



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **NGĀPUHI RŪNANGA AND IWI SOCIAL SERVICES OFFICES OPEN IN WHANGAREI**

Spirits are high with yesterday's opening of Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi O Ngāpuhi and Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services (NISS) new offices in Whangarei. Located in Manaia House on Rathbone St, the office will be the new home for the Whangarei-based *Tai Tokerau Attendance Services* and *Parirau* Teams.

“We have provided whānau support and services in Whangarei for a while now, says NISS General Manager Liz Marsden. This new office space allows us to continue to support whānau and tai tamariki (youth) in the Whangarei area”.

The office is co-leased with Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi o Ngāpuhi, providing a strong Ngāpuhi presence and growing network of Ngāpuhi support services to whānau in and around Whangarei.

NISS Chairperson, Carol Dodd said “with our main office in Kaikohe, the Whangarei office provides a permanent base for our kaimahi to support local Ngāpuhi whānau. It also provides a space for the Rūnanga to share information on current activities and events, and local takiwā and Rūnanga Group Boards to hold meetings.

Over 50 people attended the opening and blessing of the new office, lead by Kaumātua and Kuia from local takiwā and hapū.

## **Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services (NISS)**

- Established in 1996, subsidiary of Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi O Ngāpuhi since 2006
- Four key service areas: whānau support, family violence intervention, youth services and social workers in schools
- Service area covers Whāngārei in the south to Hokianga and Whangaroa in the north
- *Taitokerau Attendance Services* supports schools, parents and whānau to improve tai tamariki attendance at school
- *Parirau Services* aims to support young people to reduce re-offending and anti-social behaviour.

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### **All enquiries to:**

Liz Marsden

General Manager

Ngāpuhi Iwi Social Services

027 501 5030