



Empowering Māori career and employment aspirations so that our whānau can flourish

## Greetings

from our Pou Whakahaere / Chief Executive

Tēnā koutou katoa

It is hard to believe Raumati is here already and this is our last paanui for 2023 already.

All the stories we share are close to our heart. In this issue we introduce an amazing whānau who now have two generations in hauora careers - helping others, while also transforming their own futures.

We have a small, values driven kaimahi team with heaps of energy and enthusiasm. Our Kaiārahi and Event Lead Mizsiah is passionate about supporting taiohi and whānau. You can read Mizsiah's story in this issue.

As we move into 2024, we are looking at ways to make our efforts more targeted and meaningful for people who register with us. We want to help make a real difference and we need to be smart about how we do that, while also taking care of our own hauora.

Our office closes from 4pm on 21 December so that our team can have a restorative break. We look forward to re-opening on 8 January 2024.

We'd like to thank everyone in our whānau and community for all the mahi you have done this year to help others!

We hope you will also get some time out to spend time with whānau and friends and restore your energy for the important mahi you do.

Noho ora mai

Tanya Anaha  
Pou Whakahaere, Why Ora



Tanya Anaha - Pou Whakahaere

***Congratulations to our graduating tauira for 2023!***

***Ngā mihi maioha***

***To everyone working hard in our community for the benefit of our Whānau  
Thank you for your mahi in 2023!***

# UMANGA

A meaningful and rewarding career can change lives and change the future. There are so many possibilities and paths to take. Our career stories can help to show what is possible!

## *Two generations of Whānau in hauora careers making a difference*

Whānau working in hauora careers can make a big difference. In Taranaki not one but two generations are doing just that! Growing a health career takes determination, effort, time, resources, mentoring and support.

Today we are seeing our whānau efforts coming to fruition. What is exciting is that some whānau have not one family member in hauora careers

but several, and not one but two generations! Below we share a story close to our heart!

Nadia had held a life-long dream of becoming a nurse. After overcoming many challenges Nadia qualified. Needing help to find employment, Why Ora arranged a cadetship with Tui Ora in 2012. Nadia didn't look back. An inspiration to her whānau, today they are in hauora careers too!



Whānau members Jacinda, Tamara, Nadia and Gracie

### **Nadia – Registered Nurse, Bachelor of Nursing**

***“I persevered through sheer determination and stubbornness, to achieve my goal of providing a secure financial future for my whānau in a worthwhile career. It’s a privilege working in a career I love. It’s certainly not without its challenges but walking alongside and supporting individual hauora journeys is extremely rewarding. I am thrilled that both my daughters have followed me into hauora. Watching my tamariki grow into the awesome people they are is my proudest life achievement!” Nadia***

“After surviving domestic violence, with support from Tu Tama Wāhine, and single handedly raising my tamariki, I recognised things had to change. To create a better life for myself and my three children; Tamara and twins Nathan and Gracie, in 2009 I began a Bachelor of Nursing to fulfil a long-held dream of becoming a nurse. While entering tertiary study as an adult student was intimidating enough, I had a number of other concerns - would my ability to study be affected by a serious head injury received when younger and how would I cope financially?

During those years, I discovered a passion for learning which is reflected in a degree with top marks. Money was a constant source of anxiety. Ensuring I had enough petrol for travel, while being able to provide for my family was hugely stressful. Placements were often a source of additional stress. Managing the AM shifts was only possible by leaving the children at a friend’s house at 0600, and during PM shifts I would drop them at school, then sit in the public library until starting my PM shift, which made for some very long days for all.

After completing my degree, I was fortunate enough to gain a cadetship through Why Ora which led me into my first nursing position. I was blessed to be guided by great mentors in my early years and was privileged to work within the Māori community, targeting inequalities through education and support. This allowed me to slowly rebuild confidence and restore my self-belief, which positively affected many other areas of my life.

Fifteen years later, with hard work and determination we are now proud homeowners. The security and stability that evaded my children's and my early life, is of the past. This is particularly poignant as for a three-month period my children and I were once homeless.

I am thrilled that both my daughters have followed me into hauora. Tamara has completed a Bachelor of Nursing and about to begin her NETP programme with Te Whatu Ora and Gracie is thriving as an Occupational Therapist. Nathan is working and studying in Information Technology. Beloved whanaunga, Jacinda is studying to become a Physiotherapist. Watching my tamariki grow into the awesome people they are is my proudest life achievement!" **Nadia**

### Gracie – Occupational Therapist, Bachelor of Occupational Therapy

***“The experience of my mother embarking on her journey to become a nurse, while it certainly had its fair share of challenges, was a source of inspiration, encouraging us to pursue health careers that aim to prioritise patient care, compassion, and independence. Seeing her dedication, empathy, and commitment to patient care is inspiring and has played a pivotal role in shaping my own career choice of wanting to pursue occupational therapy.” Gracie***



“What I love is the opportunity to enable people to regain control of their lives and find meaning in everyday activities. It is humbling to be part of the lives of people facing physical, cognitive, social, and emotional challenges. Ultimately, it allows me to make a positive impact, helping them find joy and purpose despite the challenges they face. It means that I can give back to my community and provide the best care that I can to my people.

Having whānau in hauora roles was a positive influence, providing valuable support and insights. I am thankful for their guidance throughout my journey. I received support, practical wisdom and real-world experiences that shaped me as a person and the role career I am in.

During my schooling years, I was also fortunate enough to have an exposure to different health careers through the Why Ora programme. This led to my journey to studying a bachelor's degree. During my years of study, Why Ora also continued to support and ‘check in’ with me, they were on my journey just as much as I was and challenged me to reach out to ask for guidance.” **Gracie**



### Tamara - Bachelor of Nursing (Graduation 2024)

***“My career is giving me a purpose in life, something incredibly rewarding I can do every day. We have become closer as a family as we are able to bounce learning off each other which works great between the nursing, occupational therapy and physio careers” Tamara***

My career is giving me a purpose in life, something incredibly rewarding I can do every day. I love being a pivotal person in someone's journey through the health system. The ability to turn their day from bad to good when sometimes they are going through the worst of times. It is a huge privilege to be able to educate, provide emotional support, and advocate for patient needs.

**... story continued on next page**

I found the courage to go forth with my nursing degree, something I struggled with before that was believing I could achieve something so massive. Why Ora offered support/mentorship throughout my education, between high school and finally undertaking my Bachelor's Degree almost 10 years later.

**Tamara**

**Jacinda – Rehab Coach, Physiotherapy Student – Bachelor of Physiotherapy**

*“Having family members involved in hauora helped shape my career decisions. Their commitment, empathy, and ability to effect positive change in peoples’ lives is truly inspiring. I’ve gained first-hand knowledge of the challenges and rewards that come with healthcare. They’re a strong support system, offering guidance, mentorship and a network that enhanced my confidence as I navigate my own journey to becoming a physiotherapist.” Jacinda*



My career path is a journey of growth and purpose. What I have found truly fulfilling so far is the remarkable opportunity to collaborate with children who face disabilities. It's an honour to play a role in their lives, even in the smallest capacity. Seeing their remarkable resilience, determination, and unique personalities emerge, despite challenges is truly inspiring.

My career journey has cultivated a deeper appreciation for the healthcare profession and its vital role within our communities and hospital, broadened my understanding of health and rehabilitation, and fuelled my determination to positively impact peoples’ well-being.

A cadetship through Why Ora provided me with ample opportunities to help me figure if going down the physiotherapist journey was for me. Today I am a second-year physiotherapy student, potentially looking at going down the cardiorespiratory path, where my current learning passion is” **Jacinda**

**We are so thankful to our whānau for sharing their personal stories – we hope that they will be inspiring and motivating for others! If anyone in your whānau is interested in a career in hauora check out our website to learn more [Health Careers | why ORA](#)**

## WHY ORA 2023 CADETSHIPS

Why Ora works with our hauora partners to give our whānau the opportunity to experience cadetships that may lead to a rewarding career pathway.



**Charlise, Aperira, Taliana**

This year five of our amazing whānau gained cadetships at Te Whatu Ora Taranaki. Since starting in their roles at least two have secured full-time employment. We wish you all the very best as you embark into your future careers and look forward to supporting you along your journeys!

**Our 2023 Cadets were:**

- **Treal Niwa** – Orthotics Assistant (CADET) to Orthotics Technician (Full-time Employment)
- **Charlise Graham** – Physiotherapy Administration Assistant (CADET) to Rehabilitation Administration Assistant (Full-time Employment)
- **Taliana Korewha-Tuavao** – Physiotherapy Administration Assistant (CADET)
- **Aperira Moorehouse** – Therapy Assistant (CADET)
- **Jorja O'Neill** – Rehabilitation Assistant (CADET)



**Treal and Jorja**

# TŪHONONGA

Tūhononga means strengthening and bringing together (Tū is to strengthen, hononga is to bring or join together). We all need connections that can help us to grow, to know who we are, where we've come from and help us get where we are going!

## End of year Prize-givings

As part of our manaaki, we support our taiohi to achieve their aspirations, including celebrating their successes along the way.

This year some of our kaiārahi were fortunate enough to attend the 2023 School prize-givings.

These are a big milestone for our taiohi, acknowledging their hard work and achievements. For our Kaiārahi walking alongside taura it is also a very special event we love to participate in when possible.



Polly-Anne, Jessica, Mizsiah and Kalani

## RUIA MAI CELEBRATION 2023 - WITT Te Pūkenga

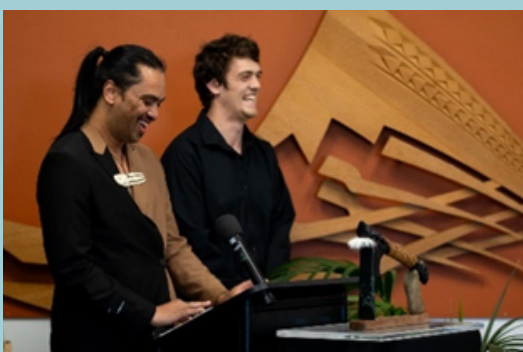


Gracyn Meredith (Bachelor of Nursing)

When the amazing efforts of some of our registered tertiary taura were acknowledged at the 2023 Ruia Mai celebration for Māori and Pasifika students, our Kaiārahi were there to tautoko the taura and kaimahi.

We were thrilled that our Kaiārahi Mizsiah and Rory were invited to speak, and Liahna also got to say a few words.

*"Ruia Mai celebration was an amazing evening, watching our taiohi receive their taonga with pride makes me immensely proud of them and the journey they have been on. To have two of our very own (Rory and Mizsiah) kōrero and inspire taura Māori really topped it off."* **Liahna, Why Ora Kaiārahi**



*"It was a pleasure speaking on my journey through tertiary studies in Psychology and into employment after my studies. I talked about how I found my passion to support young Māori transition from secondary school into employment, whether they study to achieve their dreams or move in different pathways to achieve their career aspirations"* **Rory, Why Ora Kaiārahi**

# MANAAKITANGA

Our Manaakitanga means we genuinely nurture, encourage, respect and care for one another throughout our mahi, in whatever work we are doing.

## Why Ora Promo - Secondary School Visits

Every year Why Ora hits the road to secondary schools throughout Taranaki, to promote what we offer taura at secondary school and beyond. We usually do this at the start of the school year. However, this year we scheduled our 2024 promotions early, to help ensure all Māori Y10 and Y11 taura know what we do, and that if they are heading back to school in 2024, we will be there to support them! The Why Ora crew visited most Taranaki secondary schools in November and December with one or two promo events left to go ahead in 2024.



*“What I love about promo? It’s the first step in an inspiring journey for taura! There’s no better feeling than starting of a race – that’s what our promos feel like! For taiohi who register with us, it’s the start of their rewarding future! (Rory, Kaiārahi)*



## Connect 23

In November our kaimahi, Tanya, Katie and Rory, with the support of Arata Rangi, one of our Why Ora taiohi, travelled to Hawera to be a part of the Connect 23 expo held by Te Heru Māpara.

It was such a great day! Why Ora spoke to a variety of whānau about our kaupapa and our vision to grow the careers of Māori whānau in the health and disability and education sectors.

Connect 23 enabled Why Ora to connect with whānau and other organisations in South Taranaki.

**“I loved being able to get amongst it and kōrero with our community. It was a great opportunity to connect with our South Taranaki whānau, and hear from them what their aspirations are for the future, and what support is needed to help them achieve their dreams” Tanya, Pou Whakahaere, Why Ora**

# Mizziah Martin-Kemp

## Kaiārahi and Event Lead

Ki te taha o toku ūkaipō  
Ko te Waha o Te Riri te Maunga  
Ko Mangonui te Awa  
Ko Whitiara te Marae  
Ko Mataatua te Waka  
Ko Ngā Puhī te Iwi  
Ko Ngāti Rēhia te Hapū  
Ki te taha ure tārewa  
Ko Taranaki te Maunga  
Ko Waitara te Awa  
Ko Pukearuhe te Marae  
Ko Tokomaru te Waka  
Ko Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Mutunga,  
Ngāti Maru nga Iwi  
Ko Otaraua te Hapū  
E noho an au ki Paradise/Whaitara  
Ko Mizziah Tuauahiroa Martin-Kemp toku ingoa



*“I want to be someone I needed when I was younger, to be able to support all taurua Māori into their futures”*

I was born and bred in Whaitara where I attended Waitara East, Manukorihi and Waitara High School. Growing up my days were filled with backyard cricket with my cousins, attending kura and heaps of laughs. I am the oldest of 16 (9 girls and 7 boys), 11 here in Aotearoa with Mum, and 5 in Australia with Dad.

As a teenager I didn't know what I wanted to do, I had all these different ideas in my head, I wanted to become a professional cricket player, to travel the world, to be a Chef and work in hospitality. I loved working with people, so after leaving school I went onto a career working in Hotels, Kitchens, Backpackers and even a stint in Raglan at a Surf School! While working in these spaces I found a passion in hearing people's stories - as no one's story is ever the same as the last! I moved over to Australia to work on a resort island and loved every moment of it; the vibe, the people and the place was amazing! I came home before COVID hit and was lucky to be with whānau and friends during that weird time!

Once COVID slowed down I landed into a role in education working alongside taurua, Kaiako and executive staff of WITT. It was there I found my passion to help taurua succeed, seeing them enter the tertiary space thinking they couldn't do it, then 6 or 12 months later walking across the stage, their head held high, receiving their certificate/diploma. In the summer of 2022/23, I was a camp leader for Ngāti Maru, working with rangatahi Māori focusing on Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga and Marutanga.

Being Māori means I can understand the needs of my rangatahi, understanding that the classroom isn't always their best place of learning and that we have different stories/lives and we often don't all fit the mould of a Pākehā school system.

Growing up I genuinely didn't know who I was, it was hard, but all the obstacles moulded me into the man I am today. I found bits of myself in things like Kapa haka, cooking and performing. I've learnt not to rush anything; things will happen - when they are meant to happen just enjoy the rollercoaster that is life.

I'm looking forward to the day where all of my siblings are living their best lives and doing what they are passionate about. I say to them "Do it! But remember you don't have to go away to be able to study, you can study at home, earning and learning on the job is where a lot of people are heading these days. You have endless possibilities - you just have to be willing to go out and grab them, but you won't be alone, I've got your back all the way - until you don't need it."

I was one of the first students to be part of Why Ora. Now I want to be interviewing the taurua I've worked with so they can replace me and be the person for the next generation after them. I want to support this generation in any way I can and to help them realise they can do and become anything they want to. I want to be the someone I needed when I was younger, to be able to support all taurua Māori and help get them into futures that will benefit them in all aspects of life.

# 2023 GRADUATES

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR GRADUATING TAUIRA!

Zoe Honeyfield	Bachelor of Medicine	Otago University
Fiona Nicoll	Bachelor of Medicine	Otago University
Oliver McCullough	Bachelor of Medicine	Otago University
Gracyn Meredith	Bachelor of Nursing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Tamara Burke	Bachelor of Nursing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Tia Pauro	Bachelor of Nursing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Xavier Martin	Bachelor of Nursing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Emma Cummings	Bachelor of Nursing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Ashleigh Dobson	Bachelor of Nursing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Faryn George	Bachelor of Physiotherapy	Wintec
Nathan Harris	Bachelor of Information Technology	Yoobee College
Jett Hireme	Bachelor of Commerce	Victoria University
Ethan Langton	Bachelor of Engineering	Canterbury University
Taane Cameron	Certificate of Health & Wellbeing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Noah Campbell	Certificate of Health & Wellbeing	WITT - Te Pukenga
Manu Rakena	Certificate in Pre Trade Construction	WITT - Te Pukenga
Daniel McNeice	Certificate in Pre Trade Electrical	WITT - Te Pukenga
Jayda Seed	Certificate in Beautician	WITT - Te Pukenga
Te Keepa Kemp	Certificate in Study and Career Prep	WITT - Te Pukenga

*Ka mau te wehi*

Huge congratulations also to all of our wider Why Ora whānau who are graduating in 2023 or early 2024!

You have all put in so much mahi and all deserve to be acknowledged for your hard work.

We wish everyone the very best for your future career journey!

We look forward to hearing about your progress.

Get in touch with us in 2024 if you need any support or assistance



# 2023 - ITS A WRAP



# Holiday Season Office Hours

Meri Kirihimete ki a koutou ko te whānau!  
Ngā mihi o te wā me te tau hou

Our office closes from 4pm on 21 December so that our team can have a restorative break. We look forward to re-opening on 8 January 2024



*Meri Kirihimete*  
from the Why Ora Team

## Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou!

Thank you to everyone in our community who supported us - without your help we would not be here to support our whānau!



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