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Media Release

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Major Health Plan will tackle poor health among Maori

A Waitakere Maori Health provider, Waiora Healthcare, has come up with potential solutions for tackling poor health statistics and inequalities for Maori in the district.

The Waiora Healthcare PHO (Primary Health Organisation) Maori Health Plan targets tamariki (children) aged 0 – 12 years and Maori men aged 12 – 44 years, in Waitakere City.

Health statistics show that these target areas are the most at risk and in need of specialist healthcare programmes.

The plan sets out solutions through a range of initiatives including:

- B4 School Checks: Waiora Healthcare is the lead PHO in Waitemata in this national initiative targeting 4-year-old pre-schoolers
- One Heart Many Lives: A cardiovascular disease (CVD) prevention programme targeting Maori and Pacific men aged 35 years and over.
- Make a Stand: A Workplace Care programme which targets Maori, Pacific, immigrant and low-income men aged 30-50 years in their workplace.

Waiora Healthcare will also work with other organisations such as Unitec, Auckland University and AUT University to increase the number of Maori workers in the health industry.

The Waiora Healthcare Maori Health Plan will be officially launched this Wednesday by the Hon. Tariana Turia and Waiora Healthcare at Hoani Waititi Marae in Glen Eden.

The Hon. Dr Pita Sharples, Waitakere Deputy Mayor Penny Hulse and Waiora Healthcare Chairman John Tamihere will be attending the launch in support of the plan.

In addition to the needs identified for Waitakeres' own population, the plan also takes into account national primary health goals.

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The Waiora Healthcare Maori Health Plan will be released on Wednesday 18 March 2009.

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