

★ Waikato-Tainui opens Careers Centre

In August 2016 Waikato-Tainui launched a new Career Centre in Hamilton. The tribe kindly provided CDANZ with their story.

Waikato-Tainui recently opened its Careers Centre with the aim of supporting the career development and employability of tribal members.

The Careers Centre, which is located at 20 Alma Street in Hamilton, is the result of the tribe's working relationship with the Ministry of Social Development and its mutual objective of facilitating sustainable employment opportunities.

Waikato-Tainui Employment Advisor Kawe Jones says the Careers Centre is a hub for tribal members who are seeking employment, considering career pathways and training opportunities. It also provides a focal point for prospective employers who are interested in building their relationship with the tribe.

He says, "For people to succeed and reach their full potential in life, they need to be able to make sound and well informed career decisions relating to their education, training and employment.

"Our Careers Centre has experienced staff on-hand that can assist tribal members with information and guidance, and also connect them with suitable education providers, businesses or employment opportunities that will support them in realising their potential."

What's more, the tribe is an economic powerhouse within the Waikato region, explains Kawe. "It has significant leverage through its business activities and relationships to create or facilitate employment opportunities for our people. These opportunities exist at all levels and range across a number of industry sectors."

Kawe says the expectation from the tribe in establishing an iwi driven Careers Centre is for it to support and generate at least 200 employment and training outcomes for tribal members on an annual basis.

"It's a big goal for us, but if successful we will be helping to lower the regional unemployment rate and also reduce short-term beneficiaries by transitioning our young people more quickly from training into employment."

The Waikato-Tainui Careers Centre offers free employment and training advice to tribal members. Services include job creation and brokering, recruitment and placement, pre-employment training and preparation and employment pathway planning.

The specialised team will also connect tribal members with employers and training providers through its employment workshops, taster courses and the promotion of employment opportunities.

Stay up-to-date with the latest employment and training opportunities by going to waikatotainuicareers.com