



The New  
Zealand  
Nursing  
Education  
and  
Research  
Foundation

THE NEW ZEALAND  
**NURSING EDUCATION and RESEARCH  
FOUNDATION**  
Incorporated under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957  
Patron: Dame Margaret Bazley



NEW ZEALAND  
**NURSES  
ORGANISATION**

## REPORT BACK for Undergraduate Study Scholarship

<b>Name of Applicant:</b>	Olive <b>Matewai</b> RIRINUI
<b>Which scholarship did you apply for:</b>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maori student of nursing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Pacific student of nursing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Mature student of nursing (aged over 30)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Student of nursing (aged under 25)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Student of enrolled nursing</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> General award</p>
<b>Please write a report on how the scholarship has contributed to nursing and to your own professional development. You can also attach documents to the report.</b>	<p>This scholarship gave me the opportunity to focus solely on my studies this year, without the concern of working to pay for course essentials. It also allowed me to gauge a clear indication on where I wish to apply for a new graduate position upon registration as a Maori registered nurse.</p> <p>Whilst undertaking my mental health placement I was exposed to every possible aspect that the effects mental illness has on an individual, their whanau, the community and our country as a whole, which gave me an inside view on the percentage of people who are under the Mental Health Act identifying as Maori being a significant percentage in the population of many communities in our country thus highlighting the need for more Maori academics specifically Maori registered nurses to work on the floor alongside Maori who have a mental illness.</p> <p>During my time on the floor in the mental health unit here in my community the sense that my understanding and comprehension of the Maori culture, far outweighed the academic skills and competencies I had gained over my academic journey, signifying a possible avenue into the minimisation of the long lasting impact mental illness can have on an individual, the use of Te Reo Maori gave a platform to simply engage and interact with the understanding of who they are as a person before assisting with their recovery to mental wellness .</p>

As this year unfolded I became instinctively aware of the significant need for nursing schools to implement strategies on how to better retain Maori nursing students, from the recruitment of nursing tutors and staff being culturally safe to not just delivering components of Nursing Council's guidelines but also the understanding of the concepts behind them.

In regard to current employees of nursing schools across the country having access to a level of professional development that involves if need be a guided immersion into Te Ao Maori so Maori students are completely understood as to where it is we come from when content about historical events is being delivered to us in a classroom environment.

This is an avenue that saddens and excites me all at the same time because I see a place for my investment in Te Ao Maori to flourish and cannot wait to begin the next chapter of my nursing journey.

Finally please accept my thanks for the decision to grant me this scholarship for 2016. We as a whanau are humbled by the generosity given.

Nga mihi nui

Matewai Ririnui