Office of Hon Te Ururoa Flavell

Mema Pāremata mō Waiariki
*Member of Parliament for Waiariki*

Te Minita Whanaketanga Māori
*Minister for Māori Development*

Te Minita Whānau Ora
*Minister for Whānau Ora*

Te Minita Tuarua Whanaketanga Ohaoha
*Associate Minister for Economic Development*

19 DEC 2014

Merepeka Raukawa-Tait
Chair, Te Pou Matakana
1 Edmonton Road
Henderson
AUCKLAND 0612

Tēnā koe Merepeka

**Letter of Expectations: Whānau Ora Commissioning 2015-2016**

Ō tātou mate tuatini, e takoto mai ai i runga i ō tātou marae maha, i runga i ō tātou papa kāinga, i roto i ō tātou whare, kua uhia rātou ki ngā taumata kōrero e tika ana hei poroporoakī i a rātou. Nā reira, me kī pēnei ake te kōrero, tukuna rātou kia okioki i runga i te moenga roa. Āpiti hono, tātai hono, ko te akaaka o te whenua ki a tātou te hunga ora. Tēnā koe.

This letter conveys my expectations for Whānau Ora Commissioning over the 2015-2016 financial year.

I would like to thank you and acknowledge the time that Te Pou Matakana has taken to help me understand the issues facing whānau and communities; and for recently attending the first joint meeting of the Commissioning Agencies.

As the incoming Minister for Māori Development and Minister for Whānau Ora I have spent the past weeks travelling the regions and meeting with our communities across the motu. These visits have given me a sense of how Government policies are affecting our communities on the ground.

Following these visits, I am now considering how Whānau Ora can best support our whānau and families who are most in need.

**Priorities for the 2015-2016 financial year**

My priorities within Whānau Ora for the 2015-2016 financial year are:

- making a measurable difference for whānau and families with high needs;
- collecting and sharing information;
- demonstrating the benefit of investment in Whānau Ora; and

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- intersectoral engagement and support for Whānau Ora.

*Making a measurable difference for whānau and families with high needs*

I am of the view that investments in whānau outcomes must give priority to the means by which whānau and families are supported to be self-managing, living healthy lifestyles, participating fully in society, economically secure and successfully involved in wealth creation, and cohesive, resilient and nurturing.

Ensuring positive outcomes for whānau and families with high needs is my priority, and I want to ensure that the Commissioning Agencies are working to identify these whānau and families and recognise and build upon their strengths and capabilities. I am therefore signalling my intention to focus the incentive payment component of your Annual Investment Plan for 2015/16 on achieving stretch results for whānau and families with high needs.

*Collecting and sharing information*

At the recent Whānau Ora Partnership Group meeting my colleagues and I acknowledged that in working directly with whānau, families and communities you will be capturing extensive real-time information about whānau, families and communities in their pursuit of whānau ora. This information is highly valuable and can help inform Government on where and how we focus our efforts to achieve the greatest gains for whānau, families and communities. I am particularly interested in how you identify and engage high needs whānau. I also encourage you to develop and implement information sharing tools that support whānau, families and communities to take ownership of their information.

*Demonstrating the benefit of the investment in Whānau Ora*

My intention is to grow Government's overall investment in Whānau Ora. As such, it is critical that the benefits of Commissioning Agencies' investments are well evidenced and can be clearly articulated and understood by all stakeholders. In line with the Whānau Ora approach, I expect that your investments are targeted to whānau and families as a collective, rather than individuals within a whānau or family and would like your reporting on outcomes to reflect this. The Annual Investment Plan is the formal mechanism by which your priority outcomes and the performance indicators to demonstrate your success are agreed upon. Given the high level of interest in the work of the Commissioning Agencies it is important that these are completed in a timely manner.

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*Intersectoral engagement and support for Whānau Ora*

The meeting of the Whānau Ora Partnership Group highlighted the opportunity to broaden the Whānau Ora approach to support the achievement of whānau and families' goals and aspirations.

I am of the view that whānau and families should be at the centre of all interventions and that intersectoral collaboration should actively work for whānau and families.

On this basis I encourage you to actively work with the Ministries of Education, Health, Business, Innovation and Employment, Social Development, Māori Development, Justice and Department of Internal Affairs (Local Government) and service funding Crown Entities like District Health Boards to share your commissioning model and to understand their contributions to short, medium and long term outcomes for whānau and families. You could also identify interventions that work for whānau including those that would benefit by not being constrained by current government processes.

**Whānau Ora Navigators**

Budget 2014 announced an additional $15 million investment over three years to support the successful navigator approach. It is my intention that the funding will be allocated based broadly on the current workforce profile to continue to support the approach.

I have instructed officials from Te Puni Kōkiri to work with you to confirm the approach including the contractual, monitoring and performance arrangements for the Navigator funding. In line with my focus on results I propose that the funding will be reviewed annually.

**General performance**

The first year of operation for each of the Commissioning Agencies has not been without its challenges, establishing a new entity and developing a new model for working with whānau and families is an enormous achievement. I would like to acknowledge the progress made by Te Pou Matakana to date and encourage you to build and accelerate this progress over the coming year.

I look forward to hearing about the results that Te Pou Matakana achieves with whānau and families in the coming year. Noho ora mai.

Nāku noa, nā

Hon Te Ururoa Flavell
Te Minita Whānau Ora

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