

Thursday, 28 September 2017



Waihi Ward Reflections

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Community leaders in Hauraki are standing up, speaking out and taking action to prevent abuse.

Deputy Mayor Toby Adams says the Council has always supported the national 'It's Not Okay' campaign. This year, his wife Netherton School Principal Tracey Adams is training to be a Paeroa Champion.

"The concept of having local Champions originated in the Hauraki District, and the Council has been a leading partner in every local campaign," he said.

The campaign is funded by Hauraki Family Violence Intervention Network (HFVIN) and the Council.

HFVIN Network Coordinator Lauren Cowgill says the purpose of the campaign is to tackle family violence before it occurs by making it something we all know about, care about, and act upon.

"This campaign has really been taken to heart by locals who are incredibly supportive of its kaupapa. Local agencies report more people are asking for and accepting support before things reach 'crisis' level. This is great news as one of our key messages is that it is ok to ask for help," she said.

"It's all about standing together as a community and saying we're not willing to accept family violence, but we are willing to support anyone who asks for help."

Deputy Mayor Toby Adams

I want to help...

What to say to make a difference

Listen:

- Give support not advice
- Take violence seriously
- Challenge the behaviour not the person
- Think about safety
- Choose a quiet time
- Any little thing you do can help

Ask:

- Are you OK?
- Is someone hurting you?
- Are you scared to go home?
- Is there anything I can do?
- Do you feel safe at home?

Say:

- It's not OK your kids are scared of you
- It's not your fault someone is hurting you
- When you're ready I'm here
- It's not OK that you are being hurt

Do:

- Keep in touch
- Call to say Hi
- Offer to babysit
- Listen
- Be there
- Keep the door open
- Offer a safe place to go
- Find out about family violence
- Get help if someone is in danger, call the Police on 111

ARE YOU OK?

Waihi and Waihi Beach anti-abuse campaign turns one

Last year, 18 Waihi and Waihi Beach locals trained as anti-family-violence 'Champions'. Since then they've been working with the community to raise awareness, offer support, and address the issue of abuse in their towns.

Councillor and local Champion Anne Marie Spicer says most people think of abuse in terms of physical violence, but there are many other types of abuse going on in our communities that can be hard to detect.

"Digital or online abuse and bullying is on the increase generally, and sadly, elderly abuse and neglect is happening here too," she says, "Financial abuse, where one partner controls access to money, is another form of abuse that is less recognised than physical violence but can have equally devastating consequences."

The Waihi campaign has an active Facebook page and has just re-released a video it made last year, which is being shared nationally. The campaign working group also plans to train local youth Champions to extend a hand and offer support to young people.

Champions will be out and about on:

- **October 7:** Waihi Trolley Derby. Come and support the It's Not Okay trolley (last year's winner!). Built and driven by Champion Tineke Douglas' two youngest children
- **November 18:** Waihi Market Day
- **December 9:** Waihi Santa Parade

Paeroa Champs champing at the bit

- A great bunch of local Champions are currently being trained.
- A Paeroa campaign launch is planned for Sunday 19 November to coincide with White Ribbon week.
- The White Ribbon Riders will be dropping in as part of a week-long national motorcycle tour supporting the White Ribbon kaupapa and attending events ranging from school visits to 'Dads and Lads' days.

IT IS
OK TO ASK
FOR
HELP

0800 456 450
www.areyouok.org.nz