

## Media Release

Issued: Tuesday, 11 July 2023



### **New whānau accommodation blessed and opened at North Shore Hospital**

The official opening and blessing of the new purpose-built Te Kainga Atawhai whānau accommodation facility at North Shore Hospital this morning is a 'dream come true' for Dame Rangimārie Naida Glavish.

The two-storey building includes four double bedrooms, kitchen facilities and a dining room for use by people of all cultures who meet eligibility criteria and need somewhere to stay while loved ones are receiving care in the adjoining hospital.

Dame Naida was on-site at dawn to see the building, its manea stone and a newly carved pou blessed by kaumātua.

The Chief Advisor Tikanga at Waitematā and Auckland City Hospital has been advocating for better whānau facilities ever since her late mother Nohotakitahi was hospitalised with a stroke 31 years ago.

"Whānau came from throughout the North to be with Mum," she says. "We stayed at the hospital for three days, sleeping in cars and using public facilities because we had nowhere else to stay."

From that experience, a vision was born. Dame Naida became a champion for onsite accommodation which later became a reality at Greenlane and the former National Women's hospitals; then at Auckland and North Shore.

The new North Shore building will replace whānau rooms currently located on the ground floor of the hospital that will be repurposed for the expansion of clinical services.

"Our new whānau accommodation will make a real difference," Dame Naida says. "It enables us to be adaptable to the needs of our patients and their whānau, which is important for everyone as part of the healing process."

The accommodation will be available to anyone who meets certain criteria and length-of-stay will depend on individual circumstances. It is based is the corner of Shakespeare Road, at the entrance of North Shore Hospital campus.

**CAP:** Dame Naida Glavish outside the newly opened Te Kainga Atawhai whānau accommodation facility at North Shore Hospital

**Ends.**

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