

Boards meet at Te Ore Ore marae - all on the waka, paddling forward for Māori health outcomes



Wairarapa DHB's Tina Te Tau welcomes the boards and ELT onto the marae

It felt like the start of something new yesterday. with the meeting of the DHB board, Iwi Kainga, the Executive Leadership team and Deputy Director General Māori Health, John Whaanga at Te Ore Ore marae.

With the DHB developing its Māori Health Plan and our Māori partnership board, Iwi Kainga reconvening with new membership, a wonderful opportunity to effect positive change is in front of us. This was certainly the theme of the day at Te Ore Ore marae today.



With a warm welcome onto the marae on a blustery day, the formidable waiata was impressive, and appreciated by all.

Joined by Deputy Director General Māori Health, John Whaanga, the two governance boards and the DHB executive leadership team met to discuss our local commitment to improved health outcomes for Māori.



DHB Advisor, Mike Kawana and DDG, John Whaanga appreciate the waiata

"Persistent and pervasive māori health inequities are evident across most of our health indices," John Whaanga said. "Outcomes for Māori are poor."

"But that is an opportunity, and one Wairarapa is well placed to take up."



DDG, John Whaanga addresses the boards

The boards spoke of the wider view of wellbeing, of the social determinants of health, and the broader societal factors that contribute to making improving Māori health outcomes traditionally difficult.

"Forging excellent new partnerships and with valuable engagement, we can enjoy a mutual and equal relationship between the boards," said Sir Paul Collins, DHB Board Chair.

A Whānau Ora model offers an inclusive, holistic approach to healthcare that benefits everyone, and this is expected to form the core of the Māori Health Plan and pave the way to equity.



Board member, Ron Karaitiana

The discussion was followed by the monthly public meeting of the District Health Board.

John Whaanga is the Deputy Director-General Māori health. He is affiliated to Ngāti Rākaipaaka, Ngāti Kahungunu and Ngāti Rongomaiwahine. In 2018, John was acknowledged in parliament for his work in successfully negotiating a hundred million Treaty of Waitangi settlement for Ngā Iwi me Ngā Hapū o Te Rohe o Te Wairoa – the culmination of over 30 years work. John originally joined the Ministry of Health in 1993. In the six years prior to becoming the DDG, John worked in several significant roles in tertiary education, including as: Chief Advisor Wānanga, Tertiary Education Commission; Deputy Chief Executive, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa; and Chief Operating Officer, Taratahi Institute of Agriculture.