

# **Ngāti Kahungunu Ki Te Wairoa Report 2019 for the Nga Maia Trustee Annual Hui Submission by Janie Thomas and Tungane Kani**

*Ko Takitimu te Waka tipua  
Ko Whakapunake te Whakaruruhau  
Te Wairoa Hopupu Honengenenge Matangi Rau te Awa  
Ngati Kahungunu ki te Wairoa te Iwi  
Tihei Mauri Ora*

The following report reviews events and some of the projects that have strengthened the Midwifery Team and the services to the whanau of Wairoa. The report is also an opportunity to bring into focus the challenges of working in a rural remote community. At this time there are three Maori midwives in Te Wairoa, Tungane Kani, Janie Thomas and Virginia 'Ginny' Mikara.

## **He Korowai Manaaki Research Project (HKM) Victoria University**

The past year has been positive and rewarding with initiatives to support equitable health and social outcomes for whanau in Te Wairoa. HKM has formed a partnership with the midwifery team to identify gaps in maternity service pathways that cause barriers to access contributing to adverse outcomes for whanau. For example currently there are no ultrasound services in Wairoa for hapu Mama and the research group were able to advocate at ministerial level to bring attention to this resulting in a plan to have a service in place later this year. In the meantime the DHB now provide funds for petrol vouchers to support Mama to attend scans. Whilst research can be negative and have a detrimental effect on the midwifery professional this group of researchers have shone a light and exposed areas of inequity ingrained within the maternity service.

## **Nga Manukura O Apopo**

Both Tungane and I had the opportunity to attend the training in fact it was our manager Sonya Smith who lead us down this path. Meeting with other Māori midwives and nurses was therapeutic and as a bonus we were exposed to great Māori leaders. If you have the opportunity go do it. The training allows you to challenge yourself out of your comfort zone to be stretched and to excel.

## **Issues for Rural Women**

Wahine Maori o Te Wairoa requiring extra surveillance still experience institutional racism within the Hastings maternity services. Mama discharge themselves earlier because of the uncaring behaviour of health professionals. Narrative from Mama include " I think they thought because I was from Wairoa I must do drugs", "they didn't tell me.. what is jaundice",  
"I came home because they just kept on doing things to me".  
The current system is not working for some of our Wairoa whanau with an absence of the core DHB values demonstrated.

### **Whanake Te Kura – Kaupapa Maori Birthing Wananga**

Contract for delivery of birthing wananga has been allocated to Kahungunu Executive, and are being facilitated by Ginny Mikara along with Mama and Pepi kaiawhina Shinelle Thompson.

The local response to Whanake Te Kura has been very positive, uptake and engagement by whanau Maori markedly increased.

### **Turanga Kaupapa Study Day Te Wairoa, February 2019**

Facilitated by Nga Maia endorsed manukura, Shannon Bradshaw. The day was well attended by Maori midwives within the wider Kahungunu rohe. We are encouraged that the Hawkes Bay DHB is prioritising the Turanga Kaupapa training for employed midwives. We hope that other DHBs will soon follow suit. Having a facilitator who is connected by whakapapa to the rohe, makes a big definitive difference – with her knowledge of local history, and local issues.

We congratulate Nga Maia on this initiative, and look forward to news of how Turanga Kaupapa is progressing around the motu with the other NM endorsed facilitators.

### **Succession planning for Maori Midwives**

Last year we had 2 Maori midwifery students in their 3rd year of training come to Wairoa for their rural placements. Anahera King for Otago Polytechnic, and Charlene Eparaima. Both settled into their placements smooth as silk, both whakapapa to hapu o Te Wairoa. He mihi kauanuanu ki te tokorua nei. Ko te wawata, a tona waa ka nuku mai, ka hoki mai ki te haukainga.

### **Strategic Direction of Nga Maia**

Tungane and Janie were able to attend the Hui a Tau in Maraenui.

We were impressed and inspired by the positive innovative kaupapa that were presented.

***Going forward we would request an update from Kerri Nuku's recommendations at the Hui a Tau regarding strengthening of the mission statement/philosophy and strategic direction of Nga Maia, and her offer of assistance to this end.***

***Heoi ano, ka mutu nga korero ki konei.***

***Noho ora mai i roto i nga manaakitanga o te runga rawa.***

**Tungane Kani and Janie Thomas**