

Summer Studentships 2026/2027

PROJECT TITLE:

How hospital staff perceive the value of the Te Wai process in supporting bereaved whanau

AIM:

To survey the knowledge, attitude and experience of all hospital staff clinical and non-clinical of the Te Wai bereavement support process

METHODS:

Region wide Survey

RESEARCH SIGNIFICANCE:

There is a recognised deficit of bereavement support for families/whanau in Aotearoa New Zealand. Te wai was grass roots project initiated and maintained on a voluntary basis unfunded by the Health services to add support and dignity to whanau and patients who have died in hospital. Te Wai process involves use of ward symbol to acknowledge death of a patient, use of a quilt for the mortuary trolley and a bereavement card sent to whanau from staff. After 10 years, it is important for the first time to research the experience of hospital staff throughout the region.

STUDENT'S ROLE AND EXPOSURE TO SCIENTIFIC METHOD:

Setting up Survey on line, promoting survey at three hospital sites, Collating results, Analysing results and interpreting results. Working in collaborative research team

RELEVANT PREVIOUS EXPERIENCE FOR STUDENTS (Education or Research):

Need to be Medical student

Main supervisor:	Prof Sinead Donnelly	
Email address:	Sinead.donnelly@ccdhub.org.nz	
Other Supervisor/s:	Gabrielle Driscoll, Palliative Care, Te Wai Co Lead Dr Imogen Rimmer Vanessa Broughton Orderly Security Manager	
Host Department:	Medicine	
Location:		
	Can students work remotely?	No