



AN INTRODUCTION TO A HEALTHY WHARE PROJECT

A HEALTHY WHARE PROJECT AIMS TO IMPROVE HOUSING CONDITIONS IN MAKETU AND SURROUNDING AREAS WITH AN OVERALL GOAL OF ENHANCING THE HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELLBEING OF THE COMMUNITY.

The project involves a range of partners and funders, including Maketu Hauora, Te Puni Kokiri, Sustainability Options, Tawanui Community Housing, Toi Te Ora - Public Health Services, BayTrust, TECT, Bay of Plenty District Health Board, and Western Bay of Plenty District Council. It was initiated in 2014 by Western Bay Council.

HOW DO WE WORK?

A Healthy Whare Project is run by a coordinator, Maria Horne, based at Te Runanga o Ngati Whakaue ki Maketu. The coordinator's role is to:

- Raise community awareness about healthy and safe housing
- Coordinate assessments of homes to identify repairs and maintenance needed
- Support whanau to make informed decisions regarding their home improvements, including providing information on funding options to finance repair work
- Coordinate DIY workshops that build capacity for residents to do their own repairs and maintenance.

The project partners and funders support the

project by providing direct funding, assisting with funding applications, preparing project evaluations, identifying solutions to any issues, and providing 'hands-on' assistance with workshops and resources.

Partners and funders also guide the strategic direction of A Healthy Whare Project and assist to keep the project on track to meet its aim and overall goal.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

HOME REPAIRS

- Carried out more than 100 house assessments, completed by a team of professionals (builder, plumber, electrician). A list of repairs and maintenance including quotes for work is prepared

- Funded and completed minor repairs and maintenance (replacing taps and washers, fixing light fittings, replacing rotten boards) and passed on knowledge to whanau of how to do simple repairs
- Funded and installed insulation in homes
- Funded and completed major repairs, such as a new roof or shower.

DIY WORKSHOPS

- Ran three DIY workshops with 10 to 15 participants, covering heating and fire safety, draught stopping and efficient energy use
- Plans for further workshops in 2017.

AWARENESS RAISING

- Presence at community events to raise awareness of the benefits of safe, dry housing
- Encouraged whanau who have completed house assessments and insulation installed to spread the word.

WHAT WHANAU THINK...

Whanau have been very positive about the project, and highlighted many health and wider benefits it's had. Some comments are:

"[I felt] relaxed knowing someone knows the problems I had, and others are in the same boat. It's run by our own people who are respectful of me, my home and my feelings."

"Not only has my health improved physically but my stress levels and emotional wellbeing have improved. I was always worried about these jobs being done and was making myself ill. The project has made a huge difference. I can now focus on the major repairs without being stressed out."

"Electrical safety has improved which is a load off my mind. I no longer have to worry about my father falling over cords and the fire hazard."

WHAT PROJECT PARTNERS THINK...

Our coordinator and Te Runanga o Ngati Whakaue ki Maketu are key to the project's success. Having a local person with local knowledge coordinating the project means trust and respect between whanau and agencies

are quickly established. Local people driving the project means the whanau remain the focus – *He Tangata, He Tangata, He Tangata.*

Having a mix of local and regional partners and funders has enhanced the project. The partners bring financial and in-kind contributions, as well as expertise and knowledge in areas such as housing, health promotion, community engagement and Tikanga Maori.

Having those resources, skills and knowledge in one place has made the project successful. It also allows the partners to share ideas and knowledge relevant for other projects they may be working on.

OUR NEXT STEPS

A Healthy Whare Project is embarking on a second evaluation in early 2017, to further understand the project's successes, challenges and areas for improvement.

Over the next two years we hope to expand the project to other communities in the Western Bay, depending on funding we can access from external sources.

If you would like to know more about A Healthy Whare Project, please contact Jodie Rickard at Western Bay Council on
07 579 6551.

