



**May 2020**  
**Media release**

### **Waitematā DHB's Māori Nurse of the Year slows down for nothing**

Waitematā DHB Maori Nurse of the Year Chloe Maeva didn't let a worldwide pandemic, motherhood, study or being pregnant get in the way of her work and commitment to Māori Mental Health.

Waitematā DHB is honoured to be presenting Chloe Maeva with the korowai (traditional Māori feather cloak) as the latest winner of the Te Kauae Raro Māori Nursing and Midwifery Award.

The korowai is passed from winner to winner each year and is highly symbolic of the DHB's organisational values.

Chloe who is of Te Rarawa, Ngai Takato and Ngāti Kurī descent, knew she belonged in community-based healthcare from a young age. After initially pursuing physiotherapy, she was given the opportunity to enter Māori Mental Health and has never looked back.

Now partway through her Masters of Nursing, Chloe plans to become a Nurse Practitioner to widen the scope of what she can offer and achieve with tangata whai ora (service-users).

Learning te reo Māori for the last few years with Te Wānanga o Aotearoa, has deepened Chloe's connection to her Māori heritage as well as giving her the confidence to speak te reo daily with her team.

"I grew up with an awareness and knowledge of tikanga (the Māori way) and my heritage but the thing that was missing for me was te reo. Everything was really solidified during those classes."

Chloe has always had a passion for sport and is the clinical lead and facilitator of Wāitematā DHB's award-winning Te Rau Kamehameha Sports and Tikanga Programme. The programme uses a mixture of physical activity, social connection, and cultural education to help reconnect tangata whai ora with whānau, work and training.

"It's seeing the positive outcomes for people in our community that keeps me going. It's the hope that they get once they're connected to the support systems that we offer. There's still a stigma around mental health and it's challenging to work in - but it's also incredibly rewarding."

Chloe is a passionate advocate for Māori and continually works towards reducing inequities in health – particularly in the workforce.

"Coming into health has opened my eyes to the inequality that still exists for Māori across the whole sector. I see people come to our services who are distrusting of the system and disconnected from their culture. We're a unique team in that we offer cultural support and we see huge results from reconnecting what is often a complete loss of identity."

CEO Dr Dale Bramley, who is of Ngāpuhi descent, says the DHB is committed to boosting and supporting the Māori workforce.

“Having a health workforce that better reflects the community we serve plays a key role in improving health outcomes for Māori,” Dr Bramley says. “People are more likely to engage with a health service when they know they will encounter a sense of the familiar.”

Waitematā DHB has seen the number of reported Māori in the workforce increase by 80% between June 2015 and May 2020.

The DHB applauds Chloe and her commitment, leadership and dedication to serving the people in our district. She’s been recognised by her team as a role model to nurses entering the workforce, a support to her colleagues and an inspiration to tangata whai ora.

“It was very surreal to receive this award. I see it as an award for my whole team and the work we do together.”

Waitematā DHB has an on-going commitment to improve Māori health outcomes and continues to ensure our workforce better represents the community that it serves.

**ENDS**

#### **About Waitematā DHB**

Waitematā DHB serves the largest population of any district health board in New Zealand, currently standing at more than 630,000 people. We have a workforce of more than 7,500 staff spread across more than 80 sites, including North Shore Hospital and Waitakere Hospital. We are also the Northern Region provider of forensic psychiatry and child disability services, plus the metro Auckland provider of child community dental services and community alcohol and drug services.