

Karere Pāpāho/Media Release

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NGĀPUHI TAKES ON CARE OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO HAVE OFFENDED

The call of the Pipiwharuroa (shining cuckoo) hopes to provide positive pathways and opportunities for young people who have offended with MAHURU - the new Tai Tokerau Youth Remand Service.

Last year¹ 500 young people committed a crime serious enough to be remanded into the custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children. 26¹ of these young people are Māori and live in Te Tai Tokerau.

There is an immediate need for better ways to care for and support these taitamariki in Te Tai Tokerau, including those who whakapapa to Ngāpuhi, to make more positive life decisions and help reduce their risk of re-offending.

In a first of its kind, Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services (NISS) and Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children announce the official launch of MAHURU – TE ARANGA O TE AO MARAMA, a Ngāpuhi-led kaupapa-Māori remand service to reduce the risk of youth re-offending through one-on-one care, cultural values and tribal connections.

NISS General Manager, Liz Marsden says “this is an opportunity to provide an innovative, bespoke and values-based response driven by our own Ngāpuhi values, principles and narratives. As a new approach, we can elevate our own cultural practices and networks to help reduce re-offending and enhance the opportunities for young Ngāpuhi to lead positive lives.”

“This is a positive step for Ngāpuhi taking greater responsibility of Ngāpuhi taitamariki who have seriously offended - something we have long advocated for. It’s a huge responsibility and one that we take very seriously” says Ms Marsden.

¹2017/18 financial year

The name MAHURU draws on the Pīpīwharaurua as the messenger heralding in spring and a change of season, a time for new growth and beginnings for taitamariki. It talks of a journey and awakening for taitamariki to be supported to make positive choices.

Aroha Tahere, Youth Justice Manager for Oranga Tamariki in Te Tai Tokerau, says “we are very excited to be partnering with Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services to support tamariki on remand to make positive life decisions and cultural connections for their future. Mahuru enables us to keep more of our young people within their communities in Te Whare Tapu O Ngāpuhi and with their people, instead of placing them in Youth Justice Facilities around the country where they have no existing relationships or connections.”

MAHURU gives Police, Youth Court and Rangatahi Court Judges another option to consider when a young person commits a crime and needs to spend time away from home in a safe and stable environment while they await their court hearing.

Each young person is first assessed on a range of areas such as the level and nature of their offending, their mental health, and any concerning behaviours. Careful consideration is given when pairing taitamariki and kaimanaaki to ensure everyone involved is safe, including taitamariki, kaimanaaki, any victim/s of their offence, and the community.

NISS Project Manager (Remand Service Startup) Aroha Shelford is upbeat about the new Ngāpuhi-led service. “Where possible, we want to connect young people with their cultural and tribal identity to reignite being Māori and Ngāpuhi as a positive thing. Ngāpuhi tikanga is therefore at the forefront in the delivery of this service.”

The official launch of MAHURU will be held on **Monday 1 October 2018** at **Kohewhata Marae, Kaikohe** at **11:30am**.

Enquiries

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