



Western Bay of Plenty
Primary Health Organisation

TŪNGIA TE URURUA KIA TUPU
WHAKARITORITO TE TUPU
O TE HARAKEKE

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Let's Talk Screening

Meet the Facilitators

Engaging Tangata Whenua

Sēnae Mitchell (Ngāti Tama, Te Ātiawa)
Equity Programme Lead - WBOP PHO

I te taha o tōku pāpā tēnei nō
Tākaka ki mohua tōku papakāinga tūturu
Ko Parapara, ko Pikikirunga ōku maunga
Ko Pariwhakaoho ko Takaka ōku awa
Ko Tokomaru ko Kurahaupo ōku waka
Ko Onetahua tōku marae
Ko Ngāti Tama, ko Te Ātiawa ki manawhenua te
Tau Ihu ōku iwi
engari e noho ana au kei Tauranga Moana
Ko Kaiwhakaora ngangahau, ko Equity Program
Lead ki Western Bay of Plenty Primary Health Organisation ahau
Ko Sēnae Mitchell tōku ingoa



My background is in Whakaora ngangahau/ Occupational Therapy, predominantly mental health; acute psychiatric, community and primary care.

My current role is the Equity Program Lead in WBOP PHO Māori, Population Health & Equity Team.

In my previous roles, I worked alongside whānau in frontline intervention settings, where I developed a strong interest in using and sharing Indigenous health models that promote a holistic approach to well-being. By supporting the learning and development of others, I aim to encourage a shift toward culturally responsive and safe practices that honour and incorporate Tangata Whenua perspectives, leading to more equitable and meaningful outcomes.



Engaging Tagata Pasifika – AvaNiu Team

Sameli Tongalea,
Sela Tu’uholoaki
AvaNiu Pasifika Team

AvaNiu Pasifika (Avatele Niue) was established in 2016 and is a Social Enterprise that is family-owned and family-operated. We are guided by our faith; driven and focused on our community. We support Pasifika families as they work towards achieving their dreams and aspirations and is underpinned by our core values of:

- **Relationships:** *Respectful and purposeful relationships that are integral to our shared successes.*
- **Community Contribution:** *Reciprocity through acknowledging and valuing the contribution of many*
- **Integrity:** *Uncompromising commitment to excellence*
- **Trust:** *Personal, Professional and Cultural*



Our Mission:

- *To nurture respectful and purposeful relationships that are integral to our shared successes*

Our vision:

- *Pasifika Families Engaged, Inspired, and Mobilized.*

As a family and as Team, “we walk our talk” and support others to do the same.



Breast Screening Facilitator

Mary Ann Nixon

Recruitment & Retention Coordinator

BreastScreen Midland

My role is primarily community engagement and localised communications/promotions to raise awareness about the breast screening programme and its benefits.

BreastScreen Midland is one of eight lead providers in Aotearoa contracted to deliver the BreastScreen Aotearoa free breast screening service to eligible wahine. Our rohe covers Waikato, Bay of Plenty and Lakes so my mahi covers a very large area.



I work with community in community, developing, strengthening and maintaining relationships with local stakeholders and providers, attending targeted hauora days, delivering presentations and education sessions (community and kaimahi). Given my limited capacity to cover such a large rohe, as a team of one, I use our data to put my greatest effort in areas where our screening rates for wahine Maori and Pacific va'ine/fefine are lower.

Strengthening community knowledge, awareness and action, I believe, is key to understanding the benefits of screening – saving lives, protecting whakapapa.



Bowel Screening Facilitator – Chrissy Paul

(Tuhoe, Ngati Awa, Te Arawa, Rongowhakata)

Kaihautu – Te Moana a Toi Community Engagement | Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty

Ko Matātua, Te Arawa me Horouta ngā waka
Ko maunga Pohatu, Putauaki, Tarawera me
Manawaru ngā maunga
Ko Ohinemataroa, Kaituna, me Turanganui ngā
awa
Ko Tuhoe, Ngāti Awa, Ngāti Pīkiao, Tūhourangi,
Ngāti Māhino me Rongowhakāta ngā iwi

Hauora mahi:

- Community Engagement for National Bowel Screening Programme, across Hauora a Toi Bay of Plenty, since Feb 2022
- Based at Whakatane Hospital - Includes Health Promotion and Outreach follow up



My mahi hapori started in the early 80's when I was looking for a bit more meaning in life. I attended my first Te Tiriti o Waitangi Training in about 83 with Mereana Pitman, it transformed my mind and started me on a new path. I worked in family violence for 20 years, working with a passion to make a difference for our whanau by advocating, educating and challenging systemic injustice.

Moving into Hauora, I used this experience supporting whanau to make changes that improve our health and to drive changes in the cancer experience for Maori accessing secondary health services.

Health promotion is a means of empowering our whanau to make change in the way we value ourselves and the motivation to look after our health. It gives us as kaimahi an opportunity develop relevant Maori mana enhancing programmes, resources, and our ways of doing things. We can work to change our wider communities to build positive responses, relationships, understanding and are there for our whanau.

BIG MAHI 😊



Cervical Screening Facilitator – Gemma Pearson

(Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa)

Support to Screening Nurse - WBOP PHO

Tēnā koutou katoa

Ko Tākitimu te waka
Ko Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa te iwi
Kei Tauranga Moana tōku whānau e noho ana
Ko Gemma tōku ingoa.

Kia ora! I'm Gemma, the Support to Screening Nurse for the Western Bay of Plenty PHO. With over 12 years of nursing experience in general practice, I now work directly within our communities, developing and delivering cervical and breast screening services that aim to be more accessible, culturally responsive, and tailored to the needs of wāhine.

“He wāhine, he taonga.” - Every woman is a treasure.

As a dedicated cervical screening nurse in the community, I am passionate about bridging the equity gap that affects Māori and Pacific wāhine in accessing vital health screenings. My role goes beyond clinic walls, it's not just about completing screening tests; it's about building trust, understanding cultural and social barriers, and creating safe spaces where every woman feels valued and empowered to safeguard her hauora and that of her mokopuna.

By building cultural and professional capability across the health workforce, we ensure that more whānau hear invitations to screen; empowered kaimahi lead to empowered wāhine. Together we can transform clinical appointments into mana-enhancing moments—where women feel heard, seen, and in control. The result? More whānau say “yes” to screening, more health workers speak about cervical and breast wellbeing with confidence, and our communities grow stronger one kōrero at a time.

