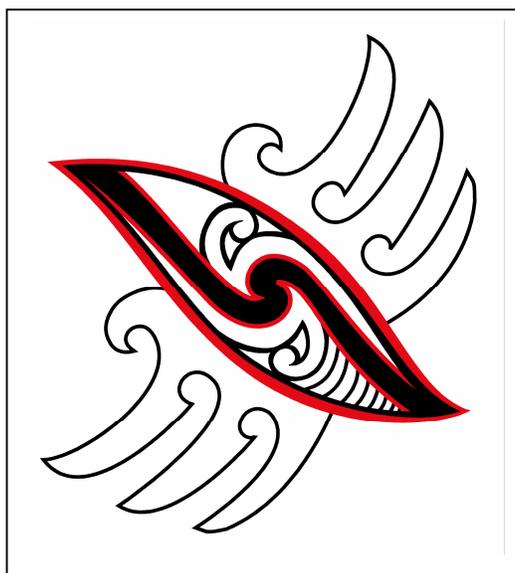


Te Kahui Atawhai O Te Motu Inc



Pakeke Project: Section 13, Social Workers Registration Act 1993

Proposal: That Te Kaiāwhina Ahumahi design and facilitate a pilot project to guide a group nominated by Te Kahui Atawhai O Te Motu Inc (National Collective Iwi Maori Social Service Providers) of Pakeke from Te Kahui Atawhai 10 regions through a Section 13 process to gain registration as social workers.

Background:

Social worker registration has been introduced by the Social Workers Registration Act 1993. In the normal course of events, applicants for registration will have an approved social work qualification, and will follow the process that applies to them (covered in Section 12). However, there is provision in the Act for registration of experienced social workers who lack a recognised qualification. Section 13 of the Act reads as follows:

13 Board may recognise practical experience in certain cases

- (1) *The Board may decide that the applicant should be registered fully if-*
- (a) *he or she has neither a recognised New Zealand qualification nor an overseas qualification equivalent to a recognised New Zealand qualification; but*
 - (b) *the Board is satisfied that-*
 - (i) *his or her practical experience in practising social work in New Zealand is enough to compensate for the lack of such a qualification; and*
 - (ii) *his or her competence to practise social work has been found satisfactory under Part 3; and*
 - (iii) *he or she is a fit and proper person to practise social work; and*
 - (iv) *that (whether as a result of his or her satisfactory completion of a course or courses of training, or because his or her practical experience in practising social work in New Zealand is enough to compensate for not having completed such a course) he or she-*
 - (A) *is competent to practise social work with Maori; and*
 - (B) *is competent to practise social work with different ethnic and cultural groups in New Zealand.*

(2) *Subsection (1) overrides section 12.*

It is understood that applications under Section 13 will rarely be accepted by the Social Workers Registration Board (SWRB). Applications will probably only be accepted from a small group of very experienced social workers who are so close to the end of their career (by virtue of their age) that it would be unreasonable to expect them to complete a degree in social work (the new benchmark established by the SWRB), and qualify for registration in the usual manner (Section 12).

Te Kaiāwhina Ahumahi is aware that there are a number of highly experienced and valued Pakeke who could be eligible to apply for registration under section 13. They lack a currently recognised qualification, and are of an age that would make it unreasonable to expect them to complete a degree in social work. They are however a considerable "asset" within a number of social work settings, such as Iwi/Māori social services, care and protection, and health (in particular in mental health). They are engaged in both direct service delivery and in provision of cultural supervision to other kaiāwhina.

They are rightly regarded as taonga, because they carry the in-depth knowledge and skill base for working with whānau, hapū, and iwi. They bring with them extensive competency in spiritual matters, and in the knowledge of whakapapa. They are indispensable in health and social service provision in Aotearoa New Zealand.

An enormous amount of cultural capital would be lost if they were prevented from practising social work and professional supervision. However, it is reasonable to assume a scenario where this may happen. It is anticipated that government agencies and NGO's that provide social work services under government funded contracts in health and social services will be required to employ registered social

workers. If these Pakeke are required to either complete a degree in social work or cease employment, they will be lost to health and social services in terms of social work practice and professional supervision.

Proposal:

Te Kaiāwhina Ahumahi wishes to design and facilitate a pilot project that would guide a group of up to 10 Pakeke through a Section 13 process to gain registration as social workers.

Te Kaiāwhina Ahumahi will in partnership with Te Kahui Atawhai O Te Motu Inc carry out this project, and will approach relevant agencies for support.

In

- research and design the process (includes negotiations with the SWRB)
- select the pilot group (includes negotiations with Nga Pakeke and their employers)
- guide and support Nga Pakeke to gather and present their evidence for their section 13 application
- guide and support Nga Pakeke to gather and present evidence for their competency assessment process through one of the two approved competency providers¹
- support Nga Pakeke in their interactions with the SWRB
- seek assistance and support for regional selection and marketing of pakeke project to Iwi Maori Social Service Providers
- write a report on the pilot project, with recommendations for future action.

I te mutunga, ko te tino putake o tenei kaupapa ko te whakanui i o tatau pakeke mo nga mahi kua oti i a ratau, me nga pukenga kei i a ratau hei whakatutuki i o ratau mahi nui.

Naku, na

Titia Graham
Tumuaki (Co-Executive Director)

Teresa Curtis
Tumuaki/Executive Director

¹ Te Ara Aromatawai or the Aotearoa New Zealand Association of Social Workers