

Rangatahi Gain Hands-On Primary Care Experience



The future of Hawke's Bay healthcare is in good hands as two local Rangatahi complete their summer internship through Health Hawke's Bay's *E Hao E Pao Folau* programme.

Over five weeks, Tuafafa Latasi and Anatea Caviale Delzescaux—former students at Hastings Boys' High School and Napier Girls' High School—immersed themselves in primary care,

research, and community engagement before beginning health-related studies at Otago University and the University of Auckland.

Growing the Māori and Pacific Health Workforce

E Hao E Pao Folau provides Māori and Pacific Rangatahi with early exposure to primary care, offering meaningful work experience during school holidays. The programme supports Health Hawke's Bay's vision of growing an equitable health workforce by inspiring young people toward careers in health.

Programme lead and Advisor Māori Health, Alana Kohi, says the initiative allows for hands on experience into primary care

"This programme supports our future Māori and Pacific healthcare workforce. Over the years, 70 Rangatahi have had the chance to gain hands-on experience and see how primary care works behind the scenes.

The hope is that they return home after their studies to serve whānau and communities in Hawke's Bay."

Health Hawke's Bay Pou Whakarae Chief Executive, Irihāpeti Mahuika, says investing in Rangatahi is essential.

"I love the energy they bring. Rangatahi are our future.

When young people are passionate about health and want to make a difference for their whānau, we must nurture that and show them the pathways that primary care can offer."

Researching Immunisation Hesitancy

As part of their internship, Tuafafa and Anatea completed a research project and presentation on Immunisation Hesitancy, drawing on kōrero with clinicians, Hauora Māori providers, rural communities, and Health Hawke's Bay kaimahi.

Their research centred on three key questions:

- What are the reasons that whānau give for delaying or refusing immunisation?
- What are the reasons that whānau cannot access vaccinations?
- How are you as a practice helping to lower these accessibility issues?

Anatea says misinformation stood out as a major theme. "A lot of hesitancy is driven by false information online, especially on social media, and much of it doesn't come from trusted health professionals." Transport barriers—particularly in rural areas—also featured strongly.

Tuafafa says providers are actively responding. "Providers are doing home visits, running community vaccination clinics and mobile vans, and offering walk-in options like Te Ara Waiora to make access easier."

Preparing for the Future

Both Rangatahi say the internship has equipped them with valuable insights ahead of university.

Tuafafa says the experience helped him understand how providers connect with whānau: “It was really interesting learning how vaccination vans and outreach clinics help health services, meet people where they are.”

For Anatea, understanding the wider primary care system was a highlight. “HHB isn’t on the frontline but seeing how they support providers and coordinate services has been eye-opening.”

After five weeks of learning, contributing, and connecting with the community, both Rangatahi say they feel ready and excited for the next steps in their healthcare journey.