



The Collaboration Projects

Updates from some of the Call to Action team's projects

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"Growing Our Future – E Tipu e Rea"

Our recent early childhood education Forum "Growing Our Future – E Tipu e Rea" was exciting, but also challenged us to seek new ways of working together to grow the best possible future for our children here in Waitakere. It was the first project organised by the early childhood education team responding to the "Call to Action – Every Child has Access to a Quality Pre-School Education".

Sixty representatives from the various strands of early childhood education in Waitakere along with Ministry of Education and Council staff came together to consider key questions:

- What is OUR vision for early childhood education in Waitakere?
- How can we work together to realise this vision?

Participants enthusiastically worked together in new ways and major themes emerged on which to focus ongoing action:

- Networking – newsletter, forums, database, locality networks.
- Training – relevance, links with training providers, workforce development.
- Accessibility – cost, transport, land, choice.
- Responsiveness – cultural, spiritual, special needs.



The opportunity for major progress is here. We have the framework of the Ministry of Education's 10-year plan – "Pathways to the Future – Nga Huarahi Arataki" with its emphasis on participation in quality early childhood education and developing collaborative relationships.

In terms of the Waitakere City Council's commitment Deputy Mayor, Carolynne Stone, noted in her welcoming speech that:

*"Two of the five priorities in the Long Term Council Community Plan, adopted by the Council, are **First Call for Children** and **Lifelong Learning**. The City is committed to promoting lifelong learning opportunities including supporting a great start for children through learning and education opportunities."*

The Call to Action team is developing a framework for further action to address the key themes and is seeking resourcing to support the ongoing work.

Contacts for Early Childhood are:
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Tony Rea Tel. 836 8000 Extn. 8661

Visit the Wellbeing Collaboration Project's Website - <http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/OurPar/collabproj.asp>



A CULTURE OF INCLUSION

At the Wellbeing Summit in December 2002, a large number of community representatives felt that they were not being supported by any of the other Call to Action Groups. As a consequence a separate Call to Action group was formed, who quickly agreed that there should be a "Culture of Inclusion for all people in Waitakere City", which is how the group got its name.

This Culture of Inclusion group, which meets monthly, is made up of a variety of Community and Council representatives including:

- Deaf Association
- Disability Information Waitakere Network
- Epilepsy Association
- Older People
- Sport Waitakere
- UNITEC
- Walsh Trust
- Waitakere Health Link
- Waitakere Multicultural Society

The first project identified was an *Inclusion Checklist* in the form of a bookmark and mini poster. It has been produced by the group to provide 'key pointers' to those responsible in Government departments, community agencies and the Council, for setting up and facilitating meetings, forums and conferences for businesses. It is to ensure that everyone in the community is totally included. The key pointers are shown opposite.

To obtain copies of the posters and bookmarks, phone the Disability Information Waitakere Network (09) 836 1609.

Developing a Culture of Inclusion in Waitakere City

✓ Checklist

- ⇒ **Accessibility** - *Is the venue accessible to everyone, in particular people with disabilities. Is there mobility parking?*
- ⇒ **Acoustics** - *Do you require microphones, speakers and hearing loops?*
- ⇒ **Affordability** - *Can people afford the cost to attend?*
- ⇒ **Housekeeping** - *Including childcare facilities if required, cups with handles, fire evacuation procedures and personal comfort*
- ⇒ **Interpreters/signing** - *Have you booked an interpreter for your event?*
- ⇒ **Language** - *Plain and appropriate for everyone*
- ⇒ **Resources** - *Are these available and user friendly for everyone e.g. handouts and overheads?*
- ⇒ **Welcoming** - *The use of appropriate inclusive, cultural and spiritual protocols*

For further information contact

Disability Information Waitakere Network (09) 836 1609

"Another Waitakere Wellbeing Project"



GATEWAY - Structured Workplace Learning Programme

The Gateway initiative, is part of the "Every student leaves school with a plan" Call to Action and is being progressed as part of the Waitakere Employment and Skills Project. The Tertiary Education Commission's structured workplace learning programme for senior secondary school students (Years 11 to 13) assists schools to make learning relevant and to broaden students' options by offering them both traditional and work-place learning.

Students pursue individual learning programmes, allowing them to gain new skills and knowledge in a workplace in their local community. The learning is hands-on and practical, with opportunities to begin nationally-recognised qualifications whilst still at school. The Commission selects schools that represent a mix of sizes, locations (rural and urban)

and both co-educational and single sex environments. Careful consideration is given to ensure opportunities for Māori and Pacific students are well represented.

Already there are 155 students in Waitakere benefiting from the programme from six participating schools - Rutherford High, Kelston Boys, Kelston Girls, St Dominics, Waitakere and Henderson High. Enterprise Waitakere is acting as a broker to find employment placements for the students.

For more information on the Gateway programme check out: <http://www.skillnz.govt.nz/new/gateway.htm> or contact: Enterprise Waitakere Tel. 837 1855 or email jacquie@enterprisewaitakere.co.nz. See page 4 for a background on the Waitakere Employment and Skills Project.



GREAT START “Protecting our Tamariki”

Waitakere has a long history of collaboration in community safety. In 1999, it was accredited “Safe Community” status by the World Health Organisation. Safe Waitakere produced the City’s first inter-agency safety plan back in June 2000. Involving over 20 agencies, this plan documented for the first time the breadth of safety activity that agencies were involved in.

The main gap that emerged from the Plan was the under-fives – an age group with increasing levels of injury. This led to the creation of the Safe Under 5 plan, which in turn revealed a major gap in the area of family violence.

After a number of community agency forums in 2002 the Waitakere Wellbeing Summit adopted a number of Calls to Action to focus collaborative efforts by community agencies, central government and the Council, through the Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project.

Simultaneously, an inter-agency advisory group was brought together by Safe Waitakere Injury Prevention and the Waitakere Safer Community Council Trust to guide the development of the “Protecting our Tamariki” project.

The two initiatives have been brought together as “Great Start—Protecting our Tamariki”. The Action Plan was launched on August 28th and includes 10 key projects for collaborative action:

- formation of a Strategic Action Group focused on Under 5s
- Health Sector training in family violence prevention
- family violence prevention training for home visitors and other child focused agencies
- campaign for alternatives to physical violence
- awareness of the importance of the first five years of life
- promotion and celebration of Waitakere’s children
- improved Wellbeing Services for parents
- locality-based project focused on outcomes for under 5s



The “Protecting our Tamariki” Action Plan (above) was launched this month

- Pacific Islands family violence parenting radio campaign
- creation of a Maori social service provider network

Conveners have been identified for the project groups and have begun discussions with a range of interested stakeholders about the projects.

Funding for the projects is currently being sought. Resourcing of an ongoing part-time coordinator to assist with both the development of the Strategic Group for Under 5s and implementing of all the projects is seen as a key priority.

For copies of the plan or for further information please contact:
 Melanie Dunn on 836 800 extn. 8044 or email
melanie.dunn@waitakere.govt.nz



Waitakere Wellbeing Collaboration Project in a nutshell

The Wellbeing Collaboration Project is an initiative to facilitate government, community and Waitakere City Council to identify collaborative focus areas and projects and to facilitate joint actions and planning.



It is financially supported by the Ministry of Social Development, Ministry of Health, Community Employment Group, Dept. of Child, Youth & Family, Waitakere City Council, Waitemata District Health Board, Te Puni Kokiri, and Housing NZ Corporation.



Waitakere Employment and Skills Project

The Waitakere Employment and Skills Project, was launched by the Hon. Steve Maharey in April, and is hosted by Enterprise Waitakere. It takes a demand-led, collaborative approach to addressing Waitakere's skill needs.

Whilst Waitakere City has seen consistent positive change in employment growth and economic dynamism, it still has 24% leaving school without formal qualifications and just under half of the workforce working outside Waitakere City. Less than 10% of businesses in Waitakere undertake structured workplace learning.

The Waitakere Employment and Skills Project seeks to change these statistics.

The project is partly driven by the needs of key employers, and connects those employers within strong local industries to young people who need and deserve a durable future.

Both central and local government are working closely together, across many departments and agencies, with the key aim to give people positive change in their lives and to avoid the trap of welfare dependency, by giving them jobs they believe in - jobs with a future.



Tania Jones is the new Project Manager for the Waitakere Employment and Skills Project.

For more information contact Enterprise Waitakere: Tel. 09-837 1855
Email - jacquie@enterprisewaitakere.co.nz

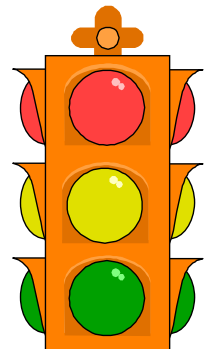


New Out West Projects

The **Democracy Project** has launched the Waitakere Ethnic Board at an inaugural AGM at the New Lynn Community Centre on 20 September 2003. Hon. Chris Carter, Minister of Ethnic Affairs will formally launch the Board following the AGM. The Board will provide a mandated voice for Waitakere's diverse ethnic community.

The **Settlement Support Project** has come from a merging of the Employment and Access to Information projects. It is now awaiting a response to an application to the Community Employment Group for funding to employ a key worker to undertake a Settlement Coordinator role for the project. The project will enable an "assessment, information, referral and follow-up" service for migrant and refugee job seekers. This service will provide a one stop gateway into the local labour market.

New Out West's Road Safety Project was recently given the green light - as its application to the Land Transport Safety Authority for funding was successful. As New Out West is not a direct service provider, it will be working closely with existing providers to develop road safety programmes to be delivered to Waitakere's migrant and refugee communities.



The Road Safety Project will assist new settlers to access appropriate driver licensing programmes that are targeted to the needs of migrant and refugee learner drivers. The funding will also enable ethnic community trainers to be upskilled to deliver road safety messages to their own communities.

For more information on the projects, Now Out West please contact WADCOSS on 838 7903.

Did you miss the first two editions of this newsletter?

You can get them at:

<http://www.waitakere.govt.nz/ourpar/collabproj.asp>

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