

Farewell

In times of change and growth, staff turn over is inevitable, and in recent times we have said farewell to a number of staff.

From the 'Policy team' side, **Lucy Te Moana**, having completed a year's secondment to Minister Taraiana Turia's office will join the Māori Development team at Te Puni Kōkiri. **Wendy Rapana** (nee Hewson), after taking time out to marry Rick, has gone to the New Zealand Qualifications Authority as a Project Coordinator. **Maraea Bellamy** takes up the position of Manager of Health and Social Services, Social Policy Branch at Te Puni Kōkiri and Analyst, **Luella Narayan** has also joined Te Puni Kōkiri's Social Policy Branch. **Brian Watson** has joined the Department of Labour's Market Policy Group and will continue to provide advice on Accident Compensation issues. **Polly Poata** is now Administration and Projects Manager at Alcohol Liquor Advisory Council. Finally, **Lynne Pere** has left the Ministry of Health to join the Ministry of Social Policy as a social researcher.

On the 'Funding team' side we say farewell to **Rob Cooper** who is having a well deserved break before he considers his options in the New Year - as is **Gwen Te Pania Palmer**. **Cheryl Eden** is also having a well deserved break before considering her options in the New Year. **Moana Kennedy** joins a Māori health consultancy in Wellington. **Karleen Everit** and **Lianne Penny** have joined the Taitokerau MAPO, and **Michelle Hippolite** is now working in the Prime Minister's Department and with Cabinet.

While we do regret each and every departure we also wish them all the very best in their new positions.

Welcome

We are delighted to officially and publicly welcome the new people who have joined our team in recent times.

Pania Te Whaiti comes to us as an Analyst. **Kathy Grace** has taken up the position of Service Development Manager. **Lisa Richter** is now Ria Earp's Personal Assistant. **Kaylene Katene**, joins the Māori Health Directorate on six months secondment from Alcohol Liquor Advisory Council. **Patti Lougheed**, **Charlotte Cheriton** and **Beth Tupara**, join the new team as support people managing the contracts. **Teepa Wawatai** has come in to project manage the CMS project on a part time basis. **Kerry Norman** has come to us as a support person in Wellington, while **Rochelle Christian** is providing support to the Auckland office.

Welcome Back

An 'old face', **Janice Donaldson** returns and joins the team after the Christmas break. Janice has worked for the Ngai Tahu Incorporation for the past year after leaving the Health Funding Authority. **Aroha Haggie** has moved from Auckland to join the Wellington team. And we are pleased that **Chad Brown** stays with us, based in Auckland until end of February.

Other Kanohi

Māori in the Ministry

It is also time to acknowledge some of the new senior Māori staff in other areas of the Ministry. **Arawhetu Peretini** has been appointed as the Senior Advisor Māori Mental Health, **Hemi Rinui-Horne** has been appointed to the Disability Issues Directorate as Māori Services Manager (a brand new position not around in either the Health Funding Authority or the Ministry of Health) and Dr **Sue Crengle**

Māori Health Moves Down Town

On December 4, two Māori health teams (Health Funding Authority and the Ministry of Health) moved to 'down town' Wellington and took up residence in the Old Bank Arcade building on the corner of Lambton Quay and Willis Street.

The move to the 'old BNZ' was significant for the Wellington base of the Māori Health Directorate, in that it formally brings the Health

STAFF UPDATE

has been appointed as the Senior Māori Advisor for the National Health Committee.

They join the other senior Māori staff in the Ministry - staff including **Keriata Stuart**, Senior Advisor Public Health, **Gina Lomax**, Manager Licensing, and **Selwyn Katene**, Manager Public Health Programmes.

MĀORI HEALTH POSITION ADVERTISED

Manatu Haoura is currently advertising eight positions.

Applications are sought for the position of Māori Relationships Manager as well as for two Projects Management positions, a Senior Advisor (Research), and an Analyst/Senior Analyst (Economics). Three Senior Analyst/Analysts are also required for positions in Māori Health Policy and Strategy.

Applications close December 15 (Relationships Management applications December 20) but applications early in the New Year are likely to be accepted. Please contact Wendy Hudson, Ministry of Health by ringing the recruitment line (04) 496 2314.

Funding Authority team and the old Ministry team together in the one space.

Despite the chaos that always accompanies such a move, the team is enjoying the new work space. Staff have been allocated new phone numbers, but in the interim, may be contacted through an operator on either (04) 495 4400 (the old Health Funding Authority number) or (04) 496 2000 (the current Ministry of Health number).

MĀORI HEALTH DIRECTORATE

NEWS

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From the Director's Desk

E nga topito e wha o nga moutere nei, tena koutou katoa.

Ko te kupu tuatahi ki te Runga Rawa, otira he tika te mihi ki a ia i tenei wa. Tuarua, he hokinga mahara ki a ratau ma, nga taonga o nga marae maha kua whakarere atu ra ki tua o Paerau, ki tua o te tirohanga tangata. Haere koutou ki Matahourua, ki Waingaromia, haere oti atu ra! Ko koutou ki a koutou; ko tatau nga waihotanga ake ki a tatau.

Hei runga i nga piki me nga heke o te tau nei, he mihi aroha tenei ki a koutou katoa. Kei te mohio he maha nga take kei mua i a tatau katoa kia taea te whakapiki ake tonu i te hauora o tatau. Erangi, na te iti, na te rahi, ka puawai wo tatau nei tumanako, a, ka eke ki runga i nga taumata o hiahia.

Na reira e waku rangatira, tena ano tatau katoa!

"Almost a year ago, we welcomed the New Year with huge celebrations all over the country, marking the dawn of a new millennium, new beginnings and renewed expectations.

On reflection, the first year of the new millenium has been pretty hectic, and has certainly proved to be one of new beginnings and much change. For everyone working with, and for, Māori in health the year has presented many challenges.

I want to take this opportunity to say thank you to you all and to acknowledge how hard everyone has worked to get us to this point.

In Māori health we have focussed on building on the gains that have been achieved over previous years. I think you would agree with me when I say that it is just as important for us to maintain the improvements in the health and disability sector as it is to consider new developments and create further opportunities.

I also want to take this opportunity to assure everyone that, as we enter what is clearly a period of transition, we will continue to work with commitment and enthusiasm to make a difference in every aspect of Māori health.

Moving into a new environment is challenging. It means taking care that we make the time to talk and to listen to each other. It means finding time to help each other with new processes and approaches.

In this newsletter I want to introduce you to the 'new team' going into next year as the Māori Health Directorate. We also felt you might be interested in our updates on current legislative and health strategy issues. Also in this newsletter we recognise the outstanding achievement of young Māori students as they prepare for careers as health professionals.



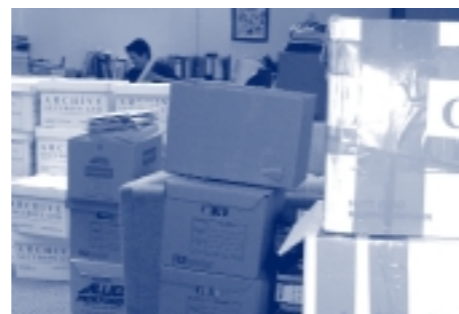
In closing, let me also acknowledge that the challenges and changes we'll no doubt face over the next six months will test us all at times. But it will also be a time during which we will play a vital role in the creation of a sound new framework for health.

Let's find some time for much needed rest and rejuvenation over the Christmas period and then look forward to 2001.

With it will come a strengthened Māori Health Directorate team and a new environment that will support the work and further development of all Māori health providers.

Mere Kirimete! Nga mihi o te tau hou kia koutou.

Ria Earp
Deputy Director-General
MĀORI HEALTH

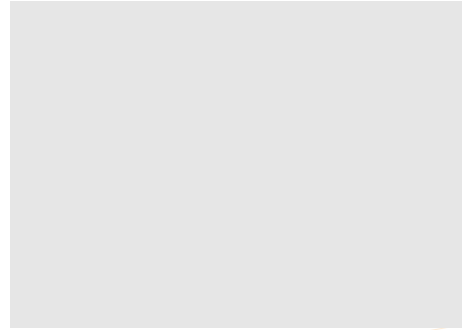


Māori Health Scholarships Awarded

A ceremony to award the prestigious Doctor John McLeod Scholarships for 2000 was held at the Wellington Office of the Health Funding Authority on 27 November. This occasion also commemorated the signing of the Māori Doctors Association Te Ora/Clinical Training Agency partnership.

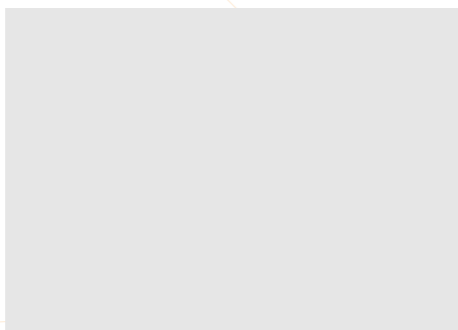
Our congratulations go Lance O'Sullivan, Tasha Brabant and Francis Robbins who were the three recipients of the prestigious award for 2000.

A total of 183 Māori Health Scholarships were awarded this year. For the 2000/2001 year the total financial pool for scholarship applicants has been increased to \$1million .



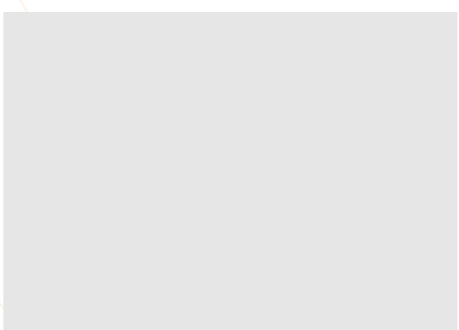
Lance O'Sullivan

Lance is in his final year studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB) at the Auckland University of Medicine. He is a descendant of Ngāti Marutuahu and Ngā Puhi.



Tasha Brabant

Tasha is in her final year at Otago University, studying with the School of Dentistry. She is of Te Arawa and Ngāti Awa descent.



Francis Robbins

Francis is also in her final year at Otago University, studying a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBChB). She is a descendant of Ngāti Ruanui and Ngā Puhi.

IN BRIEF

Māori Health Strategy

The Māori Health Strategy, currently a draft discussion document, is now in the final stages of preparation.

It is linked to the New Zealand Health Strategy and the Disability Support Strategy and will be released, as a discussion document, early in the New Year. It is planned that consultation will take place during February and March and you will be kept informed and updated over the coming

months. The final strategy is still scheduled for completion in June 2001.

The general direction of this strategy is on Whānau Ora: healthy Māori families supported to achieve their maximum health and well-being.

Applications for Māori Provider Development Scheme Being Assessed

The Ministry has received a total of 101 applications for assistance under the Māori

Provider Development Scheme (MPDS). These applications are currently being assessed. We expect to inform all applicants of their respective outcomes before Christmas 2000.

Māori Health Scholarships 2001

Scholarship forms for the 2001/2002 Ministry of Health Māori Health Scholarship will be available from Manu Keung at the end December/beginning January 2001.

Call the Ministry of Health Auckland Office on (09) 580 9000 for more information.

The New Zealand Health and Disability Bill

The NZ Public Health & Disability Bill was passed into law last week following intensive debate and we thought it important to highlight some key issues that impact on the Māori health sector.

Treaty of Waitangi

Reference to the Treaty of Waitangi remains in clause 4 of the Act. This reads:

"In order to recognise and respect the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi, and with a view to improving health outcomes for Māori, Part 3 (which sets up DHBs and their objectives and functions) provides for mechanisms to enable Māori to contribute to decision-making on and to participate in the delivery of, health and disability services".

The twin issues of improving health outcomes for Māori while ensuring Māori participation in decision-making, as well as in the delivery of services, are themes repeated in the Act.

Importantly, so is the requirement for DHBs to work to reduce Māori health disparities.

Relationships between mana whenua and DHBs

DHBs will still need to set up processes for Māori participation in decision-making and many are discussing their formal relationships with iwi and Māori communities, or have such relationships well underway. The Ministry intends to put out guidelines for DHBs on establishing partnership relationships soon. The document will also discuss principles of the Treaty of Waitangi and what it means for DHBs.

Other Provisions Relating to Māori

DHBs will also have to consider Māori capacity building. This is designed to ensure that the work that has gone into building Māori providers and the Māori health workforce over the last five to eight years, is maintained and continued.

The provisions requiring at least two Māori members on the Boards have been retained. In areas where the Māori population is higher, there is a clear expectation that the Māori membership will reflect the proportion of Māori in the population.

And finally there are requirements that DHBs undertake training in Treaty, Māori health and Māori community issues, and be good employers - taking Māori employment aspirations into account.

The Act takes effect from 1 January 2001. The Health Funding Authority continues as a legal entity until that date although, in practice, it has been operating jointly with the Ministry of Health for some time.

Copies of the Act are available from Bennett's and other government bookshops.

Māori Deaf Hui

Stephanie Awheto, who is the only fluent Māori bilingual signer in New Zealand, was kept exceptionally busy at Tunohopu Marae, Rotorua on Saturday 14 October 2000 when approximately 30 North Island Māori deaf people attended a focus group as part of consultation on the Disability Support Strategy.

One of the key issues raised at the hui was the way in which those experiencing disability feel the disability shuts them out of te ao Māori. For those who are deaf, this means not knowing what is being said at hui or during formal occasions (unless they have access to Stephanie). Participants felt the need to train more Māori bilingual signers is now a real priority.

Other issues identified included access to communication aids, frustration in dealing with Government departments, especially regarding income support, education and support for employment and training, and how children of deaf parents cope in school.



LEFT: Patrick Thompson, Māori Deaf Development Manager (Deaf Association of NZ) discusses the issues with attendees at Tunohopu Marae. ABOVE: Stephanie Awheto is the only fluent Māori bilingual signer in New Zealand.

WHO WE ARE AND HOW WE PLAN TO OPERATE

