



Volunteer News

Quarterly pānui – June 2026

Kia ora koutou

Last week, we celebrated you, our volunteers, during National Volunteer Week, 14-20 June. Coming in the middle of International Volunteer Year, it feels right to say thank you again—for giving your time, valuable skills and energy to help us support pēpi, tamariki and whānau. We couldn't do what we do for whānau without your support. We appreciate you so much!

Behind the scenes, we have created a new position at our Whānau Āwhina Plunket support office who will coordinate volunteer activity nationally. This role reflects how important our volunteers are to us, and we look forward to sharing more later in the year.

In this issue, we recognise some of our valued volunteers from around the motu. We also share highlights of our Plunket mahi for the past quarter, including the incredible milestone of delivering more than 11,000 vaccinations to pēpi, tamariki and whānau. Our teams have embraced this opportunity to expand the support we offer whānau. By offering vaccinations in spaces they already know and trust, and working alongside existing providers, we're helping more pēpi and tamariki stay protected from preventable illness.

Ngā mihi nui,
Fiona Kingsford, Chief Executive



whānau āwhina
plunket



Northern Region Volunteer of the Year 2026



Congratulations to Vishva Shukla who has been named as Volunteer of the Year 2026 for the Northern Region! The award recognises the incredible contribution Vishva has made to the Ellen Melville Baby/Toddler Group since becoming the parent facilitator in April 2025. The group is made up largely of migrant families and, as a migrant herself, Vishva has a unique ability to connect with the parents and understand their experiences, needs, and challenges. Vishva consistently goes above and beyond in her volunteer role. She is a strong advocate for the families within the group and works hard to ensure their voices are heard and their needs are met. Thank you, Vishva!

[Read more about Vishva](#)

Meet our volunteers



During National Volunteer Week, we profiled some of our amazing volunteers and their mahi to support whānau.

[Read more from Aino, Annah and Kayla](#)

11,000 vaccinations and counting!



Immunisations Services Manager Bernadette Heaphy, Head of Service Development Nat Hornyak, Project Manager Kathryn Ridgway, Clinical Leader and immuniser Keli Livingston Filipo

We have reached a huge milestone with more than 11,000 vaccinations delivered to pēpi, tamariki and whānau across Aotearoa. Through our 24 vaccination clinics across the motu, we're helping make it easier for whānau to access childhood immunisations in communities they know and trust. Every vaccination represents a whānau choosing protection. A pēpi getting the best possible start. A parent taking a simple step to keep their whānau well.



A milestone moment



Community Services Manager David Ensor with volunteer Ella

Queenstown Plunket celebrated Ella Wilson's 60 years of volunteering in March. "Ella's contribution reflects the very best of what Plunket has always been about. That is showing up for whānau, consistently and with care, over generations. Plunket has been built on the strength of volunteers for more than a century. Today was a powerful reminder that volunteers are not just part of our history, they remain central to how we support whānau across Aotearoa every day," said David Ensor, Head of Community Services.

MP visit to Constellation Drive clinic



Head of Strategy and Advocacy Kristina Marckean, Principal Advisor Priority Populations Vivian Cheung, Philanthropy Manager Loren O'Sullivan, Regional Operations Manager Sam Ferreira with Dr Parmar

Our team had the pleasure of showing MP Dr Parmjeet Parmar around our Constellation Drive hub in Auckland and sharing the work we do supporting tamariki and whānau. We had meaningful conversations about the topics that matter most to our community - sustainable funding for early years services, the link between child poverty and health outcomes, and the role of RSV immunisation in reducing hospitalisation rates, particularly for pēpi under one.

Dunk it for Plunket early bird incentive



Dunk it for Plunket is back for another dunktastic year! Registrations are now open on [dunkitforplunket.nz](#).

Want to take part? Sign up and grab your colleagues, friends, whānau, community group or school to help little lives thrive. Or, if you know of any eager dunkers (fundraisers), make sure to tell them to sign up.

This year, we are introducing an early-bird registration incentive. Sign up before 1 August, donate or raise \$30 and you'll get your hands on a Dunk Kit AND go in the draw to win a \$200 Prezzie card! Every donation of \$30 or more is another entry into the draw. Other fundraising rewards include an Arnott's Biscuits of Aotearoa tea towel for fundraisers who raise \$350. More surprises are to come!

Check out the website for inspiration and downloadable materials to support you while you Dunk it for Plunket. You can also read through some incredible stories that show how your support really does make a huge difference.

For any Dunk it for Plunket questions, please get in touch with Olivia, Devoted Dunker.

[Email Olivia](#)

Whānau support at Polyfest



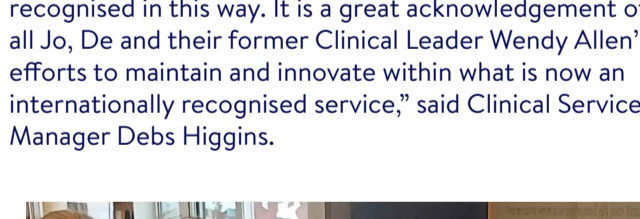
Clinical Leader Keli Livingston-Filipo, Principal Pasifika Advisor Vienna Masoe, Clinical Leader Krystle Leleasa-Avauli, Injury Prevention Coordinator Matalena McClutchie, Plunket Nurse Ramona Mulipola, (at front) Plunket Nurse Charrymae Ramirez and Community Karitane Rupi Ye

Our team joined the ASB Polyfest in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland to provide a welcoming space for whānau to take a break. With a changing and breastfeeding area, toys for the little ones, and our Plunket van on site for impromptu Well Child checks, the team stayed busy supporting families throughout the event. It's always a privilege to support whānau.

"A key strength of our presence this year was the way our space evolved into a place of genuine support and respite. Families could find shade, reset, and care for their pēpi," said Principal Pasifika Advisor Vienna Masoe.

IBCLC Care Award for Hawke's Bay LC team

Congratulations to our Hawke's Bay Lactation Consultants who have been recognised with a 2026 International Board Certified Lactation Consultant (IBCLC) Care Award! "We are incredibly proud our service has been recognised in this way. It is a great acknowledgement of all Jo, De and their former Clinical Leader Wendy Allen's efforts to maintain and innovate within what is now an internationally recognised service," said Clinical Services Manager Debs Higgins.



Lactation Consultants De Nichols and Jo Owen



A special gift in memory of Plunket nurse Margaret Anderson



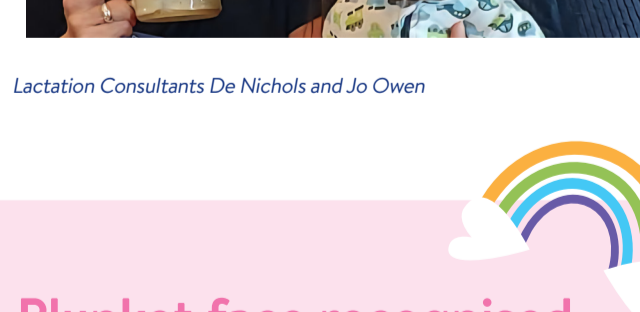
We were grateful to hear from a supporter recently, Tim Bayley, in Nelson. He was reaching out to let us know that he wanted to make a donation in memory of his aunt, Margaret Anderson, who had passed away just a few weeks shy of her 104th birthday. He shared that his Aunt Meg was the Head Plunket Nurse in Christchurch for many years.

Meg worked for Plunket in the 1970s and 80s. We are grateful for this gift from Tim and directly support our community services in Christchurch.

You can find out more about donating in memory of a loved one or including a gift in your Will by contacting our Philanthropy Manager, Loren O'Sullivan.

[Email Loren](#)

Plunket face recognised in King's Birthday Honours



Tyler and Sam with their daughter, Elsie

Congratulations to Sam Johnson on his well-deserved recognition in the 2026 King's Birthday Honours as an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit. Sam is a familiar friend, having served as a Plunket Foundation member and as a representative Plunket to families across New Zealand. Sam and his partner, Tyler, recently shared their story about their Plunket journey with their daughter, Elsie.

[Read Sam and Tyler's story](#)

Your financial wellbeing matters too



As a Plunket volunteer, you give so much to your community – and we want to make sure you're looking after yourself too. Whānau Āwhina Plunket and Haven Financial Advisers are proud to offer every volunteer a free financial wellbeing check with a friendly Haven adviser.

Whether you're saving for your first home, protecting your family with the right insurance, or wanting to make the most of your KiwiSaver account – Haven's expert advisers are here to help you make confident financial decisions at every stage of life.

Book your free financial wellbeing check today, and you'll also receive a free Will Kit to help safeguard your family's future.

[Book your free check](#)



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