

Postgraduate Applicant Information

Postgraduate Nursing Funding Prioritisation Framework for 2026 Te Whatu Ora – Te Tai Tokerau

Postgraduate funding enables nursing staff to assist services in care delivery by developing a skilled and knowledgeable workforce and to maximise equitable access for workforce development to meet population needs. This document outlines the prioritisation principles for nurses seeking postgraduate funding to complete postgraduate certificates, diplomas and masters qualifications. The prioritisation principles enable equitable access to limited funding for workforce development to meet population health needs

Te Whatu Ora and Te Aka Whai Ora jointly created Te Pae Tata, an interim New Zealand Health Plan which sets out the first two years of action and provides a guiding vision of a health system that better serves all New Zealanders and the communities they live in. The two entities were disestablished in 2024 to Health New Zealand | Te Whatu Ora, there was no change to Te Pae Tata.

To establish transparency, enable health outcomes and reduce inequities, the following priority funding framework has been developed based on the priorities set out in Te Pae Tata.

All applications will be assessed on an individual basis and on past funding support received. Funding is limited. If a high number of applications are received the priority status levels below may not be funded entirely.

Priority Status	Hospital and Specialist Services HSS	Primary, Community and Aged Residential Care
A	Māori Nursing Workforce Development	
B	Māori Health	
C	Pacific Nursing Workforce Development	
D	Pacific Health	
E	Mate Pukupuku: People with cancer Kahu Taurima: Maternity and the early years Māuiutanga Taumaha: People living with chronic health conditions Oranga Hinengaro: People living with Mental health and addictions Tāngata Whaikaha: People living with disabilities	
F	Advanced Nursing Practice Pathways: including prescribing	
G	Nursing Leadership Development	

Please note that this funding application only covers one semester. The number of trainee places each semester is limited by the amount of funding allocated and funding beyond this cannot be guaranteed. Applications for Semester 2 of each year are open in March, and applications for Semester 1 of each year are open in September of the previous year.

Key to Priorities

All applicants must specify one to a maximum of two of the Te Tai Tokerau population health, advanced nursing practice or workforce priorities and describe how their proposed programme of study, knowledge, skills and qualification will contribute to achievement of improved health outcomes for the population.

- A. **Māori Nursing Workforce Development:** Applicant identifies as Māori and can describe their whānau, hapu, Māori community or iwi affiliation.
- B. **Māori Health:** Applicant is practicing in a setting providing nursing care to individual Māori, Māori whānau or Māori communities. Applicants may be of any ethnicity, including Māori.
- C. **Pacific Nursing Workforce Development:** Applicant identifies as being of indigenous Pacific descent and can describe their Pacific Island heritage and involvement in Pacific communities or groups.
- D. **Pacific Health:** Applicant is practicing in a setting providing nursing care to individual Pacific people, Pacific families or Pacific communities. Applicants may be of any ethnicity, including Pacific Island.

- E. **Mate Pukupuku:** People with cancer

Kahu Taurima: Maternity and the early years

Māuiutanga Taumaha: People living with chronic health conditions

Oranga Hinengaro: People living with Mental health and addictions

Tāngata Whaikaha: People living with disabilities

Under this category, applicants are practicing in a setting providing nursing care to one of the above population groups.

Priority will be given to nurses practicing in a community setting

- F. **Advanced Nursing Practice Pathways:** RN Designated Prescribing and trainees on the Nurse Practitioner Pathway. Applicants on the RN Designated Prescribing Pathway may be in any practice setting where there will be requisite supervision of their prescribing practicum and then ongoing prescribing practice. Preference will be given to applicants completing their pharmacology and practicum courses.
- G. **Nursing Leadership Development:** Applicant is on a Nurse Educator, Manager or Nurse Director development pathway. Applicants to this category will describe how their programme of study will contribute to their nursing leadership goals. Applicants will complete consultation and planning for this pathway with the relevant Nurse Manager and/or Director, with clear endorsement obtained from the Nurse Manager and/or Director.

Postgraduate Applicant Information

Thank you for your application for Postgraduate Nursing Funding. Please carefully read the information below to ensure you are fully informed regarding your entitlements and expectations for this funding.

Am I eligible for funding?

To be eligible to apply for Postgraduate Nursing Funding you must:

- ✓ be registered as a nurse or a nurse practitioner under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003)
- ✓ hold a current annual practising certificate (APC) with no restrictions on that APC that would negatively impact on their ability to participate in the programme
- ✓ be currently employed by a health service that is funded by Te Whatu Ora or Ministry of Health from Vote Health
- ✓ work at least 0.6FTE
- ✓ have been employed a minimum of one year
- ✓ be a New Zealand citizen or hold a New Zealand residency permit as conferred by the New Zealand Immigration Service
- ✓ have evidence of support by their current employer to meet the training requirements
- ✓ meet the entry criteria required by the education provider
- ✓ hold a current PDRP Portfolio (if working for Te Whatu Ora, not applicable if working externally)
- ✓ be studying at PG Certificate, PG Diploma, or Masters degree level
- ✓ be studying a programme which is in alignment with organisation, District, and National workforce needs and strategy

How do I apply for funding?

Discuss your academic plans and application with your line manager. Consider short, medium and long-term goals and how your proposed programme of study, knowledge, skills and qualification will contribute to the strategic priorities of the organisation.

Know the paper(s) you are wanting to do, including the:

- University/Tertiary provider
- Paper name and number
- Semester the paper runs
- Points

Applications are open in two funding rounds per year. You can apply online at the Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau website [found here](#). (Click on 'Northland').

When will I receive notification of the outcome of my funding application?

Steps:

1. Once applications are closed, they are received and sorted.
2. Manager approval is sought for each group of applicants who identify them as their line manager. Managers approve and sometimes prioritise applicants according to their roster and service requirements.
3. Once these are all received, allocations are completed according to the prioritisation criteria.
4. Applicants should be notified via email mid-late May/November.
5. Successful applicants will be contacted to confirm whether they wish to accept the funding or not and confirm enrolment in their studies.

Note: changes in role, FTE or manager must be communicated with Nurse Coordinator: Postgraduate Education and if prior to the final date of withdrawal without penalty, could impact on your funding. New approval will be sought from the new manager.

When do I enrol with the university?

You are responsible for ensuring your enrolment process with the tertiary provider is completed.

This process should be started as soon as possible and prior to funding approval notification. Please check the last date of withdrawal without penalty with the paper to avoid being charged if unsuccessful with your funding application.

Can I change my paper or University?

Funding is given for a specific paper(s). Applicants must discuss the option of changing papers or university with their Line Manager and the Nurse Coordinator : Postgraduate Education.

What costs are covered?

- Tuition Fees – full amount. These are paid directly to the University in a bulk bill.
- Travel & Accommodation subsidy – maximum allocated amount is stated in contract, and reimbursements cannot exceed the amount allocated.
 - Accommodation subsidy is capped at a maximum of \$200 (plus GST) per night. Any extra cost will not be reimbursed.
 - Travel subsidy is based on living location and location of study facility for travel greater than 100km in distance.
 - For Te Whatu Ora staff, a pool car is preferred for travel.
 - Should you choose to take your own vehicle, reimbursement is set at the IRD rate (\$1.17c per km) up to maximum allocated amount.
 - External organisations will be reimbursed as per organisations mileage policy.
- Clinical Release – see below.

Clinical Release

Te Whatu Ora : Te Tai Tokerau nurses

You may use your NZNO or PSA SECA study leave entitlement to attend compulsory study days for the papers you take. Once your study leave entitlement is exhausted you will need to discuss with your manager alternative arrangements which may include attending study days on your rostered day off or taking annual leave. Paid study leave is limited to your SECA entitlement.

External Organisations

Clinical Release subsidy allocation amount will be provided on the contract and reimbursed via the claims process at end of semester. Availability of Clinical Release should be discussed prior to undertaking study, and payment should be made to the student during the semester as per organisational policy.

Claims Forms

Any expenses claimed for the following must be claimed no more than two weeks from the end of semester and will cover; Clinical Release time (external organisations), Accommodation Subsidy and Travel Subsidy.

Claims can be made during the semester if required (after each block of study days).

To claim reimbursement, a claim form must be completed and submitted to Nurse Coordinator: Post Graduate Education.

See details on [Te Whatu Ora : Te Tai Tokerau website](#).

What if I want to withdraw?

If you are thinking of withdrawing from a paper, please discuss with your Line Manager and contact the Nurse Coordinator : Postgraduate Education as soon as possible so personal implications can be discussed with you. Once the decision to withdraw has been made, you are responsible for processing your withdrawal with the tertiary provider. Withdrawal after the final date of deletion, which requires Te Whatu Ora to still pay the fees could mean future funding applications are affected.

Key contacts

Stacey Babe Nurse Coordinator : Postgraduate Education	Visit: Rm 35, Lvl 3, Maunu House, Whangārei Hospital
	Phone : 021 447 193
	Email : stacey.babe@tewhatuora.govt.nz

References

Te Pae Tata | Interim New Zealand Health Plan 2022 available at <https://www.tewhaturora.govt.nz/whats-happening/what-to-expect/nz-health-plan/>

Acknowledgments

Capital, Coast and Hutt Valley District
Te Toka Tumai District