

Team building Cook Islands style

Porirua Union Community Health Service (PUCHS)

Tivaevae (patchwork)



The PUCHS team ran a successful [cervical screening](#) weekend where they encouraged women to attend clinic by providing a warm and welcoming environment. As well as being offered hot drinks and the opportunity to learn about cancer screening and other health issues in their own language they also participated in Tivaevae.

Tivaevae (means patchwork in Cook Island Maori) is a traditional Cook Island quilting method done by women. It is often done in groups and women will share stories and help each other overcome problems. The activity stimulated a lot of interest with staff members as well as women in the community.

As a result, Te Au Marama (Community Health Worker) initiated the development of the PUCHS community quilt. Te Au provided coaching and encouragement and brought all the pieces together.



The result not only brought the pieces of patchwork together but also brought PUCHS team and community members together.

The PUCHS Community Tivaevae quilt is now proudly displayed in the waiting area.