

## Bio

Fran Kewene (Waikato, Maniapoto) ia/her/she

Kia ora, my name is Francis known as Fran.

I am a mama, a creative, whānau haua, Māori/British, wāhine Māori and am inquisitive.

I am a lecturer in the School of Health at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington.

My research interests are tangata whaikaha Māori and health workforce development using kaupapa Māori theatre-based research methodologies.

I am currently exploring how kaupapa Māori theatre-based research methodologies can be used to explore what a 'Good Life' is from the experiences of Māori mothers with children who are autistic.

Prior to being at Te Herenga Waka I was at the University of Otago, Medical School Dunedin, where I contributed to the develop and implementation of the Hauora Māori medical curriculum. I have a background in community-based public health (health promotion and health protection) and was trained as an actor at Te Kura Toi Whakaari New Zealand Drama School.

I am a founding and current board member of a small disability service in Dunedin called *Aspire Kids Tamariki Matanā* and I continue to provide input into the operations and governance of our not-for profit charity (as my youngest son still uses there support services).

I am also a founding member and current member of a national Māori Disability Organisation called Te Ao Marama Aotearoa (TAMA) <https://www.tama.nz/>

My heart lies in two places; Ōtepoti where my boys live and is home, and Porirua where my work gives me wings to fly.

