

JR.BM Unregulated Health Workers Fund 2024



Jordon Denison

I am employed as a Community Support Worker in the Sub-Acute Unit. I see a need and have a passion for helping those in my community, and I would also like to bridge the gap with young māori in our mental health services.

I also identify with our takatāpui community, which statistics show has a higher chance of dealing with mental health challenges and not being able to access our services.

I believe there needs to be more tāne Māori takatāpui representation in our mental health services for whai ora to feel comfortable to reach out and ask for help.



Chevau Johnston

I have chosen to pursue a Bachelor of Oral Health Science due to my unwavering passion for oral health, cultivated through five years of dedicated service as a dental assistant working for Te Whata ora in Te Tai Tokerau.

I was born and bred in Kaikohe, a low-decile area facing economic challenges with limited access to healthcare. I see the great need for oral health therapists, and I am deeply committed to returning home.

My goal is to contribute to my community's health and well-being by working for Te Whata Ora, where I can apply my expertise and skills to improve oral health outcomes and make a meaningful impact in Kaikohe, bridging the oral health disparities, access to care for those in need and change oral health habits.



The fund is generously provided by a member of our community to support kaimahi who have no previous qualifications and are seeking to study at the Certificate, Diploma or Bachelor level.

JR.BM Unregulated Health Workers Fund 2023



Ena Rudolph

Ena Rudolph has worked with Timatanga Hou Detox Unit at Dargaville Hospital as a Health Care Assistant for almost five years.

Ena has recently completed the Level 7 Diploma in Applied AOD/CEP Practitioner and is applying for her Provisionals with DAPAANZ.

Ena hopes to be a fully registered Practitioner by the end of 2024.

Ena chose this course because it not only teaches taura how to interact with tangata whaiora so they can identify their own strengths and weaknesses to determine better outcomes for themselves but also allows for personal growth.

The JRBM Scholarship has covered a good chunk of Ena's tuition fees allowing her to continue her studies which she is due to complete this year (2023). Having overcome her own obstacles in life, and supporting her five kids and four moko's, we think this is a pretty awesome achievement!



Amanda Bates

Amanda Bates commenced her career as a Dental Chairside Assistant with Te Whatu Ora in Te Tai Tokerau over seventeen years ago and is now undertaking a Bachelor of Health Science – Oral Health.

Amanda calls Kerikeri home and loves raising her young family in the Far North.

Her goal is to work as a Dental Therapist/Hygienist in the Dental Service with Te Whatu Ora after graduating.

"Being a successful applicant of the JRBM Scholarship will significantly reduce the financial sacrifice my whānau is making," says Amanda.

"I am grateful to receive this and look forward to contributing my service as an Oral Health Therapist to Te Tai Tokerau."



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JR.BM Unregulated Health Workers Fund 2022



Karen Croft



Karen Croft has worked for the Te Whatu Ora in Te Tai Tokerau since 2017 initially as an Admin Support worker and progressed to Scheduler at Bay of Islands Hospital after two years.

Karen recognises there is a shortage of Clinical Coders in New Zealand and only three Māori Coders.

She intended to complete the required Challenge Exam (Medical Terminology) prior to starting the Introductory ICD10-AM ACHI and ACS (Clinical Coding).

Unfortunately, she failed the exam which then meant she needed to complete the pre-requisite Medical Terminology course.

After being diagnosed with breast cancer in August 2022, she put her studies on hold to focus on her health, returning to work full time in January 2023. Due to the demands of everyday life, she has not managed to pick up her studies yet, however, intends to complete this course early next year.

Once completed Karen aims to start the introductory ICD10-AM ACHI and ACS course in July 2024. This qualification is based in Australia and is the only Australasian Clinical Coding qualification.

Miriana Katene

Miriana Katene is originally from Rotorua but has been residing in the Far North for the last seven years.

She has almost completed her Bachelor of Nursing degree through Te Pūkenga - NorthTec and is excited to join the Mid North District Nursing Team pending her exam results.

"I am very privileged and honoured to have been a recipient of the JRBM scholarship," says Miriana.

"Your donation has given me the opportunity to continue my study and I thank you for your support and generosity."



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JR.BM Unregulated Health Workers Fund 2021



Robyn Cooper

Robyn Cooper has been working as a Community Support Worker in the mental health field for 20 years.

With support from the JRBM scholarship, Robyn has completed a Bachelor of Nursing studying at Te Pūkenga - NorthTec in Whangārei.

"My choice to study was prompted by the need for more māori mental health nurses."

"Having many years of successful experience in mental health, I felt it was time to step up and become even more useful, as a mental health nurse."

Robyn has accepted a role as a Registered Nurse at Mid North Community Mental Health Services in Kaikohe commencing next year. "I'm so blessed."

"Having completed the Bachelor of Nursing degree and coming through without a student loan, I am so grateful. Thank you once again for the financial support."



Anita Graham

Anita is located in the Far North and started with Te Whatu Ora in Te Tai Tokerau as a Dental Assistant.

Anita first applied for the JRBM Scholarship funding to start in 2020.

She is set to complete her Diploma of Enrolled Nursing mid 2024 after taking some time off study for her family.

Anita is excited to start her new career at Kaitaia Hospital, she says, "by working in the health sector and becoming a Nurse, I hope to help improve the health of vulnerable communities in Northland."



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Phoenix Pivac



Phoenix Pivac was originally employed as a Radiology Department Assistant at Whangārei Hospital. With support from the JRBM Scholarship, she is studying towards a Bachelor of Health Science specialising in Medical Imaging through Unitec.

Phoenix feels most passionate about Medical Imaging as it's an industry that creatively challenges her and reaps many rewards. "I enjoy the variety of modalities that provide many learning opportunities, as well as having the ability to further progress in specialties such as Ultrasound, CT and MRI."

"I acknowledge there is a demand for Māori Medical professionals within this sector. This has been a huge motivation for me to pursue a higher education to help narrow these disparities and make a difference in the world of patient centred care."

Phoenix is due to complete her studies in 2024 and is looking forward to putting her learnings into practice.

Daniel Manihera

Daniel has completed a Bachelor of Nursing in 2022 with support from the JRBM Unregulated Health Workers Fund.

Daniel was the Tumanako Mental Health Auxiliary Workers Team Leader for Mental Health and Addictions and was driven to study to continue making a positive impact on tāngata whaiora so they can live an independent and dignified life within the community while managing their distress.

Daniel has since obtained a New Graduate position with Community Mental Health & Addictions (General Adult) team and has recently joined the new wellbeing initiative Mana Ake as taiārahi Team Lead since August 2023.

Well done for all your hard mahi Daniel.



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JR.BM Unregulated Health Workers Fund 2019



Daryn Thompson



One of the first recipients of the fund, Daryn completed a Bachelor of Nursing Hons intensive 36-month academic pathway.

Daryn was nominated as valedictorian for the student body for his year and completed the New Entry to Specialist Practice (NESP): Mental Health and Addiction Nursing Programme at the University of Auckland.

Since completing the NESP programme Daryn has gone on to Community Mental Health Nursing for the Kaupapa Māori service, Te Roopu Whitiara.

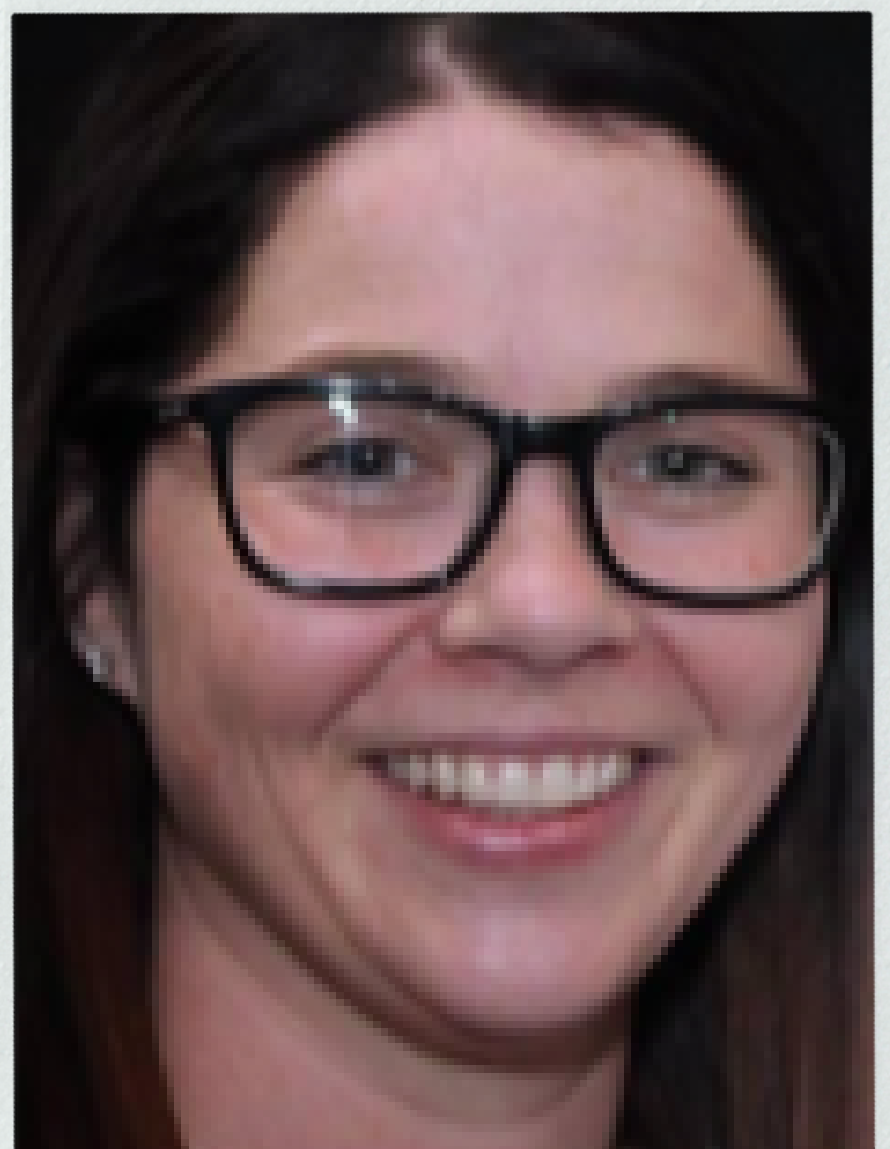
He has also coordinated the Medrun for the Whangārei Acute Spectrum Specialist Service and is currently the Clinical Nurse Coordinator for the Raranga Tahī team, a new service which is an alternative to an admission into Tumanako (Inpatient Unit).

Amanda House

Another early Fund recipient, Amanda House, works as administration support for the Directorate of Medical and Elder.

Amanda is studying towards a Diploma in Business Studies from Massey University.

She is excited to be due to complete her studies in 2024 after taking some time out to grow her family.



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JR.BM Unregulated Health Workers Fund 2018



Auriole Cook



Auriole Cook has been employed with Te Whatu Ora since 2015 and was awarded the JRBM Scholarship in 2019 to study towards a Diploma of Mental Health & Addictions.

Auriole was appointed to the Lead Mental Health Auxiliary role in 2021 and says "it has been an exciting time working in the Tumanako Inpatient Unit with the many challenges we face in our workplace."

Auriole is considering elevating her studies to a Bachelor of Applied Science (Communication and Psychology) after there have been some changes to the Diploma qualification at Open Polytechnic.

We look forward to watching your next steps Auriole!

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Since 2018, the Fund has been providing opportunities for Te Whatu Ora and Te Ake Whai Ora kaimahi in Te Tai Tokerau to receive financial support for their tuition fees.