

## **Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa – moving forward, leaving alcohol behind**

Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa, the backbone organisation for Healthy Families Far North, is making steady traction with its organisational alcohol management plan as part of its wider health promoting journey.

The Kaitiāia-based entity is the backbone organisation for Healthy Families Far North and employs 70 social, educational and health staff who serve the iwi with over 16,000 registrars.

The organisation hosted its last onsite function to serve alcohol at the staff Christmas break-up in 2016 and it has moved from strength to strength since.

Although an official organisational policy hasn't been drafted, alcohol management within the organisation is a result of decisive leadership from Te Rūnanga o Te Rarawa CEO Kevin Robinson, and practice informing the written framework.

It is also a clear example of how resetting organisational culture in a healthier, more responsible way can be done differently.

Healthy Families Far North has been intimately involved with nurturing the organisation as it moves towards becoming a fully health promoting organisation, where health and wellbeing are intrinsic in all its internal and external processes.

Together with the Health and Safety Committee, Healthy Families Far North has helped form a framework with three bold goals, complete with underlying initiatives, time frames and key champions.

Two of the goals are self-explanatory – that Te Rarawa Anga Mua promotes and supports only locally grown and produced kai by 2020, and that the Te Rarawa Anga Mua workforce is auahi kore/smoke free by June 2018.

The third goal – Mean Te Rarawa Mean! – speaks of enhancing iwi health and integrity through using te reo Māori, tikanga Te Rarawa and iwi activities and events as vehicles for change.

Under this goal, one action point is for the committee to canvas kaimahi on how they prefer to celebrate and mark significant events.

Healthy Families Far North kaiwhakahaere Shirleyanne Brown says the willingness shown by the organisation is inspirational.

“This is a fantastic example of courageous leadership from an iwi organisation willing to take a strong stance on embodying what it is to be authentically Māori. Removing the normality of alcohol consumption from onsite events is but one part of an exciting time for Te Rarawa moving forward, ensuring a healthy and well legacy for its people,” she says.

