

MY COMMITMENT TO NURSING IS UNWAVERING



Meri-Ira Hiki

RN (Registered Nurse)

My name is Meri-Ira Hiki, I was born and grew up in Opotiki. I'm a mother of six tamariki. In 2013 I was accepted into the Bachelor of Nursing at Toi Ohomai, which is where I received all my training.

Kia Ora Hauora

I signed up with Kia Ora Hauora in my first year of Nursing and I'm thankful for their support and encouragement, particularly when later, I applied for a position with Lakes DHB. I was blessed with a scholarship from Hauora Māori in my second and third year. I also received support from Māori Land Education Grants in my second year which kept me going financially.

Since graduating, Kia Ora Hauora have supported myself and other Māori nurses in building our transition to work material such as cover letters and CV's. It's surprising how a well-crafted CV helps when it comes to the opportunities of employment.

KOH worked with me to ensure my CV and cover letter were up to date and written in a professional format that catered to the required job status. They prepared me with a mock interview and without them I feel I would not have been prepared. I'm a person who is not comfortable in interview environments, so thanks to the support I received from KOH Midlands I built my confidence.

Kia Ora Hauora Midlands have continued to support me and after early disappointment I've now secured a permanent position with Lakes District Health Board (Medical Unit).

Commitment to the cause

My commitment to nursing is unwavering and it was at my graduation I was awarded the Toni Purchase Award in recognition of commitment to my studies and my passion for empowering Māori through nursing.

Job opportunities

Job opportunities can be about making the right connections, which is what I did when I graduated. I was encouraged to email my Clinical Managers who knew my work ethic and abilities as a student nurse in 2016. As soon as I made the connection, I was placed onto the refresher programme with Lakes DHB for four weeks. I could then build on my nursing skills and complete the NZNO competencies as a Registered Nurse in a safe environment under the provision of senior nurses.

During this time, I was placed within the agency pool and picked up shifts within the Medical Unit. I have been with the Medical Unit since January 2017. In October 2017, I applied for a permanent position with the Medical Unit and thanks to assistance from KOH I am employed in the Medical Unit with Lakes District Health Board.

Future goals

My overall goal is to not only provide the best quality care and advocate for my patients and our Māori people, but to move into the area of Diabetes which is prominent in our people. It is with a proud heart that I have come this far and have been humbled by the support shown.