

KAHUNGUNU HEALTH AUTHORITY – VISIONING WĀNANGA

8 May 2026 – 1pm – Toitoti, Hastings

Summary

The Visioning Wānanga brought together iwi, hapū, PSGEs, Taiwhenua, hauora providers and community leaders to discuss the future of a Māori-led health authority grounded in rangatiratanga, Kotahitanga and whānau wellbeing. The hui focused on understanding why the current system is failing Māori, identifying a long-term vision for future generations, and exploring what collective Māori-led authority in hauora could look like.

The Visioning Wānanga focused on shaping a collective vision for the future of a Kahungunu-led hauora system grounded in rangatiratanga, kotahitanga and long-term wellbeing for whānau and mokopuna. A strong desire for clarity, unity and transformational change, with emphasis on iwi, hapū, marae, Taiwhenua, PSGEs and providers working collaboratively rather than in isolation was expressed. Prevention, holistic wellbeing and intergenerational outcomes were identified as key priorities.

Discussions highlighted deep concern about the continued failure of the current health system to meet the needs of Māori, with participants identifying colonisation, inequitable systems, lack of Māori authority and dependence on Crown-led structures as ongoing barriers to wellbeing. Strong connections were drawn between hauora, whenua and taiao, alongside the need for Māori-designed systems grounded in whakapapa, tikanga and local leadership.

A future vision emerged centred on whānau, mokopuna and future generations, particularly those underserved or disconnected from current systems. A holistic, preventative and whakapapa-based model of wellbeing that supports people socially, spiritually, physically and culturally, while also addressing wider determinants such as housing, education, employment, safety and identity. Māori leadership, courageous decision-making and long-term accountability to communities were seen as essential to achieving meaningful and enduring change.

The wānanga also explored the importance of collective action and moving beyond organisational competition, siloed thinking and historical divisions. Successful Indigenous models, including examples from Alaska, and reinforced the importance of trust, transparency and kotahitanga in building a Māori-led authority or consortium were reflected on. There was broad agreement that iwi and communities already have the capability to design and lead their own systems, as demonstrated during responses to COVID-19 and Cyclone Gabrielle.

The hui concluded with strong support for continuing the kaupapa through collective governance, stakeholder engagement and ongoing wānanga, with recognition that lasting transformation would require courage, hope, sustained commitment and a shared determination to “paddle together” for future generations.