-up and winners in each category and one Supreme overall winner. Judging is based on a high level view of Whanau Ora with Innovation (creativity, responsiveness to need, unique design) Quality (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic) and leadership (involving Māori at all levels of the sector, in decision-making, planning, development and delivery of services) being key judging criteria.

The judges for this year's awards are Te Aniwa Tutara (General Manager Maori Health) for Waitemata DHB, Dr Tony Ruakere (General Practitioner and once Chief Advisor Maori Health, Ministry of Health) Joanne Hayes (Taumata Hauora Trust Maori Development Organisation representing Te Matarau, the Maori Development Organisations) and Teresa Wall (Acting Deputy-Director General, Maori Health Directorate, Ministry of Health).