

New Pan Pasifika Community Hub to be developed in Hamilton

O le tele o sulu e maua ai figota, e mama se avega pe a ta amo fa'atasi.
My strength does not come from me alone, but from many (Samoan Proverb).

After eighteen years of concerted work and effort, K'aute Pasifika have announced that the development of a new Pan Pasifika Community Hub can begin in central Hamilton. This has been made possible by the recent approval of \$2.137 million in funding from Trust Waikato.

The Pasifika Community Hub will enable Pacific communities to: access culturally appropriate and sensitive health, education and social services; identify with, and strengthen their own cultural connections; celebrate and support academic, sporting, artistic, social and cultural pursuits and achievements.

The Pan Pasifika Community Hub will be developed and managed by K'aute Pasifika Charitable Trust. K'aute Pasifika deliver a large number of effective health, education and social service programmes to the Pacific community. Currently these programmes are delivered from a myriad of locations which are not purpose built and therefore present challenges in terms of location, accessibility and suitability of the facilities themselves. The hub will enable K'aute Pasifika to better support the holistic wellbeing of Pacific families through the continued delivery of these programmes from a purpose built facility.

As well as a head office for K'aute Pasifika, the hub will include a medical clinic, K'aute Pasifika's nurse-led services, social workers and a Pan Pacific Early Childhood Centre. There are also opportunities for allied health to co-locate to include a pharmacy, midwifery, physiotherapy and a podiatry clinic. Although the Hub will be Pan Pasifika, all ethnicities will be welcomed as this will be a place of inclusion and for all the community.

K'aute Pasifika's vision is to develop dynamic, healthy, strong, educated, collaborative and sustainable Pacific communities that live to their full potential. They have credibility and strong community connections with Pacific communities both locally and across the Midlands Region and are the best placed organisation to develop and manage the Pacific Community Hub. K'aute Pasifika Trust is the Lead Provider for the AereTai Collective which is made up of seven Pacific providers across the Midland Region

"This is a very exciting announcement. This funding boost will literally help change and enhance the lives of many people who use K'aute Pasifika services. This is also about helping the futures of young people. The incredible vision of the leaders of our Pasifika community which established K'aute Pasifika in 1999, continues to bear fruit" says Martin Gallagher Deputy Mayor.

"Wintec's Centre for Health and Social Practice has a long and valued partnership with K'aute Pasifika Trust and Wintec fully supports the need for comprehensive health and social care services supported by a Pasifika community clinic in Hamilton. This is great news for the ongoing health and wellbeing of Pasifika people in our community, for K'aute Pasifika Trust and for the jobs it will create. It's our mission to build stronger communities within our region

and we are excited about the potential to assist the trust with support and training to deliver high quality health and social care services” says Mark Flowers, Chief Executive, Wintec.

“As a Samoan High Chief and Hamilton Pacific Community member, I want to acknowledge the generosity of the funders/donors, to finance a Pacific Centre here in Hamilton, the first of its kind in New Zealand. Fa’afetai tele lava K’aute Pasifika Board, Leaupepe Peta Karalus, Management and staff for your leadership and support for our Pacific community throughout the last 18 years. Thank you and Fa’afetai tele lava” Tuila’epa Seiuli, Samoan Community Leader

Rachel Karalus is the Chief Executive of K’aute Pasifika.

“We are thrilled that the Pasifika Community Hub can now begin development. A centralised and accessible Pasifika centre will mean that we can better support the holistic wellbeing of Pacific families, increase our connectedness and cultural identities, and celebrate and support academic, sporting, creative and leadership potential,” says Rachel.

“The Pasifika Community Hub and the funding from Trust Waikato enforces the value of our Pacific cultural identity and heritage and our place in the Waikato Region and nationally. As a minority group, for our Pacific communities this is momentous,” says Rachel.

The development of the new hub is estimated at \$10.6 million. The funding from Trust Waikato will provide much needed seed funding for the project and will act as encouragement for other funders to get behind a great community initiative. Trust Waikato will be partnering and working closely with K’aute Pasifika to secure the balance of required funding in the immediate future.

