

Te Apa Mareikura Scholar 2011

Paula Moyle – Ngati Porou, Te Whanau a Tuwhakairiora

Paula Moyle's early life experience as a New Zealand State Ward resulted in significant cultural alienation. Her work experience as a volunteer or lowly paid worker in Women's Refuge, Rape Crisis, and as a chippie with a Trades Certificate in an all-male gang, heightened her community and social awareness. These experiences developed keen feminist and collectivist positioning, expertise in family violence prevention and led her to Victoria University where she earned a Diploma of Social Work in 1999.

In 2005 Paula took on a senior social work management position in the United Kingdom with a specific focus on developing family group conferencing, which gave her experience in innovative cross-cultural models of social work. Managing large teams of social workers in the UK gave her a real sense of her passion; best practice through good social work supervision. In 2009 she returned home to New Zealand and got involved again with Women's Refuge.

In 2012 Paula will complete a Master of Social Sciences and Master of Social Work through Massey University, and hopes to complete a PHD within the next five years.

Paula knows she is an excellent social work manager and supervisor. She believes people work well with people, if they are adequately guided, appropriately supported and allowed to learn and grow professionally. She intends to become a qualified and effective registered practitioner of clinical social work supervision and advocate for improved kaupapa Māori, cultural and bicultural supervision for all frontline workers working with Māori. Paula believes more Māori supervisors and Māori supervision models are needed to develop social workers working at their best.

Paula also plans to analyse the period in which she and her siblings were State Wards, researching whānau decision making processes in Aotearoa; both statutory and community. The research will advocate for whānau decision-making to be truly whānau centered where children's voices are heard and their aspirations actively considered for their future wellbeing.