

## Anne Tolley supports campaign to raise the age of Foster Care to 21

Over 13,000 people showed their support in a nationwide campaign urging the government to raise the age of leaving state care from 17 to 21.

The 'We Don't Stop Caring' campaign was launched in September 2015 as a collaborative effort of Lifewise, Dingwall Trust, Youthline, Child Poverty Action Group, Action Station and agencies from all around the country.

In December last year, to formally hand over the petition to the House of Representatives, Social Development Minister Anne Tolley met with Lifewise General Manager Moira Lawler. In New Zealand, young people currently leave state care on their 17th birthday – an age when they can't even sign a tenancy agreement.

Lifewise have been working to raise the leaving age of foster care, in collaboration with other social agencies around New Zealand. "We are confident that the new report on the review of Child, Youth, and Family Services will raise the age of leaving state care," says Moira.



From left: Moira Lawler, Chief Executive, Lifewise; Anne Tolley, Social Development Minister; David Hanna, Executive Director, Wesley Community Action; and Shae Ronald, Business Systems and Development Manager, Youthline

### 1 WEEK AT THE LIFEWISE HUB

We had an extremely successful week in March when 10 homeless people were helped into housing!

If only every week were like this but unfortunately that's not always the case. Here at Lifewise, we work hard to achieve the best outcomes for anyone who walks through our doors or comes to **Lifewise Merge Café** looking for help. Every person that we help into accommodation is a big win for us but it's your continued support and donations that keep us going.

17-year-old housed in the Youth Transition Service.

A man in his 50s with long term gang affiliation housed in temporary supported accommodation

Highly vulnerable rough sleeper with disabilities was housed in temporary accommodation.

30-year-old woman with mental health and addiction issues placed in temporary accommodation.

47-year-old woman with intellectual disability and mental health issues helped into residential mental health supported accommodation.

**YOUNG COUPLE LIVING IN THE NEW LYNN BUSH HOUSED IN PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION.**

Middle-aged woman helped from emergency accommodation into residential mental health support house.

New Beginnings Court graduate helped into permanent

73-year-old man helped into semi-permanent accommodation after his long term boarding house was closed down for renovations.

50-year-old man helped into semi-permanent housing.

## Kia ora!

Welcome to this year's first Lifewise Update. There have been a few changes since our last update in October and several victories, too, as you will see in this newsletter. These are all part of our efforts to build connected and inclusive communities.



We support New Zealand's most vulnerable people, challenge the injustices they face, and work with them on sustainable solutions. Our goal to end homelessness is still to be achieved.

The Lifewise team works tirelessly and incredibly hard to get people off the streets and into homes. We continue to collaborate with our partners and other organisations to do this. This year, taking these collaborations further using the **Housing First** model is top priority for us.

The Housing First approach is not new. It was devised in the '90s in America and since then it has ended homelessness in US towns and cities and is **the only approach that has been researched and has shown evidence of success.**

When Lifewise hosted the leading expert on this subject, **Sam Tsemberis**, in November last year, he observed that compared to international cities Auckland has a manageable homelessness issue. His challenge to us was to set out to **end rough sleeping in the central city within two years.** His view was that is entirely possible.

We are embarking on this journey which will involve rough sleepers, other agencies, government and our funders. **It could also involve you.** There is no government funding for our work to end homelessness – we rely on donations large and small.

With your help and your generosity, we can continue to challenge injustices, develop solutions, and promote hope for a better future for New Zealand.

Warm regards,  
**Moira Lawler**, Chief Executive

## THE LAUNCH OF THE ROTORUA HOMELESS ACTION PLAN

The Rotorua Homeless Action Plan was launched on the sunny Friday afternoon of 12 February.

Third Place Cafe was packed with supporters and members of the Steering Group which includes Ngati Whakaue, Te Arawa Whanau Ora, Salvation Army Rotorua, Rotorua District Presbyterian Church, Ministry of Social Development, and Rotorua Community Probation Services.

The Rotorua Homeless Action Plan is a result of months of planning and collaboration with the Rotorua City Council, and community and voluntary agencies. This included building a locally based project steering group, which held face-to-face meetings between June–



In photos (top left) Moira Lawler and Marita Ranclaud, (bottom left) Haeahaetu Barrett and Corie Haddock.

September 2015 with 18 different community, iwi government agencies and 22 individuals who were or had experienced homelessness locally.

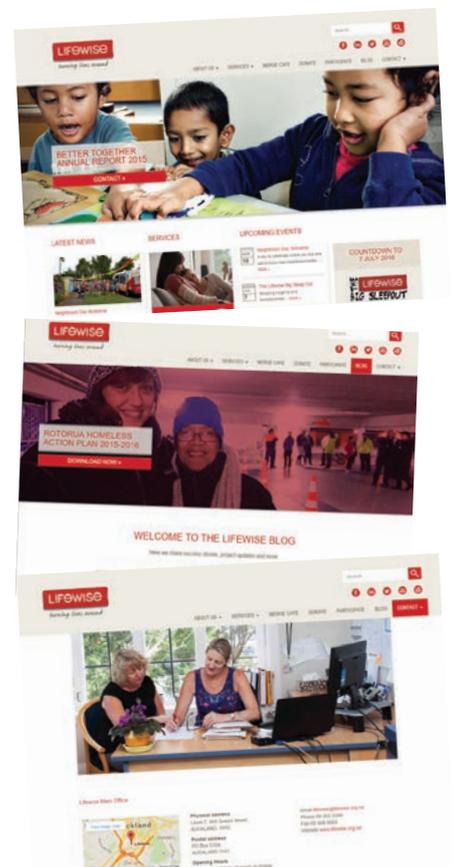
To know more, and to get a copy of **The Rotorua Homeless Action Plan**, go to [lifewise.org.nz/RHAP](http://lifewise.org.nz/RHAP)

Here at Lifewise, we're all about creating and nurturing connected communities. That's why we're very excited to announce a brand new website at [www.lifewise.org.nz](http://www.lifewise.org.nz)

Here you'll find a blog about our latest successes, information about all our services, and details of upcoming events such as The Lifewise Big Sleepout on 7 July as well as important days of observance such as World Homelessness Day.

You will find the new website is mobile-responsive, which means you can easily view it on your smartphone or tablet. From here you can quickly contact us via the updated phone and address list, find us using up-to-date Google Maps integration and follow us on Facebook, Twitter, and LinkedIn.

We want the Lifewise website to be useful to everyone. Send us your feedback by email ([lifewise@lifewise.org.nz](mailto:lifewise@lifewise.org.nz)) or Facebook message.



## SOME THINGS CHANGE, SOME THINGS STAY THE SAME



Zoe Truell, Practice and Development Manager

Lifewise is changing! But only in a good way. Please join us in welcoming Zoe Truell to Lifewise as the new Practice and Development Manager.

Zoe has a background in social work, community development, service development and human centred design. She has worked in local and central government and in the NGO and community sector.

Prior to starting at Lifewise in March 2016, Zoe introduced a human centred design approach into service development and delivery at the Waste Solutions Unit in Auckland Council.

Congratulations also to Stewart Love who is the new Manager Community Services. He supports the Family Services team in West Auckland, the Crisis Response and Housing Team in central Auckland and the Merge Cafe on K' Road.

Stewart has been a practising social worker for over 30 years and was part of the Social Work faculty at Manukau Institute of Technology for seven years.

Stewart is currently on the executive for

## Ka pai!

Recently, we farewelled two very special staff.

**Corie Haddock**, Service Manager for the Crisis Response Team, had been with Lifewise for 8 years, and **Anne-Marie Searchfield**, Lifewise Operations Manager for the past 3 years.

Thank you for your dedication and service to Lifewise and all the best



**"I'LL STILL BE DOING A LOT OF THE SAME WORK, EXCEPT NOW I HAVE A LOT MORE PEOPLE TO SPEAK WITH."**

Many of you will be familiar with **John MacDonald**, Splice's Chaplain at Large, who's become a familiar sight, as he walks through Central Auckland, connecting with people and communities.

John has been involved with Splice since 2013 and it is now with great pleasure that we introduce John in his new role of Superintendent of our family of 3 Trusts – Methodist Mission Northern, Lifewise and Airedale Property Trust.

In his capacity as Superintendent, John is responsible for ensuring that our key values of respect, courage and integrity are reflected in the work carried out by the 3 Trusts as well as acting in an advisory role, lending his wealth of experience in the community sector to the decisions that guide our work and future. As an established community development organisation, we recognise the importance of connecting with communities and empowering them to develop themselves and improve their future / long-term prospects.

To know more about John and his work, visit the Lifewise website

[www.lifewise.org.nz](http://www.lifewise.org.nz) OR

Splice website: [www.splice.org.nz](http://www.splice.org.nz)



Stewart Love, Manager Community Services

the Social Service Providers of Aotearoa, an umbrella group established to support the social service sector within Aotearoa and is the chairperson of a low decile South Auckland school.

Meet the Lifewise Team on the new website. [www.lifewise.org.nz](http://www.lifewise.org.nz)

## Pay it forward

Have you been to Lifewise Merge Cafe lately?

Located on Auckland's iconic K' Road, Merge Café is unlike any other. With a goal to end homelessness in Auckland, every dollar spent at Merge Café goes towards housing homeless people.

We charge as little as humanly possible – just \$4 for a meal. If you can afford to pay more please pay it forward by giving a few dollars more.



## You made 2016 the biggest Neighbours Day yet!

With nearly 1200 streets and communities around NZ taking part, you made **19-20 March 2016** the biggest Neighbours Day Aotearoa yet.

Yup, that's over one thousand street BBQs, Easter egg hunts, community garden days, sausage sizzles, and lots and lots of people just taking some time to say "hi" to a neighbour.

Music in the park and afternoon teas might all sound like a bit of fun (which of course they are!), but getting to know your neighbours has serious benefits.

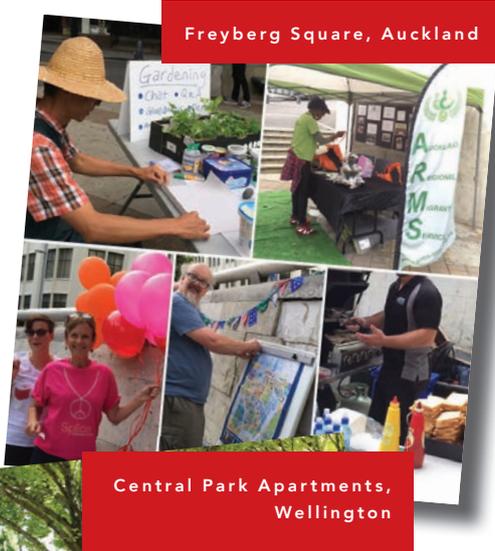
Research shows that getting to know our neighbours impacts positively on mental health and social connectedness, and helps to create safer and more resilient communities.

90% of participants surveyed in 2015 reported they knew their neighbours better as a result of Neighbours Day, and 67% said they felt safer about where they live.

Good neighbour stories covered in so many media channels we can't list them all. You even got neighbourliness seen on social media by sharing photos and updates. And you helped spread the idea of neighborly catch-ups, by giving out literally tens of thousands of Neighbours Day invites around the country.

So although Neighbours Day is wrapped up for this year, here's to keeping on saying hello, getting together with our streets, and making every day neighbours day.

- Ashlee Gross, Project Manager  
 Neighbours Day Aotearoa



Freyberg Square, Auckland

Central Park Apartments, Wellington



Sullivan Lake Care Group, Whakatane

Neighbours Day Aotearoa started in Auckland as a collaboration between Lifewise and Takapuna Methodist Church. Then in 2011 we were really excited to take it nationwide.

This year, Lifewise partnered again with Inspiring Communities, the Mental Health Foundation, Neighbourhood Support, Public Libraries of NZ, and we were very grateful to have our friends at Christchurch Methodist Mission also come on board to help lead this 6th national Neighbours Day Aotearoa campaign.

## UPDATE YOUR DETAILS

Have you moved house? Changed your job? Please let us know so we can keep in touch.

Send your updated contact details by:

Email to [lifewise@lifewise.org.nz](mailto:lifewise@lifewise.org.nz)

Online at [lifewise.org.nz](http://lifewise.org.nz)

Post at Level 7, University of Otago building, 385 Queen Street, Auckland 1010

## BECOME A FOSTER CARER

Lifewise has a dedicated team of foster carers who give loving homes to young babies and children from all around the Auckland region. If you know someone who would make a great carer, we would love to hear from you. Call Lifewise Family Services on 09-818-6834 or email [familyservices@lifewise.org.nz](mailto:familyservices@lifewise.org.nz)



## FOSTER ME A FUTURE

in which I matter

We urgently need Auckland families to give local children good homes. Please help us foster better futures for the kids of our community.