

2025 Spring Newsletter

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From The Chairperson

Kia ora and warm greetings,

On behalf of The Asian Network Inc. (TANI), I'm delighted to share with you our Spring newsletter, filled with updates and information to support you and your whānau.

We acknowledge the ongoing challenges many Asian New Zealanders are experiencing, whether it's the rising cost of living, employment changes, or a reduction in household income. Please know that you're not alone. We encourage you to reach out to us or any of the service providers mentioned in this newsletter. Help is available, and asking for support is absolutely okay. Social and mental wellbeing services are here for everyone in our communities.

As we enter an official local government election year, I urge all of our readers to prepare to vote. Local elections open on 9 September and close on 11 October. Don't leave it to the last minute. Vote as soon as you receive your voting papers. Your voice matters.

TANI continues to listen and amplify your concerns around health and wellbeing. We invite you to connect with us and consider joining our Ethnic Health Collective to stay informed about important updates affecting our communities.

Thank you for your ongoing support and participation in our initiatives. We hope you enjoy this edition of the newsletter, and we always welcome your feedback and suggestions.

This newsletter is also available in Mandarin and Korean.

Ngā mihi nui, Nilima Venkat, MNZM, JP, BSW TANI Chairperson



TANI Primary Prevention Series

The Asian Network Inc. (TANI) has launched its Primary Prevention Series (August to December 2025), as part of our year-long Changemaker Programme to empower Asian changemakers to lead positive, community-driven change.

These interactive workshops unpack the root causes of family violence, such as gender stereotypes, harmful social norms, and power imbalances. Participants reflect on cultural beliefs, learn practical tools for respectful relationships, and explore ways to promote equity and wellbeing.

Our August workshop lays the foundation for the rest of the series (September to December). Complete all five sessions to earn a Changemaker Certificate and join a growing network of community leaders.

The workshops are Free to attend with light lunch provided.

Date: Saturdays, 13 September, 11 October, 15

November, and 6 December

Time: 10:00am-12:00pm

Venue: 101 Church Street, Onehunga

Registration link: https://forms.office.com/r/

nMV5dJPCqT

All are welcome - university students, parents, professionals, and anyone passionate about preventing family violence in our Asian communities.



Yourlocaldoctor Website Has Moved





In late July 2025, yourlocaldoctor website's content has been transitioned to Health New Zealand's

national website as part of the organisation's website consolidation project.

Redirects are put in place, meaning anyone visiting the yourlocaldoctor website (www.yourlocal doctor.co.nz) will be automatically taken to the relevant information on the new platform.

This consolidation is part of Health New Zealand's move towards a unified health system that delivers better health outcomes for everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand. By centralising and standardising health information, we can improve the user experience and ensure resources remain prompt, consistent, and reliable for all.

Email websiteconsolidation@tewhatuora.govt.nz for queries or to provide feedback on the project.

2025 New Zealand Asian Well-Being and Mental Health Survey Report





The 2025 New Zealand Asian Well-being and Mental Health Survey, commissioned by

Asian Family Services and conducted by Trace Research, reveals a worsening mental health crisis among Asian communities.

Over half (57.2%) of Asian New Zealanders are at risk of depression, with young adults, women, Koreans, and Indians most affected. Life satisfaction has declined by over 11%

since 2021, and only 56.5% feel a sense of belonging. Nearly half of Asian parents report school bullying, with low confidence in school responses. Discrimination is widespread, with 80% citing race or ethnicity as the cause. Access to mental health services remains limited due to stigma, language barriers, and lack of culturally appropriate support.

The findings highlight the urgent need for culturally responsive services, anti-bullying efforts, and systemic action against racism. This report is a call to action for policy-makers, service providers, and community leaders to work together toward a more inclusive future. To read the report, visit: www.asianfamilyservices.nz/resources/resource-items/2025-new-zealand-asian-well-being-and-mental-health-survey-report/

#PassTheMic Podcast





What started as a book of stories and has now developed into a podcast series. Pass the Mic spotlights the lives of people from migrant and former refugee backgrounds in Aotearoa, one conversation at a time.

Season 1 explored five key themes – housing, mental health, identity, belonging, and employment – revealing that employment connects them all. Meaningful, stable work can transform one's housing situation, mental wellbeing, and sense of identity and belonging.

Season 2 moves beyond the headlines, sharing powerful stories of resilience, challenge, and hope, offering insight into the employment experiences that shape how newcomers settle, how they are perceived and feel in their new home.

New episodes coming out every Monday on www.belong.org.nz/pass-the-mic, Planet FM and all your favorite listening platforms.



New 24/7 Online GP Service Launched



Health New Zealand

The new digital GP service is available 24/7, offering you round-the-clock access

trusted medical care when your regular GP is unavailable or they're not enrolled.

You can now connect with registered doctors and nurse practitioners who can assess, diagnose, treat, prescribe, and refer, all online.

The new service complements regular general practice and helps ease pressure on clinics. Subsidies for some people are available.

Learn more at: info.health.nz/onlineGP

Get the care you need, when you need it - 24/7

Health New Zealand



You can now see a New Zealand-registered GP or nurse practitioner online – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Whether it's late at night, during the weekend, or you can't get in to see your regular doctor, there's another way to get the care you need.

This new digital health service connects you to qualified clinicians via secure video call – from wherever you are in New Zealand.

What it means for you

- Healthcare when and where you need it. appointment with your regular GP, the digital service is here to help.
- Not currently enrolled with a GP? You can use this service even if you don't currently have a family doctor, and they can provide information on getting
- Subsidised for eligible groups If you're under 14 or hold a Community ervices Card (CCS), your fees may be fully or partially covered.
- Your regular GP stays in the loop. Your online consultation notes are sent to your usual doctor to support continuity of care, unless you ask for them not to be

Use it for common health needs

Coughs, colds and flu, skin issues or rashes, stomach bugs. minor allergies, prescriptions and medical certificates. Can also be used for other non-emergency conditions.

Better access. More convenience. Connected care.

The new 24/7 digital health service makes it easier to access timely, quality healthcare – especially for people without a regular GP, those living in rural areas, or anyone needing help outside normal hours.

How it works

- Choose from one of eight approver
 providers (listed at providers (listed at info.health.nz/onlinegp).
- Book online or join the queue depending
- on the provider. · Use your smartphone, tablet or computer for a video consultation.
- · Have your medication list ready, find a quiet space, and write down your
- After your consultation, you might be given a prescription, sent for lab tests, referred to another service, or provided urgent help like an ambulance if needed.

Fees and subsidies

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	Age group	CSC (day)	CSC (overnight or public holidays)	Non-CSC (day)	Non-CSC (overnight or public holidays)
	Under 14	Free	Free	Up to \$30	Up to \$40
	14–17 years old	Up to \$30	Up to \$40	Up to \$55	Up to \$65
	18 or older	Up to \$33	Up to \$43	Varies by provider	Varies by provider

Not tech savvy? No problem

Let the provider know if you need help using the technology, an interpreter or disability support. Support for older adults is also available through the Office for Seniors

Find out more and see approved providers at info.health.nz/onlinegp

Become a Smokefree Champion

Refer your whaanau and friends to become smokefree

Receive \$20 for every 2 referrals who enrol and receive support from the Living Smokefree Service (those referred must be current smokers and blow smoking CO reading)

Receive \$50 if someone you have referred completes one of our programmes and becomes 4 weeks Smokefree

Health New Zealand

LIVING

To refer: Call Living Smokefree Service | Counties Manukau District at 0800 569 568 or free txt 'NOW' to 590.

Cancer Support Nurses - Auckland



We provide dedicated care and support to individuals and whānau affected by cancer, from Wellsford to Mercer. Our team brings cul-

tural strength, including Filipino, Chinese, and South Asian communities, delivering compassionate nursing that honours each person's background and needs.

What We Offer:

- Support after a cancer diagnosis, through treatment, and beyond
- Home visits, regular outreach calls, and emotional/practical support for adults at all stages of cancer
- Culturally responsive care for diverse communities
- Connect people with other Cancer Society services such as psychological support, volunteer driving, oncology hosts, Domain Lodge accommodation, and trusted information resources.

For more info, please visit: www.cancer.org.nz

Call Healthline

- If you are worried or unsure about your health or someone else's health
- For advice about your situation and help on what to
- If you do not have a GP or cannot get to one
- If you need advice about your medicine

& 0800 611 116



Let's Plan to Leave Hospital



Leaving hospital can be stressful, but being prepared helps your recovery. Hospital staff want you to have answers to your questions before you go.

Ask your doctor or nurse about your care and write down important contact de-



tails. Check if you have follow-up appointments at the hospital or with your own doctor, and know when to book them.

If you're waiting for test results, ask how you'll get them. Keep a list of your medication, including when to take it, what it's for, and any side effects.

Before leaving, ask about symptoms to watch for, like fever or pain, and when you can return to work, driving, or other activities. Also, talk about healthy habits to support your recovery at home.

Download the easy-read document 'Getting ready to leave hospital' at: www.hqsc.govt.nz/ resources/resource-library/lets-plan-to-leave-hospital/

Free Wellbeing Support for Our Mandarin-Speaking Community





Hearts & Minds is proud to support the Mandarin-speaking community with free, culturally-responsive services that promote mental wellbeing.

Our Support Coordination service provides one-on-one guidance

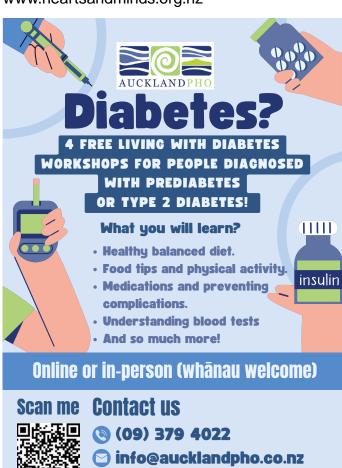
to help individuals and families access local services, resources, and emotional support. Our Mandarin-speaking Support Coordinator walks alongside clients to ensure they feel heard, understood, and connected to the help they need.

We also offer free Wellbeing Groups and courses in Mandarin, designed to strengthen confidence, build resilience, and improve emotional wellbeing. Topics include Managing Stress, Anxiety and Chage, and Confidence and Self-Esteem. Courses are run in small, supportive groups and are tailored to the unique needs of the Mandarin-speaking community.

All services are available to residents of the Waitematā area, including the North Shore, West Auckland, and Rodney.

To learn more or refer someone, please contact: Ph: 0800 468 288

Email: learning@heartsandminds.org.nz www.heartsandminds.org.nz



Need Healthcare information?

www.aucklandpho.co.nz/dsme

Visit www.healthpoint.co.nz that provides up-to-date information about healthcare providers, referral expectations, services offered and common treatment.





Become SeizureSmart



Epilepsy New
Zealand and
Epilepsy Smart
Australia offer free,
evidence-based
online courses to
help individuals
and communities
better understand
and support people
living with epilepsy.



The self-paced *SeizureSmart* training takes around 40 to 90 minutes to complete and covers seizure types, first aid, seizure management planning, and epilepsy's daily impact. Tailored courses include *SeizureSmart Youth, Schools, Workplaces, Aged Care, Disability,* and *Whānau,* providing practical knowledge for each setting. These programmes build awareness and confidence to create safer, more inclusive communities.

To enrol or learn more, visit: https://epilepsy.org. nz/seizuresmart-online-learning



Have You Heard of... Aphasia?

a.pha.sia (ay-faze-yuh)



Aphasia is a partial or total loss of the ability to articulate ideas or comprehend spoken or written language, due to damage to the language centres of the brain.

About 29,000 people in New Zealand have aphasia, but only 1.5% of the population have basic knowledge of aphasia. It can affect talking, word finding, understanding conversations, reading, and writing.

We offer home and community visits, Kōrero (conversation) Clubs, support groups, and education sessions to help people with aphasia and raise awareness. You can help by spreading awareness, showing support, and starting conversations.

For more information or local support, contact Aphasia New Zealand (AphasiaNZ): 0508 APHASIA (0508 274 274), www.aphasia.org.nz

Menstruation



Menstruation, or a period, is a normal monthly process in a woman's body and a sign of reproductive health.

It usually starts between ages 9 and 13 and continues until menopause. Each month, the uterus lining thickens to prepare for pregnancy. If pregnancy doesn't occur, this lining is shed as menstrual blood. Most women get their period every 21 to 35 days, and bleeding lasts 3 to 7 days. Cramps, mood changes, and tiredness are common.

Irregular menstruation includes: Periods less than 21 or more than 35 days apart, Missing periods for months, Heavy or prolonged bleeding, or Spotting between periods, after sex, or after menopause. Causes include hormonal imbalances, stress, weight changes, PCOS, thyroid problems, diabetes, medications, pregnancy, or uterine conditions.

If you notice unusual changes, contact your GP or call Healthline at 0800 611 116.

Enjoy Water Safety This Spring With DPA





With warmer weather on the way, now is the perfect time to get proactive about water safety.

Drowning Prevention Auckland is offering a range of educational programmes designed specifically for ethnic communities to help keep everyone safe in, on, and around the water. We cordially invite ethnic community leaders and participants to join our Coastal Experience programme at Muriwai or Bethells Beach. While enjoying the beautiful West Coast landscapes, you'll gain vital water safety knowledge and experience.

This one-day programme is conducted on dry land and covers: Identifying beach hazards, rock fishing safety, how to correctly wear a life jacket, water safety code, practicing bystander rescue techniques, and West Coast ecology.

To learn more or to get involved to benefit your community, especially for youths and senior citizens, please contact Madison at Madison. chang@dpanz.org.nz.

Bike and Helmet Safety



Did you know that wearing a helmet reduces the risk of a serious head injury by around 60%?

Use the 2-4-1 check to make sure your tamaiti's helmet is fitted properly.



Are you a parent or caregiver looking for a simple helmet and bike safety card to display on your fridge?

To download our Bike and Helmet Safety Resource and check out other bike and helmet safety tips, visit www.starship.org.nz/safekids/bike-helmet-and-wheels-safety/



Flooding Caused by Neighbour's Drainage



If your neighbour's drainage is causing flooding on your property, try to resolve the issue through open communication before pursuing legal action.

Whether your neighbour is liable depends on how the flooding occurred. If it's due to natural land use, they may not be responsible, but you can discuss mitigation options or take steps like redirecting water away from your home.

However, if the flooding results from artificial changes, like new drains or altered land flow, your neighbour may be liable, especially if no easement exists. Liability can also arise from land slips caused by their negligence or actions.

For damage from natural disasters, your home insurance and NHCover (formerly EQCover) may help with repairs. Report any damage within three months.

For more advice on easements, shared drains, land ownership, and neighbour-related issues, contact the Citizens Advice Bureau at 0800 367 222 or visit cab.org.nz.





Support My Decisions



The Support My Decisions website is a tool to help people make

their own choices with support from someone they trust. It is for anyone who needs help making decisions, like people with disabilities, brain injuries, dementia, or mental health challenges.

The website is also for whānau, friends, carers, and support workers who want to help someone stay in charge of their own life.

It gives easy steps, tips, and real examples to help with everyday choices like where to live, what to do, or how to manage money or health. It focuses on listening, understanding what matters to the person, and helping them decide what is best for them.

The goal is to make sure people are not left out of decisions about their own lives.

Everyone has the right to be heard, and Support My Decisions helps make that happen, one choice at a time.



Source: www.supportmydecisions.nz

Flair: Where Style Meets Purpose



Hospice West Auckland has launched Flair, a high-end secondhand store in Westgate, offering a curated retail experience with

premium goods. Proceeds from Hospice op shops fund free palliative care and support for people with life-limiting illnesses and their families, covering specialist nursing, equipment, counselling, bereavement support, and costs not fully met by government funding.

Flair specialises in quality fashion, accessories, homewares, furniture, art and collectibles, attracting shoppers seeking unique items while supporting Hospice. It will also serve as a community hub, hosting events such as fashion evenings, art showcases, and Remembrance Services. Flair welcomes donations, valuing special items and thoughtfully redirecting other items to other Hospice Op Shops.

From designer handbags to unique art pieces, Flair invites you to treat yourself while making a difference. Open 9am–5pm, 7 days at 7B Topere Way, Westgate. www.hwa.org.nz/retail-shops





Explore what is available for disabled school leavers

From School to Community Wednesday 3rd September 2025 9 am-2 pm

Auckland Netball Centre
7 Allison Ferguson Drive
St Johns



- **⊙** Education & Employment Options
- ✓ Housing & Living ideas
- ♥ Community Activities & Leisure
- Free entry & free parking



09 636 0351

www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

Time to Choose Auckland's Champions

AUCKLAND LOCAL ELECTIONS 2025

Ngā pōti ā-rohe o Tāmaki Makaurau 2025

voteauckland.co.nz

Altogether Auckland. Tāmaki Turuki.



A total of 477 candidates are now confirmed to stand in Auckland Local Elections 2025.

Visit voteauckland.co.nz/candidates to find out who's standing for your area so you can start deciding who you'll vote for.

More information about candidates will be updated from 1 September.

Voting opens on 9 September and closes on 11 October at midday. To be eligible, you just need to be 18 years and over and a New Zealand permanent resident.

Governance and Engagement General Manager for Auckland Council, Lou-Ann Ballantyne explains why it's essential to participate in Auckland's elections.

"Voting for candidates who best represent you and your community will be critical to Auckland Council's decisions on facilities and services that impact your daily life," says Ms Ballantyne.

These include parks and facilities, waste management, public transport, emergency management, infrastructure, environmental services, community grants, events, business improvement districts, community centres and much more.

"That voting paper is more powerful than some may think – so we hope Aucklanders really take advantage of this opportunity to choose the right champion for Tāmaki Makaurau, otherwise someone else will choose for you," says Lou-Ann.

From 9 September – 22 September voting packs will be sent out to enrolled voters.

Vote box locations will be published in September at voteauckland.co.nz/wheretovote

No voting papers? No problem! Enrol and vote at any of our Vote-on-the-Go events to be located at many venues, including markets, community centres, university campuses, marae and more.

Find Vote-on-the-Go locations at voteauckland.co.nz/wheretovote





Discover Friendship and Belonging



Are you, or someone you care about, looking for a welcoming, inclusive space to connect, share stories, and feel a true sense of belonging?

Communicare is a Auckland charity with over 66 years of experience supporting seniors. We run 15 Friendship Centres across central, west, east, and south Auckland, offering a warm and friendly environment for people aged 65 and over to enjoy companionship, engaging activities, and community connection.

Each centre opens one day a week and is led by caring coordinators and enthusiastic volunteers. A typical day includes: friendly conversation and connection, light games with gentle movement, creative craft activities, and a shared lunch to finish the day together.

Whether you're interested in becoming a member or volunteering your time, Communicare welcomes you with open arms.

Visit www.communicare.org.nz for more information, or call us on 09 631 5968, we'd love to hear from you.





Vaping Product Warning



The Ministry of Health is warning people about the Suntree – Vanilla Cream (30ml) vaping liquid.

Committee on 24 Feb 2025 for 3 years, [AH28575]

It contains too much of a chemical called diacetyl. Breathing in too much diacetyl can cause a serious lung disease called "popcorn lung."

Popcorn lung is a sickness that makes it hard to breathe. Symptoms include coughing, wheezing, shortness of breath, and feeling tired.

The company that sells the product, Hoopers Vapour Ltd, is recalling it from shops. About 300 bottles have been sold in the past 17 months.



This warning has been issued under the Smokefree Environments and Regulated Products Act. If you have used this product and now feel unwell or have trouble breathing, please see your doctor or healthcare provider.

To learn more, visit: www.health.govt.nz/news/vaping-product-warning-issued or ask your local health centre for advice.

Connecting Through Sport



SportHub Community Trust is a registered charitable trust

dedicated to using sport as a bridge to connect, engage, and foster communication within the community. We primarily serve children, youth, and the elderly from diverse backgrounds, and are committed to supporting events and programmes for ethnic communities.

On weekday mornings, SportHub Community Centre provides free Tai Chi, square dancing, and table tennis for senior members. These activities are well-suited for the winter season, offering both physical exercise and opportunities for social interaction.

We are also excited to host a Mid-Autumn Festival celebration on October 4th at 44 Portage Road, New Lynn. This free community event will feature live performances, local vendors, children's activities, and more. All are welcome to join the festivities! Please visit: www.sporthub.org.nz





TANI Hamilton News

The Asian Network Inc. (TANI) – Celebrating Community Engagement and Learning

The Hamilton office of The Asian Network Inc. (TANI) had another productive quarter supporting Asian communities across the region. Highlights included the 2025 Multicultural Afternoon with Mum in collaboration with the Waikato Multicultural Council; the TANI Ethnic Health & Wellbeing Hui; a seminar on Hamilton's first Chinese-focused rest home with Sound Care Group; welcoming tours for new migrants and refugee-background families with Shama Ethnic Women's Trust; free cervical screening for ethnic women with Waikato Te Whatu Ora; and weekly language support from the Citizens Advice Bureau for Asian whānau.

A standout this quarter was the continuation of our Learning Community Hub seminars for Chinese and Korean families, funded by the Ministry of Education. Since May, the largest session, attended by nearly 110 people, featured outstanding Year 13 students from respected local schools, who shared valuable insights on subject selection, time and stress management, extracurricular involvement, and university pathways. Other seminars explored Māori culture, the Treaty of Waitangi, Matariki, bullying prevention, and mental wellbeing. Attendance ranged from 20 to over 100, with excellent feedback from both parents and youth.

We thank all participants and guest speakers, including our student presenters, Waikato Korean School teachers, and Awad Hagos from the Ministry of Education. These sessions would not have been possible without their support.

For 2025 collaboration opportunities, contact Cindy Pak at seunghee.pak@asiannetwork.org.nz



Waikato Multicultural Evening 2025

The Waikato Multicultural Council Inc. is delighted to invite community members to the Waikato Multicultural Evening 2025.

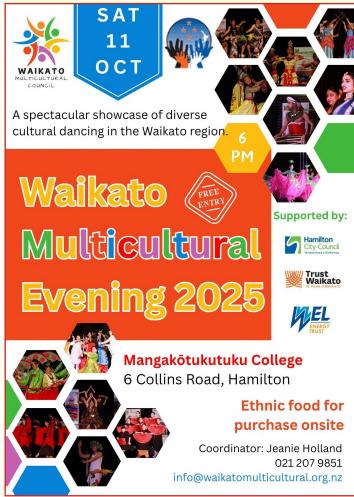
Date & Time: 6:00PM, Saturday 11 October, 2025

Venue: School Hall, Mangakōtukutuku College, 6 Collins Road, Melville, Hamilton 3206

Join us for an evening of vibrant cultural performances, dance, and celebration of the rich diversity in our region. This is a fantastic opportunity to connect, share, and enjoy the many cultures that make Waikato unique.

If you're interested in performing or have any questions about the event, feel free to contact Jeanie Halland at: 021 207 9851 or info@ waikatomulticultural.org.nz

We look forward to seeing you there!























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