

THE METAPHORICAL CONVERSATION TE AWA

HOW IT ASSISTS YOUNG PEOPLE TO
TRAVERSE THEIR CANCER JOURNEY

Tuesday 18 February, 8–9am



ELLYN PROFFIT

*Clinical Nurse Specialist
Adolescent & Young Adult
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Ko Hikurangi tōku Maunga
Ko Waiapu tōku awa
Ko Horouta tōku waka
Ko Rāhui me Rauru ōku marae
Ko Ngāti Porou tōku iwi
Ko Ellyn ahau

Ellyn developed the metaphor of Te Awa (The River) to help rangatahi navigate the emotional and psychological challenges of cancer. By likening the journey to a turbulent river, Te Awa provides a meaningful way to discuss coping with treatment, the impact on relationships, and the psychological effects of illness. Feedback from patients, whānau, and healthcare professionals highlights its ongoing value, with Ellyn's Masters of Nursing research confirming its importance as a tool to support rangatahi through the complexities of cancer.

Graduating in the late 1990s with her identical twin Jolene through Tihei Mauri Ora—the first Māori nursing programme in Aotearoa—Ellyn has dedicated her career to improving health outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi. She currently works across Te Manawataki: Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Lakes, and Tairāwhiti as one of seven Key Workers in the Adolescent and Young Adult Cancer Service, providing holistic care for 12–24-year-olds since 2007. A life member of Camp Quality, Ellyn has also volunteered with CanTeen, the Cancer Society, and serves as a Board Member.

REGISTRATIONS REQUIRED

Use the link:

<https://tinyurl.com/TEAWA>