

Child Healthy Housing

Child Health Team

January 2025

Healthy Homes Initiative

Five-year outcomes evaluation

We are thrilled to be able to share the latest report from the Healthy Homes initiative. The report includes a five-year outcomes evaluation conducted by the evaluation team at He Kainga Oranga (University of Otago—Wellington), led by Professor Nevil Piere. The report was released on 29 November 2024 by the Hon Dr Shane Reti and highlights the significant impact the HHI has had for over 200,000 referred whānau members including children, leading to fewer hospital visits and trips to the GP. Read on for some of the key findings.



From left: Michelle Bartlett, Monique Heke, Bronwyn Petrie, Hon. Dr Shane Reti, Gaylene Leabourn, Melissa West, Emma Solomon

Some key findings

Five years after the HHI intervention, participants experienced significant health and social benefits, for example:

- A. a 18.6% decrease in all-cause hospitalisations per person (or 10,354 averted hospitalisations per year across 186,016 people).
- B. a 5% reduction in school absence for illness for children (with 5,309 more days in school per year across 57,626 children).
- C. a slight but persistent increase in wages and less need for benefits for adults.

For the full report:

[Healthy Homes Initiative: Five-year outcomes evaluation – Health New Zealand | Te Whatu](#)

Community workshops

Over the last six months we've been able to hold two community workshops, in Hastings and Wairoa. Guest speaker Nik Gregg from sustainability options (Tauranga) delivered knowledge, tips and advice for community workers to share with whānau.



From left: Lucy Miller, Alice Peacock, Amber Hitchcock, Nik Gregg, Thelma Chapman, Robyn Elms, Alana Haylock, Tahi Collier

National HHI Hui: Christchurch, New Zealand

Although the National HHI hui was cancelled this year a smaller hui was still held on the 12 - 13 September in Christchurch which included practical workshops and sharing of resources. Professor Nevil Piere also attended.

Curtain Bank in Wairoa

2024 saw the opening of a new curtain bank in Wairoa. Funded by Eastern and Central Community Trust (ECCT) and Genesis Energy.

Summer Reminder: Please continue to send your referrals through over the warmer months at PH: 06 879 9440 or email childhealthyhousing@hbdhb.govt.nz