

## Whānau Āwhina Plunket shares expertise with Pacific neighbour

Whānau Āwhina Plunket today welcomed a health ministry delegation from Kiribati looking at adopting its early child healthcare model to improve the health of young children in the Pacific nation.

This morning the delegation which included the country's Health Minister Dr Tinte Itinteang, Director-General of Health Dr Revite Kirition, Principal Nursing Officer Tiareti Mareko, Senior Nursing Officer Maii Terubea and Midwife Nursing lecturer Monica Tarabo, met with Plunket's GM of Service Delivery Denise Shera.

Mrs Shera says Plunket welcomes the opportunity to share its expertise with our Pacific neighbours.

The organisation is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives. About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year.

“Supporting whānau raising the next generation of New Zealanders is at the heart of what we do. We welcome the opportunity to share our 116 years of expertise to support Kiribati address some of their health challenges,” says Mrs Shera.

Kiribati has the highest infant mortality rate in the Pacific. Latest statistics show the under- fives mortality rate is 48 per 1000 live births.

Kiribati Minister of Health & Medical Services Dr Tinte Itinteang says “We can learn a lot from the skills and expertise of Plunket to help address some of our health challenges, especially around improving our infant mortality rates.”



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Pictured: Kiribati Minister of Health & Medical Services Dr Tinte Itinteang seated next to Plunket's GM of Service Delivery Denise Shera (back left) with Kiribati health delegation and Dr Tara Kessaram (front left) from New Zealand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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### **About Whānau Āwhina Plunket**

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Whānau Āwhina Plunket. The charity is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives. About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year.

Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families, through home and clinic visits, as well as PlunketLine 0800 933 922, a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents.

Our website [plunket.org.nz](http://plunket.org.nz) is one of the country's most widely read digital child health resources, with 1.8 million visits each year. It is data free which means you don't need mobile data to access, and you can choose to view in English or te reo Māori.