



Volunteer News

Quarterly pānui – September 2026

Kia ora koutou

Welcome to the latest edition of Volunteer News. As we journey into spring, we have lots of exciting things happening here at Whānau Āwhina Plunket. This includes our recently launched Kotahitanga Strategy, which sets our direction for the next five years. As volunteers, you play an important role in bringing this strategy to life every day.

In this issue, we are asking for your participation in our Volunteer Survey. I encourage you to take a few moments to share your views and help shape how we support volunteers now and into the future.

We also share highlights from volunteer activities and events across the motu. A reminder that Dunk It for Plunket is happening this month – a great opportunity to get involved in your local community and support our mahi.

Thank you for all that you continue to do for Whānau Āwhina Plunket and the whānau we serve.

Ngā mihi nui,
Fiona Kingsford, Chief Executive.



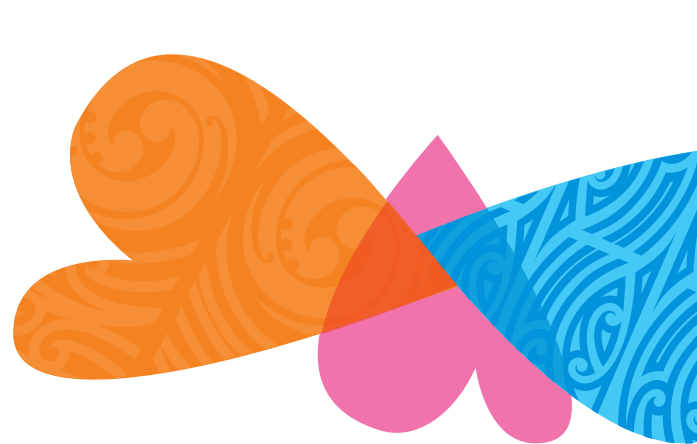
whānau āwhina
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Volunteer Survey

We want to hear from you! We are running a survey to help us understand who our volunteers are, what you value and how we can give you the best volunteer experience. The survey should take less than 10 minutes to complete, and responses will be kept confidential.

A separate email with the survey link will be coming out in the next few days, so please take a few minutes to have your say – ngā mihi nui!



Kotahitanga strategy launch

Whānau Āwhina Plunket recently launched Kotahitanga – Our Strategy 2026-2031. This document outlines our direction for the next five years, and includes our new purpose: 'We work alongside whānau in their communities supporting the growth, development and wellbeing of children under five'.

Our incredible volunteers are an important part of this journey, as you work within your communities with care and passion. Whether you are supporting families directly, helping at events or contributing behind the scenes; your mahi strengthens communities and helps ensure whānau feel supported and connected.



[Read more about Kotahitanga here](#)

Coming together to celebrate volunteers in Ōtepoti

Some of our Ōtepoti Dunedin volunteers and kaimahi recently came together for a volunteer appreciation lunch, including current and former Plunket kaimahi who volunteer for us in their free time!

The event was an opportunity to hear volunteer stories, share positive feedback from whānau who have received support from volunteers, and to acknowledge and celebrate all that our volunteers do.



Dunk it for Plunket this September and be in to win a year's supply of nappies!



Dunk it for Plunket month is well underway and we've already seen so many inspiring dunks, from workplace bake sales, to high teas and even dunk tanks. This year, Plunket playgroups across Aotearoa are getting involved too, hosting their own fundraisers.

You can check out if there's an event happening near you [here](#), and come along to show your support. Can't attend? You can still donate to help a fundraiser reach its goal. Our long-standing partner, Huggies, is giving away a year's supply of nappies to a lucky whānau who donates to a playgroup fundraiser, so make sure to spread the word!

Hawkes Bay raising funds for Plunket

Plunket's Hawkes Bay Community Services team hosted a successful family fun morning, bringing together Plunket kaimahi, volunteers, whānau and local businesses to support Dunk it for Plunket.

The event, held at No.5 Cafe and Larder, included soft play, a giant obstacle course, outdoor games, a driving range challenge and raffles donated by local businesses. Thanks to our volunteers who helped make this happen!



Volunteer spotlight

Annah



We would like to acknowledge one of our volunteers, Annah, who has generously supported multiple playgroups within Whānau Āwhina Plunket with grace, warmth and meaningful contribution.

We are excited to celebrate her transition into a new role as a Kaitiaki within the Kā Au Kahurangi team here at Plunket – working with whānau to build protective factors and safer, more connected, and resilient communities. This is a reflection of the skills, commitment and attributes she brings to our kaupapa, and we wish her all the very best for this exciting next chapter.

Plunket 120th celebration next year

Did you know next year Whānau Āwhina Plunket turns 120? Planning is already underway to celebrate this milestone, and we want to make sure our volunteers are part of this! Keep an eye out on future emails for your invitation to join us and acknowledge your contribution to 120 incredible years of supporting tamariki.



New National Volunteer Advisor

In July, we welcomed Holly Coulter to the Plunket whānau, in our new National Volunteer Advisor role. Holly will be focused on strengthening our volunteering on a national level, working with our kaimahi and volunteers to ensure a safe, consistent and rewarding experience for all our volunteers.



Free training opportunities

Did you know Plunket has two free online courses available to whānau?

CPR for caregivers covers how to deal with an unconscious baby or child who is unresponsive and not breathing.

Sleep and settling baby | pēpi includes the most up-to-date information about sleep for pēpi, from sleep experts!

Know someone who would make a great volunteer?

We are always on the lookout for more passionate, caring volunteers to join our team around Aotearoa New Zealand. We have a variety of roles available to suit different skills, interests, and availability. If you know someone who might be interested in getting involved, let them know to check out our website or get in touch at volunteer.support@plunket.org.nz



If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please let us know by emailing volunteer.support@plunket.org.nz



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