

Media Response 13 December 2022

Whānau Āwhina Plunket welcomes immediate residency for nurses



Whānau Āwhina Plunket is welcoming the Government's decision to add registered nurses to the list of professions for immediate residency to Aotearoa New Zealand.

Chief Executive Fiona Kingsford says like the rest of the health sector, Whānau Āwhina Plunket is struggling with recruitment.

"That ultimately has an impact on the services we can provide, in our case to 1whānau with tamariki under five. Hopefully this move goes someway to alleviate this.

"Kahu Taurima - Maternity and early years, improving equity and outcomes for tamariki is one of the top priorities in the new health system, and having enough nursing resource is key to being able to deliver that and improve outcomes for tamariki and their whānau." she says.

Mrs Kingsford says the news is just the start of what's needed to ensure the sector is sustainable.

"We're looking forward to other initiatives such as pay parity becoming a reality for our kaimahi which signals the value they provide supporting the health and wellbeing of pēpi and tamariki across Aotearoa.

"Plunket and other not-for-profit social services continue to be knowingly underfunded and expected to keep delivering the same services in increasingly complex situations: even as we face increasing pressures on our workforce and in our communities.

"The NGO sector cannot carry Government services anymore, without proper recognition of the true cost of doing so."

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 0800 933 922, 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.