

2006 Whānau Ora Awards

The winners of the 2006 Whānau Ora Awards were announced in Wellington on Friday 3rd November at a gala dinner to celebrate the achievements of the providers of Māori health and disability services throughout Aotearoa.

The supreme Award – Te Tohu Kahukura – went to a collaborative effort between Ngāti Porou Hauora from Te Puia Springs and Otago University. Their 'Ngāti & Healthy' programme is designed to reduce the risk of type 2 diabetes through community health promotion and education and was deemed by the judges to epitomise the concepts of sharing of knowledge and skills to benefit both the Māori and wider communities.



Terry Ehau, Teo Arani Wilson, BJ Taare, Marina Ngatai, Associate Minister of Health Mita Rinui, Sarah Sykes, Helen Pahau.

Oranga, the Māori Health Strategy and the Whānau Ora vision reoriented the whole Māori health sector towards wellness and wholeness, demanding new approaches to ongoing health and disability issues.

In He Korowai Oranga Whānau Ora is about Māori families being supported to achieve their health and wellbeing. Whānau (kuia, koroua, pākēkē, rangatahi and tamariki) is recognised as the foundation of Māori society. As a principal source of strength, support, security and identity, whānau plays a central role in the wellbeing of Māori individually and collectively.

The inaugural Whānau Ora Awards in 2004 were designed to recognise Whānau Ora innovation in the Māori health sector. The awards programme was proposed in Whakatataka Tuatahi (Māori Health Action Plan) which was the action plan designed to progress the Māori health sector toward achieving Whānau Ora. The 2004 Awards were a huge success and response to the

2006 awards programme has also been tremendous.

Within the context of the awards, the Ministry aims to promote successful models of service delivery (or initiatives) that increase whānau health and wellbeing by building on the strengths and assets of whānau and Māori communities. The focus is on Whānau Ora implementation and outcomes in the delivery of services to whānau, hapu iwi and Māori communities.

From over 35 applicants who asked to be considered for this year's Whānau Ora Awards programme, twenty were selected as finalists in one of three categories. Small Māori Provider organisations, (less than five employees or full time equivalent), Medium Māori Providers (between five and twenty employees or full time equivalent) and Large Māori Provider organisations (more than twenty employees or full time equivalent).

In total this year there will be seven awards given, with runners-up and

winners in each category and one Supreme overall winner. Judging is based on a high level view of Whānau Ora with innovation (creativity, responsiveness to need, unique design) quality (specific, measurable, achievable, realistic) and leadership (involving Māori at all levels of the sector, in decision-making, planning, development and delivery of services) being key judging criteria.

The judges for this year's awards were Te Aniwa Tutara (General Manager Māori Health) for Waitemata DHB, Dr Tony Ruakere (General Practitioner and once Chief Advisor Māori Health, Ministry of Health) Joanne Hayes (Taumata Hauora Trust Māori Development Organisation representing Te Matarau, the Māori Development Organisations) and Teresa Wall (Acting Deputy-Director General, Māori Health Directorate, Ministry of Health).

The Taonga (Trophy)

The trophy will be hanging in Te Whare Hauora, o Ngati Porou in Te Puia Springs. It is of a Kuruwai Toanga made by Vernoa Hete (Ngati Tuwharetoa, Ngati Maniapoto, Te Atiawa). Vernoa is the daughter of a master weaver, Erenora Puketapu-Hete and Tohunga Whakairo Rangi Hete, Veranoa has been weaving for 26 years and is lecturing in Maori Art and Design at the Open Polytechnic of NZ. Veranoa is a registered Toi Iho artist.

The Kahahu has been woven in the traditional way using the whatu and taniko techniques. The materials are muka – prepared from the harakeke gathered from the weaver's home in Waiwhetu, and the feathers of the pheasant, pukeko and mollyhawk.

Acknowledgement from the Ngati & Healthy Team Leader – Helen Pahau

A special acknowledgement and recognition to Marina Ngatai, Ginny-Dawn Reedy, Hera Sykes, Kura Forrester, Peggy Pardoe, BJ Taare, Teo Arani Wilson and ex NPH Kaiawhina Mereana Northover, for their endless commitment and passion for the Ngati and Healthy Prevent Diabetes Project.

For three years our Kaiawhina have had many late nights, very early mornings and have clocked up thousands and thousands of miles on our roads to contact our Whanau to take part in the Ngati and Healthy Prevalence Survey and Community Programme. The training they have undertaken over

'Ngāti & Healthy' also won first place in the Whānau Whanui (large organisation) category, with the runner up being Te Korowai Hauora o Hauraki of Thames (Waikato DHB) for their integrated Whānau Ora initiative integrating mainstream and Māori, primary and secondary health services.

Kathy Grace, Services Development Manager of the Māori Health Directorate which hosted the event in conjunction with Te Matarau Ltd said the awards are a fitting showcase for the ongoing passion and professional development of Māori health providers.

"The awards serve to celebrate the successful whānau ora models of service delivery with the underlying qualities of innovation, quality and leadership."

The awards were presented by Associate Minister of Health, Hon Mita Rinui.

Background to Whanau Ora Awards

The vision for Whānau Ora was firmly established in 2002 in He Korowai