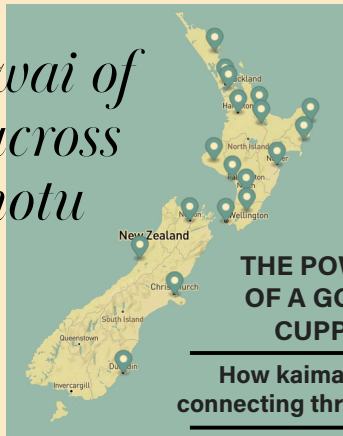


Healthy Homes Initiative

In this week's
ePānui: Stories
of Connection

*A korowai of
mahi across
the motu*



**THE POWER
OF A GOOD
CUPPA**

**How kaimahi are
connecting through care**

*Aroha mai, aroha atu: Love towards us, love going out from us.**



Kia ora

A note from our ePānui coordinator

As those on the front lines of support can attest, it's not enough to deliver an outcome or repair to a whare. A critical element of journeying in a holistic way with a whānau is whakawhānaungatanga, making connections.

Last week we began our series with Awareness, sharing just some of the incredible stories from across the motu.

These demonstrated the many unique ways Healthy Homes providers are embracing and immersing themselves in local communities to create awareness of what a healthy home is and what the service offers.

This week we look at Connection, an element under which 39,757 tamariki have been visited by collective HHI providers

Connection is the space in which the holistic wrap-around, or korowai of care, supports long-term relationships where whānau feel seen and understood.

Beautifully summarised by **Te Tairāwhiti** is the phrase:

“Mā to rourou mā taku rourou ka ora ai te iwi; Your contribution, my contribution, for the wellbeing of the iwi.”

In today's ePānui we learn about making in-roads through Connections. Enjoy the read!

The power of a good cuppa

Te Hā O Kawatiri excels when it comes to making community connections.

This comes down to the extra care and advocacy kaimahi take to help whānau understand what can be done in a whare and facilitate solutions.

Te Hā O Kawatiri says: “Having a close relationship between organisations and from whānau to whānau helps our hapori understand services that could be accessible for them.”

The West Coast provider knows navigating these processes can be daunting. Its kaimahi have worked hard to be that manaaki for whānau.



“Being a Kaupapa Māori NGO, we know that sometimes reassurance over a cup of tea and the use of a mobile phone to look something up on the internet is all whānau need.”

By taking the time to clarify conversations, make phone calls and assist with signed consent to being part of tasks such as measuring flooring to prepare a whare for mahi, the organisation is creating strong connections upon which to begin journeying with whānau.



Connection

whakawhānaungatanga

Kāinga Whakatipu HHI in the midcentral rohe exemplifies how making connections has allowed the team to show awahi to whānau.

With awahi comes trust. And as trust is earned with a whānau, engagement in education, support and mahi can flourish.

By partnering with a range of organisations, Kāinga Whakatipu is building a base for trust with whānau.

In a list of partnerships that goes beyond the expected remit and may not all be seen as “critical” to healthy homes, they are critical to trust, care and engagement with whānau.

Local iwi organisations supporting rubbish removal from Tararua whares - a critical factor in a home's health and often a first step before repairs can be carried out.

The local **Māori Women's Welfare League** supply rongoā packs.



St Vincent De Paul distribute vouchers to tamariki: in a more mana-enhancing way they can choose items for themselves.

Heartlands Lions Club knit woollen baby blankets and children's slippers. Kāinga Whakatipu provide these to whānau..

The Flooring Room now keep good quality carpet pieces aside for whānau to choose from when they need it.

Central Energy Trust have funded the purchase of 100 heaters for use in the bedrooms of pēpi and tamariki.

Integration grows connections

Aukaha in Otago has grown whānau trust and connection through amalgamating three housing programmes: the Healthy Homes Initiative, TPK critical and essential repairs

and the Otago home retrofit project (EECA).

These programmes acting as one creates greater connection, trust and supports a longer,

more detailed journey with each whānau. Aukaha is now able to provide so much more to support the journey of the whānau and their whare.

In next week's ePānui we explore Trust.