

Plunket nurses to take strike action

Around 700 Whānau Āwhina Plunket nurses and staff who are members of the New Zealand Nurses Organisation (NZNO) will be taking strike action for four hours on Thursday 27 October from 10:00am – 2:00pm.

Chief Executive Fiona Kingsford says it's the first time in at least 35 years Plunket nurses have gone on strike.

“This will have an impact on the level of support the organisation will be able to provide to whānau during this time, and we apologise for the inconvenience this may cause.

“Our nurses have been in touch with whānau whose home visits or appointments won't be going ahead while the strike is on, to reschedule. All drop-in clinics have been postponed, however PlunketLine will still be taking calls.

“Parents and caregivers can call PlunketLine on 0800 933 922 if they need to speak to a nurse about their child's health and wellbeing during this time. They may experience longer wait times as we will have fewer staff on during this period.

“Our website plunket.org.nz also has answers to many common parenting queries or concerns. It's a zero-data website, which means you can visit it without using your own data” says Mrs Kingsford.

If anyone requires urgent care they should call 111 for an ambulance.

Fiona Kingsford says Whānau Āwhina Plunket respects the right of employees to take industrial action and acknowledges the important role they play in delivering high quality health and development services to whānau across Aotearoa.

“If we were to offer our staff pay parity, our government funding shortfall this year alone would be over \$9m.

“We understand that Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand is working on advice to the Government on possible solutions to pay parity and we look forward to being updated,” says Mrs Kingsford.

ENDS



About Whānau Āwhina Plunket

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Whānau Āwhina Plunket. The charity is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives.

About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year. Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families, through home and clinic visits, as well as PlunketLine, a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents.

Our website plunket.org.nz is one of the country's most widely read digital child health resources, with 1.8 million visits each year. It is data free which means you don't need mobile data to access and you can choose to view in English or te reo Māori.