

# KOKIRI MARAE HEALTH & SOCIAL SERVICES

*Committed to the Holistic Well-being of Whānau, Hapū, Iwi*

[www.takirimai.org.nz](http://www.takirimai.org.nz)

Ph: 04 939 4630

7- 9 Barnes Street  
Seaview, Lower Hutt



Minister Karen Chhour  
Private Bag 18041  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington 6160

By email: [k.chhour@ministers.govt.nz](mailto:k.chhour@ministers.govt.nz)

Kei te whakarite i takutaku nei ki te atua kia whakatata mai te ihu atua ki te ihu tangata tēnā koe.

E ngā muka tangata kua rangitāmirotia nei e tā tātou kaupapa huia kaimanawa i tēnei rā i raro i ngā tauwhiro tangata o te Atua, tēnā koutou.

***Whakahokia te wairua me te mauri o te kaupapa ki te whānau, hapū, iwi***  
**The way forward to achieving a future where whānau determine what is in their best interests**

He whakatauki tēnei hei akiaki ki a koutou e taukumekume i ngā taumahatanga. Ko te mea nui o tēnei whakatauki ki a au, ko te manamotuhake o te whānau.

Ki konei tuitui ai i te ngutu runga, ki te ngutu raro, kei aku rangatira kia whakairia ake kia paetara ā-whare aku whakaaro i konei, e tau ana.  
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.

Tena koe e te Minita Chhour,

Thank you for the opportunity to review and provide a response to the 2023/2024 Experiences of Care in Aotearoa Report and the opportunity to provide comments on its findings.

We have taken the opportunity to review the draft report that relates directly to Kokiri Marae. While we acknowledge the small amount of tamariki in our care, it is positive to see the acknowledgements in our first report.

Kokiri Marae was granted full custody at a time our process, policy and practice did not fully meet the National Care Standard Regulations. This has been very challenging navigating the NCS with lack of resource and expertise, however we are very proud of the position we are in today.

Kokiri Marae acknowledge this is revolutionary mahi which allows us to work using our tikanga based whanau centred framework *Te Rautaki o te Manu*.

We know our models of practice, framework and matauranga enhance positive outcomes for whanau, the frustrations remain where we have no one able to lead and guide us through this process. It's frustrating when there's no clear path forward for initiatives that are designed to support and uplift communities, especially when you're trying to bridge the gap between cultural services and statutory agencies.

The issue with poor funding, especially considering the scale of the work required, is a real barrier to sustainability. It's hard to continue providing vital services and meeting practice standards when resources don't match the level of effort and commitment required. The fact that Kokiri Marae holds such a significant custodial role and takes our responsibility seriously speaks volumes about the importance of the mahi we have ahead.

Funding models should reflect the added responsibilities Māori providers take on, especially when we hold custodial and cultural roles. There needs to be an understanding that this work goes beyond delivering services, it's about upholding and nurturing tikanga and mātauranga Māori as part of the process.

Given the nature of kaupapa Māori services, contracts should allow for flexibility and longterm planning. Funding models that are based on short-term or one-off grants create uncertainty and undermine the sustainability of services that need to grow and evolve.

Offering additional capacity-building funding or support is crucial for Kokiri Marae in building the necessary internal systems, processes, and capabilities to manage our care service effectively. This could include things like training, auditing, and quality assurance systems, which would help ensure the sustainability of our care service long-term.

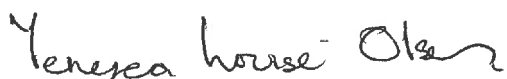
This responsibility goes beyond just providing a service, it's about ensuring the safety, well-being, and cultural integrity of Tamariki, mokopuna, and whānau, which requires significant planning, resources, and ongoing investment.

The fact that our current funding does not reflect the full extent of the work required is a major barrier. The current funding structure for Kokiri Marae Full Care service doesn't fully appreciate the holistic and culturally grounded nature of the service. It is often overlooked or undervalued in traditional funding models, and this is a clear example.

We welcome future korero and all opportunities to strengthen the mahi we do to support whanau, hapu, iwi to enhance positive outcomes for Maori.

Ki konei tuitui ai i te ngutu runga, ki te ngutu raro, kei aku rangatira kia whakairia ake kia paetara ā-whare aku whakaaro i konei, e tau ana.

Ngā manaakitanga ki runga i a koe.



Nā Teresa Olsen  
Chief Executive Officer