**Dementia services across NZ receive $400,000 boost**

Waikato-based kaumātua with dementia will soon experience more of the cultural activities that are believed to protect cognition in older Maori.

The Hamilton-based Rauawaawa Kaumātua Charitable Trust has just received $20,000 from Alzheimers NZ towards its Hiki Te Wairua, ‘lifting the spirits’ programme.

This is just one of many programmes around the country receiving funding from Alzheimers NZ to support the lives of people living with dementia – over 70,000 Kiwis, according to the latest estimates.

A total of $400,000 is being directed to these frontline dementia programmes – made possible by donations to Alzheimers NZ from around the country, including some sizeable, one-off donations.

“Most of the money is being channelled directly into community services in areas where the funds were raised, in keeping with us returning donations to areas where they were raised,” Alzheimers NZ chief executive, Catherine Hall said.

“This is really pleasing because it means we could return useful funding to local communities around the country to ensure local people living with and affected by dementia get better access to services and support, something of which they are in desperate need.

“What is also exciting about this process is that we have been able to partner and collaborate with a number of organisations around the country that can help us to help people living with dementia.

“People living with dementia are some of the most vulnerable in New Zealand and it’s very important they get the services and support they need, no matter where they live.

“Together, we all contribute to helping build a more dementia friendly New Zealand.”

The list of organisations that have received funding from Alzheimers NZ for frontline dementia programmes:

1. Alzheimers Northland
2. Tongan Advisory Council
3. Dementia Auckland
4. Rauawaawa Kaumātua Charitable Trust
5. Alzheimers Tauranga/Western Bay of Plenty
6. Alzheimers Eastern Bay of Plenty
7. Dementia Lakes
8. Alzheimers Gisborne/Tairawhiti
9. Alzheimers Taupo
10. Dementia Hawkes Bay
11. Alzheimers Taranaki
12. Alzheimers Whanganui
13. Alzheimers Manawatu
14. Alzheimers Wairarapa
15. Dementia Wellington
16. Alzheimers Marlborough
17. Alzheimers Nelson
18. Enliven Upper South Island (operating as part of Presbyterian Support)
19. Alzheimers South Canterbury
20. Alzheimers Otago
21. Alzheimers Southland