



TRUDY HEATH

Ko Kā Tapuwai o Urihia

Tapuwai o Urihia,

Ko te Taari o Kaumira, Ko Uretāne kā mauka

Taari o Kaumira and Uretāne are my mountains

Ko Wainono te moana

Wainono is my lagoon

Ko Waihao te awa

Waihao is my river

Ko Kāti Huirapa, Ko Kai Taoka, Ko Te Aitaka o Tapuiti Kā hapū

Kāti Huirapa, Kai Taoka, Te Aitaka a Tapuiti are my sub-tribes

Ko Trudy Heath tōku ikoa

My name is Trudy Heath

My husband and I became Home for Life Carers for the most gorgeous young girl 12 years ago. Like many of you, it has been quite the journey.

My background is in education. I spent 40 years in the primary sector. I am currently the Executive Officer for Te Rūnanga o Waihao and prior to that, I was the General Manager, Te Ao Tūroa, at Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

My governance experience is as follows:

- 13 years as a Primary School Principal sitting on the Board of Trustees
- 6 Years as the Staff Representative on the Board of Trustees
- 10 years as Chair of the New Zealand Foundation for Conductive Education
- 3 years on the Canterbury Primary Schools Principals Executive
- 3 years as the Canterbury Primary Schools Principal's representative on the Huakina Mai Governance Group
- Previous Board member and past Chair of Te Rūnanga o Waihao.
- Member of the Institute of Directors

Caring Families Aotearoa has been a lifeline for my husband and me. We have often taken comfort from the fact that we are not alone in this roller coaster of a journey we are on. I would welcome the opportunity to represent other foster carers like me on this board and to be able to give back in some small way.