

NSNZ NOTICE – Te Wiki o te reo Māori

In recognition of Māori language week here is a brief explanation of our te reo Māori names.

- There are multiple transliterations for the word **nurse** in te reo Māori.
- Some years ago when a te reo Māori name was being selected, two options for nurse that were considered were nēhi and nāhi. However, experts advised that some Māori speakers dislike both, preferring more traditional words.
- There are also regional dialectal differences. Nāhi is apparently popular in the north, while nēhi is used on the East Coast and West Coast.
- **Tapuhi**, as a verb, means to nurse and tend to the sick and those in distress. As a noun, it means a nurse.
- It is notable that The Nursing Council of New Zealand (Te Kaunihera Tapuhi o Aotearoa) uses tapuhi.
- Rōpū was considered for the word **Society**. As a noun, it means a party of people, company, gang, association, entourage, committee, organisation or category. However, in the end **kāhui** was selected, as it is used for groups with a shared interest and arguably it has more gravitas than rōpū.
- Hence our te reo Māori name **Te Kāhui Tapuhi o Aotearoa** was adopted.
- The official name of our registered **union** arm is **Te Uniana o NSNZ**, which literally translates as “the union of NSNZ”. It has no English language name and never has.

NURSES SOCIETY OF NEW ZEALAND *Te Kāhui Tapuhi o Aotearoa & Te Uniana o NSNZ*



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