

Appendix One – Position Description



POSITION DESCRIPTION | TE WHAKAATUARAKI MAHI

POSITION TITLE: KUIA

RESPONSIBLE TO: Dean, Te Wānanga Māori

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION (*Ko tōna iho*)

The Kuia helps embed tikanga Māori (Māori customs and values) into the educational and clinical environment, ensuring that the programme is not only academically rigorous but also culturally grounded.

Key Roles of a Kuia in a BN Māori Programme

Cultural Guidance and Tikanga

- Acts as a **cultural advisor**, ensuring that Māori protocols (tikanga) are upheld in teaching, clinical practice, and community engagement.
- Supports students and staff in understanding **Te Ao Māori** (the Māori worldview), including concepts like whakapapa (genealogy), mana, and wairua (spirituality).

Mentorship and Support

- Offers **pastoral care** and emotional support to Māori students, drawing on her life experience and wisdom.
- Acts as a **role model** for intergenerational knowledge sharing, helping students connect with their cultural identity and values.

Advocacy and Representation

- Represents the voice of kaumātua (elders) within the programme, advocating for culturally safe practices in nursing education and healthcare delivery.
- Participates in curriculum development to ensure Māori perspectives are authentically integrated.

Health and Wellbeing Promotion

- May contribute to **kaupapa Māori health initiatives**, such as rongoā Māori (traditional healing), mirimiri (massage), and holistic wellness approaches.

- Helps bridge the gap between Western medical models and Māori health frameworks, promoting **Whānau Ora**

The kuia embodies the **spiritual and cultural heart** of the programme. Her involvement ensures that nursing graduates are not only clinically competent but also **culturally responsive**, especially when working with Māori whānau and communities.