



National Hauora Coalition

*He aha te mea nui o te ao maku e ki
He tangata he tangata he tangata”
What is the greatest thing in the world?
It is people it is people, it is people, it is people*

Media Release

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National Hauora Coalition Goes Truly National

In a New Zealand first, the National Hauora Coalition (NHC) has gained the first national Primary Health Organisation (PHO) agreement. The coalition will integrate 6 PHOs representing 65 medical practices and from 5 DHBs into one PHO. The practices come from DHBs in Auckland, Counties Manukau, Waikato, Taranaki, Whanganui and are primarily catering to high-needs patients.

The coalition is keen to extend its reach into more high-needs areas such as Northland, Bay of Plenty and the central region in the future, but in the meantime wants to consolidate and prove that they can deliver the health outcomes that are needed right now, such as the broad-based health and social outcomes described in the Whānau Ora programme.

NHC's Chairman, Sir Wira Gardiner is very clear that most of these practices have been delivering Whānau ora programmes for a long time, but have not put the name to the activities. "The practices who have elected to contract with us have been aware of the need for joined-up health, social and inter-sectoral activities for high-needs patients and have in fact, been doing this for a long time," he said. "Now the activities that do deliver such benefit to the high-needs patients will be recognised and properly funded. Further, the wonderful outcomes that these committed people are achieving can be properly measured."

There are an estimated 1.4 million high-needs New Zealanders, so there is enormous scope for a PHO that can deliver quantified and measured outcomes. NHC hopes to be delivering services to 1 million of these mostly Māori, Pacific and low socio-economic disability and aged care communities by the end of 2012. The NHC intends to begin its Whānau Ora rollout by delivering just 2 of the programmes – Mama Pepi Tamariki (mother, babies and children) and Oranga Ki Tua (long-term conditions).

Simon Royal, CEO for NHC, says that the coalition is developing a framework for measuring outcomes from Whānau Ora programmes and is on track to deliver 2,500 Whānau Ora assessments. “We are contracted to have 8 demonstration sites for the 2 Whānau Ora programmes running by the end of June, which we are well on the way of achieving,” he said. “While we are clearly operating in the health sphere at present, doing this properly as Whānau Ora means that we will be touching housing, social services, justice, education and economic development, to name a few. This will be challenging, given it is our intention to remain lean and light on our feet.”

Counties Manukau DHB will be the lead DHB that will contract with NHC in terms of the national contract. NHC is also supported by The Ministry of Health’s stated commitment to “Better, Sooner, More Convenient” healthcare for all New Zealanders and the need for more integrated family health care which is easy for all people to access.

Ends

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