



OCTOBER 2022



Welcome to the Emerge Aotearoa Group Spring newsletter.

There has been a lot happening since our last newsletter and we are pleased to share our updates with you.

Excitingly, Emerge Aotearoa is now a strategic partner in the Horowhenua Hinengaro Alliance. The Alliance will

guide the development, implementation, coordination and evaluation of services to better meet the needs of Māori in Horowhenua. It is an exciting opportunity for us to be involved in this mahi, and we look forward to sharing our knowledge and experience with the other Alliance members.

Since our last update, we have welcomed several new board members, who we introduce you to in this newsletter.

We are also pleased to introduce you to our new Mana Whakahaere, Phyllis Tangitu.

We have included an article from EaseUp, which has expanded its service offerings and the geographic area it operates in. There is also a story about our Love Your Mahi campaign which was recently launched internally.

I hope the weather is starting to warm up wherever you are and I look forward to sharing more with you in our next newsletter.

Ngā mihi aroha,

Barbara Disley
Group Chief Executive

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Horowhenua Hinengaro Alliance announced

Emerge Aotearoa is thrilled to be a strategic partner in the Horowhenua Hinengaro Alliance, which has recently been signed into effect.

The kaupapa of the Alliance is to provide effective leadership across the Māori mental health and addiction sector. It will guide the development, implementation, coordination and evaluation of services to better meet the needs of Māori communities living in Horowhenua.

Emerge Aotearoa Regional Manager (Central) David Comiskey says the Alliance formed earlier in the year in response to a government Request For Proposals for the provision of services. Several NGOs in Horowhenua that had a long history of working in partnership, joined together to submit a proposal to work as a collective. The group proposes to deliver a community acute respite facility with kaupapa Māori values and models of care. Emerge Aotearoa, as a strategic partner, will use its expertise to support the Alliance while it establishes itself.

“Emerge Aotearoa hasn’t had a presence in Horowhenua before, but we have the experience and well-established infrastructure that the other four NGOs can benefit from. We will help them as tāngata whenua to establish a robust service,” David says.

The group is made up of Mana o te Tangata Trust, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority, Raukawa Whānau Ora Services, and Whaioro Trust. In August, a memorandum of understanding was signed by the Board Chairs of each organisation, formalising the relationship.

The group’s first focus will be creating the community acute response whare, which will deliver significant change to whānau in Horowhenua who need more intensive support. The whare will be an alternative option to an admission to Palmerston North Hospital.

David says the work is iwi-led and inclusive. “This initiative is being created for Māori, by Māori, in Horowhenua. It will provide holistic and wraparound care for people experiencing mental health and addiction challenges in the area, and we are grateful to be a part of this important mahi,” he says.



From left: Mana o te Tangata Trust Manukura/CEO Leilani Maraku, Muaūpoko Tribal Authority Chief Executive Di Rump, Raukawa Whānau Ora Services Manukura/CEO Dr Betty-Lou Iwikau, Whaioro Trust CEO Kelly Bevan, Emerge Aotearoa National Manager Service Delivery Gemma Bateman.

Welcome Phyllis Tangitu

Nau mai, haere mai, welcome to Phyllis Tangitu.

We are thrilled to announce Phyllis Tangitu has joined the Emerge Aotearoa Group Executive team as our new Mana Whakahaere.

Phyllis (Ngāti Pikiao/Ngāti Ranginui/Ngāti Awa) brings a wealth of experience to the team from her many years of working in the health sector, and we look forward to working with her to achieve excellent outcomes for the people who access our services.

She is a trailblazer in her field, managing the first ever kaupapa service in the Lakes District, and leading the creation of the kaupapa community mental health and addictions service in Rotorua.

Since 2000, Phyllis has worked as the Lakes District Health Board General Manager Māori Health and Pou Manukura. She is a director and member of several national and regional committees, including the Mental Health Review Tribunal of New Zealand where she has served as a ministerial appointment for 24 years. Phyllis is also part of a national governance group for leading suicide prevention for Māori and Pacific people.



She co-chairs Te Huinga o Ngā Pou Hauora (Midland Māori Mental Health and Addictions forum); is a current member of the Māori Advisory Committee for the development of the New Zealand Suicide Prevention Action Plan; and was a member of Tumu Whakarae (National Reference Group of Māori Health Strategy Managers within DHBs).

Phyllis continues to support the Ministry of Health, Te Aka Whaiora and Te Whatu Ora – Health New Zealand. She has been trained in facilitation, supervision, and mentoring, and is passionate about iwi development.

Waypoint officially launched

In July, Waypoint, which offers health and wellbeing services to young people aged 12-24, was officially launched in the Counties Manukau rohe.

The organisation is run by a collaborative involving Emerge Aotearoa, Counties Manukau Health, Mahitahi Trust, South Seas Healthcare, Odyssey, Youthline, Pathways, and The Psychology Group. It offers flexible pathways with any approach being the right approach, and young people being able to access one or more components of the service at any time.

Emerge Aotearoa is committed to improving access and choice to primary mental health services for young people, particularly Māori and Pasifika. We are keen to work with other providers to ensure that young people have easy access to a cohesive suite of services depending on their needs and preferences.

Within the Waypoint collective, Emerge Aotearoa will focus on assisting young people to achieve goals to support their personal development, self-esteem, and self-determination.

Find out more by visiting waypoint.org.nz



From left: General Manager Mental Health & Addiction at Te Whatu Ora Counties Manukau Charles Tutagalevao, and Emerge Aotearoa Regional Manager (Counties Manukau / ADHB) Raj Sodhi.

Whānau welcomed into new Masterton homes

Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust welcomed 22 whānau into warm and dry homes at its new Masterton development earlier this month.

The site has eight one-bedroom units, 10 two-bedroom homes and four three-bedroom houses. Work on the development began in December 2020, after Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust recognised the significant need for public housing investment in Masterton. It has been purchased in partnership with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, delivered by Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust, and built by Jennian Homes. Kainga Ora has also confirmed it will be purchasing the remaining 18 homes in the same cul-de-sac, with their houses being ready later in the year.

The development began with an undisturbed piece of whenua being blessed as part of a whakawātea in July 2020.

Local kaumatua Mike Kawana (Rangitāne o Wairarapa) led the blessing, which was attended by Wairarapa MP Kieran McNulty, Mayor of Masterton Lyn Patterson and Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust board members Graeme Bell (Chair) and Mena Antonio. A blessing was also held to celebrate the completion of these homes in August 2022, attended by Mayor Patterson.

Emerge Aotearoa Group Chief Executive, Dr Barbara Disley, says the significant need for public housing investment in Masterton has been a big focus for the organisation. "At Emerge Aotearoa, we believe secure, warm housing is one of the foundations to health and wellbeing for all. Our mahi contributes to everyone having a place called home and we are thrilled to be able to provide this for whānau in Masterton".



Love Your Mahi

In July, we launched our Love Your Mahi campaign to showcase the many opportunities for career progression and development across Emerge Aotearoa. The campaign, which features a series of staff profiles, also celebrates kaimahi who simply love their jobs and the wonderful work they do.

Emerge Aotearoa Chief Executive Dr Barbara Disley says, "We are proud to support our people by offering ongoing professional development opportunities for them to expand their skillset or achieve their career goals while working at Emerge Aotearoa".

"This can range from kaimahi growing into a leadership role; changing to a role in another entity or service to suit their interests; upskilling through further study; or being supported to learn more in their current role."



New Board members welcomed

After a successful recruitment drive, we are delighted to introduce our impressive new Board members: John Holyoake, Te Kani Kingi, Wayne Vargis, Jason Kereama Rogers, Sina Wendt and Dr Peter Bramley.

John Holyoake joins the Emerge Aotearoa Limited and Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust Boards, bringing considerable experience from the commercial and social sectors. He is the Western Bay District Council CEO and is passionate about social housing and business development.

We also welcome Professor **Te Kani Kingi** to the Emerge Aotearoa Trust Board. He has a special interest in Māori mental health, health service delivery and measuring health outcomes. Currently, he works as the Executive Director of Research and Innovation at Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiāraangi.

Wayne Vargis has also joined the Emerge Aotearoa Trust Board. Since 2011, he has worked for Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and has been the General Manager, Regional Investment Fund since 2020. He established Te Pūtahitanga and was previously the Ngāi Tahu Property Commercial Partnerships Manager.

Jason Kereama Rogers has been appointed to the Emerge Aotearoa Trust and Emerge Aotearoa Housing Trust Boards. He is a professional director who sits on a number of Boards in the iwi settlement space and has a passion for advancing the interests of iwi and Pasifika peoples.

Sina Wendt, ONZM, joins the Emerge Aotearoa Trust Board, and brings with her more than 25 years of experience working in governance and executive roles in the commercial, public, and not-for-profit sectors. She has worked as the Chief Executive for Leadership New Zealand and was the founding Chief Executive of National Pacific Radio Trust.

We also welcome **Dr Peter Bramley**, who is Interim Regional Director Te Waipounamu and Interim District Director Waitaha Canterbury and Te Tai o Poutini West Coast of Te Whatu Ora – Health NZ. He has extensive management experience having worked as the CEO of Nelson Marlborough Health, and in the CE role for the Canterbury and West Coast DHBs.

To read more about our new Board members, visit: <https://emergeaotearoa.org.nz/who-we-are/our-people>

New name for peer advocacy service

Mind & Body's Peer Advocacy Service in Wellington is now using the name **Te Māramatanga**, which was gifted to it in 2007.

The new name means clarity, illumination and enlightenment, and was gifted by Kuni Shepherd (Kaumatua CCDHB) and Whaea Maria Grace (Kuia, Wellink Trust) to our Māori Advisory Group Wellink Trust.

Te Māramatanga offers peer support and/or advocacy to people aged between 18 to 65 years in the Wellington and Waikanae areas who are experiencing mental health and/or addiction challenges.

To find out more about Mind & Body services, visit <https://mindandbody.co.nz>



EaseUp continues to expand

Youth who are experiencing challenges with their mental wellbeing or alcohol and other drug issues can now access EaseUp in more areas.

The innovative service, which was developed and funded by Emerge Aotearoa Trust in 2019, provides free and confidential community-based support in Auckland, Waitematā and South Waikato. In the last year, it has attracted enough funding to expand into new areas, widen the age group it can work with, and grow its service offerings.

EaseUp Service Manager Gregory Winkelmann says EaseUp's Peer Support Workers and Clinicians work collaboratively with rangatahi aged 12-24 years to provide tailored and holistic support, delivered at a place where they feel most comfortable. Being a mobile service means barriers such as the young person accessing transport are removed.

"The work we are doing has been very successful, and is achieving strong outcomes for youth and their whānau. The people we see, consistently say we have made a positive difference in their lives. They say they feel respected, listened to, and comfortable enough to share their emotions."

Peer Support Workers draw upon their own lived experience to build rapport with rangatahi, while the Clinicians provide

therapeutic care. The two work in partnership with young people on the goals they want to achieve.

Currently, EaseUp is recruiting more Clinicians and Peer Support Workers to increase the number of young people it can support, and is about to launch a recruitment campaign featuring some of its current kaimahi sharing their stories. The teams have also been visiting local schools to make themselves known, as anybody can make a referral to EaseUp including whānau and young people.

"Working at EaseUp is an opportunity to shape the future of New Zealand's next generation through an innovative and successful model of youth AOD care," Gregory says.

To view the current vacancies, visit the Emerge Aotearoa careers website: <https://careers.emergeaotearoa.org.nz>

