

Aotea Family Support Group End of funding period report FY 2020 H1

Period: 1 July to 31 Dec 2019

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Summary/snapshot of overall progress/ highlights and challenges

Our particular way of life on Great Barrier Island is strongly shaped by our community and our landscape. The Aotea Family Support Group Charitable Trust is a 'homegrown' community group that continues to deliver government and privately funded services for the identified needs of individuals, families and community initiatives that help maintain this way of life. With the appropriate resources, an experienced management team and dedicated workers, the delivery of these activities is running well, is allowing us to achieve helpful wrap-around services and by all accounts is meeting the targeted needs. And while we have had a close and effective working relationship with the Community Worker for many years, to now have this role as part of our team is proving an effective way of helping clients in need of support to solve their problems and get back on their feet.

Project outcomes

Project:

To develop and deliver a range of community support and capacity building services to the local community.

Local Board Priority:

Our work contributes to the first Local Board priority that “We have more residents and visitors but we won’t lose our way of life” (Shouldn’t it be “Our people thrive and life is good” as it has been in previous years?)

Objectives:

Children and Youth Support

1. To support young people to grow positively into responsible and successful young adults.
2. To organise family friendly, alcohol free events and to provide families with organized activities for children in the school holidays.

Family Support Programmes for Parents and Families

1. To enable families to function effectively and help them avoid and manage crises better.

Support Programmes for The Older Community

1. To support residents so they can and do adapt as they enter old age.
2. To enable older people to fully participate in social and wellbeing activities to experience aging positively and connect with the community.

Community Support

1. To ‘empower our community’ so it is adequately organised and resourced, with individuals, groups, agencies and institutions collaborating effectively towards a shared vision.
2. To enable community members to learn and employ new skills and knowledge to live healthy, fulfilling, independent lives.
3. To support capacity building with life skill learning opportunities.

All planned outputs were delivered and contributed to the intended outcomes.

Progress so far/ key performance indicators (figures/ stats)	Summary of outcomes	Highlights and challenges	Looking forward-
<p>Children and Youth Support <u>School holiday programs</u> for 2 weeks in July and October term breaks, with a total of 50 and 75! children enrolled, averaging 23 and 28 children per day.</p> <p><u>Weekly after school activity programs</u> for 18 Y7/8s.</p> <p>A <u>Y8 orientation trip</u> to the Auckland for 13 pupils in September.</p>	<p>Children and youth have been able to take part in “safe and healthy activities, to grow in a positive environment with positive role models”, through these programmes.</p> <p>Youth were able to practice life skills, positive behaviours, practical skills, art work, peer socialisation.</p>	<p>The growing attendance numbers at holiday programme events is challenging supervision, volunteers have proven unreliable and we are forced to employ another worker in spite of lacking a budget for this. Fees are paid fully and cover for extra food and activity costs.</p>	<p>See note below about the development of the Mentoring Programme.</p>

Progress so far/ key performance indicators (figures/ stats)	Summary of outcomes	Highlights and challenges	Looking forward-
<p>Family Support</p> <p>82 <u>families requested support</u> with 19 being new clients.</p> <p>27 <u>families received crisis assistance</u>.</p> <p>During this period one child remained with a mentor.</p> <p>22 individuals took part in a <u>Parenting Workshop</u> with Lucy Aitkenread November.</p> <p>20 parents and children took part in the <u>Christmas Family Lightparty</u> at Tryphena Hall.</p> <p>On average 9 pre-schoolers with accompanying parent attended a weekly <u>Mainly Music session</u> started in October and had an enthusiastic uptake.</p> <p>Some <u>advice on scholarships</u> for boarding school was given.</p>	<p>Parents had and used access to parenting support, participated in activities and had opportunity to engage with family workers.</p> <p>Families who found themselves in crisis had access to and used our support.</p>	<p>We are working to provide a wrap-around service, that involves all our contacts with vulnerable and hard to reach families through our services, leveraging our knowledge and different roles in the community.</p>	<p>We are benefitting from now having insights from and access through the Community Worker to ensure we are reaching everybody in need of support, and in particular work with them to restore their independence.</p> <p>We look forward to benefitting more from that in the delivery and development of our services.</p>

Progress so far/ key performance indicators (figures/ stats)	Summary of outcomes	Highlights and challenges	Looking forward-
<p>Older People Support Monthly programme of well attended <u>Over 60s Meals</u> (avge 41pp) along with monthly outings (6pp on avg).</p> <p>Weekly <u>Physical Exercise Programme</u> continued until Nov, with normally 5 seniors taking part.</p> <p><u>Home Maintenance Assistance</u> was provided to 3 clients per month on average.</p> <p><u>Positive Aging Advice</u> was given regularly (housing, retirement, personal issues ...) and an <u>information workshop</u> on rest home options in July was well attended by 28 seniors.</p> <p><u>Provided advice and info</u> to older people as requested.</p> <p>We <u>assisted with a number of activities organised by and for older people</u>, with community van and in other ways: a birthday celebrations, a funeral, an outing to Glenfern event.</p>	<p>Older residents are aging positively and were able to remain in their homes more safely and cared for. They had the opportunity to reflect on and plan for their changing needs.</p> <p>The Home maintenance services are being taken up well and appear to address needs. We have not had requests outside our capacity.</p>	<p>In this period there were two older people who had to move to a care facility for serious health reasons with advanced needs.</p> <p>We noted that there are still seniors who are asking for an on-island carer-supported facility.</p>	<p>More of the same ...</p>

<p>Community Support 13 residents were assisted with <u>crisis support</u> (food grants, flights to town etc).</p> <p>16 attended an ANCAD <u>Capacity Building Event</u> about the “Legal responsibilities for not-for-profit boards.”</p> <p>The Northern and Southern <u>Community Vans</u> were driven 3,861 km and 6,984 km respectively, with 178 and 1,257 passengers each.</p> <p>We also made available <u>resources</u> (eg funding directory, books, internet access).</p> <p>We <u>managed the Clothing Exchange</u> building with the help of volunteers and see several users each day.</p> <p>The <u>Community Vans</u> were available for the Learning Hub and other groups.</p> <p><u>Acted as Umbrella</u> for the Community Gardens.</p> <p><u>Provided information and resources</u> of use to other groups, eg with project planning.</p> <p><u>Co-facilitated quarterly community group huis.</u></p>	<p>The planned outcomes were achieved, with the development of community organization’s capacity, residents in crisis supported, and the van enabling participation.</p> <p>Transport, marquees and other resources were used also by other groups, eg arts and crafts, kids soccer and surfing, family events etc</p>	<p>We endeavour to act on behalf of people in need in the community by continuously monitoring needs, reflecting on them, attending meetings, liaising with welfare providers and others to report and advocate about what we see.</p>	<p>Our collaboration with Auckland North Community and Development to deliver quality workshops for local community groups annually is continuing.</p>
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A look ahead/ details of future aspirations and strategic planning

Most of our services and programmes are well established now but two new areas of focus are the Community Worker Project and the Aotea Youth Mentoring Project. The CW project is reported separately while it remains under the umbrella of the Great Barrier Community Health Trust, but we are expecting that from the next financial year the Support Group would be directly accountable for the delivery of contracted services.

The Aotea Youth Mentoring Project grows out of a mentoring pilot continued successfully during 2019 and is awaiting a funding decision from Oranga Tamariki in February. Some New Year's Picnic fundraising money has already been tagged and the Great Barrier St John's Church committee made another contribution to this activity with \$1,000.

The Goal of the Aotea Mentoring Programme (AMP) is to establish a best practice model for an "effective and safe youth mentoring programme on our island, that can properly support young people 13 and over who have been referred and identified as at risk." This will be achieved by employing an AMP coordinator, Deborah Badraun, to develop and supervise a trained pool of volunteers recruited on island (including support and professional development to enhance the two existing mentoring situations) who can act as positive role models, to encourage, motivate and support the Rangitahi of Aotea to reach their full potential.

A Pilot Programme with Correspondence School students, working closely with Hub, is to begin in February and run to Dec 2020 through school terms, with a joint outing for mentoring pairs during each term break. Programme evaluation will take place at the end of each term. If the Programme model proves to be a success there is opportunity for expanding the Target group to the upper primary, school students and Youth Group Participants.