

Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with the Chief Executive and Board Members of Te Pūhana Ora Iwi-Māori Partnership Board on 11 December 2025

Date due to MO: 10 December 2025 **Meeting:** 11 December 2025

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Reference:** H2025075198

To: Hon Simeon Brown, Minister of Health

Consulted: Health New Zealand: ☒

Proactive release: This **title** is proposed by the Ministry of Health for proactive release: ☐

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
John Whaanga	Deputy Director-General Māori Health, Te Pou Hauora Māori - Māori Health	s 9(2)(a)
Tāmāti Olsen	Group Manager, Māori Crown Relations, Māori Health	

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About the Meeting

Purpose of Meeting You agreed to meet with the Chief Executive and members of Te Pūhana Ora Iwi-Māori Partnership Board (IMPB) to discuss the challenges and opportunities faced by iwi-Māori in the Chatham Islands and your expectations for IMPBs more broadly.

Details of Meeting

Date: 11 December 2025
Time: 3:30pm -3:50pm
Venue: Online
[Join the meeting now](#)
 Meeting ID: 442 250 205 704 1
 Passcode: S4gi6ce3

Attendees Ward Kamo, Chief Executive, Te Pūhana Ora
 Di Grennell, Chair, Te Pūhana Ora
 Natalie Smith, Chief Operating Officer / Secretariat, Te Pūhana Ora

Ministry representative John Whaanga, Deputy Director-General Māori Health, Te Pou Hauora
 Māori - Māori Health

Health New Zealand representative Selah Hart – Interim National Director, Hauora Māori Services, Health New Zealand

Background

1. IMPBs are recognised under the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) Act 2022 (the Act) to represent local Māori perspectives on the needs and aspirations of Māori in relation to Māori health.
2. IMPBs are responsible for gathering insights from whānau voice within their communities and communicating these findings to Health New Zealand.
3. The Healthy Futures (Pae Ora) Amendment Bill proposes moving the communication of these insights from IMPBs to the Hauora Māori Advisory Committee (HMAC), instead of Health New Zealand. HMAC will be obligated to give you and the Health New Zealand Board advice based on the insights they receive from IMPBs.

Te Pūhana Ora IMPB

4. Te Pūhana Ora is an emerging IMPB for the Chatham Islands area – this includes both Chatham and Pitt Islands. Te Pūhana Ora represents the collective interests of Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust and Hokotehi Moriori Trust.
5. Te Pūhana Ora currently consists of five members with appointments from both Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Trust and Hokotehi Moriori Trust, plus one jointly appointed member. An additional member is yet to be appointed. A biography of each of the members is provided in **Appendix 1**.
6. The names and roles of the board members are as follows:
 - a. Ward Kamo, Chief Executive
 - b. Di Grennell, Chair, Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri representative
 - c. Monique Croon, Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri representative
 - d. Hayden Preece, Hokotehi Moriori Trust representative
 - e. Tipa Mahuta, Independent Board Member.

The members who will attend this meeting is yet to be confirmed.

Te Pūhana Ora is in the process of being formally established as an IMPB

7. Te Pūhana Ora has met all statutory requirements set out in section 31 of the Act to be formally recognised as an IMPB including (refer to H2025069257):
 - a. clearly defined boundaries
 - b. the ability to demonstrate its engagement with local Māori
 - c. suitable governance and accountability arrangements (including the ability to be held accountable by the communities they represent).
8. A separate paper for the Cabinet Legislation Committee has been prepared to formally recognise Te Pūhana Ora as an IMPB under the Act. This was lodged with the Cabinet Office on 4 December 2025, and we expect this paper to go to Cabinet Legislation Committee meeting this week – meeting on 11 December 2025. If approved by Cabinet, we expect the Order in Council to come into force on 15 January 2026.

Challenges in the Chatham Islands

Geographic isolation

9. The Chatham Islands, located about 800 kilometres from mainland New Zealand, face significant access challenges due to their isolation.
10. Limited freight and air services restrict access to urgent medical supplies and specialist care, while severe weather disruptions can further delay transport and appointments. These factors increase risks to local patient health and wellbeing, affecting:
 - a. medication adherence
 - b. continuity of care
 - c. additional strain on primary health services.

Workforce pressures including recruitment and retention

11. Practitioners on the islands are burdened with heavy work loads, often carrying multiple roles, providing after-hours services, and operate with limited support from other healthcare professionals.
12. Recruitment and retention of skilled health professionals in the Chatham Islands remains a significant challenge. The limited workforce means that the departure of even a single healthcare worker creates substantial service gaps. High turnover rates and dependence on short-term locums undermine continuity of care and contribute to diminished trust in the health system.
13. Trained health professionals are becoming burdened with high demands on their time and skills, leading to burnout and creating additional gaps in workforce coverage in the Chatham Islands.

Costs of travel to mainland New Zealand

14. Most secondary and tertiary services require travel to the mainland. This can impose major financial, logistical and emotional burdens – particularly for kaumātua, babies and children, and people experiencing chronic conditions. Travel for care often results in:
 - a. extended absences from work
 - b. separation from family/whānau
 - c. the need to navigate unfamiliar health systems – often alone.
15. These barriers often lead to delayed treatment contributing to poorer health outcomes.

Chronic conditions and gaps in responsive care and service delivery models

16. Chronic conditions such as cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and respiratory illnesses are prevalent in the Chatham Islands. Access to culturally responsive care and service delivery models is also limited.
17. The service gaps present in the Chatham Islands also have an impact on local health services being able to achieve health targets.

Opportunities for further discussion

18. Meeting with Te Pūhana Ora provides you with an opportunity to discuss key issues experienced by those who reside on the islands, with a focus on improving access to primary care and working with Health NZ.

Improving access is a key priority

19. In their submission on the Pae Ora Amendment Bill, Te Pūhana Ora identified opportunities to enhance community health and wellbeing, many of which align with the Government Policy Statement on Health 2024-2027 (the GPS).

20. s 9(2)(g)(i)

21. This also aligns with the priority of infrastructure, enabling the progression of digital initiatives, bringing healthcare closer to home.

Working with Health NZ to develop models of care that best meet needs of those on the Islands

22. Te Pūhana Ora have advocated for strengthening models of care that would enhance engagement, treatment adherence, and overall health outcomes.

23. s 9(2)(g)(i)



John Whaanga
Deputy Director-General
Māori Health

s 9(2)(g)(i)

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

Appendix 1: Te Pūhana Ora IMPB Member Biographies

	Ward Kamo Te Pūhana Ora Chief Executive Ward is both the Chief Executive of Te Pūhana Ora IMPB and the Interim General Manager and Registrar at Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust.
	Di Grennell Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust Representative – IMPB Chair Di is the Chair of Te Pūhana Ora IMPB. She has previously served several boards in Aotearoa including, Hora Te pai health Services, Te Reo Irirangi o Taranaki Charitable Trust, Survivor Experiences Service and currently serves Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Trust as the Chair. Di was also appointed a Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit in 2022.
	Monique Croon Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust Representative - IMPB Member Monique has been Mayor of the Chatham Islands for the previous two terms from 2019-2025 and is currently the Chair of Ngāti Mutunga o Wharekauri Iwi Trust.



Hayden Preece

Hokotehi Moriori Trust Representative – IMPB Member

Hayden is currently the Chair of Hokotehi Moriori Trust Board and is a member of Te Pūhana Ora IMPB. Hayden is a farmer and is currently living in the Chatham Islands.



Tipa Mahuta

Independent – IMPB Member

Tipa is an independent member and is currently the Co-Chair Iwi Appointee of the Waikato River Authority and has previously been the Co-Chair of the Te Aka Whai Ora Board prior to its disestablishment. Tipa is also the Co-Chair of Te Tiratū IMPB.