

# Oranga Whanau Oranga Niho Taranaki Community Oral Health

Celebrating the Opening of Rangiātea



1920s-50s

## How Far We've Come

The opening of Rangiātea dental clinic in New Plymouth on 17 September is another milestone in the history of the School Dental Service.

The New Zealand School Dental Service was established in the 1920s, when dental decay was rampant. Few Kiwis entered their 30s with their own teeth, and teachers kept medicines in the classroom to help control dental pain.

Since then, school dental clinics have become ingrained in the fabric of New Zealand society.

The current Taranaki School Dental Service, which successfully treats 99% of children from Year 1-8 is evolving into a Community Oral Health Service to treat children up to the age of 18.

These days therapists are trained at the Dental School at Otago University, they work with assistants in peer reviewed teams, using modern equipment and materials. They have increased their range of procedures and practice on a wider group of patients. Go along and have a look... it's a good story." **Tony Waghorn – former Principal Dental Officer**

"Nice place with nice people - it was real quick. Way better than the school dental clinic." **10-year-old Baylee McLennan on her experience with the new oral health service at Te Henui**

"We've always provided quality care, but now we can do it in a great environment alongside our colleagues." **Linda Blackman – Clinical Leader Dental Therapy**

## What's Changed

Clinics will be in communities with high oral health needs, either on DHB owned land or school sites.

The Community Oral Health Service is focused on seeing families/whanau groups rather than individual children. The new clinics will have more dental therapists and assistants – a change from the previous model where dental therapists often worked alone and in isolation.

The mobile units will visit schools across the region, from Mokau to Waverley.

This change is more than just buildings, it is about providing a modern and well equipped service focusing on the dental needs of children from birth onwards, and working closely with Well Child providers and private dentists.

2010



## More Information

[www.tdhb.org.nz/services/cohs.shtml](http://www.tdhb.org.nz/services/cohs.shtml)

## 2010 Timeline

**July**

Te Henui (New Plymouth)  
4 chair fixed facility



**August - October**

Rangiātea (Spotswood)  
3/4 chair fixed facility



Manukorihi (Waitara)  
1 chair fixed facility

Inglewood  
2 chair fixed facility

**December**

Stratford  
2 chair fixed facility

Hawera  
2 chair refurbished fixed facility

