

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

# Greetings

from our Pou Whakahaere / Chief Executive

Kia ora koutou

Seasons Greetings everyone!

Raumati - Summer has arrived! Many of us are eagerly anticipating some time off in the upcoming months to reconnect with our extended whānau and friends. If possible, let's embrace the outdoors and enjoy more time in te taio, which is vital for our well-being!

As 2024 is coming to an end, it's great to reflect on the year. This has been quite a year for our communities. While there have been many challenges there have also been some very positive things happening, including expressions of community unity and diverse local actions to support the wellbeing of whānau, te tangata and te taio.

This year, as well as providing our Manaaki Oranga - one to one support to our whānau in schools, tertiary and employment, we have also presented a very full events programme - you can see some of the highlights in this issue.

We also share some of our recent whānau successes and intentions for 2025. We'd like to give a big mihi to all whānau who have completed studies in 2024 and acknowledge all your mahi and your persistence and determination getting this far! To those waiting for your results we wish you all the best!

For Why Ora 2025 will be another year of strengthening connections and the way we do our mahi. We plan to work together more closely with others to grow our Māori workforce where it is most needed. We will also be focusing on better understanding the impacts of our mahi, what works and what doesn't, and how we can improve it to better support our whānau.

We're very excited about what we can do together in 2025 to help our whānau to flourish!

Tanya Anaha, Pou Whakahaere



Tanya Anaha - Pou Whakahaere



# MANAAKITANGA

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

## ***Hayley Tewhata Pursuing a career in Speech and Language Therapy***

***In 2025 Hayley Tewhata is embarking on tertiary studies towards becoming a Speech Language Therapist – a much-needed occupation here in Aotearoa!***

***Hayley has completed her final year of secondary education at New Plymouth Girls High School.***

This year our Kaiārahi Liahna Smith has been supporting Hayley explore to health career possibilities. When Hayley identified an interest in Speech and Language Therapy, to enable her to gain a better understanding Liahna connected Hayley with Jemma Bridge, a Speech Language Therapist working with the Ministry of Education.



Photo: (L-R) Hayley and Jemma

Hayley gained an opportunity to kōrero with Jemma to find out more about the career, ask questions about what it involves and what to expect during study. This helped confirm her interest and Hayley has since applied to begin studies in Speech and Language Therapy/ Pathology at the University of Otago!

We are so excited for Hayley and her chosen career path – and what an important pathway it is! NZ needs more speech language therapists - they are in short supply – especially Māori therapists. A report released in 2024 by the Speech Language Therapists Association NZ identified that only 4% of Speech Language Therapists are Māori.

We would also like to express our appreciation of Jemma and all the professionals who give up their precious time and effort to inspire our taiohi. Such opportunities can be a pivotal in their journey and give our taiohi the affirmation they need to go forth.

You can find out more about this career and read Jemma's career story on our website **Speech Language Therapist - why ORA**

## ***Celebrating our taiohi success in Kura***

***One of the highlights for the team we look forward to every year is getting to celebrate all the efforts our taiohi and whānau have put into their education goals.***

We were honoured recently to attend graduations of our senior high school tauira and be able to celebrate their successes and accomplishments made throughout the year!

Graduations are a time of change for our whānau, but not the end of the story, just the closing of a chapter and the beginning of a new adventure - an adventure we hope to be a part of while our tauira navigate their individual hikoi!



Photo: Kaiārahi Mizsiah and Waitara High School taiohi



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## ***Chloe Wheatley – On a learning pathway to help heal our people***

***Chloe is a student at the Teen Parent Unit with a strong interest in hauora Māori.***

***Chloe first heard of Why Ora with when our Kaiārahi Jasmine visited the unit earlier this year. Since then, we have supported Chloe with information and opportunities including attending Rapuara Hauora, our health careers exposure initiative.***



Photo: (L-R) Honey Tumanako, Kaiārahi Jasmine and Chloe Wheatley

***“I first heard of Why Ora when Jasmine came into the kura in April this year. At the time I was working towards a Certificate in Health Care Assistance through Careerforce.***

***I was interested in support from Why Ora as I had an interest in Nursing and also Māori models of Health and Wellbeing, because my Koro said to me that it's important to heal our people. Why Ora has supported me from a Te Ao Māori perspective and has exposed me to a range of pathways in Health.***

***I enjoyed meeting Mihi (from Mihi's Place) and having a kōrero with her about Rongoā Māori. Going to Rapuara Hauora was a great opportunity to hear about Nursing as well. Since being at the TPU I have gained a range of qualifications and skills that have set myself and my son up for life.”*** Chloe

## ***Kōrero with Clinical Psychologist Dr. Jessica Gerbick***

***Recently two of our taiohi with an interest in psychology careers had an inspiring kōrero with Dr. Jessica Gerbick, a Clinical Psychologist from Tāmaki Makaurau.***

During the session Dr. Jessica shared insights into the various career pathways within Clinical Psychology, enabling our taiohi and Kaiārahi to ask questions and find out more about this important health career. Our Kaiārahi Jazz organised this awesome opportunity.

Kōrero participants discussed different psychology pathways and the integration of Te Ao Māori perspectives into Western medicine, to better support Māori communities.

Psychologists diagnose, treat, and work to prevent a range of psychological problems that affect people's behaviour, thoughts and emotions. If you would like to find out more about Psychology careers, including watching a video on a day in the life of a Clinical Psychologist follow this link [Psychologist](#)

Ngā mihi nui, Dr. Jessica, for your valuable contribution in helping our taiohi connect with and understand this profession!



Photo: Two Why Ora taiohi (Koen Wensor and Madison Hunt), Kaiārahi Jasmine and Rory and Dr. Jessica Gerbick

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**Well done to our Whānau on Nursing journeys this year!**

## Trinity Cuthburt - 1st year Nursing student at WITT

Our taiohi Trinity has always wanted to be a nurse and 2024 has seen her get closer to her goals! A former student of Te Pae Pae o Aotea, Trinity has recently completed her first year of studies at WITT. Open about the challenges she is excited for 2025!

*"I've always known I wanted to be a nurse and my first year of nursing studies has only solidified that more. I won't lie, this first year of study has been nerve wracking, stressful and exhausting. But at the same time, it has been exciting, transformative and rewarding."*

*Over the course of this year, I've been able to learn about the core principles of nursing, and even had the opportunity to go on clinical placement. As the year comes to an end, I feel so accomplished and am excited for my remaining years of study."* Trinity



## Nina Goble – 2nd year Nursing student at WITT

Nina Goble, a former student of Inglewood High School, has been supported by our Kaiārahi Liahna in 2024.

Nina explored health career options and possibilities and decided on a career of Nursing! Nina will be studying her third year Bachelor of Nursing at WITT in 2025.

*"I made the decision to study a Bachelor of Nursing at WITT Te Pūkenga. I have always been interested in health because it seems like a rewarding industry"* Nina



Photo: Nina and Kaiārahi Liahna

## Kelsey Roxburgh – 1st year Nursing student at WITT

Our taiohi Kelsey is an ex Pātea Area school student supported by Why Ora, who has also recently completed her first year of nursing study at WITT.

*"My first year studying a Bachelor of nursing at Witt has definitely been challenging but so rewarding, especially seeing the 3rd years last week at the farewell Hui. Super inspiring to think that'll be me in two years."*

*To anyone thinking about doing nursing at WITT, I would definitely 100% recommend."*

*Such an interesting and rewarding experience with amazing support. After just finishing my first clinical placement I know Nursing is definitely the career for me."*Kelsey



Photo: Kelsey Roxburgh

**We are excited for Trinity, Kelsey and Nina in their future studies and look forward to supporting them on their important chosen career path!**

If you are interested in learning more about Nursing see our Nursing Career Story here: [Registered Nurse - Tapuhi Whai Rēhitatanga - why ORA](#) To find out more about the Bachelor of Nursing at WITT in 2025 see: [Bachelor of Nursing | Level 7 WITT New Plymouth](#)



# 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!

## Hoki Mai Ki Why Ora, Positive outcomes on the pathway to employment



***Hoki Mai ki Why Ora is a programme we offer to our taiohi not in employment, education or training, leading towards positive outcomes on the pathway to employment. We hold regular wānanga to bring our taiohi enrolled together to manaaki them, help them build self-confidence and connections, to pursue their aspirations, help them to find their passions and make decisions for their future.***

In the last three months we have hosted three Hoki Mai Ki Why Ora wānanga in Pātea, Kōhanga Moa (Inglewood) and Whakaahurangi (Stratford). Whakawhanaungatanga, along with Taha Tinana were central themes. Taiohi have shared that our monthly wānanga have given them an opportunity to connect with others and step outside their comfort zones. As well as this, our guest speakers have inspired taiohi to think about their own potential through a Te Ao Māori lens.

A huge mihi to everyone who supported these events! Our Hoki Mai Ki Why Ora wānanga are also supported through He Poutama Rangatahi, a kaupapa of the Ministry of Social Development.



## ***Ara Taiohi (Bringing youth workers together)***

***Our Kaiārahi team are enthusiastic about connecting with and learning with others to better equip them in their roles working with youth. Recently our Kaiārahi Chelsea, Liahna and Jasmine attended "He Māori Ahau" wānanga ki Ōtautahi facilitated by Ara Taiohi.***



The purpose of the wānanga was for youth workers to come together, strengthen our connections through whakawhanaungatanga, and engage in meaningful kōrero about what it truly means to be Māori in our mahi. With a focus on creating a space with Te Ao Māori at the centre, where our voices were at the forefront, at the hui our team strategised about tangible takeaways that support our work and experiences.



This wānanga was hosted by Ara Taiohi, a roopū that bring together youth workers throughout Aotearoa, working collectively to champion and advocate on issues that affect young people, and those who work with them. They welcome and support those with a passion for youth development. Their membership base represents a diverse range of groups and practitioners that work with young people.



# 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!

## Our Whānau Career Story

### Shyla- Tāmara - Achieving goals for success in life

**Shyla-Tāmara registered with our Hoki Mai ki Why Ora programme in May this year and has been working towards her Manaaki Oranga (career) plan goals!**

These goals have included to growing confidence to make decisions about the future, and gaining independence through and working towards a driver's licence.

Shyla-Tāmara has been great to work with, showing such a strong commitment to our regular mentoring hui! Together we have developed a C.V, and worked on interview skills. Shyla-Tāmara has not only gained employment in the Hospitality industry but also developed skills to help set her up for success in life. Our team put alot of effort into Hoki Mai ki Why Ora understanding its value for our taiohi.

A big thanks to the support of He Poutama Rangatahi fund, through the Ministry of Social Development, for supporting Why Ora to provide the Hoki Mai ki Why Ora programme.



Photo: Hoki Mai Ki Why Ora taiohi and Kaimahi



# 2024 TERTIARY COMPLETION

Congratulations to our whānau completing studies this year!

## Education

Charlotte Hoeta	Educare Training	Certificate in Early Childhood
Jocasta Demetriou	The University of Waikato	Bachelor of Education
Maruata Ngarewa - Cribb	The University of Waikato	Bachelor of Education
Moniqua Demetriou	The University of Waikato	Bachelor of Teaching
Sapphire Barker Te-Tau	Educare Training	Certificate in Early Childhood
Tielah-jade Wipiti	Educare Training	Certificate in Early Childhood
William Polgrain	The University of Waikato	Bachelor of Education

## Health & Wellness

Adelaide Petrie	WITT	Certificate of Health & Wellbeing
Charlee Poingestre	Massey University (Palmerston North)	Bachelor of Nursing
Christian Elaise	University of Otago	Bachelor of Sports & Exercise
Emma Utiger	WITT - Health & Wellbeing Faculty	Bachelor of Nursing
Jacob Campbell	Victoria University	Bachelor of Health
Jasmin Tyler	Otago Polytechnic	Certificate - Level 3
Jorja O'Neill	SIT - Southern Institute of Technology	Certificate in Health Science
Joshua Vedder-Shute	WITT	Certificate of Health & Wellbeing
Kadin Webster	WITT	Certificate - Level 4
Kristina Broughton	Massey University (Palmerston North)	Bachelor of Health Science
Liam Matuku	University of Otago	Bachelor of Medicine
Natasha Nichol	WITT	Bachelor of Nursing
Roka Reni Osborne	Open Polytechnic	Bachelor of Social Work
Shechinah Kingi	University of Otago	Bachelor of Health Science
Stevie Broughton	University of Otago	Bachelor of Science
TePutu Paikea	University of Waikato	Bachelor of Nursing
Xarah Kempton	Victoria University	Bachelor of Arts in Psychology
Yasmine Katene	Wintec	Bachelor of Social Work

## Other

Amene-ia Jury	University of Canterbury	Bachelor of Science
Brooke Rutland	Massey University (Palmerston North)	Bachelor of Agriculture
Jack Luke	Victoria University	Bachelor of Business
Kahea Blain	Massey University (Palmerston North)	Bachelor of Design
Ryley Forde	Victoria University	Bachelor of History
Stacey Hayes	University of Waikato	Bachelor of Arts
Teremoana Porter - Rawiri	Victoria University	Master of Science
Tilya Fenton	WITT	Trades Academy

# 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 20 December so that our team can enjoy the festive season.  
We look forward to re-opening on 6 January 2025

# Meri



THE WHY ORA TEAM

# Kirihimete

## 2024 Funding partners and Supporters

Toi Foundation, Ministry of Social Development and Health New Zealand Te Whatu Ora  
Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou! Thank you to all our community and supporters - without your help we would not be here to support our whānau!

**Health New Zealand**  
Te Whatu Ora



Tanya Anaha  
Pou Whakahaere  
tanya@whyora.co.nz

Danae Etches  
Contractor/Adviser  
danae@whyora.co.nz

Olivia Ratana  
Office Manager  
olivia@whyora.co.nz

Mizsiah Martin-Kemp  
Kaiārahi & Event Lead  
mizsiah@whyora.co.nz

Rory Maxwell  
Kaiārahi  
rory@whyora.co.nz

Jasmine Jones  
Kaiārahi  
jasmine@whyora.co.nz

Liahna Smith  
Kaiārahi  
liahna@whyora.co.nz

Chelsea Crewe  
Kaiārahi  
chelsea@whyora.co.nz

Graham Jones  
Kaiārahi  
graham@whyora.co.nz

Codelia Parkes  
Administration Support  
cordelia@whyora.co.nz

Nina Lawrence  
Admin & Comms  
nina@whyora.co.nz

Don't forget your Kaiārahi is here if you require tautoko