

August 6, 2018

Auckland City Council

To Whom It May Concern,

Re: Pasifika Physiotherapy, Otara Pool and Leisure Centre

Pasifika Physiotherapy is one of the Physio Rehab Group clinics, and has been based at the Otara Pool and Leisure Centre for nearly eighteen years.

The clinic was set up originally to encourage more local community-linked rehabilitation for New Zealand's 'highest needs' population. It allowed and encouraged local people who were injured or unwell to access physiotherapy services equal to any other community within New Zealand. It has facilitated outstanding outcomes for countless people within the local communities. The clinic and its staff have been able to do this primarily because it has been based within the Otara Pool and Leisure Centre, a facility which offers the local Otara (and surrounding) community a gym and pool for rehabilitation under the supervision of a physiotherapist, as well as the opportunity to join up and stay fit.

Over time, the clinic grew into part of the Te Puke Otara space to provide further consultation space, allowing expansion into ACC funded "Return to Work" and "Activity Based Programmes".

Pasifika Physiotherapy has provided real world opportunities for countless prospective physiotherapy students and actual physiotherapy for the local schools. It has also provided employment to nearly thirty South Auckland based physiotherapists, with nearly eighty percent of these physiotherapists and administration staff having been of Pasifika background. This is unheard of in the physiotherapy industry - even the CMDHB has less than a handful of Pasifika Physiotherapists. This is a key element in providing much needed and real health services to South Auckland Communities. Our providers work within an extended medical and para-medical team within the vibrant Otara Community, and continuously encourage its people to stay involved with the gym, pool and community activities the facility provides.

The clinic is unlike others in that it also has very close associations and working relationships with key providers of a wide range of community services and healthy living.

Primary Health Organisation (PHO)

Two of Pasifika Physiotherapy's Directors, Jordan Salesa and Karen Sutton, sit on the board of Total Healthcare PHO (formally Total Healthcare Otara) to advise and assist with social and



medical issues which specifically effect the local high needs population. This Board is chaired by local Kia Aoha Teacher Willie Ropata (formally of Te Puke Otara).

Another of our Otago physiotherapists, Mrs Katie Vaili, holds a position as an allied health community facilitator, where her primary role is to inform local based providers about what is happening within the wider Otago health community. This is a PHO / CMDHB / Private funded role, and only possible because we are located within the community.

Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children (formerly CYFS) Secure Units

Physio Rehab Group provide physiotherapists (based at Pasifika Physiotherapy) onsite within Oranga Tamariki secure facilities to assist in the rehabilitation and reintegration of at risk youth into society.

Green Prescription

Physio Rehab Group and Pasifika Physio are Green Prescription's preferred providers, supporting high needs clients with the Physiotherapy and rehabilitation services they require to remain in the Green Prescription programmes.

AUT University School of Physiotherapy

Pasifika Physiotherapy provides clinical placement experience in a high needs population setting for many AUT Physiotherapy students each year at the Otago Pool and Leisure Centre. This is vital for students, many of which are of Pacific and Maori descent. There continues to be a dearth of physiotherapy clinics in lower socio-economic areas such as Otago due the significant issues related to such services surviving in these areas (financial, inability for self-funding, low or no government funding for rehabilitation, staffing challenges, ESOL, transport and other family related issues resulting in high nonattendance and the like).

Students can experience health delivery in often trying but very humanly rewarding circumstances.

South Auckland Colleges

Our physiotherapists work in and with local colleges to assist the nurses and doctors to raise the standard of health care, health education and wellness in the youth of Otago. This has included Edmund Hillary, Tangaroa and Otahuhu.

The college students are encouraged to utilise the Otago Pool and Leisure Centre facilities, with the goal of them becoming members of a very positive proactive facility, whilst developing a "fit for life" attitude.

Otago Pool and Leisure Centre - Events and Activities Physiotherapy and First Aid Support

Pasifika Physiotherapy provides onsite services to many of the local sports events held at the facility. This adds value to the services the facility has to offer for organisations booking or using the venue.

Profile

Pasifika Physio has maintained a high reputation within the sporting communities in Otago, supplying physiotherapists to all of the local rugby and rugby league clubs, and many other teams. This affords local players, their friends and families not only local based services, but allows these populations to access high level services within their own community, while utilising their own community facilities within the Otago Pool and Leisure Centre.

Physio Rehab Group and Pasifika Physiotherapy's involvement in High Performance Sport as continued providers of physiotherapists and Physiotherapy services to the NZ Warriors, NZ Rugby League, Auckland and Counties League, NZ Basketball, the Northern Mystics and Northern Stars, Olympics and Commonwealth Games allows the local community to rub shoulders with their heroes and offers unique opportunities to work alongside these athletes, encouraging them to be the best they can be.

We believe Pasifika Physiotherapy offers a wide range of positive benefits to the Otago Pool and Leisure Centre and indeed the entire Otago and wider South Auckland Community. It is of real importance to the community that these services are not only delivered for its communities but more importantly, from within its communities. Because of this, Pasifika Physiotherapy, their Physiotherapists and support staff actively assist in promoting the facility to areas of the population that would otherwise not necessarily access it.

We would hope you will consider our re inclusion within the Otago Pool and Leisure Centre favourably.

We are happy to answer any further questions you may have.

Regards

Sarah Fanuatunu, Jordan Salesa, Karen Sutton, Mark Plummer
Directors
Pasifika Physio