

FIRST DOCTOR IN THE WHĀNAU

Dr Mania Campbell-Seymour MBChB, DipPAED

TE WHAKATŌHEA | TE AITANGA-A-MĀHAKI | TŪHOE

Mania Campbell-Seymour is a medical registrar working at Rotorua Hospital. She graduated from Auckland University in 2014.



Where did you go to high school?

I attended Ōpōtiki College and Gisborne Girls' High School, where I studied Sciences, Māori, English, Maths, Physical Education and Computer Science.

How did Kia Ora Hauora help you?

I registered with Kia Ora Hauora in 2012 in the Tāmaki region because that's where I was studying at the time. They provided advice and direction on scholarships and networks.

Whilst studying at Auckland University I was a part of the Ngā Tauria Māori (NTM)

which is the Māori Students' Association, and MAPAS which is the Māori and Pacific Admission Scheme. These groups introduced me to more Māori and Pacific students studying different degrees at university and I have made life-long friendships from being part of them.

Scholarships

I was fortunate enough to receive the University of Auckland Chancellor's Award for Top Māori and Pacific Scholars worth \$30,000. This paid for my hostel accommodation and tuition for the first three years. I also received the Ministry of Health's Hauora Māori Scholarship every year during my undergraduate studies, the Whakatōhea Māori Trust Board Tertiary Education Grant, the Wi Pere Trust Tertiary

Education Grant, the Whakapaupakihi Tertiary Education Grant and the Ōpōtiki Māori Women's Welfare League Horwood Scholarship.

First year at university

My mum was surprised when I said I wanted to move to Auckland to study medicine. I needed to move away to achieve, but I really missed home. So, to keep grounded, I incorporated kapa haka in my life. I was a member of Ōpōtiki-mai-Tawhiti; I've competed at the last four Te Matatini. Returning home for kapa was spiritually and mentally uplifting and was what I needed.

Future plans

Since I started working as a junior doctor I've completed the Diploma in Paediatrics through the University of Auckland. This was a one-year postgraduate course that focussed on children's health both in the hospital and in the community. I hope to eventually complete the Women's Health Certificate which is another one-year post-graduate course.

My grandmother's words still resonate with me. She said we must commit completely to our goals. Thanks to the never-ending support of my whānau I was able to achieve mine. Whatever you want to excel in you can do. I'd love to see more Māori students studying and following degrees like mine.

“ Returning home for kapa was mentally and spiritually uplifting ”