

Well communities



What did the residents of the Horowhenua say when asked "What are the key challenges affecting the health and wellbeing of your community?"

During the last three months over 450 Horowhenua residents have been sharing their views on what they see as the priorities in regards to health and wellbeing for their district. This is all part of the development of a Health and Wellbeing Plan specifically for the Horowhenua.

Project Convener Kelly Isles said: "MidCentral District Health Board (MDHB) is committed to well communities. It's about better understanding the Horowhenua, the people that live there and their priority needs, so that together we can create local solutions for local issues.

"It's been great to get out and about in Horowhenua speaking with local community committees, Youth Voice, Raukawa Whānau Ora Ltd, Older Persons Network and many more; we even spent a day at Te Takere meeting with local residents. People have been very open about what is working well in their community as well as areas of priority"

With such a great response from the community its taken time to go through the 210 completed survey forms and all the feedback from residents.

Looking across all the feedback residents have identified a number of areas as priorities. These include:

- easy and timely access to health care when needed
- more support for carers looking after their elderly, disabled, or mokopuna whānau members
- easy to find and quicker to access local Mental Health and Addiction Support



- improved access to specialist appointment in a timely manner
- better support for older adults, to stay well in their own/whānau homes longer,
- more focus on housing, environment and transport (as these all affect health and wellbeing), and
- improved communication and connection from health with Horowhenua in a more modern and relevant way.

MDHB will now work with a local advisory group on the priority areas, identifying what it and its partners can do to help improve these for the residents of Horowhenua. MDHB looks forward to working with the Horowhenua community on this over the next few months. For further information contact Kelly at Kelly.isles@midcentraldhb.govt.nz

Any questions please contact:

Kelly Isles - Kelly.isles@midcentraldhb.govt.nz or call 06 350 8912