



Waitemata
District Health Board
Best Care for Everyone

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Free staff Te Reo Māori classes to help reduce inequity

Waitematā DHB staff have the opportunity to learn te reo Māori on-site for free thanks to a new initiative aimed at raising cultural awareness in the workplace and improving the way staff work with Māori patients and whānau.

More than 400 expressions of interest from staff were received after the idea was first put to staff in November 2018.

Classes are due to start in early February with sessions across both main hospital sites – North Shore Hospital and Waitakere Hospital.

Waitematā DHB Chief Advisor Tikanga Dame Rangimārie Naida Glavish (Ngāti Whātua, Ngāpuhi) says learning a new language can lead to a better understanding of the culture it originates from.

“We know there are inequities for Māori in our health system and barriers to treatment for some of the people who need it most,” she says.

“We believe encouraging our staff to learn te reo is a move in the right direction towards bridging that gap. We are so pleased we are now able to do that in a way that is totally accessible, convenient and achievable.”

The classes come after the hugely successful launch of Waitematā and Auckland DHB’s Āke Āke app in 2018. The mobile app promotes correct Māori pronunciation and tikanga (protocol). It has been downloaded over 1000 times across NZ and overseas.

Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi will be facilitating the language classes that will run for 18 months and lead to a certificate in Te Pōkaitahi Reo.

Waitematā DHB CEO Dr Dale Bramley (Ngāpuhi) says he is proud to be able to offer the classes and to see the high level of interest among staff.

“Right across the country, we are seeing a groundswell of interest from all cultures to embrace te reo Māori. Our DHB knows that in order for us to reduce the inequities in our health system, we need to use this interest as motivation to act. We are extremely grateful to Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangi for their support. ”

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For further information contact

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