

# Janet Maloney-Moni leaves a lasting legacy

JANET MALONEY-MONI was New Zealand's first Māori nurse practitioner (NP). She was born in 1952 in Opotiki in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, the daughter of a Māori mother and Scottish father, and was reared in the cultures of both.

At 17, she embarked on a career in nursing which spanned some 35 years. She began her career as a registered community nurse (called enrolled nurse after 1977), bridging to a registered comprehensive nurse in 1991. She became an NP in 2003, specialising in primary health care (PHC).

Janet's passion for Māori health and whānau ora continued and expanded over the years, including her own research and publication in 2006 of *Kia Mana: Synergy of Wellbeing – A Framework of a Kaupapa Māori Model of Care*. Her book, which developed from her masters thesis, continues to provide both educational institutions and clinical workplaces a "place" in which to locate cultural ways of practising that empowers our indigenous people to follow treatment plans for chronic disease.

A tribute for Janet at the NPNZ conference in Wellington last month commended her for undertaking this original autoethnography research project. This paved the way for her to establish an independent nursing health service – Moni Nursing Services Ltd in Opotiki.



Janet Maloney-Moni in her office earlier this year.

Janet adopted "Kia Mana" as a case management model and was funded by the Bay of Plenty District Health Board to provide a rural service to Māori in the Eastern Bay of Plenty.

Throughout her working life, Janet continued to mentor and drive change for Māori nurses and student nurses wanting to specialise in PHC chronic disease management. She advocated for ongoing professional development towards postgraduate studies and supported many Māori nursing colleagues on the NP pathway.

Janet's vision to work among her own people to support them in improving their health outcomes will never be forgotten. Becoming

an independent prescribing NP 10 years ago brought her vision to reality and has inspired many colleagues.

Sadly, Janet passed away peacefully after a short and sudden illness in August, surrounded by her whānau. She leaves behind her three children and five mokopuna whom she adored. Her legacy lives on through her published work, whānau and hapū.

To honour her memory, the Eastern Bay Primary Health Alliance has set up a nurse scholarship fund. Applications to the Janet Maloney-Moni Scholarship for registered PHC nurses and Eastern Bay residents wishing to pursue health postgraduate study are now open via [www.ebpha.org.nz](http://www.ebpha.org.nz). •

*Mā te whakatau, ka mōhio*

*Mā te mōhio, ka mārāma*

*Mā te mārāma, ka mātau*

*Mā te mātau, ka ora.*

*By discussion comes understanding*

*By understanding comes light*

*By light comes wisdom*

*By wisdom comes life everlasting*

Pa Henare Tate 1991

*Obituary by Janet's daughter and registered nurse Nadine Gray*

## Te Kākano nurse-led clinics aim to improve access for Māori

BETTER ACCESS for Māori to health services and improved whānau health outcomes are the aims of nurse-led health clinics being piloted in the Otago/Southland regions. Launched this month, the clinics – called Te Kākano – are being funded by the Ministry of Health, and supported by the Southern District Health Board (DHB) and Southern Primary Health Organisation (PHO).

Driving force behind the initiative is Southern DHB Māori health district manager Pania Coote. She says the clinics will be targeted at those Māori providers in the community that do not have contracts for clinical services, with the aim of ensuring services will be made available for "those hard to reach people who do not access primary health."

"Everybody is extremely excited we have been given the opportunity to deliver these free, nurse-led clinics," Coote said. "Progress and interest to date is encouraging, as we move to providing increasingly integrated

and coordinated health services within Māori communities, with primary, secondary and community services all working effectively together. We are taking services back to the people, rather than expecting people to come to a centralised place – it's like making a 360 degree turn. In the Southern region, for example, 10 per cent of Māori do not go to the doctor."

### Clinic nurses appointed

Two clinic nursing leads have been appointed – Nadine Goldsmith (Southland-based) and Lorna Scoon (Otago-based). Both nurses are well connected in their communities and are now working towards becoming nurse practitioners (NPs). Although they will do all general health checks and screening, their main roles will be to coordinate services, pulling together resources as needed, eg well child checks, nutrition advice, podiatry and hearing tests. The needs of the community

will shape the kaupapa for each clinic, based on the whānau ora model of delivery.

Goldsmith, who will run clinics at four marae and one community centre between Gore and Bluff, says she hopes to restore people's hope and faith in the primary health care system. "I want whānau to have a good health experience at these clinics and then to feel comfortable enough to enrol with their local PHO and GP."

Southern PHO nurse director Wendy Findlay sees the initiative as an opportunity to reduce health inequalities. "The funding will also give the nurses the financial, professional and clinical support they need to help them on their NP journey. Having two NPs working within the different Māori communities will provide a great opportunity to improve patient outcomes."

The contract for the service is for three years, but if it proves a success, Coote hopes it will continue well into the future. •

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