

Fwd: Hauora Taiwhenua Newsletter February 2023

From: Michelle Te Kira | PMAANZ Chair chair@pmaanz.org.nz

To: Carole Unkovich | PMAANZ Admin admin@pmaanz.org.nz

Date: Fri, 24 Feb 2023, 9:19 PM

Michelle Te Kira

Chair PMAANZ

From: Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network <communications@htrhn.org.nz>

Sent: Friday, February 24, 2023 4:32 PM

To: Michelle Te Kira | PMAANZ Chair <chair@pmaanz.org.nz>

Subject: Hauora Taiwhenua Newsletter February 2023



**Hauora
Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network

NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2023

Cyclone Gabrielle Response

Follow the links below for our updated information regarding Cyclone Response/Recovery.

EAP Services now available for Members

Primary Care Community - Key Info

Cyclone Gabrielle - Helpful Tips

Cyclone Gabrielle Impact Survey

Welcome from Grant Davidson, Chief Executive



Kia ora tatou

I am sitting writing the introduction to this newsletter, still not quite able to grasp the magnitude of the devastation wrought by Cyclone Gabrielle around the country. As another weather system approaches the East Coast, it must be heart-dropping to wonder how a normal life can be contemplated as there is no opportunity to even continue with cleaning up the existing chaos.

I know that there has been significant impact in Northland and the West Coast of Auckland down into Taranaki and Waikato, but the most significant impact has been in Tairāwhiti, Hawkes Bay and the Coromandel. Once communication had been restored, I contacted each practice and managed to talk to the practice manager or doctor at those practices. It was amazing to hear how each practice had managed to deal with lack of power, connectivity, roading and core outside services, but still managed to deliver vital health services to their communities. It really showed a positive and can-do attitude. Many were still having to manually enter patient consultations into their PMS systems once power and internet were reconnected, while dealing with their business-as-usual consults.

I heard stories of rural patients having to negotiate slips on foot and borrowed transport to pick up key medications. Others using boaties to drop off prescriptions to whānau isolated by road closures. Practices taking community members into their facilities and personal homes when those people had lost their own homes. Those examples of giving, caring and social cohesion in times of need are what make our rural communities so rewarding to deal with.

The rural communities, practices and hospitals most impacted still are those on the East Cape. The rural

hospitals and satellite practices around Te Puia Springs and Wairoa are still under pressure from roading, electricity and staffing issues. We have worked closely with Te Whatu Ora to be able to provide locum support to these areas for the next six weeks. Funding of this is being supported centrally. We have help from our colleagues at RNZCGP, GPNZ, PMAANZ and others to locate GPs and nurses willing to help.

However, there are going to be long-term impacts of these events. Roothing will take long periods to re-establish (months and years). This will impact patient transport, access to health care (primary and secondary), cost of services. The losses to people's property and livelihoods will have long-term effects on mental health and family/whānau stress. You will all be experiencing these impacts and will see them escalate.

I know this sounds trite from a distance – but we are here to help in whatever way we can. If you have particular needs, then we will make sure that decision-makers in Wellington understand those needs and are triggered into action. If you want to talk about anything in particular or are concerned about anything, please give us a ring.

There will be a lot that we can all learn from this event in terms of disaster planning, connectivity options and networks that provide strength. We will look at finding and distributing those case studies that will build on that learning when things settle down.

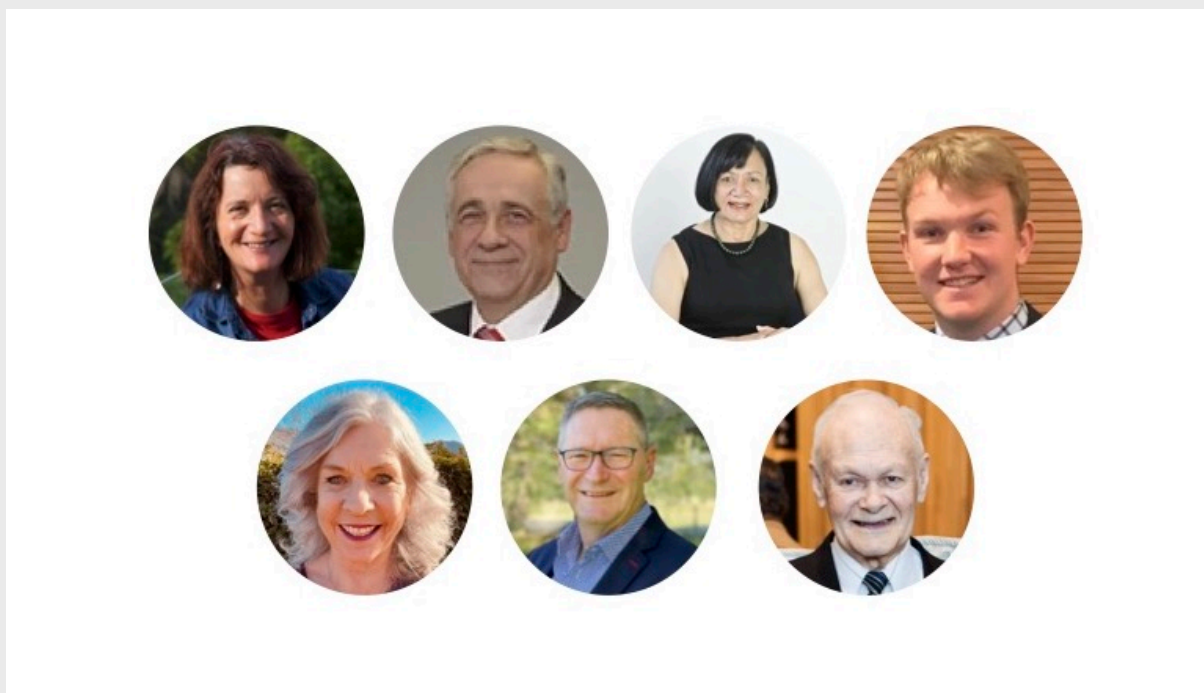
However, now is the time to get through the next stage, keeping your whānau, staff and communities functioning. The Board, Council and staff of Hauora Taiwhenua pass on our thoughts, energy and aroha to you all at this time.

Mauri ora,

Dr Grant Davidson

Chief Executive

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network



Governance

Update on the Board Elections

The inaugural Annual General Meeting of Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network was held virtually on 31 January. The only business carried out at the meeting was the election of the Board and Chair. This was because the AGM was in relation to the 2021/22 financial year, in which HTRHN was in a transition phase from NZRGPN and conducted no business other than the transfer of assets from merging organisations.

We congratulate the following Board members who were all re-elected to the Board:

Fiona Bolden, Chair

Ray Anton

Mark Eager

Debi Lawri

Wilson Mitchell

We also congratulate Rhoena Davis and Bill Nathan, both of whom were reappointed to the Board by Te Rōpū Ārahi.



Update: Planning the Future of Rural Health He Waka Eke Noa

We are writing to remind you on behalf of your chapter of our strategic planning day: *Planning the Future of Rural Health | He Waka Eke Noa*, that we are holding in Wellington on **Tuesday 28th March 2023**.

We have a full programme organised for the day that we are sure you will find both stimulating and enjoyable. We are also extremely lucky to have secured Chris Mules as our facilitator for the afternoon. Read below about his background in the New Zealand health system.

To ensure as many of our members as possible can be involved, we will have numerous ways you can participate:

- Video conferencing will be available for some sessions.
- We will ask all our members to do some pre-workshop thinking, either individually, or from Chapters to discuss the issues and ideas that come from within, particularly for those who are unable to attend either in person or virtually.

We have had amazing support from Valentia Technologies (suppliers of Indici) whose generous sponsorship of this event has enabled us to keep our registration fee to **just \$100 plus GST** for those attending in person.

[Click here](#) to view the full agenda and further information on the day and its events.

We look forward to welcoming you to Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network's **Planning the Future of Rural Health | He Waka Eke Noa**.



Our Facilitator: Chris is a highly experienced leader in the New Zealand health system, serving in a range of senior roles in the public health system, including National Director - Health Services Planning for the Ministry of Health; Chief Planning & Funding Officer for Counties Manukau DHB; and Chief Executive of Midland Regional Health Authority. He also has worked in the private health sector, in medical communications and publishing, and over the past decade, Chris has undertaken a wide range of consulting assignments in New Zealand and Australia. In 2014 Chris was made a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to health care.

[Register Now](#)

[Advocacy](#)

Open Letter to Minister Little: Rural General Practices and Hospitals Response to Government Pay Parity Decisions

December 2022

Dear Minister Little

Over 50% of rural general practices responded to Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network's survey asking them about the impact of government's decision to deny pay parity for primary care nurses. Respondents overwhelmingly expressed frustration at this decision as this issue underpins significant risks to their ability to sustain effective rural health services.

86% of respondents advised their nurses are paid at rates below the DHB MECA.

29% of respondents said they pay above the Primary Health Care MECA rates but below the DHB MECA rates and do so by economising on service provision including pay rates for other staff. This approach is unsustainable and undoubtedly exacerbates the likely financial deficits primary care businesses are incurring at the current primary care funding rates referred to in Sapere's 'A Future Capitation Funding Approach'.

A concerning 9% of respondents (presumably those whose nurses are on Individual Employment Agreements) told us they pay less than the Primary Health Care MECA.

Not surprisingly, 61% of respondents said they currently have a nursing vacancy. Of these, 28% said that in fact, they have multiple nursing vacancies. While pay rates will not entirely account for these gaps in nursing staff, nurses observing the significant inequities across primary care and other health settings, are increasingly attracted to those for their employment.

"I realised that I would be paid more by working for Te Whatu Ora as a District Nurse, than

if I continued working in our rural general practice. I changed my job and still get to live and work in my rural community, have a lot more money to spend."

A resounding 89% of rural practices indicated that a lack of pay parity will adversely impact their ability to recruit and retain nurses, with NGO rural hospitals endorsing this.

Arguably, at a far greater level than urban services, the viability of rural primary and community care services is reliant on a highly trained and well-resourced nursing workforce. An increased understanding of the complex role of rural nurses working in rural general practice and rural hospitals supports the escalating case for the development of the rural generalist nursing model.

"Nurse led clinics are vital to the health and wellbeing of many rural and remote communities where many underserved Māori and other high needs populations call home.

Ngati Porou Hauora nurse led clinics provide essential health care for whānau living in remote and isolated communities of the East Coast.

By working at top-of-scope as rural generalist nurses, the team is able to mitigate the impact of shortages in the rural general practitioner workforce and take health services out to the communities where they are needed most."

The higher levels of developing and maintaining the skills required to work in rural settings across primary and urgent care, and PRIME services, are not reflected in current rates of pay.

The relentless demands of afterhours and PRIME rosters that rural health services are unable to pay a realistic rate of remuneration for, further erode the true hourly rate of pay for Rural General Practice nurses.

Government has committed to programmes that enable internationally trained nurses to move to NZ for work. At the same time, Te Whatu Ora and Te Akai Whai Ora workforce initiatives are investing in developing the nursing workforce. The benefits of such programmes will be short lived without an equal focus on caring for, and sustaining our current, highly trained, and critical rural primary care nursing workforce, by ensuring that they are paid at the same rate as a nurse employed by Te Whatu Ora.

It is accepted that the private business model, that dominates the rural primary care sector, makes it more difficult for the Government to have easily available data about nursing pay levels and the impact of parity on the rural health sector. Sapere's 'A Future Capitation Funding Approach' certainly indicates that there is a significant gap between the cost of providing primary care services rurally, and the available funding.

The impact of Government's decision to not extend pay parity to primary care nurses is not based on comprehensive data. An NZNO telephone survey to 98 respondents is insufficient evidence upon which to base multimillion dollar decisions. Our own survey indicates a frustrated workforce that feels undervalued and poorly understood.

Before any further decisions about tranches two and three of nurse pay parity are made, the Government must gather solid evidence on the reality of the pay rates for primary care nurses, while also understanding the unique and specialised nature of rural generalist nursing.

We propose that Government urgently invest in a comprehensive analysis of this, so that all parties can have confidence in the decisions being made in relation to pay parity for rural nursing services.

I look forward to an opportunity to discuss this with you in the New Year.

Yours sincerely

Dr Fiona Bolden

Chair

Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Network



Rural Health Careers

Rural Health Careers Promotion Programme Update

Inspiring our future generation of rural health professionals.

The new year brings about opportunity for Hauora Taiwhenua with the confirmation of the rural school visits first tours of 2023.

From May 8th to May 12th, the primary initiative of the Rural Health Careers Promotion Programme is set to embark throughout both the West Coast and the Coromandel regions as a vital part of Hauora Taiwhenua's efforts to address the workforce shortage crisis faced within the rural health sector.

The past few years have shown the success of this programme, with the popular initiative receiving exceedingly positive feedback from its network of rural schools and tertiary health students.

Lalit Raikwar, a 5th Year Medicine student at Otago University and Thames High School graduate who volunteered for the 2022 Coromandel region trip said...

"It was a huge privilege to have the opportunity to return to the rural schools I attended and to give back to the communities that helped shape who I am today... Above all, there was a feeling of

Aroha as you were immersed into each rural community.”

Hauora Taiwhenua anticipates that 2023 will be no different, with the year ahead offering the exciting prospect of developing the programme to continue engaging and inspiring rural rangatahi to consider health as a positive and viable career pathway for themselves, no matter where they live.

For information on the Rural Health Careers Promotion Programme, how to get involved or if you would like the programme to come to your area please contact:

Samantha Hill

Rural Health Careers Coordinator

Email: samantha.hill@htrhn.org.nz

Phone: 022 374 7706



NZLocums

HTRHN NZLocums Orientation

Getting the best introduction to New Zealand’s health system

Held monthly in our Wellington Office, and virtually, our orientation course is the first step into the New Zealand health system for international doctors.

We are keeping the ball rolling with another orientation this year with a mix of both in-person and virtual GPs attending.

Successfully putting another four General Practitioners across New Zealand from our February orientation, our GPs have had a change of scenery from places such as Belgium, the US, Spain and the Caribbean now to Porirua, Waihi, Hastings and Balclutha!

Our three-day course introduces them and future GPs to New Zealand's health system while also covering ACC, Work and Income, Pharmac, MedTech 32 training and sessions on Māori history and health.

Orientation is also a great networking opportunity for newly arrived international doctors to meet and share experiences.

NZLocums' Orientation course is tailor-made for internationally trained GPs and Practice Nurses. The course is endorsed by the Royal New Zealand College of GPs for up to 17.5 credits CME.

Pictured (From Left to Right): Pieter Snoeck, Idoia Alvarez-Reyes, Kyle Voget, Nicole Bilton-Evertsz

Contact information, email: orientation@nzlocums.com or visit <https://htrhn.org.nz/recruitment/orientation>



Introducing Ella St John, a Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Rural Health Scholarship Winner

“Living in an environment where our postcode can influence the chances of access to high quality health services motivates me to challenge this barrier.”

Our Queenstown based winner, Ella St John, is pursuing a Bachelor of Nursing at Otago Polytechnic and applied for the scholarship to help her transition to study on the Dunedin Campus away from her home and family.

Ella is inspired to reduce the rural healthcare worker shortage and to support a range of rural communities, including her own, both as a student and graduate. She is excited at the opportunity to work on the Mobile Health Bus, as “health and wellbeing of individuals has always sparked my interest and I always knew this was my future pathway”.

Ella graduated from Wakatipu High School, where teachers praised her passion for nursing noting that she worked at Southern Cross Central Lakes Hospital to gain valuable experience, “Genuine, selfless and caring. Her desire to enter nursing says it all! Ella’s personal and character qualities

reflect someone who is ethically and morally grounded.” states Linda Richard, Head of Careers.

To read more about the Mobile Health | Hauora Taiwhenua Scholarship: <https://htrhn.org.nz/news-media/mobile-health-hauora-taiwhenua-rural-new-zealand-health-scholarships/>

News

COVID-19 Response Recognition Awards

Have you heard? Nominations are now being accepted for the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award.

Registrations are now open, and the awards will be distributed from March 2023.

The Government has established the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award to recognise individuals and organisations who contributed to New Zealand’s COVID-19 response. There are two types of awards: Individual and Organisation.

If you were part of the frontline Health and Disability workforce check whether you meet the award criteria below and register through the link.

Register for the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award at <https://lnkd.in/dhuCXPhQ>

All eligible people need to register by 3 March 2023.

If you have any questions, please email the COVID-19 Response Recognition Award Team at C19RecognitionAwards@health.govt.nz

COVID-19

COVID-19 Health Key Messages

In the latest COVID-19 health key messages newsletter from Manatū Hauora and Te Whatu Ora you can find updates about:

- Current COVID-19 case data
- Weekly COVID-19 Trends and Insights report
- COVID-19 antiviral medicines – resources for healthcare providers
- COVID-19 Testing Plan update
- COVID-19 antiviral medicines - new resources
- Mpox update for clinicians
- Safe-as summer checklist and content

[Read More](#)

Funding Available for Research Benefiting General Practice

The Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners is welcoming applications from anyone who is undertaking research in this field for its first funding round of 2023. Grants are typically in the range of \$5000 - \$20,000 for individual applications, although up to \$40,000 can be awarded.

The College's Research and Education Committee (REC) provides financial support to those conducting research or education projects, and is looking for applications that reflect the five key areas of the College's Statement of Strategic Intent (Te Rautaki):

- Supporting our members
- Becoming a contemporary and sustainable organisation
- Improving health equity in New Zealand
- Education excellence
- Quality general practices.

Applications close on Wednesday, 15 March 2023, and will be considered by the College's Research and Education Committee (REC) with by Wednesday, 3rd May 2023, applicants will be notified of the outcome.

More information, including guidelines, an application form, and contact information for questions can be found online at <https://www.rnzcgp.org.nz/our-voice/fund-your-research/>

Skin Cancer Symposiums Holding Two Courses for Rural GPs

Skin Cancer Symposiums are delighted to invite Rural GPs to the upcoming Certificate of Fundamental Dermatoscopy and Certificate of Surgical and Medical Management of Skin Cancer held at the state-of-the-art Whenua Pupuke Clinical Centre at North Shore Hospital, Auckland on 11th / 12th March 2023.

Venue: Whenua Pupuke Clinical Skills Centre, North Shore Hospital, Auckland

Time: 08:15 – 5:00 pm

Date: 11th March & 12th March 2023

The courses have been accredited by the Royal NZ College of GPs, with the Certificate of Fundamental Dermatoscopy designed to introduce the skill of dermatoscopy to beginners and upskill intermediates, with the content tailored to your group's needs from basic to advanced skills.

A free take-home surgical training kit will be provided to all participants (valued at over \$300), and all participants of the dermatoscopy course will receive a complimentary MoleScope II Dermatoscope (worth \$445).

Delegates can enrol for either or both days, with early bird pricing applied as follows:

The Dermatoscopy early bird fees are GPs \$995 + GST Registrars/Nurses \$895 + GST.

The Surgical fees are: GPs \$995 + GST Registrars/Nurses \$895 + GST.

Both courses GPs \$1790 + GST Registrars/Nurses \$1690 + GST.

To register please go to our website at <https://www.skincancersymposiums.com> for further information.

HEALTHY RURAL COMMUNITIES

Reconnecting Rural Kanohi ki te kanohi



**Hauora
Taiwhenua**
Rural Health
Network



**NZLocums
& NZMedJobs**



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