

MONTHLY UPDATE

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APRIL ISSUE 2023

Congratulations to Dr. Karen!

Karen Laing, Clinical Lead – Paediatric Occupational Therapist – ABI Community Services

Karen has recently completed her Doctorate in Health Science at AUT. Her experience as both a paediatric occupational therapist and as a teacher was the catalyst for her research topic which investigated how classroom teachers and occupational therapists work across professional boundaries to support children who have profound intellectual and multiple disabilities (PIMD). The conceptual frameworks of activity theory and boundary crossing were used to explore the factors that influenced their activities and interactive relationships and also how they interpreted their own and each other's professional roles, identities and responsibilities.

We're so lucky to have Karen on the ABI team.

Got feedback or a story you'd like to share?
We'd love to hear from you.
feedback@abi-rehab.co.nz



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A note from our CEO

During April, we had two medical emergencies at our Auckland Intensive Service. Thankfully these types of events are rare. Our staff pulled together and did an excellent job in difficult circumstances. Although stressful, it's part of providing a healthcare service and our team is highly skilled to handle these circumstances. I'd like to thank all those who were involved including staff who continued to care for our other kiritaki whilst our kaimahi attended to the situation. Remember to take care of yourselves. Take a moment and be proud of your efforts.

This year hasn't been one where we've rested on our laurels with lots of exciting service development and innovative solutions being brought into action:

- Tender submissions have been made for additional and renewing community services
- We have a new Corrections based clinic to be stood up in Auckland Prison with ABI clinicians facilitating that. The Epsom team will lead this programme.
- The Long COVID work programme is progressing with excellent feedback to date. A reminder to those with whānau or friends who are suffering with long COVID to direct them to our referral form which needs to be completed by their GP.
- Service Development Manager Michelle is in America showcasing how ABI provides Concussion Services as part of an expert CARF group.
- Allied Health Advisor & Educator Jonathan Armstrong is back from America from a CARF survey and Tony Young (GM) is off to America for two CARF surveys before a well earned holiday. Safe travels everyone.



New team members
to join us in April:

Pauline Wood
Charlotte Lawson
Ancella Perillo
Kathryn Daellenbach
Mele Mataele
Nicola Meyer
Lakshmi Bukkara
Tanat Antony

We're glad to
have you on the
ABI team!



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- We have some new work programmes underway under Kath Murrell's leadership including looking at how we can better support those who have suicidal ideation.
- The Collective Bargaining process will begin in May/June with unions.
- Māori Stroke Programme planning and relationship-building efforts are facilitating these programmes' initiation soon.

Our growing team

- We've been delighted to see an increase in international nurses and allied health staff joining our services – welcome to you all.
- A sincere thanks to our staff who have participated in our Maturanga Māori training in April.
- Welcome to Jo who is starting work in Christchurch supporting our Brain Injury Nurse Specialists for those with serious TBI who are inpatients at Christchurch and Burwood hospitals.
- The Neuro-Nurses Symposium coming up in May which is the fifth year this event has been held co-led by Angela and showcases the neuro-nursing specialty.

Our newest therapy dog!

Dudley is our newest therapy dog who joined us in April after qualifying as a St. John Therapy Dog. Willow Totterdell (Rehab Coach/Support Worker) works at ABI Auckland Community Services and Dudley accompanies her to work, much to the delight of our kaimahi (staff) and kiritaki (clients).

Welcome Dudley!



MĀORI DEVELOPMENT PĀNUI



Nau mau whakautau mai ki te pānui tuatahi o Māori Development. Ko te kaupapa o te pānui nei kia whakarawe te mahi o Te Hekenga a Ora me te tīma Māori o ABI.

Welcome to the first Māori Development monthly update to share good news on the development of Te Hekenga a Ora and ABI's growing Māori team.

Introducing te tima Māori (the Māori team)

Te Rina Ruru Pelasio

Nō Te Aitanga-a-Māhaki me Ngāti Kahu ki Whangaroa ahau

I am grounded in whānau experience as my older brother sustained a severe traumatic brain injury from a motor vehicle accident in 2007. This coupled with the experiences of other whānau I've met on our journey has increased my awareness of the quality, safety, and cultural issues whānau face on a day-to-day basis. This inspired me to attain a Bachelor of Laws and Social Science with a focus on Health & Disability.

I am passionate about influencing positive operational and systemic change to improve the experiences of whānau as they navigate the health system.



Jazmin Henare

He mokopuna au nō ngā iwi Te Arawa me Ngai Tai

As a rangatahi māori I have been inspired and encouraged by the teachings of my tipuna to continue their mahi in uplifting the state of ngai Māori, our indigenous whānau and other minority groups.

I have come to ABI excited to take part in the transformation of our services for kiritaki, whānau and kaimahi by applying my skills in project coordination and mātauranga Māori. I hope to help make a difference for all kiritaki joining the whānau of ABI and learn more about myself in the process!



MĀORI DEVELOPMENT PĀNUI



Karen Below (KB)
Ngai Te Rangi : Te Arawa

Ko Karen Below tōku ingoa
Ko KB taku ingoa kārangaranga

In October 1991, my Mātua Witi McMath (Ngāti Wai) was one of five rangitira who lodged the Native Flora and Fauna Claim Wai262 to protect mātauranga Māori knowledge of *tuku iho*, *rongoā* which led me to the *tohu* of Occupational Therapy/ Kaiwhakaora / Healer. Having worked internationally in Neuro Rehab and Mental Health I have seen inequity in indigenous voices / healing solutions. It is a privilege to join ABI and be a part of a team that wants to promote by Māori for Māori solutions!



Arohanui Baker Toopi
Nō Ngāpuhi ahau

I have lived experience with the brain injury of my tāne Brendon that impacted our whole whānau and made me passionate about enhancing the journey for other kiritaki and whānau.

Kaiarahi kaupapa Māori is a calling, responding to the needs of kiritaki and whānau – I view them as my whānau and ensure I can make a difference to their engagement in applying *manaaki*, *awhi* and all the things we naturally do as Māori.



Tūi Howard

He uri ahau nō Ngāti Kahungunu, Ngāti Whaawhaakia, Ngaati Wairere-Ngaati Koura, Te Roroa-Ngai Te Rore me Ngāti Kuri ahau. He mātaamua ahau, he Takatāpui ahau, he Māori ahau. Ko Tūi ahau.

Whakapapa is my connection to *rongoa* Māori. Ki te taha ō tōku māma, on both her maternal and paternal sides, my tūpuna were Tohunga. My professional and personal experience in advocacy within our queer, Takatāpui, and Māori communities is mahi that I hold close to my manawa, and has guided me towards *rongoa* Māori. I know my responsibility to my whānau, and to our people is to help heal our severed ties and *awhina* through *rongoa* Māori. I'm looking forward to learning, offering, and strengthening our connection within ABI, and our kiritaki Māori.



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Zarnia Pickering

Ko Tararua me Ruahine ngā pae Maunga

Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Punahau Te Roto
Ko Ngāti Raukawa te iwi
Ko Olsen raua Ko Ropiha ōku whānau
Ko TeArangamaioteata toku Mataamua
Ko Tairawhiti toku pōtiki
No Papaioea ahau.

I'm Zarnia, born and raised in Levin till the age of 17 when I joined the army. Having spent half of my life in the military and then moving into education, I am passionate about empowering people through diverse situations. I have a deep love & appreciation for Rongoā Māori and weave this into my mahi with ease.

I have two beautiful tamariki that are my world. You can catch us at the gym or in the boxing ring – I have a goal to win a professional boxing fight before I turn 40 (few years up my sleeve).



Joanna Young

Ko Tainui te
Ko Waikato te Awa
Ko Manungatautari te Maunga
Ko Ngāti Huri to Hapū
Ko Pikitu te Marae

My gifts that I stow upon ABI is over twenty years in the teaching and learning context, Te Ao Māori and working towards my Rongoā qualification.

My passion and deep understanding of the principles of Te Tiriti O Waitangi and my core values support my commitment to building strong bicultural partnerships with the objective to ensuring 'Ko te Kiritakite pūtaka o te ao.'

This is evident by my decision to work at ABI Rehabilitation as a Kaimahi Māori (Kai awhina) speaking and role modelling Māori (handed down from my tupuna). This experience is teaching me 'Kia mau koe ki nga kupu o ou tupuna' the importance of holding fast to our ancestors wise kupu (words) and be a champion of our language, to strive to build visibility and normalisation of Te Reo Māori.



MĀORI DEVELOPMENT PĀNUI



Mauri Ora Framework Training

The Mauri Ora Framework Training has been a great success so far with four intakes having completed the modules including two full-day training sessions for nurses and RA's in Auckland. Feedback has been positive and interest grows as kaimahi venture to learn more about te ao māori and how we better deliver our services to kiritaki and whānau.

Feel Good Feedback

As a result of their training, Auckland-based RA's shared that they changed their approach to a kiritaki whom they struggled to provide personal cares. Taking a step back to understand their state of frustration (tapu) kaimahi made time to sit with them and slowly convince the kiritaki to receive personal cares. This has since lead to positive outcomes for both the kaimahi and kiritaki who would otherwise have a very difficult time providing this care.

We congratulate and thank all kaimahi who are making a real effort to implement the mahi learnt from these trainings and encourage everyone to continue doing so!



Tawa Community in-person training after completing Module 3: Mauri Ora!

SPOTLIGHT ON...

KATH



Kathryn Murrell, National Psychology Advisor

An Auckland-raised wahine, Kath is reflective as she sits down to recap on her impressive tenure spanning three continents, and presents as incredibly humble which is a personality trait in many Kiwi clinicians.

"I think you should try university" was the advice given to her as she found her way working for an architectural practice after high school. She didn't think it was for her, but quickly was proved wrong while studying psychology and going on to major in ABA (applied behavioral analysis) at Auckland University and that's where she formally registered as a psychologist. She went on to Northwestern University in Chicago, regarded as the frontrunner for learning disability research and completed her PhD in Learning Disability and Neuropsychology.



From there, she was attracted to the learning opportunities and reputation of the Radcliffe Infirmary in Oxford (United Kingdom) and that's where she found her true passion for working with kids – supporting 6 to 18 year olds with neuro-psychiatric conditions and neuro-disabilities. She found a niche in her approach of understanding just how different we are as humans, and how individualized support and therapy can improve life for not only the young person but also their family and whānau in the long term.

Family reasons brought Kath back to Aotearoa in 2001 where she began her family and has two teenagers, Peryn who is 19 and Hazel, 17.

She worked firstly at Burtons Healthcare, then the Wilson Centre and went on to Starship in 2008, which has morphed and flexed a number of times since then. She continues to work there as part of the National Metabolic team. Kath began working at ABI in 2016 as a contractor and came on board as a permanent (part-time) employee in 2022. She is passionate about equity of services and has a strong social conscience and feels her current role as National Psychology Advisor balances the clinical and strategic elements to drive change in all facets of neuro-rehabilitation.

"The smallest change can make the biggest difference"

Kath sees herself as being in a privileged position sitting alongside people whose lives have been turned upside down. The satisfaction she gets from working with children is what drives her and notes "you support a child to make some changes in their young life, and it's for life – that's very rewarding".

As National Psychology Advisor, she works alongside all our psychologists and has developed a workforce development plan for the next five years to allow for growth across all career levels, and is a safe pair of hands when one of our team needs to get expert psychology advice and support. Kath recently has been running a series of workshops to upskill, connect and reflect and this is a key component of her role. Outside of work, Kath has a tight-knit group of friends that she regards as her 'inner circle' yet none are in the clinical space. Teamed with her whānau, they bring her joy outside of work, along with her dog, Coco.