



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

#### **Turning of the tide brings in \$2m investment in health reforms in Te Hiku ō Te Ika**

The tide is turning as Te Hiku ō Te Ika whānau look set to benefit from a \$2m investment boost in public health funding this year.

Taikorihī is a population health initiative that aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all Te Hiku ō Te Ika whānau, focusing on Māori, Pacific peoples and people who experience disability.

Established as a Locality under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022, the initiative exists to inform Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora where future health investment is placed in Te Hiku as national health reforms continue to roll out nationwide to achieve health equity for all New Zealanders.

Taikorihī Programme Manager J.J. Ripikoi says he is delighted to announce that Te Whatu Ora have approved funding of \$1.9m over 13 prototype initiatives for the year.

He says they will be implemented and tested by a range of Te Hiku-based providers and collaborations to address the four focus priority areas that were identified from whānau and community engagement early in the Taikorihī initiative in 2022.

These include Whare Āhuru (Housing), Taitamariki, Whānau Ora (Māmā and Pēpi) and Hauora (Primary Care and Access).

“Taikorihī has heard from over 1300 people living within Te Hiku ō Te Ika. The whānau voice clearly indicated a need for a more concentrated effort on four priority areas.

However, whānau don't just want more clinical care. They want to be equipped with knowledge and empowered with choice to be more proactive in managing their own health. Taikorihī will continue its mahi to find resourcing and opportunities to deliver on the kōrero gifted to us by whānau.”

JJ says Taikorihī – which takes its name from the turning of the tide at its lowest point – will be working with each provider contracted to deliver the initiatives and monitor their impact across the locality area.

The initiatives under the Taikorihī innovation fund for 2024 are:

- **Kia Taurima:** A.N.T. (Aupōuri, Ngāti Kahu, Te Rarawa) Trust to deliver a programme focusing on Māmā and pēpi health and wellbeing, including whānau engagement, advocacy and support, quarterly wānanga, and service provider / sector co-ordination.

- **Te Niho:** Mobile and drop-in dental clinics coordinated by Te Hiku Hauora to reset oral health and prevent non-communicable diseases in Te Hiku.
- **Wāhine Hauora:** Uplifting women's health in Te Hiku with a hauora and wellbeing programme based on Te Whare Tapa Whā model and mātauranga Māori, delivered by a collaboration led by StrongHer.
- **Rongoā Māori:** Addressing health equity for rongoā Māori and increasing access to and availability of traditional medicine through the Te Hiku Rongoā Māori Collective.
- **Rangatahi Sports and Wellbeing Programme:** Increasing the participation rates of young people in sports throughout Te Hiku through a programme designed and delivered by Native Sports.
- **He Whare Āhuru Te Hiku Housing Forum:** A fully comprehensive initiative led by North Studios to build the platform for a shared housing strategy across Te Hiku through provider collaboration, while connecting Te Hiku whānau with providers via a bespoke, online digital hub.
- **Rangatahi Leadership Programme:** Building up Te Hiku taitamariki to step confidently into their future worlds, providing opportunities for networking, leadership development and mentorship with The Moko Foundation.
- **After Hours Mental Health Support:** Providing after-hours access to spaces for Te Hiku adults and rangatahi needing immediate mental health support with Rākau Ora.
- **Tāngata Whaikaha:** Te Houtaewa Māori Charitable Trust to offer innovative support systems based in Rongoā Māori that nurture quality of life for whānau experiencing disability in Te Hiku.
- **Mana Tāne:** A fitness and wellbeing kaupapa aimed at empowering tāne, delivered by a collaboration led by Mauri Services, that brings forward a realisation and consciousness around Mana Tāne for men in Te Hiku.
- **Teen Parenting:** Specialising in awhi and parenting education for young parents and their whānau living in Te Hiku, led out by Te Rūnanga o Whaingaroa.
- **Te Hiku Hauora Festival:** One-stop-shop health and wellbeing events to celebrate hauora in Te Hiku and strengthen direct connections between health and wellbeing providers and whānau, delivered by Te Hiku Hauora.
- **Hauora in Kura:** Ensuring taitamariki are empowered with sovereignty over their oranga and choices by providing health education and peer supports across kura kaupapa Māori in Te Hiku with Navilluso Medical.

JJ says the initiatives combined aim to make a solid impact on the lives of whānau who participate but will, more importantly, serve as a case for future projects and ongoing public health investment in Te Hiku.

“We know that there is a lot of mahi to do to improve hauora in Te Hiku ō Te Ika. These initiatives are short-term wins aimed to target some longer-term goals. Taikorihī is determined to action whānau voice and we will continue to pull together providers to collectively deliver on what those voices have said they need,” he says.

For more information on Taikorihī and , visit [www.taikorihī.co.nz](http://www.taikorihī.co.nz).

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**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Erena Hodgkinson – Kaitui Kōrero

[erena.hodgkinson@taikorihico.nz](mailto:erena.hodgkinson@taikorihico.nz)

021 475 327

**About the Taikorihico Locality:**

The Taikorihico Locality is the vehicle for change in Te Hiku o Te Ika, set up under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 health reforms.

Taikorihico is a population health initiative that aims to improve health and wellbeing outcomes for all Te Hiku o Te Ika whānau, focusing on Māori, Pacific peoples and people who experience disability.

The Taikorihico Locality area extends from north Hokianga over to Mangonui, north to Te Rerenga Wairua and includes approximately 25,000 people living in its borders.

Taikorihico is supported by Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022.

For more information on Taikorihico and the Pae Ora health reforms taking place in Te Hiku, visit [www.taikorihico.co.nz](http://www.taikorihico.co.nz).