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Putting whanau ora first at Waitangi Day 2017 celebrations

The health of the whanau and prevention of chronic disease will be in focus for Far North providers making a presence at this year's Waitangi Day celebrations at the Waitangi Treaty Grounds on Monday February 6.

Healthy Families Far North is linking in with lead organisation Te Rarawa Anga Mua, Diabetes Northland and Ngati Hine Health Trust in the hauora zone to offer pre-diabetes checks and old-style family portraits in celebration of the theme 'Whanau Ora, Whanau Rangatira'.

Healthy Families Far North manager Shirleyanne Brown says the team is bringing back Dr Tom Mulholland following a successful tour of Far North community hubs and the Far North District Council offices in early 2016.

'Dr Tom' is an Auckland-based emergency department GP who has a 25-year old career spanning from Kaitaia to the sub-Antarctic islands. He will be placed with Diabetes Northland and Ngati Hine Health Trust, offering checks that include blood lipids and diabetes testing (HBA1C), which can indicate pre-diabetes risk.

Shirleyanne says Waitangi Day is an opportune time for Te Taitokerau people to take advantage of the opportunity to invest in whanau health and the perpetuity of whakapapa.

"Healthy Families Far North is about improving people's lives at scale in the areas where they live, learn, work and play. We are pleased to be in a position to offer our whanau an exchange of health assurance for a few minutes of their time," she says.

Meanwhile, Te Rarawa Anga Mua kaimahi are polishing up their camera lens and dusting out the blankets to take old-style portraits of visitors to the Waitangi Day celebrations. Tutura Tangata senior co-ordinator Paulette Lewis says the photo booth idea was launched by the late Vivienne Body, who worked with Te Rarawa under the Kia Piki Te Ora umbrella, at the 2016 celebrations.



“We’ve got some great props and costumes, so we’re looking forward to seeing people at our black and yellow Te Rarawa marquee to have a korero about what whanau ora and whanau rangatira mean to our communities,” she says.

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