

Marae-based clinics

A sustainable, whānau-focused approach to empowering equity



CASE STUDY

Te Whare Hauora o Mangatoatoa Paa

Persistent inequities call for bold, culturally grounded solutions. Whānau-led marae-based clinics are improving access, trust, and outcomes for Māori across Te Manawa Taki. This is made possible through partnerships among marae, clinics, and other institutions.

Pinnacle is proud to support marae-based clinics, including at Te Whare Hauora o Mangatoatoa Paa, where care led by whānau for whānau and anchored in Te Whare Tapa Whā, is creating real change.

August 2022

October 2022

January 2024

April/May 2025

October 2025

3-month pilot begins, led by Te Awamutu Medical Centre (TAMC) with funding from Raukawa Charitable Trust.

Waikato-Tainui and Pinnacle visit Te Whare o Mangatoatoa Paa, commit to funding support; clinic to continue beyond the trial.

Mahoe Medical Centre joins, alternates weeks with TAMC. Thurs outreach clinic begins; 12 pēpi immunised in first month.

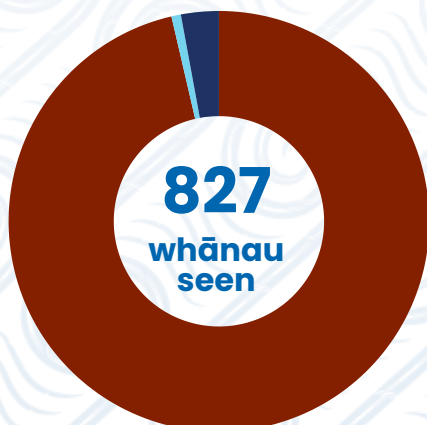
Mahoe Medical Centre winds down service, clinic returns to fortnightly delivered by TAMC.

Mangatoatoa Paa hosts a hauora open day with preliminary research into early success and impact, presented by Dr Awanui Te Huia.



PHOTOS (L-R): Mangatoatoa Paa co-chairs, Derek Roberts and Hone Hughes; the clinic hallway; whānau waiting area.

What's changed?



- 797 Māori
- 6 Pasifika
- 25 Other ethnicity



284

medical consultations

2 cervical screens

14 respiratory conditions

19 immunisations

54 first-time visits

73 diabetes reviews/support

73 unenrolled patients

Aggregated clinic data (2024)



Why it matters

The marae at Mangatoatoa Paa near Kihikihi and the Puniu River, has become a place of healing. Barriers like cost, distance, cultural differences, or feeling unheard once made it hard for many in the area to access primary care. Now, services are delivered at the marae – a space that feels safe and familiar, grounded in kaupapa Māori values, where whānau are reconnecting with primary care.

How it works

Each fortnight, clinicians from Te Awamutu Medical Centre (TAMC) deliver free community health services from the whare hauora/health clinic – a dedicated hub that includes three consult rooms and a whānau waiting area. The team includes a doctor, nurse, pharmacist prescriber and psychologist, providing care from checkups and medical consults to mental health support and long-term condition management. Social connection with a cup of tea, kai, and kōrero in the waiting area are part of the healing.



“

For Māori, there is **no more grounding home than a marae**. Receiving care here brings a sense of **safety** and **belonging**.
(Whānau feedback)

“

There's **a different mauri and wairua** here. That's all part of hauora. It's all about your spiritual side and your physical side and your mental side, all of them together.” — Hone Hughes, Mangatoatoa Paa co-chair

Where to from here

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We honour Te Arikinui Kuini Nga wai hono i te po, the Māori Queen, and remember her father, the late Kiingi Tūheitia Pōtatau Te Wherowhero VII.

We acknowledge:

The ancestral connection of Mangatoatoa Marae to the Tainui waka and Ngaati Maniapoto...

and Te Awamutu Medical Centre, Mahoe Medical Centre, Raukawa Charitable Trust, and Waikato-Tainui for supporting this kaupapa.

Above all, we are deeply grateful to the Mangatoatoa Paa Trust for welcoming us into their whare and allowing us to share this story.

Mangatoatoa Paa is exploring next steps, including charitable trust registration and expanding into preventative services like nutrition and movement. The clinic's ongoing demand reflects its impact. Pinnacle remains committed to walking alongside and supporting marae and community-based clinics — an essential, impactful part of primary care for Māori and rural communities.

SCAN & VIEW: THE FULL SHORT DOCUMENTARY WILL BE UPLOADED TO THIS WEBPAGE ON 5 NOVEMBER

