

Members Advisory

Monday, 6 April 2020



Resources available during Level 4

Regional Services

Some areas have established responses to those who may need assistance. We are aware of the following:

Waikato: Freephone **0800 800 405** has been established for Waikato people struggling to get food, groceries, medication or other household goods and services. The freephone service established by the Waikato Civil Defence and Emergency Management Group is available between **7am and 7pm daily**, but does not replace other government helplines already in operation.

Tauranga/Bay of Plenty: An 0800 number has been set up to help the vulnerable and isolated members of our community during the Level 4 lock down. This number is for people who do not have networks or support from family, friends or neighbours and are worried about running out of groceries, warm blankets or other essential services they may rely on. The number is: **0800 884 222 (7am to 7pm)**

All Regions: Rural Support Trusts offer excellent source of resources and assistance in every region. They have local, rural people who know from experience that pressures can mount up. They also have networks and training to help with all kinds of situations and can point you in the right direction to get through your current challenges. You can reach your RST through their website [HERE](#) or by phoning **0800 787 254**.

All Right?

All Right? is a partnership between the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand and Community and Public Health (a division of the Canterbury District Health Board). They are using the expertise they have developed over many years together to share the things they know are important to help in looking after your wellbeing and that of your whānau, colleagues and community as we unite against COVID-19.

They have developed this campaign from their homes – juggling time with their kids, pets, whānau and flatmates, worrying about the essential workers in their lives, watching the news and trying to get through.

This campaign is for us all, developed by people who are living this right alongside us. We'll learn what we need to do to get through, together.

Subscribe to : **Getting Through Together - Whāia E Tātou Te Pae Tawhiti** to register for updates on this new *All Right?* campaign.

If you'd like more background about the campaign and who's behind it we've got all that right here on their website at <https://www.allright.org.nz/campaigns/getting-through-together>

Funding for delivering community services during Level 4

Delivering community services during the COVID-19 L4 lockdown?

- The Ministry of Social Development have released their COVID-19 **Community Awareness and Preparedness Fund**
- Grants of up to \$5000 (+ GST) are available on application
- Funded community groups must be contributing towards the provision of essential community-led solutions to support local resilience and community wellbeing in relation to COVID-19
- Priority requests are those that support Maori, Pacific, older people, people with disabilities, people with current significant health considerations, migrant communities and people who are rurally isolated.
- A total budget of \$4.8M (+ GST) for grants is available. This is part of the NZ Government's \$27.0m support package for the community sector.

- For more information visit the Ministry for Social Development website [HERE](#)

Member's Question: Mail Service delivery safety

In response to a query from one of our Members asking whether it was safe to handle mail we received this reply from NZ Post's National Contact Centre:

As a result of the guidelines and processes issued by the Ministry for Primary Industries, NZ Post has been advised that mail is safe to be handled without gloves. However, if you feel uncomfortable, NZ Post recommends washing your hands or use hand sanitiser after collecting and opening your mail.

Message from the Office for Seniors

The Office for Seniors is very grateful for the information we have sent on the issues facing older people in our communities. It is using this information to report to the all of government welfare group so that policy and practical considerations are directly relevant for senior New Zealanders. This information is also being passed to Minister for Seniors, the Hon Tracey Martin, so that she is regularly updated on the issues facing older people.

The Office for Seniors is asking us again send information on any issues that the older people in your communities are facing. Please tell us if things are continuing to be a challenge, even if you raised the same problems last week. As so much is changing so quickly, you may also have seen new issues emerging that you can alert us to.

Thank you to all the responses we received last week. The deadline for this week is Wednesday, 7 April at Midday. Please send any issues you would like included in RWNZ's report.

Information for pet owners

RWNZ received some information from Virbac New Zealand which is an independent pharmaceutical manufacturer and distributor that offers New Zealand veterinarians, farmers and pet owners a comprehensive and practical range of products and services. You can view Virbac's guide on questions you might have about COVID-19 and your pets [HERE](#).

Advice for people living with cancer during lockdown

The COVID-19 pandemic is particularly challenging for those living with cancer, especially those undergoing active cancer therapy, and their whānau.

The Cancer Control Agency has been working closely with cancer treatment services to ensure they continue to be able to provide the best possible care for patients during the different Alert Levels of the COVID-19 pandemic.

They have provided advice to DHBs that cancer services should be continuing at this time. Patients may notice some changes, including virtual consults or changes to treatment delivery to keep them out of hospital. There is advice for people living with cancer on the Ministry of Health website. This will be updated as the situation changes. You can view this advice [HERE](#)

Adverse events: Resources for drought affected farmers

While the impact of COVID-19 is enormous, we are mindful that several regions of Aotearoa New Zealand are still facing weather induced adverse events and the follow on effects of those. The National Adverse Events Committee met recently by teleconference. National Board Member Gill Naylor is the Rural Women New Zealand representative on the Committee which is administered by the Ministry for Primary Industries and consists of groups and organisations with a primary industries focus and the relevant Government Agencies. The Committee meets regularly via teleconference to gather information that will inform a response to an adverse event.

New Zealand is currently experiencing widespread drought and has recently experienced severe flooding in some regions. The impacts on rural people and their farming businesses from these adverse events are considerable. Here are links to useful information on how to get through these testing times:

For information specific to the current droughts including useful information about feed planning and assistance available about budgeting, financial assistance, Rural Support Trusts please click [HERE](#)

For general information on working through any adverse event view the Ministry's website [HERE](#)

Please feel free to share this information with anyone who may find it useful.

[Inclusive Aotearoa Collective](#)

National Board Members, Gill Naylor and Sharron Davie-Martin, have been liaising with the **Inclusive Aotearoa Collective** which is a collaboration of people across the country committed to building a socially inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand.

This project was developed around the powerful concepts of connection, kinship and belonging. It is about an Aotearoa New Zealand founded on the partnership of Te Tiriti o Waitangi that provides a place for all. The Collective is holding a series of group conversations about Belonging and Inclusion that you may be interested in joining. You can do this by viewing the introductory information and times **HERE**

Stay well

Liz Pennington and the National Office team