

22 March 2021

### **Waitematā DHB is set to hire 100 new nurses**

The biggest DHB in the country is embarking on its biggest recruitment drive ever, seeking 100 new nurses before the end of June.

Waitematā DHB is actively recruiting 100 nurses for a range of new positions throughout the DHB, from graduate to nurse specialist roles, spread across different departments from cardiology to theatre.

The DHB already employs 2281 registered nurses. Chief executive Dr Dale Bramley says the creation of 100 additional nursing jobs is aligned with the organisation's promise of 'best care for everyone' and will also support wards to have more nurses at the bedside.

"Waitematā DHB currently serves a population of almost 650,000 people, this figure is expected to grow to more than 800,000 by 2037. To continue to deliver on our promise, we need to evolve alongside our growing population."

Ashleigh Bennett, of Ngāti Ranginui and Ngāi Te Rangi decent, started work as a registered nurse at one of North Shore Hospital's medical wards in February 2021. She is one of the 100 new nurses being recruited before the end of June to join the 8,500 staff already employed by the DHB.



*Waitematā DHB Registered Nurse Ashleigh Bennett started at one of North Shore Hospital's medical wards in February 2021. She is one of the 100 new nurses Waitematā plans to recruit before the end of June.*

She says improving health outcomes for Māori is part of the reason she decided to become a nurse but it was the support available to staff which drove her to become a nurse with Waitematā DHB.

“From the Nurse Entry to Practice programme team to the cultural support that I get from He Kamaka Waiora (Māori Health Department), nurse specialists, educators and also the ward itself - I have been blessed with countless preceptors and teams who have shown me, not only what the responsibility of being a Registered Nurse is all about but how kotahitanga is applied in a team environment.”

Chief Nursing Officer Jocelyn Peach says the DHB has robust frameworks in place to support new staff and to develop key competencies and career milestones for nurses.

“You might be a new-graduate nurse starting out on the wards or a Maori or Pacific nurse looking for a position that will develop your specialty knowledge, to serve the needs of your culture in new models of care.

“The work we have put in to fostering career development for our nurses at every stage of the ladder truly make working for Waitematā an exciting opportunity.”

Dr Bramley, of Ngāpuhi decent, says nurses of all backgrounds are needed to ensure their workforce reflects the communities they serve. However, with a DHB catchment that is 10 percent Māori, Māori recruitment remains a top priority.

Last year, Waitematā employed a fulltime Māori workforce recruitment consultant - believed to be the first role of its type in the country.

“It’s about removing barriers to access and putting our patients at ease in our care, so they are not afraid to seek help from us when they need it,” says Dr Bramley

“If you are passionate about healthcare and nursing, we want you to join the Waitematā DHB team.”

Waitematā DHB’s recruitment drive began in January, vacancies are being advertised in stages and can be found at <https://www.wdhbcareers.co.nz/>

**Ends.**

**For further information, contact:**

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