TE PUNANGA ORA | IWI MĀORI PARTNERSHIP BOARD — TARANAKI

CANDIDATE INFORMATION PACK

Pou Whakahaere | Chief Executive Officer

A leadership opportunity grounded in Taranaki, whānau voice and the advancement of hauora Māori.

Location: Taranaki

Applications close: Wednesday 2 December 2026

Recruitment contact: Tracey Soffe | trace@traceconsulting.co.nz

This pack contains: Candidate information pack and Position Description

Trace Consulting is managing this appointment on behalf of Te Punanga Ora

1. Te Punanga Ora: Our Purpose and Kaupapa

Te Punanga Ora is the Iwi Māori Partnership Board for Taranaki, comprising representatives mandated by the eight iwi of Taranaki. Our vision is to ensure our whānau have a culturally healthy future.

We provide health and wellbeing thought leadership grounded in the hauora needs of tangata Māori who are from, and choose to live in, Taranaki. We work to ensure health services are organised in ways that reflect the needs of our local communities, serving whānau and families living under the shadow of Taranaki Maunga.

Our role is to amplify whānau voice: to understand what matters to whānau Māori, bring their experiences and aspirations to decision-makers, and advocate for services and policies that respond to those needs.

Our values | Ngā uara

Our values shape how we care for people, work together and uphold our responsibilities to whānau, iwi and one another.



2. Strategic Direction and Hauora Priorities

The way health services are planned and delivered affects the everyday lives of whānau across Taranaki. Te Punanga Ora has a role in ensuring Māori perspectives, experiences and evidence are considered in those decisions — particularly when local hauora needs risk being overlooked.

Advocacy is practical work. It means listening to whānau, understanding the issues, drawing on evidence and relationships, and putting clear advice and submissions before the people and agencies who make decisions. The Board's influence is exercised through engagement, advice and advocacy, not by acting as a health-service provider.

Te Punanga Ora's published Community Health Plan and Hauora Māori Priorities Summary Report (September 2024) provide useful background on the needs identified through engagement. They are contextual documents; the Board's agreed direction determines current priorities.

Community Health Plan (2024)

Hauora Māori Priorities Summary Report (2024)

3. The Pou Whakahaere Role

Reporting to the Board, the Pou Whakahaere will lead Te Punanga Ora's work programme and help translate its strategic direction into tangible results for whānau Māori across Taranaki. The position combines advocacy and relationship leadership with the discipline to plan, coordinate and deliver.

Working alongside the Board, iwi and hauora partners, the Pou Whakahaere will champion the needs and aspirations of whānau Māori across Taranaki, ensuring their voices and experiences inform regional and national health decision-making.

There is scope to shape priorities with the Board and lead their implementation. The role requires clear advice, effective relationships and the ability to coordinate contractors and maintain progress. See the attached Position Description for detailed responsibilities and accountabilities.

4. Leadership Experience and Attributes

The Board is interested in demonstrated capability, not a particular career title. Previous Chief Executive experience is not essential. Senior leadership experience, initiative and a record of translating strategy into delivery are central to this appointment.

Whakapapa to Taranaki or strong, established connections within Taranaki are essential.

The successful candidate will bring trusted relationships with iwi, hapū and Māori communities; an understanding of te ao Māori, tikanga Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi; and a commitment to te reo Māori. They will be able to influence constructively, navigate complex relationships and make sound decisions while working with a high degree of autonomy.

Experience in health or hauora Māori and working with a governance Board would be advantageous, but are not prerequisites. The attached Position Description provides the full person specification, responsibilities and reporting expectations.

5. Governance and Working Arrangements

The Pou Whakahaere reports directly to the Te Punanga Ora Board and works closely with the Chair, iwi representatives, partners and contractors.

Operating within a small organisational structure, the Pou Whakahaere provides strategic advice to the Board and leads the delivery of its agreed priorities, maintaining clear boundaries between governance and operational responsibilities.

This is a Taranaki-based, three-year contractor engagement of approximately 30 hours per week, worked flexibly. The role is Taranaki-based and requires travel for regional and national meetings and engagements, alongside occasional evening and weekend commitment.

6. Recruitment and Appointment Information

1. **When do applications close and how do I apply?**
   Applications close on Wednesday 2 December 2026. Please submit your CV and cover letter through the advertised application link. Your cover letter should outline your relevant leadership experience, connections to Taranaki, and how your skills and experience align with the role.

2. **What are the terms of engagement?**
   This is a three-year contractor engagement, requiring approximately 30 hours per week, with flexibility in how those hours are worked. The role involves travel outside Taranaki, including overnight stays, and availability for evening and weekend commitments when required. Final terms will be agreed with the successful candidate.

3. **What is the remuneration?**
   The indicative annual contractor fee range is $120,000–$165,000 + GST (if applicable), based on an anticipated commitment of approximately 30 hours per week. The final fee will reflect the skills and experience of the successful candidate.

4. **Is the role based in Taranaki?**
   The role is Taranaki-based. Whakapapa to Taranaki or strong, established connections within Taranaki are essential. The successful candidate is expected to reside in Taranaki.

5. **Is previous Chief Executive experience essential?**
   No. The Board welcomes applications from experienced senior leaders who can demonstrate strategic leadership, sound judgement, strong relationships and a proven ability to deliver results.

6. **Is previous health-sector experience required?**
   Health or hauora Māori experience is advantageous but not essential. Candidates should demonstrate an understanding of the Māori health environment, the importance of whānau voice and the ability to advocate effectively for Māori hauora priorities.

7. **Will my application be treated confidentially?**
   Yes. Enquiries and applications will be managed confidentially by Trace Consulting. Candidate information will be handled in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020, and referees will only be contacted with your permission.

8. **When will I hear back?**
   Applicants will be advised of the outcome of their application following the initial review and shortlisting process. Candidates can expect to hear back by 14 December 2026.

9. **Can I discuss the opportunity before applying?**
   Yes. For a confidential discussion, please contact Tracey Soffe at Trace Consulting: trace@traceconsulting.co.nz.