

To: All Providers of Health and Social Services in Whanganui

Update on Whanganui Rising to the Challenge: Mental Health and Addiction Services Development Plan Project

Work is now well underway on the development of *Whanganui Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Framework*.

The plan for Whanganui's mental health and addiction services in the next five years and beyond is required to meet government expectations outlined in *Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Plan 2012-2017*.

Whanganui Rising to the Challenge is being developed in collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders in the local mental health and addiction sector, including users of the services, their families, specialist staff, provider organisations and primary health care teams.

Four workstreams met weekly in October and early November, to discuss the current issues and future directions for each of the four population groups outlined in *Rising to the Challenge*.

A series of information meetings have been held in Whanganui to share the workstream findings and emerging themes with stakeholders. More meetings will be held in rural areas over the next two months.

Stakeholders are now invited to complete an electronic survey, providing feedback on the themes identified by the project to date, and their own ideas about what the Whanganui community needs in terms of mental health and addiction services.

To complete the survey of stakeholders go to

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/whanganuirisingtothechallenge>

A website is currently being developed to provide access to information on the project.

The project is also feeding into the Whanganui DHB's Annual Plan for 2014/15, particularly around assessment and Alcohol and Other Drug Services for older people.

There is a great deal of energy in the project which is on target to deliver the document *Whanganui Rising to the Challenge: The Mental Health and Addiction Service Development Framework* in March 2014.

The Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Planning Group and the project team wish you all Seasons Greetings, and look forward to working with you in 2014.

Enquiries about the project may be directed to Clare Raisin at Clare.Raisin@wdhb.org.nz or on 06 348 3305, or to Project Manager, Suzanne Gower at suzanne.gower@xtra.co.nz or on 0274 352 870.