

### **Celebrating 52 years of service**

Long-time volunteer Mary Hall was celebrated at the Sandringham Plunket Clinic for an incredible 52 years of service to Whānau Āwhina Plunket.

Community Services Manager Clare Green thanked Mary for her loyalty and dedication to Plunket.

“Mary has helped many whānau to keep their children and babies safe and well over the years. She’s an inspiration to us all and we are very lucky to have her,” she says.

A much-loved face in the popular Sandringham Plunket Clinic, Mary ensures the smooth running of many services. She’s kept busy managing birthday party bookings for the clinic’s venue hire service, installing car seats for whānau, conducting safety checks on nursery furniture and providing event support.

Beginning her volunteering journey with Plunket back in 1971, Mary has held various roles from local committee to area positions. She was well-known as the Branch Safety Officer in the 1980s and then Area Safety Officer in the early 2000s, where she specialised in child safety and represented Plunket at many advisory groups and networks.

Mary has received awards for her long service, including an honorary life membership with Plunket. In 2004, she was named Aucklander of the Year and in 2014, was recognised during the Minister of Health Volunteer Awards for her commitment to the health field.

There are no plans to slow down any time soon for Mary.

“Volunteering with Plunket is a big part of my life. It’s just what I do. I enjoy being a part of the local community and helping the staff do their jobs,” she says.

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**Photo caption:** Whānau Āwhina Plunket volunteer Mary Hall (centre) with Community Services Manager Clare Green (left) and Community Services Team Leader Francois Kayembe.

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### **About Whānau Āwhina Plunket**

Pēpi, tamariki and whānau are at the heart of Whānau Āwhina Plunket. The charity is Aotearoa New Zealand's largest health and wellbeing support service for tamariki – seeing 290,000 under-fives. About 80% of newborns are enrolled with Whānau Āwhina Plunket each year.

Our nurses provide clinical assessments, and along with Kaiāwhina and Community Karitāne, support whānau and families, through home and clinic visits. PlunketLine 0800 933 922 is a free 24/7 telephone advice service for parents and whānau, where callers can speak to a registered nurse for advice, or call the Admin Line on 0800 184 803 to make an appointment in your area. Our website

plunket.org.nz is one of the country's most widely read digital child health resources, with 1.8 million visits each year. It is available data-free through the Zero Data portal at zero.govt.nz, and you can choose to view it in English or te reo Māori.