

# WHETŪ PAERANGI

## Stars in the Distant Horizon

*Ehara tāku toa i te toa takitahi  
He toa takitini  
My strength is not as an individual  
But as a collective*

During the Covid-19 crisis, the most profound impact for New Zealand have been in the areas of health and the economy. As New Zealand adapts to Alert Level 4 of the COVID-19 lockdown, it is important to note that the economic marginalisation due to social exclusion poses an added risk to health, especially of those who are most vulnerable.

For our most vulnerable whānau Māori, the impacts have been varied and include:

- the inability to feel safe in their own homes due to potential violence,
- the need for emergency housing support,
- the need for medical treatment and care if they have pre-existing health conditions, or if they actually contract the virus,
- food relief,
- accessing MSD benefits,
- and supporting our kaumatua and kuia who are now isolated as well as our special needs whānau.

For Māori in general, there is a significant cultural impact. This is because tikanga such as powhiri, karakia onsite, whānau huinga, marae huinga and of course tangihanga, cannot be applied to their full extent. Tikanga is described as 'mātauranga (traditional knowledge) in action' (Mead, 2013) so, not being able to exercise tikanga in a traditional way to show our aroha and manaakitanga, is central to Māori particularly when it comes to facilitate tangihanga (traditional funeral customs).

## **Whetū Paerangi Kaupapa**

Whetū Paerangi allows us to view the COVID-19 pandemic management within VisionWest through Kaupapa Māori culturally centred lens (DuBrin, 2013, p. 238) both philosophically, practically and in accordance to traditional Māori values of aroha, manaakitanga, mana, whakawhānaungatanga.

Whetū Paerangi represents our wayfinding narrative of how we utilise these four stars—see the table on page 3 – 4—to empower our VisionWest people and community to assist us in navigating our way through this pandemic for our whānau whakaraerae (vulnerable), such as kaumatua/kuia, whānau hauā (special needs), tamariki and rangatahi, whānau kainga kore (homeless), whānau rawakore (poverty), mātua takitahi (single parents), and our wider whānau.

These four key areas provide clear parameters to navigate our responsiveness from crisis management to the end of the recovery phase.

Whetū Paerangi are four simple but distinct key areas for me to monitor and support VisionWest in managing our COVID-19 response to the people we're called to serve, both internally and out in our communities.

## **Whetū Paerangi Framework**

It is important to note, Whetū Paerangi is not a separate operational arm to managing our organisation's response to the pandemic. It is a unique kaupapa Māori mechanism to complement and support our current pandemic management strategy and operational priorities. It is made up of comprehensive kaupapa Māori leadership and support that focusses on four key areas:

1. Te Whetū Kaupapa Whakahaere - Pandemic crisis management and coordination.
2. Te Whetū Whakahaere Tikanga - Pandemic tikanga oversight and supports.
3. Te Whetū Pāpāho Māori - Pandemic Māori communications.
4. Te Whetū Rangapū Māori - Pandemic Māori stakeholder partnerships.

As Whetū Paerangi is implemented for VisionWest's nationally across our 1600 plus workforce and volunteers, all COVID-19 information will be aligned to guidelines provided by the Ministry of Health, other Government departments, and local City Councils.

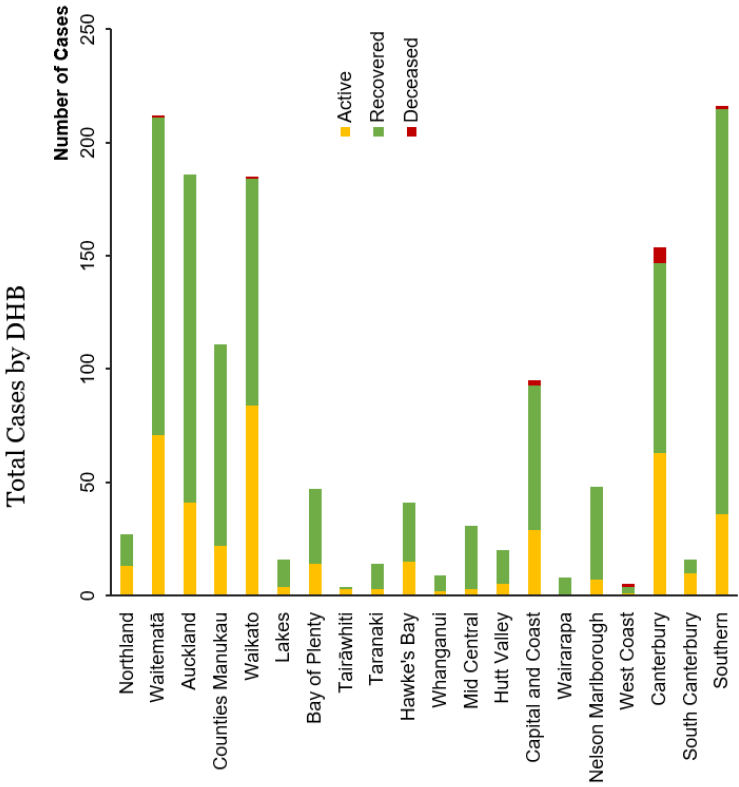
## **Whetū Paerangi Leadership**

Our Head of Māori Service Development Fred Astle leads and monitor our COVID-19 Māori responsiveness to ensure our kaupapa Māori approach to managing COVID-19 for Māori is aligned with the Whetū Paerangi framework. As a member of our Executive team, Senior Management team, Pandemic Management team, our VisionWest Kāhui Whakaruruhau and close connections with key external Māori leadership and services, Fred is able to utilise all key information to assist with successful navigation of our services to whānau, supporting staff, management and leadership in managing COVID-19 together internally and externally. Ongoing updated Kaupapa Māori information will be forthcoming.

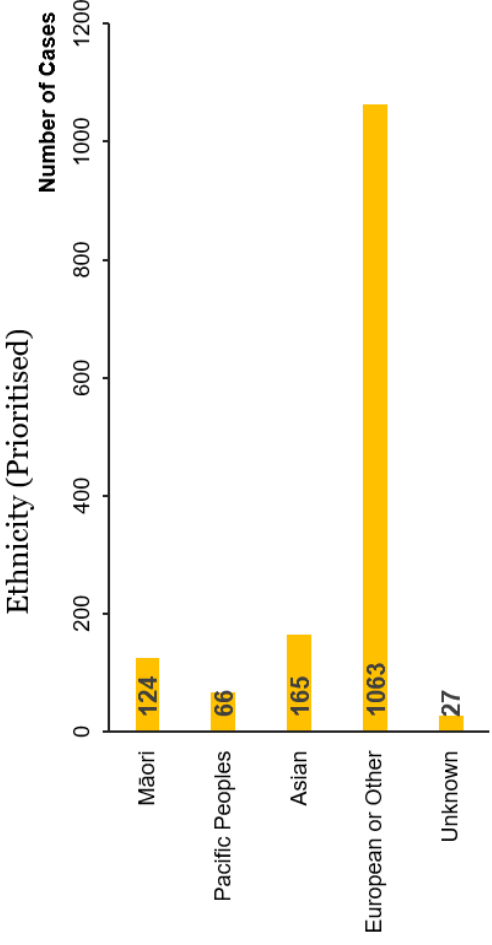
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<p><b>Te Whetū Kaupapa Whakahaere</b></p> <p>Pandemic crisis management and coordination</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Māori support member of the VisionWest pandemic crisis management team</li> <li>Māori leadership support for all VisionWest services</li> <li>Managing Māori responsiveness and impacts</li> <li>Supports for VisionWest backroom support teams</li> <li>Provide support in the transition period through each Alert level for Māori and VisionWest workforce</li> </ol>
<p><b>Te Whetū Whakahaere Tikanga</b></p> <p>Pandemic tikanga oversight and supports</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tikanga oversight and cultural safety of all VisionWest services and Pandemic Management team</li> <li>Utilising the VisionWest Kāhui Whakaruruhau Kaupapa Māori champions in supporting services with tikanga</li> <li>Develop, implement and monitor new tikanga guidelines</li> <li>Pastoral care and cultural supervision for VisionWest kaimahi</li> <li>Mātauranga (traditional knowledge) shared learnings to be shared</li> </ol>
<p><b>Te Whetū Pāpāho Māori</b></p> <p>Pandemic Māori communications</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Kaupapa Māori Communications Hub: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tira pūmanawa tautono (MS Teams)</li> <li>Pukamata (Facebook)</li> <li>Ipurangi huianga (Meeting online)</li> <li>Īmēra (Email)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Work with the VisionWest Communications Team</li> <li>All key messages aligned with MOH, Regional Councils, VisionWest Pandemic Management</li> <li>Capture Māori voice internally and externally (whānau and staff)</li> <li>Collate key health and COVID-19 coordination information internally and externally</li> <li>Share new mātauranga kōrero for our workforce and communities</li> <li>Te reo Māori translation support</li> </ol>
<p><b>Te Whetū Rangapū Māori</b></p> <p>Pandemic Māori stakeholder partnerships</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance connections with Māori community health networks.</li> <li>Enhance connections with other key organisations with emergency relief facilities for Iwi, Hapū and whānau to access across Tamaki Makaurau, Waikato, Tauranga, Ōtautahi as well as regional city councils.</li> <li>Shared learnings and key messages across Māori stakeholders.</li> <li>Maintain connections with all key stakeholder partners.</li> <li>Local marae in the Waitakere area pertaining to our Pātaka Kai emergency relief.</li> <li>Māori stakeholder matrix: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Whānau directly receiving support from VisionWest.</li> <li>VisionWest workforce.</li> <li>Key Māori partner organisations including Māori leadership in mainstream organisations.</li> <li>The role and responsibility of the VisionWest Kāhui Whakaruruhau Kaupapa Māori Champions in managing external relationships.</li> </ul> </li> </ol>

April 21, 2020 COVID-19 Total Cases



The ethnicity breakdown of the confirmed cases for April 21, 2020:



References:

- COVID-19 (2020). Current Cases of COVID-19. Retrieved from <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-current-cases>
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- DuBrin, A. J. (2013). Handbook of Research on Crisis Leadership in Organizations. Edward Elgar Publishing.
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