



WELL HOMES

Wellington Housing Coordination Service

wellhomes@huttvalleydhb.org.nz

0800 675 675

Bi-monthly Newsletter

**AUGUST/
SEPTEMBER 2017**

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

WOOD BANK IDEAS

A common issue we see within our community is whānau not being able to keep their homes warm at a reasonable cost. This is known as fuel poverty. Our Well Homes team have started to look at different ideas to address this issue, with the current focus being on sourcing affordable fire wood. In the past Well Homes have supplied loads of fire wood to whānau. Whilst this is very helpful for whānau and meets their current need it does not offer a long term solution. One idea Well Homes is considering is a community wood bank, but if you have any other ideas or if your organisation is already working to help solve fuel poverty, we would love to hear from you. Please email any suggestions or feedback to wellhomes@huttvalleydhb.org.nz or call 0800 675 675.

Ministry of Health quarterly Healthy Housing Initiative (HHI) meeting

Vanessa Cameron, Well Homes Programme Manager, and Shirley Pierce, Operational Lead/Public Health Nurse, attended the quarterly meeting in Auckland in September. Vanessa and Shirley presented to the group an overview of their work with the prison and were excited to hear what other regions are doing in this area. They have brought back several ideas to consider and look forward to sharing them as they eventuate. Of particular interest were presentations from ECCA, who confirmed the insulation subsidy scheme was ending in June 2018, Tenancy Services, who discussed the direct support they offer the Healthy Housing Initiative programmes (www.tenancy.govt.nz), and Housing New Zealand and the Ministry of Social Development who have made amendments to their internal process to help prioritise Healthy Housing Initiative requests.

Have you checked your smoke alarms?

In over 80% of fatal house fires attended by the New Zealand Fire Service every year smoke alarms are either not installed or not working. With daylight savings now upon us it is time to check that your smoke alarms are working correctly and change the batteries if you have battery operated alarms. Check the alarm is working correctly by pressing the test button. If you cannot reach the button easily use a broom handle. Dust and debris can also stop alarms from working properly, so vacuum over and around your smoke alarms regularly.



The New Zealand Fire Service recommends you install long-life photoelectric type smoke alarms. **Photo electric smoke alarms are less prone to false alarms (from things like burnt toast) but sound earlier than other systems during smouldering fire.** This gives people more time to react in a real emergency. They may cost a little more but the benefits are huge. For further information on smoke alarms or fire safety advice, visit www.fireandemergency.nz. Families can book free fire safety checks by calling the Fire service on **0800 NZ FIRE** (0800 693 473), and may also be eligible to have one free long-life smoke alarm installed.

Meet our supporter

We would like you to meet Aaron, Senior Industries Instructor at Rimutaka/ Arohata Prison. Aaron has been one of our main drivers in establishing the Well Homes and Department of Corrections bedding and housing intervention partnership.



Aaron has been working at the prison for ten years, and been a distribution instructor for 7 years. Aaron believes that supporting Well Homes whānau allows the men he works with to be a part of something bigger than themselves, and provides them with the opportunity to give back to the greater community. Inmates and Corrections staffs are proud to be part of keeping our families warmer this winter.

Farewell Tineke



In September we said farewell to Tineke, Public Health Nurse. Tineke worked at Regional Public Health for over three years and was passionate about supporting Well Homes families, with a particular interest in cases that required Tenancy Tribunal support. Tineke established the Well Homes

Facebook page and enjoyed promoting the Well Homes programme to your organisations. We are confident that she will continue sharing her healthy housing messages as she moves into a nurse consultant role with Presbyterian Support. We wish you the best of luck with your nursing career Tineke!

Regional Public Health will begin the recruitment process for another registered nurse to work in the Well Homes team soon. The role will be advertised on the Hutt Valley District Health Board's Careers Centre website so please keep an eye out if you think this might be a job for you. [Vacancies - Hutt Valley DHB](#)

Well Homes will be joining other community groups at the Safer Porirua pop-up shop and we'd love for you to pop in and see us!



Safer Porirua Pop-Up Shop, 17a Hartham Place, Porirua
25 October 11.00am – 4.00pm
26 October 3.00pm – 8.00pm

We will have some goodies to give away for everyone who visits us at the event!

Get in quick for curtains from Wellington Curtain Bank

The Curtain Bank will be closing for the season in November. If you are in need of better curtains for your home to improve your warmth and comfort, now is the chance to apply for **FREE** lined and made to measure curtains from the Wellington Curtain Bank. Anyone with a community services card is eligible for living room curtains and we can also provide curtains for bedrooms occupied by children or elderly persons. Contact the Wellington Curtain Bank on 0508 787 824 or download a measurement form from their website www.sustaintrust.org.nz.

Insulation

A warm, healthy home starts with properly installed insulation. From July 2019, it will be a legal requirement that all rental properties in New Zealand be insulated. You may be able to get **half-price insulation** with funding from the Government if lead tenants or home owners meet the low-income threshold. Tenants, make sure your landlord is aware of these requirements and if you are a landlord, find out if you can save money by visiting www.sustaintrust.org.nz. Sustainability Trust supports whānau across the Wellington region by assessing and providing insulation and heating in homes, and promoting sustainable lifestyle choices. Contact Sustainability Trust today on 0508 787 824 for further information.

The ECCA scheme that provides the funding for the insulation subsidy ends in June 2018. To access the generous discount all applications will need to be completed before the end of April 2018. We strongly urge all landlords and property managers working with properties that are not insulated (or under-insulated) to consider the insulation scheme for all of their properties.

ASSESSOR'S TOP TIP FOR THE MONTH!

David Pierce, Well Homes assessor



Spring is the perfect time to shake off the winter – literally. The longer hours of afternoon sun and warmer, dryer weather, means we can shake dust out of floor rugs and mattresses outside, and also wash down mould from curtains.

Dust mites love to live in our bedding, rugs and carpet, while mould thrives in cold, damp, still air. Both can trigger allergic reactions associated with asthma. For this reason, it is a great time of year to have fabrics cleaned and put out in the sun.

For fabric curtains with no rubber backing, give the curtains a good shake outside. Wash with one cup of white vinegar and a quarter cup of washing detergent. Wash on a gentle cycle in the washing machine, or handwash in the bath. Hang curtains outside to dry before rehung.

If your curtains have a rubber backing, shake out the dust then mix one cup of white vinegar with two cups of water in a spray bottle. Spray onto mouldy patches, leave for about 20 minutes then hang curtains outside to dry.

Useful information about Well Homes

Timeframes that Well Homes works to:

| 1 – 2 WEEKS | 4 – 6 WEEKS | 3 – 9 MONTHS |
|--|---|---|
| REFER | VISIT | FEEDBACK |
| Referral received <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receipt of referral sent. Whānau phoned <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agree to visit (yes/no).• If no, referrer is advised by letter. | Assessment booked <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visit completed by assessor.• Referrers are contacted by letter if we are not able to make a time with whānau. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• When all housing interventions are finished a report is sent to the referrer, medical centre, whānau and put into medical records.• Interim feedback is available at any time. Phone 0800 675 675, or email wellhomes@huttvalleydhb.org.nz |

The referral form/information about our service is available online: <http://www.rph.org.nz/housing>