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Media Release:

West Auckland Maternal Mental Health Services gets International Recognition

At the annual Australia and New Zealand Mental Health Services Conference, WALSH Trust received the prestigious achievement award for its maternal mental health services, He Kākano Ora.

The Award was announced 29th August at the Annual TheMHS Conference held this year in Adelaide, South Australia. It was presented to CEO, Rob Warriner by Ms Nicolle Flint MP, representing The Hon Greg Hunt MP, Federal Minister for Health. Former Prime Minister Hon. Julia Gillard was also present at the award ceremony and congratulated WALSH Trust on the achievement.

He Kākano Ora provides mental health crisis respite and home/community based support for mothers and their babies. Support and time-out is offered in a home-like, safe environment in suburban West Auckland. The service provides live-in, short term support (typically around five days) for up to six mothers and their babies, with the aim of supporting them (and their family/whānau) through an immediate crisis, engaging them with other community supports (including peer support), and supporting their recovery.

“Partnerships such as those that have now been established at He Kākano Ora, are transformative. They represent the future in terms of developing collaborative responses that enable us to more confidently meet the mental health and wellbeing needs of our increasingly diverse communities” says Chief Executive, Rob Warriner.

The Mental Health Service Awards of Australia and New Zealand are presented every year by TheMHS Learning Network to recognise and encourage best practice, excellence and innovation in mental health service delivery. The Awards have been made annually since 1992.

TheMHS Conference is the largest mental health and addiction services conference in Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. TheMHS aims to promote positive attitudes about mental health and mental illness, and to stimulate debate that challenges the boundaries of knowledge and ideas about mental health care.

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