



WELL HOMES

Wellington Housing Coordination Service

wellhomes@huttvalleydhub.org.nz

0800 675 675

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Well Homes is a housing coordination service for the greater Wellington region that supports whānau to live in a **warm, dry and safe** home.

RIMUTAKA PRISON INITIATIVE



For the past few months Well Homes have been working with staff from the Department of Corrections at Rimutaka prison. A joint initiative has been started utilising the skills and workmanship of prisoners, to provide whānau with items for their homes. Some of the

products produced include: single and cot bedding sets for children, blankets, door snakes, and fire bricks and kindling for our assessors to give to whānau who need them. Over 59 percent of prisoners participate in employment or industry training, with prisoners involved in these initiatives less likely to re-offend. The initiative enables Well Homes to use our donated funds to purchase high quality products at very competitive rates.

It is because of generous financial donations from the Hutt Mana Charitable Trust and Eastern Hutt Rotary that we have funding to provide healthy housing interventions.

Well Homes works closely with our partners in the University of Otago He Kāinga Oranga housing programme to ensure we use the most current research recommendations when supplying interventions.

Residential Tenancies Act

The quarterly Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) meeting was held in Auckland recently. The Ministry of Business and Innovation and Employment (MBIE) discussed the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 (the 'Act'), offering advice to assessors around how they monitor and enforce issues such as tenancy breaches. From this meeting, direct links have been created to ensure that HHI assessors can bring issues to attention of property managers or landlords who are not fulfilling their obligations under the Act. David Pierce from Sustainability Trust, Tui Tepania from Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust and Tineke from Regional Public Health attended, reporting that the day was very helpful.

Heating

Winter is a good time to remind everyone that we do not recommend using unflued gas heaters in homes. These types of heaters create a lot of excess moisture, release toxic gases into the environment, and are the most expensive form of heating available. For further heating advice, visit our website at www.rph.org.nz/wellhomes, check out our Facebook page or speak to your friendly Well Homes assessor.



Healthy in the Hutt

At the recent 'Healthy in the Hutt' community event, Well Homes held a stall which focused on keeping warm and well over winter. Well Homes offered information on our housing service, practical tips on how to keep your home warm and dry, and advice on insulation. We also gave away free doggie door snakes to family and whānau who booked home assessments with one of our healthy housing assessors.



This was the second event of this type (having attended the Safer Wellington Expo) and we will also be present at the 'Wellness in Wainuiomata' event on the 12th August 2017. Follow our [Facebook page](#) for more details.

Insulation

A warm, healthy home starts with insulation. Sustainability Trust supports whānau across the Wellington region by checking and improving insulation in homes, and using long-life environmentally friendly products. Contact the Sustainability Trust today on 0508 787 824 to book an in home assessment.

TOP TIP!

You may be able to get **half-price insulation** with funding from the Government, if you or your tenant meet the low-income threshold. Find out if you can save money by visiting www.sustaintrust.org.nz.

Farewell to Lynda

It was with great sadness we farewelled Lynda Ryan from the Well Homes programme. Lynda has been instrumental in setting up the programme and her guidance on quality measures has ensured that those visited through the programme, can expect a high quality assessment and ongoing support. Lynda has spent the past nine years working at Kokiri Marae as a data analyst, quality assurance advisor and a trainer at Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma Trust. Lynda is a passionate advocate for healthy housing and equity. Lynda will be missed immensely and we wish her well in her new position at Te Awakairangi Health Network as a Practice Development Facilitator where she will continue to support healthy housing initiatives.

Meet our supporter



BigSave Furniture

Working with the Well Homes assessors, The Manager of Big Save Furniture Lower Hutt Andrew Bazley is proud to be helping kiwi children into safe and healthy beds. Over the past 12 months, together we have delivered 73 sets of bunks and 63 single beds.

Big Save Furniture recommends their 'Camp' bunk bed, which offers affordability and durability with a solid pine timber frame. They can also be split and used as two single beds.



ASSESSOR'S TOP TIP FOR THE MONTH!

Tineke J

Start every morning by opening all of your curtains, and wiping down all visible condensation. Three important factors that cause condensation include:

- The level of moisture in the air;
- The temperature of the air in your home, and;
- The surface temperature of the windows.

The more moisture there is in the air, the more likely it is that you will get condensation. Condensation looks like your windows are crying. The concern with this is that the water can cause your curtains or window sills to become mouldy. Wiping condensation away from the windows will instantly make the room easier and more affordable to heat.

A few different products can help you with condensation. The cheapest option is using an old towel to wipe up moisture (just remember to dry the towel outside once you are finished with it. The Sustainability Trust sell low cost 'Scoopys' for around \$27, which collect the condensation in the handle which you can then tip down the sink.

You can also purchase a window vacuum like the one pictured below. A window vacuum can cost around \$100; they are easy to use and rechargeable. Two of our healthy housing nurses use them in their homes, and highly recommend them.

