

**THAMES COROMANDEL HAURAKI COMMUNITY HEALTH FORUM  
MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2008 AT THE THAMES  
WAR MEMORIAL HALL.**

**Minutes of meeting**

**PRESENT:** Frances Bicknell (Chair), Frances Bicknell, Laurie Franks, Maria Lowe, Stan Sims, Fiaola Siatuu, Arthur Fletcher, Sue Price, Deborah MacDonald Brown, Colleen Greville, Robyn Pengelly, Jackie Gausden, Bev Costello, Elaine Bycroft, Sandra Goudie, Jo Burns, Joy Arthur, Ian McIntyre, Sally Christie, Gill Leonard, Val Sparks, Jacqueline Waetford, Barbard Rothschild, Louise West and Tania Young.

**APOLOGIES:** Annie W, Janet Clissold, Thelma Chantrey, Marie Reilly, Phyllis Hayward, Mayor Phillippa Barriball, Hugh Kininmonth, Rae Lalande, Kathy Archibald and Robin Plummer

**MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

These were taken as read

**MATTERS ARISING:**

There were no matters arising.

**LOCAL ISSUES:**

Deb MacDonald Browne gave a brief address to the meeting on a new group that had been formed in the area. 'Transitions Town Thames' is part of a global network of people concerned about the rise in world oil prices and the un-sustainability nature of the resource. The group encourages local solutions for alternatives and group action to raise the awareness of this looming world wide crisis.

Debs went on to raise concerns around damp houses which contribute greatly to asthma and respiratory problems amongst mainly children and adults. Given access to new technology and resources this problem should not exist but seemed to be on the rise. Members talked about various home insulation schemes that were operating and subsidies that are available to some people to have their homes insulated. *Grant agreed to list those the DHB was aware of for members use locally. See below:*

To date Hauraki has done 350 homes in the last 3 years. Paeroa completed 190 houses of low income for free and 95 for middle income completed in the Paeroa/Ngatea/Thames area which they pay \$500 approx to have this done. As of the 1<sup>st</sup> July in the Paeroa/Thames area, they will be doing 50 houses for low income for free but there are currently 60 on the waiting list already. The local newspaper usually advertises if necessary and referrals are made through Hauraki Warm Homes Steering Group.

Encouraging people to grow their own food was also a theme presented at this Forum meeting. Little encouragement was available to encourage people to plant gardens to increase their self sufficiency with good nutritious food. Local Govt, health and Public sector agencies should be encouraging this level of 'self help' specifically in the current environment of rising food prices. Some predictions were given that around 2020, the world would be facing severe resource and food shortages. *Grant to raise this issue with Health Promotion Teams, PHO's etc.*

### **RISING PETROL PRICES;**

While this was affecting most people, it has the potential to severely impact on the work of Home care givers. The meeting was addressed by Colleen Greville who is employed by the Salvation Army to provide home support services to needy people in the Thames Coromandel and Hauraki Region.

Receiving only 7c/kilometer meant that people providing this vital service were personally subsidizing the service. This workforce is renowned for low wages and in areas like the Coromandel region workers often traveled great distances to reach their work place before they started getting paid. Often their assignments were only for one hour, which mean that any further support needed by the customer was again 'at the good will of the home carer.

The meeting heard of dire conditions with some people staying suffering from incontinence staying in soiled pads for up to several hours for fear of using up their monthly entitlement of 60 pads. Access to needy equipment, walkers, toilet chairs was also raised as an issue. Seldom were discharge from hospital, assessments of care and supply of equipment to support the home placement aligned, the meeting was told.

The DHB was reminded that if the Govt's policy of greater home based care is to work then much greater attention to ensure access to the necessary equipment at the right time was needed. The situation relating to the poor compensation of home support workers is a situation requiring urgent attention.

### **HEALTH PROMOTION PROJECT – IMPROVING ACCESS TO TRANSPORT**

A Local health promoter attended for this item. The meeting was told about a current project to improve access to local patient transport services. The project was building a local data base of services and access information to better support people needing transport to attend a health service. The meeting was asked to feed back any known contact so that this information could be provided in the resource kit. Once completed this would be made available to key service providers in the region.

*Grant agreed to forward a list of the DHB Community transport contracts for the local area to Louise West.*

Waikato DHB Board Member Sally Christie told the meeting of a project sponsored by John Tregida Mayor of the Hauraki District Council. This project is investigating the provision of a regional transport services for people specifically needing to get to Hospital. Sally commented on the DHB's plans to review the Transport and Accommodation Policy (TNA) with a view to improving access to these services across the DHB. The meeting was told that "a common sense approach should prevail and these various projects aligned to ensure that resources aren't being wasted".

*Grant agreed to bring this to the attention of the DHB Project Leader.*

### **EPILEPSY NEW ZEALAND:**

The Waikato Field Worker attended for this item and advised the meeting of this new service available to the locality. **Contact Information:**

Maria Lowe, Field Officer, Epilepsy Association of NZ Inc (Waikato) PO Box 683, Hamilton. Phone 07 838 1433, email: [maria.wkt@epilepsy.org.nz](mailto:maria.wkt@epilepsy.org.nz) Website: [www.epilepsy.org.nz](http://www.epilepsy.org.nz)

## **WEBHEALTH.CO.NZ**

This valuable community resource provides quick and easy access to an extensive range of health services funded by the Waikato DHB and available at the local level. The service maintains its data base of contacts regularly and is frequently used by local services according, to a member of the Community Health Forum, Access via the web and any computer or by a specially configured Webhealth information Kiosk located in Bowen house, “services are at your finger tips”.

## **AGE CONCERN HOME VISITING SERVICE**

This new service received profiling at the Community Health Forum; Tried in the region, Home visitors will ‘visit’ people in their homes and provide a valuable socialization program linking people who would otherwise be home bound with the outside. Referrals for the service can be made to the local Age Concern Service.

**Contact Information:** Age Concern Hamilton, Celebrating Age Centre, 30 Victoria Street, Hamilton, Phone: 07 8382266, email: [postmaster@ageconcern.gen.nz](mailto:postmaster@ageconcern.gen.nz)

## **ARTHRITIS SERVICE:**

This new service is to be trialed in the region for one month to assess the ongoing need for the service. Based at Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki the service will provide assistance and support to those people coping with this debilitating disease. From 1 July local people can access this specialized service through contacting Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki.

**Contact Information:** Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki, 210 Richmond Street, Thames, Phone: 07 868 5375

## **YOUTH HEALTH FORUM**

Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki is to host a youth health forum at the Thames Youth Centre on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June from 3.30 to 5pm. Investigating youth perceptions of health services will provide valuable insight into the range of services seen as needed by the regions young people. Facilitated by trained Health Promoters from Te Korowai, the forum follows on from a successful ‘Youth Fest’ held in the town recently. This event is the latest in a line of youth friendly activities offered by Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki towards engaging the regions young people in health services planning.

## **WAIKATO DHB UPDATE**

This was presented and discussed. *The PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes.*

## **TRANSIT LOUNGE ACCESS**

Concerns exist around access to this new resource. Volunteer drivers report confusion around the availability of Health Waikato Volunteers to assist people navigate the hospital. The ability for people to wait in the lounge for their driver is also an issue. Conflicting reports exist, some people are told they can use the lounge and other told they can’t. *Grant to follow this up and get clarification.*

No further business, this meeting finished at 12.00 midday with a tour of Thames Hospital.

### ***NEXT MEETING:***

***Friday 5<sup>th</sup> September 2008***

***10.00am – 12.00pm***

***TBC***

### ***LAST MEETING FOR THE YEAR:***

***Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2008***

***10.00am – 12.00pm***

***TBC***

**ACTION LIST FROM THE THAMES COROMANDEL HAURAKI COMMUNITY  
HEALTH FORUM MEETING HELD ON 12<sup>th</sup> June 2008**

1.	Grant agreed to list the names of various home insulation schemes that the DHB was aware of for members use locally.	Included in minutes
2.	Encouraging people to grow their own food was also a theme presented at this Forum meeting. <i>Grant to raise this issue with Health Promotion Teams, PHO's etc.</i>	Before next meeting
3.	Health Promotion Project – Improving Access to Transport - <i>Grant agreed to forward a list of the DHB Community transport Contracts for the local area to Louise West and bring this to the attention of the DHB Project Leader</i>	Before next meeting
4.	Epilepsy NZ - <i>Contact details of this new service are to be sent with the minutes.</i>	Included in minutes
5.	Age Concern Home Visiting Service - <i>Contact details of this service are to be sent with the minutes.</i>	Included in minutes
6.	Arthritis Service – <i>Contact details of this service are to be sent with the minutes</i>	Included in minutes
7.	This was presented and discussed. <i>The PowerPoint presentation is attached to these minutes</i>	Included in minutes
8.	Transit Lounge Access - Concerns exist around access to this new resource and Volunteer drivers report confusion around the availability of Health Waikato Volunteers to assist people to navigate the hospital. <i>Grant to follow this up and get clarification.</i>	Before next meeting