

Maternity Commissioning Framework

Technical Advisory Group Appointment



Establishment of the Technical Advisory Group – Kahu Taurima

We are thrilled to announce the establishment of the Technical Advisory Group (TAG), a team of passionate experts and community representatives who will play a critical role in transforming maternity care across Aotearoa.

This group brings together a diverse range of skills, knowledge, and lived experiences, united by a shared commitment to improving outcomes for whānau. Together with the Health New Zealand Kahu Taurima team, their mahi will guide the development of the Maternity Commissioning Framework, a cornerstone of the Kahu Taurima programme, which aims to create maternity services that are equitable, accessible, and responsive to the needs of all communities.

The TAG's work is a vital step in addressing long-standing inequities in maternity care. Together, we will create a future where every whānau, regardless of where they live, can access high-quality, culturally safe care.

We are immensely grateful to all those who expressed interest in this kaupapa. The incredible response reflects the widespread desire for meaningful change and transformation in our maternity care system.

We are privileged to share the names of the members of the Technical Advisory Group as: Tamara Karu (co-chair), Dr Ed Hyde (co-chair), Alison Eddy, Dr Anna Hudspith, Dr Aria Graham, Bea Leatham, Professor Bev Lawton, Frankie Karetai Wood-Bodley, Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa, Kate Nicoll, Kelsey Mitchell, Lisa Kelly, Michelle Vincent, Rawa Karetai Wood-Bodley, Dr Rose Elder, Sarah Nicholson, and Tash Wharerau (refer below for individual bios).

Tamara Karu *(she / her / ia)*

Co-chair



Tamara Karu (Ngāti Tamaterā, Ngāti Tara o Hauraki) is a midwife dedicated to transforming the care of Ira hapū with results-based accountability. Tamara's career has been guided by a strong sense of identity and obligation to the whānau we serve. As a midwife, she is driven to dismantle systemic barriers hindering meaningful engagement and reasonable access to maternity service entitlements.

Currently, Tamara is the General Manager of Ngā Māia Trust, where she recently facilitated the re-development of the Tūranga Kaupapa, a now compulsory Midwifery education / professional development programme. This work exemplifies her commitment to enhancing professional care standards for all.

Tamara brings important skills and experiences to the TAG, including:

- **Professional Development:** Tamara has been instrumental in implementing cultural safety frameworks and competencies, aligning midwifery education and practice with Hauora Māori outcomes.
- **Leadership:** Tamara is creating pathways to increase Māori representation in the profession mentoring emerging leaders, ensuring a strong voice in midwifery's future.
- **Advocacy:** Tamara advocates and influences policy that monitors systems and service design, championing a whānau-centred care.

He whakatipuranga nō te aho matua Tamara brings a unique background to clinical expertise, leadership and education. Her appointment will ensure a Tiriti dynamic approach, driving initiatives that address equity and improve outcomes for all. Her vision is for a primary maternity system that is accountable, effectively integrated, and visible by design to the whānau we serve.

Dr Ed Hyde *(he / him / ia)*

Co-chair



Ed is a trauma informed obstetrics & gynaecology specialist with a passion for health equity and justice. He has particular passion for neurodiversity, rainbow, trans and abortion healthcare, as well as incorporating Te Tiriti o Waitangi into everyday clinical care. He is British by birth and a Kiwi by choice. He is from Devon, England and studied medicine at the University of Bristol. He has worked in 12 hospitals across Te Ika-a-Māui and Te Waipounamu, from Whangārei to Waihopai Invercargill, since emigrating to Aotearoa New Zealand in 2007.

Some of Ed's key contributions to the TAG include:

- Twenty years' experience as a doctor, 18 working in pregnancy care
- Extensive experience of working to improve integration of primary and secondary pregnancy care
- Passionate advocate for improving outcomes for communities that have been marginalised
- Involvement in advocacy and research in abortion and trans healthcare.
- Ko Ed tōku ingoa. Nō Ingarani England ōku tīpuna. Kei te noho au ki Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington. My name is Ed and I am an obstetrician & gynaecologist at Hutt Hospital, Te Awakairangi ki Tai Lower Hutt.

I am incredibly excited about the opportunity to work alongside Tamara to co-chair the Maternity Commissioning Framework TAG, building on the impressive work of Kahu Taurima. We have a collective opportunity to not just improve but to transform primary pregnancy care in Aotearoa New Zealand. We hope to make primary pregnancy care easier for pregnant people, their pēpi and their whānau to understand and navigate. Pregnancy care services in the widest sense need to be equitable and accessible for everyone. They also need to respectfully incorporate Te Tiriti o Waitangi. We hope to make a substantive and long-term improvement in pregnancy care commissioning for Aotearoa New Zealand.

Tē tōia, tē haumatia. Whiria te tangata. Nothing can be achieved without a plan and way of doing things. Weave the people together.

Alison Eddy



Alison graduated as a New Zealand educated midwife in 1996 and initially worked in Darwin and remote Aboriginal communities as a graduate and early career midwife before returning to Aotearoa to further her midwifery practice, policy, advocacy and leadership experience. Alison is employed as the Chief Executive of te Kāreti o nga Kaiwhakawhānau ki Aotearoa | the New Zealand College of Midwives. She is the current board member for the Western Pacific region of the International Confederation of Midwives (ICM) and has a Masters of Public Health (Distinction) from Otago University. She is a prior member of the Perinatal Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC) (including as Deputy chair) and numerous other governance and advisory committees in the maternity and wider health sector.

Alison brings extensive knowledge and understanding of evidence and policy and the ability to interpret and translate it into practical solutions. She has strong critical thinking skills, and a deep understanding of the New Zealand health system, from the micro to the macro.

She also brings leadership experience and capacity, extensive networks and collegial relationships both nationally and internationally. She is pragmatic, solution focused and concise, and holds a deep sense of justice and commitment to equity.

Alison holds a passionate belief in the potential that the midwifery model of care has to offer whānau when it is whānau led and grounded by the cultural, physiological, biological, psychological and social processes surrounding childbirth.

Dr Anna Hudspith



Dr Anna Hudspith is an Obstetrician/Gynaecologist at Hutt Valley Hospital. Part of this role is as the gynaecologist at a Marae-led Gynaecology clinic at Kokiri Marae, where she often sees wāhine who are unable to access the hospital and provides a lot of opportunistic gynaecology and pre-conception care. She also has a special interest in abortion care and is an advocate for education, equity, access and consumer rights in this space. She has been a member of Aotearoa New Zealand Abortion Providers Group (APGANZ) for over five years and now serves as the national secretary for this group, continuing to foster education and improvement in this essential and often neglected component of healthcare. She hopes to forge a part-time research career in abortion and sexual health, and is studying towards a Masters in Clinical Epidemiology (Sydney) to facilitate this.

Anna hopes that her contribution as a younger fellow who has trained in New Zealand (and used the maternity system) is awareness of the barriers inside the secondary care system, and to help improve and remove them. With her experience in Marae-based care and abortion services, she feels strongly about empowering wāhine to be aware of and able to engage in services available to them. She's passionate about education in this space and dispelling misinformation where it exists. Anna practices "lead by example" and always wants to do the best for the person in front of her – working around or changing barriers rather than being blocked by them.

Anna is married to Ezekiel, an environmental lawyer and they have two daughters and a fur baby. In her spare time Anna enjoys sewing, baking, handcrafts and, recently, camping with the kids.

We need to provide truly patient centred care, otherwise we are wasting our time.

Dr Aria Graham



Dr Aria Graham (Ngāti Kahungunu) is from Waipatu Marae in Te Matau-a-Māui Hawke's Bay. Aria is married to Dr James Graham (Ngāi Te Whatuiāpiti) they have two sons, Maika and Taamai and live in Te Aute Hawke's Bay. Aria became a Registered Nurse in 2000 and spent her formative practice years working for Māori providers. She is passionate about Māori child, maternal, whānau and community wellbeing.

Aria's professional background and key contributions include Well Child Tamariki Ora nursing, Gateway Health Assessment, and health, marae and iwi projects including Kōrero Mai Whānau. Her PhD called Tika Tonu – Young Māori Mothers' Wellbeing Surrounding the Birth of their First Tamaiti led to Aria developing a Māori child and wellbeing model called Mamia based on her PhD findings. Mamia was piloted through a prestigious HRC Erihapeti Rehu-Murchie Postdoctoral Fellowship which is now an established marae-based kaupapa that evolves as it responds to the hauora needs and aspirations of whānau Māori and alike.

Aria believes in the development and implementation of innovative, localised, inclusive and integrated te ao Māori hauora solutions that are tamariki and whānau focused, collaborative, and underpinned by tikanga and mātauranga Māori. She advocates for a well-supported and integrated hauora workforce premising mokopuna and maternities whereby kaupapa Māori research and methodology is a keystone to transformational shifts in how and what we do in Aotearoa New Zealand.

"I am motivated by wanting to contribute to better futures for tamariki Māori. From my nursing experience, I became increasingly aware and concerned that access to appropriate [health] care was slow to improve for Māori. Mokopuna and therefore maternities are at the heart of wellbeing for us all. I am grateful for this opportunity to mahi and contribute. I wish for all tamariki to be loved, nurtured and safe in thriving and well whānau".

Bea Leatham



Nei ahau he uri nā ngā kōpara a Rongomaitāpui.

Ko Whetūmatarau me Pukeamaru ngā maunga ki Hikurangi

Ko Awatere me Karakatuwhero ngā awa e rere atu ana ki te Waiapu

Ko Nukutaememeha me Nukutere ngā waka

Ko Hinerupe rāua ko Tamakoro ngā whare tīpuna o te whānau Ko Te Whānau-a-Hinerupe me Te Whānau-a-Te Aopare ōku hapū

Ko Ngāti Porou te iwi

Bea has been a practicing midwife since 2000. Throughout her career she has worked across the scope as both a core midwife, but predominantly as an LMC midwife. Currently, Bea serves whānau of Te Tairāwhiti as an LMC midwife and has the privilege of being the tangata whenua co-president for the New Zealand College of Midwives.

Bea's dedication to contributing to the wider sector of maternity particularly in the context of Māori health led her to postgraduate study. She successfully completed her Masters in Health Science [Māori Health], and is now a Doctorate of Health Science candidate. Additionally, she has been involved in numerous professional bodies; the New Zealand Midwifery Council, Nga Maia o Aotearoa, Maternal Morbidity Working Group and various other midwifery advisory collectives.

The leadership roles and practice experience has allowed her to develop crucial maternity networks. They have enhanced her skills in managing roles, responsibilities and dynamics amongst colleagues. The culmination of these experiences has grown her understanding of the midwifery workforce and its aspirations, particularly within the Māori maternity sector.

She has a deep understanding of the complex health challenges that whānau Māori encounter and the pivotal role of the midwifery profession (along with the broader health sectors) within this context. She recognises that it is crucial for whānau advancement, that the maternity sector is an environment that is Te Tiriti o Waitangi honouring.

Professor Bev Lawton



Professor Bev Lawton ONZM (Ngāti Porou), is an internationally recognised expert in women's health. Professor Lawton is the founder/director of Te Tātai Hauora o Hine (the National Centre for Women's Health Research Aotearoa) at the Victoria University of Wellington. Her influential research addresses health inequity by driving kaupapa Māori research innovation to transform health services, systems, and policies. With a focus on improving maternal health for wāhine Māori and pēpi, and the goal to eliminate cervical cancer, Professor Lawton leads research programmes which seek to address inequitable outcomes.

Present work includes principal investigator on a NZ Health Research Council programme and project looking at improving outcomes for pēpi and hapu māmā (Manaaki te iti Kahurangi) in partnership with Ngāti Toa. Her research on severe maternal morbidity (SMM) led to SMM reviews being established as part of the Health Quality & Safety Commission. She has previously been a member of the Perinatal Maternal Morbidity Review Committee and the National Maternal Monitoring Group.

Professor Lawton has been awarded the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists Māori Women's Health Award, the New Zealand Women of Influence Award (Innovation, Science & Health Award), and most recently the Health Research Council's Beaven Medal for excellence in translational health research and the Maarire Goodall Award for excellence in leadership and in advancing Māori health. She is co-chair of the international Alliance for Perinatal and Reproductive Justice. Professor Lawton was appointed an Officer of the NZ Order of Merit by the Queen in 2005.

Frankie Karetai Wood-Bodley



Frankie Karetai Wood-Bodley (they/them/ia) is Pākehā of South African descent based in Waitaha, Te Waipounamu. They identify as disabled (AuDHD and hard of hearing), non-binary and gay. Frankie is married, with one child, two dogs and two cats.

Frankie has worked in local and central government in a range of service delivery, operational and policy roles with a particular focus on identity, civil registration, midwifery and delivery of responsive maternity services and disability rights.

Frankie is a passionate advocate for LGBTQIA+ and disability rights in Aotearoa. They have led various high-profile projects focused on identity, midwifery, and maternity services, and disability inclusion.

Frankie holds a Masters of Law from Te Herenga Waka - Victoria University of Wellington. Their dissertation titled "Enabling Disabled People to Live Good Lives: Embedding supported decision-making into Aotearoa New Zealand's law" provides a model law to implement supported decision-making into New Zealand law. Frankie also holds a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Public Policy. They were admitted as a Barrister and Solicitor of the High Court of New Zealand in 2018.

Recognised for their advocacy, Frankie received the KiwiBank Local Hero medal in 2023 and the John Miller Award for advancing LGBTQIA+ and disabled people's inclusion. Frankie's lived experiences inform their commitment to equity and justice, making them a vital voice in human rights advocacy.

Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa



Henrietta Hunkin-Tagaloa is an inspiring leader committed to enhancing the health and well-being of Pacific communities through culturally informed methods. With over 20 years of experience in primary care, she has recently expanded her focus to community work as well.

As the Pacific Director of Tū Ora Compass Health PHO, Henrietta is dedicated to tackling health inequities, promoting culturally responsive care, and nurturing community resilience.

She has spearheaded community health promotion initiatives, including screening, immunisations, and general well-being, specifically targeting priority areas such as Porirua, Wairarapa, and South East Wellington, which have significant Pacific populations. During the COVID-19 pandemic, she collaborated closely with Pacific communities and leaders to devise and implement culturally appropriate health strategies, ensuring that Pacific people received the necessary care and support during challenging times.

Henrietta's personal journey as a mother of two (aged 7 years and 21 months) and her experience with maternity services in New Zealand shape her advocacy for equitable healthcare. Her understanding of the importance of culturally safe practices fuels her passion for enhancing maternity care and addressing broader health issues for Pacific families.

In addition to her contributions to the health sector, Henrietta harnesses the unifying power of music. Her innovative leadership includes singing and recording Pacific music, conducting language and music workshops, and engaging young people in creative endeavours. She effectively merges cultural preservation with community development, fostering both cultural pride and mental health awareness.

Henrietta's work embodies her holistic approach to community empowerment. Whether she is advocating for equitable healthcare systems, supporting communities in times of crisis, or inspiring others through music, her leadership continues to drive transformative change, creating healthier and more connected Pacific communities.

Kate Nicoll



Kate is a pākehā woman, born in Ōtautahi, where she continues to reside on the lands of Ngāi Tūāhuriri. Her ancestral links trace to County Kerry in Ireland, Staffordshire in England, and yet-to-be-discovered regions of Scotland. Kate is a māmā of a large whānau that she has had the honour to support to become wonderful young people. Kate is also the proud Kuia to nine mokopuna.

Kate has been a community-based midwife for over 20 years, initially focusing on whānau under 20 years old. Kate's experience spans local, regional, and national levels, where she has held representative roles and developed guidelines, projects, and services. Her previous roles as a regional NZCOM Chair, mentor, and midwifery standards reviewer have given her a deep understanding of midwifery practices and how to build trust that fosters a culture of continuous improvement.

As a midwife, Kate has developed a comprehensive understanding of the various factors impacting families, including housing stress, food insecurity, sexual health, mental health, and family violence. She has learnt that whanaungatanga is key and has built strong relationships across connected networks.

Kate is acutely aware of the challenges faced by the midwifery workforce, such as increasing demands, conflicting expectations, and inadequate staffing and how this can lead to unhealthy work environments that impact the care whānau receive.

As Tangata Tiriti, Kate is deeply committed to Cultural Safety. She views this as a lifelong commitment and learning journey that she actively shares with her pākehā colleagues.

Kate envisions a future where all mokopuna thrive, in an Aotearoa that fulfils the promise made by our ancestors, in 1840. She feels privileged to be part of this group looking to transform the experiences at the early stages of life and honouring the mana and continuity of whakapapa.

Kelsey Mitchell



Kelsey Mitchell is a qualified LMC (Lead Maternity Carer) midwife based in Whangarei, Aotearoa, with a deep passion for improving maternity services and supporting whānau. Having qualified as a midwife in September 2023, Kelsey spent a year working independently before joining with another Māori midwife to share a caseload.

As a mother of five, Kelsey brings both professional expertise and invaluable consumer experience to her practice. Growing up with her mother, a Māori midwife of 28 years, Kelsey witnessed firsthand the vital role midwives play in supporting whānau through pregnancy, birth, and beyond. This has inspired her

ongoing commitment to improving maternity care in her community.

Kelsey is dedicated to closing gaps within the maternity system and spearheaded a pilot programme designed to reshape access to maternity services for whānau. The programme was successful in securing funding and has already made a significant impact in improving service delivery within her community.

Passionate about the future of the midwifery workforce, Kelsey is committed to ensuring that midwifery remains a sustainable and viable career choice, particularly for Māori and Pacific midwives. She believes in creating pathways for succession planning, addressing financial, cultural, and social constraints to replenish the workforce and ensure future generations of midwives can continue to support whānau with care that is culturally relevant and accessible. Kelsey hopes to shift the way maternity care is accessed, ensuring that all whānau, regardless of their circumstances, can receive the care they need without compromise.

Lisa Kelly



Lisa Kelly, Nga Tai, is a homebirth midwife on the East Cape of the North Island providing full LMC services for her whānau, hapū and iwi for the last 20 years. A mother to four now adult tamariki and nanny to three mokopuna, Lisa enjoys a life off grid in the remote area of Tōrere, Ōpōtiki.

With a passion for reclaiming traditional birthing knowledge and sharing with whānau, Lisa has made a commitment to protecting mātauranga through the creation of kaupapa Māori antenatal education. Te Hā ora hapu wananga has been delivered to iwi across Aotearoa since 2007. A staunch advocate for whānau and normal birth, Lisa believes in the power of restoring our sacred practices to enable empowered whānau to live their best lives.

Currently Lisa is the Chairperson for Ngā Maia trust Māori midwives, kahu pōkai ō Aotearoa since 2020, a board member for the New Zealand College of Midwives, marae committee member, Ngai Tai iwi lead for Toi Rawhiti localities and board trustee for the Ngai Tai iwi authority. She has represented whānau and kahu pōkai on many advisory boards and working groups including ACC maternal birth injuries.

Her key contributions to this mahi will be the ability to speak for and on behalf of whānau Māori that live in our most remote parts of Aotearoa, whilst maintaining a midwifery lense.

“The whānau voice is an integral part to any maternity services framework, it informs where the greatest need lies. A Māori world view brings a rich understanding of a te ao Māori values systems and how these values can be applied to the framework.”

Working and living in a small rural community with a high Māori population, Lisa brings a unique perspective and a level of understanding that is empathetic and also proactive towards change. A leader in her field with the ability to connect people together.

“Only these communities know what they need and how to address the need in a way that is tūpuna led, rangatira driven and mokopuna focused.”

Michelle Vincent



Ko Mataatua te waka

Ko Mauao te maunga

Ko Te Awanui te awa

Ko Maungatapu te marae

Ko Ngāi te Rangi, Ngati Pukenga, Ngati Ranginui te iwi

Ko Michelle Vincent tōku ingoa

Michelle is first and foremost a māmā to four beautiful tamariki who are her greatest achievement – and who drive her passion for quality maternity care in Aotearoa. Her moemoeā is to see a maternity system that caters to their unique needs as Māori, as well as their unique needs as gender and neurodiverse people in this world.

Michelle is a Kahu Pōkai | Māori midwife with more than twenty years of clinical experience of both community and hospital setting practice. She is the regional co-chair for Ngā Maia Māori Midwives, and a passionate advocate for equitable outcomes for whānau Māori in their maternity journeys.

Michelle has worked as Director Hauora Māori and interim GM Māori Health for Capital Coast and Hutt Valley. With the health reforms she moved into a national role as Principal Advisor in the Kahu Taurima team for Te Aka Whai Ora. Currently, she is the National Workforce Lead Midwifery for Te Whatu Ora | Health NZ where her focus is on strengthening the pipeline and recruitment of midwives nationally. She has a particular passion for growing our Māori midwifery workforce and shifting system levers to enable this. Michelle is a current panel member of the Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal.

Rāwā Karetai Wood-Bodley



Kā Iwi: Waitaha, Kāti Māmoe, Kāi Tahu, Ngāti Maniapoto

Rāwā Karetai Wood-Bodley is a respected leader and advocate known for their intersectional work across Indigenous, Tāngata Whaikaha Māori | disability, and Tākatāpui | LGBTQIA+ human rights.

Rāwā has served as a representative to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on Human Rights for sexual orientation and gender identity issues, the bisexual representative on the ILGA World Board, and Co-Chair of the Christchurch Heroes Inclusive Sports Trust. They have also been a senior public servant at the Ministry of Health, Whaikaha | Ministry of Disabled People, and Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora. Rāwā has led significant initiatives such as New Zealand's Marriage Equality Campaign and the All-of-Government Disability Response to COVID-19.

In the perinatal and maternity care sectors, Rāwā has contributed to kaupapa Māori initiatives such as; Kahui – an online resource and in-person wānanga series, Whakaata Māori | Māori TV's Queer and Here, and a Kaiāwhina pilot project in Christchurch Hospital Women's Clinic.

Rāwā's work includes the restoration of Kāi Tahu customary birthing practices and Hapū Wānanga, blending Māori traditions with antenatal education. They have developed resources that provide cultural and emotional support for whānau experiencing miscarriage and stillbirth, drawing from their own experiences and knowledge.

Their passion is rooted in a commitment to whānau-centred, culturally respectful care. Through strategic leadership and advocacy, Rāwā amplifies the voices of Māori, disabled, and LGBTQIA+ communities within Aotearoa's healthcare system, bringing valuable governance and policy expertise.

Dr Rose Elder



Rose Elder is tangata Tiriti, and lives with her whānau in Te Whanganui-a-Tara, Wellington. Rose grew up in Dunedin and did her specialist training in Palmerston North, Auckland and overseas. She is based in Wellington as a clinically active obstetrician and gynaecologist, with a clinical leader role in obstetrics for Capital & Coast at Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand.

Rose has had several roles where she works collaboratively with whānau, healthcare professionals (including from the primary sector) and researchers. Currently she is co-chairing, with an LMC midwife, a national guideline update for gestational diabetes. She has been on the steering group for the Carosika Collaborative since its formation in 2020. This group works to improve preterm outcomes in Aotearoa through education and promotion, advocacy and community engagement, resources, research and audit.

Rose has been a member of the Perinatal and Maternal Mortality Review Committee (PMMRC) since 2015, and in recent years has been the Deputy Chair, and she was also the chair of the Maternal Mortality Review Working Group. The understanding of the importance of working together to provide optimal care to birthing people, and their whānau, is reflected within all of her work.

Sarah Nicholson



Sarah was born and raised in the Counties Manukau district and over the last 21 years has worked as a midwife serving this diverse and vibrant community. Much of her career has been clinically based practicing as an LMC midwife providing maternity care that is guided by specific whānau needs, during pregnancy, childbirth and the postnatal period.

In 2020 she moved into a professional leadership role and is currently employed as the Deputy Chief Midwife at Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau. A component of this role has included the implementation of the Care Capacity Demand Management (CCDM) program into hospital based maternity services. Sarah is a member of the national CCDM Maternity Advisory Group, supporting the monitoring of safe staffing for district employed maternity services. She has a key interest in how the midwifery workforce can support equitable access to maternity care in the community setting.

Sarah brings a blend of clinical insights spanning across community and hospital midwifery care and also experience working with innovation, strategic quality improvement and the operational implementation of systems and processes in healthcare.

Sarah is committed to working in partnership with tangata whenua to ensure the provision of culturally and clinically safe midwifery care. She is passionate about growing the midwifery workforce and is driven by an unwavering focus to work towards achieving equitable birthing outcomes. Sarah is a proud member of the rainbow community; she lives with her wife and two children in rural Tuakau.

Tash Wharerau



Te Mahurehure, Ngati Porou.

Tash Wharerau is deeply committed to representing whānau and pēpi in all aspects of hauora Māori with a focus on tūpuna learnings and mātauranga Māori. Her extensive experience covers Breastfeeding Advocacy, Whānau Advocacy, and Kaikorero of Ngā Wananga o Hine Kōpu, meeting and hearing whānau voice with the opportunity to take their words further onto a national scale.

Tash's current roles as Kaitiaki Wahine Ora and Kaiarahi Kahu Taurima highlight her dedication to stepping up poutama with hānau to achieve oranga however that looks for them. Having experienced the ups and downs of whānau life coupled with being in the health system Tash quickly learned whānau

have their own solutions, and it is up to us to hear them and do something about it.

Tash enjoys the opportunity to represent whānau on many national maternity governance forums as well as Maternal Fetal Medicine and the Infant and Young Child Feeding Committee and has a passion to support Rainbow and Takatāpui Whānau in their parenting journey.

He oranga ngakau, he pikinga wairua.



Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

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Te Whatu Ora