

Hi Alumni!

Having a workforce that reflects the community is an important aspect of providing good health care. Currently the population of MidCentral District Health Board (MDHB) is approx 17 % Maori. However Maori are under-represented in our workforce comprising just over 6% of our total health workforce. The good news is that numbers are rising and Maori are well represented in nursing/midwifery, allied health and management/administration professional groups.

As one way of promoting health as a career to Maori students and health professionals, MDHB participates in Kia Ora Hauora a national initiative to increase the number of Maori working in the health and disability sector. This initiative helps students know what type of careers are available and what they need to achieve to work in that career.

The Kia Ora Hauora initiative is proving to be successful at guiding Maori youth through their studies in health and into the workforce in the MidCentral District.

MDHB now have two staff members that have come through the Kia Ora Hauora programme, Siobhan Hennessy working in Child and Adolescent Mental Health, and Keita-Alix Harris who is in the Cardiology unit. Both Siobhan and Keita-Alix feel that Kia Ora Hauora has helped them get into their current roles at MDHB, and recommend that any Rangatahi (youth) who may be interested in a career in health should use Kia Ora Hauora to help guide and develop them as they go toward tertiary study.

MDHB's Director of Maori Health and disability, Stephanie Turner says, "The Kia Ora Hauora programme is beneficial for students by providing guidance through the process of undertaking study and eventually gaining employment within the health sector. We are proud to see the success of Kia Ora Hauora with Siobhan and Keita-Alix joining our staff, it's exactly what we want to see this programme achieve."

Last year the MDHB Kia Ora Hauora champion Hohepa Stablein created a site on the MidCentral District

MidCentral DHB Welcomes New CEO

Kathryn Cook, Chief Executive Officer



Kathryn returned home to New Zealand from Australia in early May 2015 to lead the MidCentral District Health Board.

Originally qualifying as a General and Obstetrics Nurse in New Zealand, Kathryn has gained an extensive background in health, both here and in Australia. Prior to joining MDHB she was a Partner within KPMG Australia's Health, Ageing and Human Services practice, where she was lead partner of the Victorian practice. Prior to joining KPMG, Kathryn was CEO of Western Health, located in Melbourne, which delivered health services through four acute hospitals and provided a range of community services to a diverse and growing population that included two of Australia's fastest growing communities.

Kathryn has also held a range of policy and leadership positions in the Western Australian and Victorian Departments of Health, and the New Zealand Ministry of Health prior to moving to Australia.

MidCentral DHB News and Events:

- [Refurbishment of equipment benefits people with disabilities](#)
- [Turboman to stride out 5ks for kids](#)
- [MidCentral general practices more productive](#)

Featured Vacancy:

Qualified Anaesthetic Technician/s (VID: 3061)

Palmerston North Hospital is offering an employment opportunity for a qualified anaesthetic technician/ODPs to join the team. This is a full time position working rostered shifts including night and weekend work and an on-call service.

Qualified Anaesthetic Technicians are required to be

Health Board website that contains information for the local Maori youth to help them see what career paths they may want to go down. Part of Hohepa's vision is to also have videos of staff that can encourage and inspire youth, and these will be available shortly. Since leaving high school, Hohepa has gone on to study Health Science to begin his journey to becoming a doctor. The Rangitahi Hauora page can be found at <http://bit.ly/1CqITiL>

This year's champion Kararaina Te Puni, a student from Palmerston North Girl's High School, is developing a database to capture all of MidCentral DHB's Kia Ora Hauora registered Rangatahi.

46% more operations for MidCentral patients

Health Minister Jonathan Coleman says more patients in MidCentral DHB are receiving the elective surgeries they need compared to seven years ago.

"Delivering more elective surgeries has been a priority for this Government," says Dr Coleman.

"In the last financial year 6,985 MidCentral patients received elective surgery, compared to 4,782 in 2007/2008. That's a 46 percent increase.

"These improvements are a credit to the hard working health professionals in MidCentral."

MidCentral DHB's funding has increased by \$98 million over the last seven years, including \$9 million in new money for this year, taking it to a total of \$559 million for 2015/16.

That funding increase is supported from the \$400 million invested into health this year in Budget 2015.

"We have committed to investing around \$1.7 billion in health over the next four years for new initiatives and to meet cost pressures and population growth," says Dr Coleman.

"This includes \$98 million to provide more New Zealanders with timely elective surgery, and to improve the prevention and treatment of orthopaedic conditions.

"This Government inherited a wasteful and inefficient system which did not deliver what New Zealanders required.

"In contrast, we have set clear health targets and lifted elective surgeries nationwide by 42 percent, from 117,954 in 2007/2008, to 167,188 in 2014/2015."

registered and have a current APC with the Medical Sciences Council.

For more information about anaesthetic technicians visit www.nzats.co.nz

For further information regarding this position please contact Karen Bennett, Head Anaesthetic Technician on phone + 64 6 350-8500 or email:

Karen.bennett@midcentraldhb.govt.nz

Where are they now? (Introducing a new feature about our Alumni)

Anthea McKay:

I have been retired from nursing for 2 1/2 years. I have been doing my bit for conservation, growing swan plants for Monarch Butterflies. This is my third season tending to wandering caterpillars, ensuring they have enough to eat and rescuing cocoons that have dropped to the ground. It has been quite a challenge. Year 1 I had over 309 butterflies released, year 2 was not so good only 110 butterflies and this year so far 200 with still more caterpillars to pupate. When I am not busy with the butterflies I write stories about my experiences with my Siamese cats and family matters that I find interesting and humorous to me. In the late afternoon I like to relax and listen to my favourite pieces of music and of course I enjoy shopping. I am enjoying a very relaxed and fruitful retirement.

Tell us what you are up to now – we would love to hear where you are and what you are doing now – email alumni@midcentraldhb.govt.nz

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