

"I Never Believed This Could Happen For Me"

More than 20 people are no longer sleeping rough in the city centre.

The Housing First Auckland City Centre programme is making great progress! People who have been sleeping rough for 16 years on average finally have a permanent home plus the wraparound support to become independent. For some, the experience of homelessness began in their youth. That is why this statement from one of our first tenants is so important: **"It's given me confidence and stability. My self-esteem's grown since I've been with Lifewise."**

Lisa Roberts, Housing First Project Leader, says, "One of our new tenants invited me into his new home, and he just stood looking at me totally overwhelmed with tears in his eyes and said, 'I never believed this could happen for me'." This captures just how significant the Housing First programme can be to those who need it the most.



Why does the Housing First approach work so well? Visit lifewise.org.nz to watch **Rob Smith** explain – he is one of our Peer Support Workers in the Housing First Team.

Data snapshot of Housing First Whanau (participants) in the Auckland City Centre



people in permanent housing



people in temporary housing



people who are being actively engaged

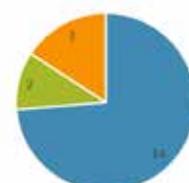
In August 2016, there were at least 189 people in the city centre who were chronically homeless.

On average participants have been homeless for **16 years**.

The shortest time homeless is 5 years, and the longest is **30 years**.

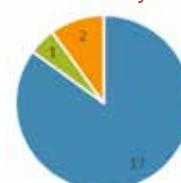
The average age is 45 years. The youngest is 22 and the oldest is 61.

Gender



Male Female Transgender

Ethnicity



Maori Pacific Pakeha

Most participants are of Maori descent.

14 have 2 or more co-existing issues

9 have mental health issues

16 have substance use issues

10 have significant physical health challenges.

Better Homes For The Elderly

Lifewise's sister organisation, Airedale Property Trust is redeveloping Everil Orr Retirement Village.

Mount Albert's Everil Orr Retirement Village is a prominent landmark. It has been providing care and accommodation to the elderly for many years.

But the buildings were reaching the end of their economic life. They could no longer provide the best, modern-day aged care facility.

That is why **Airedale Property Trust (APT)**, together with Oceania Group Ltd, have undertaken a full redevelopment. The first phase of this redevelopment

project is nearly complete. Phase one comprises 22 independent living apartments and common facilities. The impressive north-western views of the upper harbour and Waitakere ranges are the inspiration for the design of the Village.

This project began in August 2016, and date of completion could be as early as December this year.

To know more about Airedale Property Trust, and to see pictures of the properties, visit apt.org.nz

Kia ora!



When someone who Lifewise has housed says, "I never believed this could happen for me" I feel humble and reassured. It gives me confidence that we are getting it right.

This time last year, the **Housing First** programme was but a glimmer of hope for people who have been rough sleeping for decades. Today, we are very proud to see 20 people in a permanent home, some of whom have been rough sleeping for decades. They not only have a home but also have the wraparound support and community connection they want. This is the exciting result of **our partnership with people who have lived experience of homelessness**.

The inclusion of people who have been homeless is key to our unique Housing First approach. Our work demonstrates what is possible and we continue to advocate regionally and nationally to **make homelessness rare, brief, and non-recurring**.

As you may already know, Lifewise supports people at every stage of their lives. Mothers like **Marlena** and her children have a happier, brighter future. Young parents learn important life skills like **budget-friendly healthy cooking**. Older people and those with disabilities maintain their independence in the community. And people experiencing the most severe and chronic form of homelessness find a home and the support they want.

Each of these stories gives me hope. As does your faith in Lifewise that our work is having a positive impact. Your support gives us the confidence to make brave strides towards new solutions. And for that I cannot thank you enough. I look forward to sharing with you more successes along our journey towards connected, just, and inclusive communities.

Warm regards,

Moira Lawler,

Chief Executive, Lifewise

Welcome to my family

"The compliment that touched my heart was being told I was a great mum, and being a great person," says Marlena, a mother and a teacher.

"I have had some really sad experiences in my life," says Marlena. "But having the wonderful friends from Lifewise's Vital 5 has been **the best thing that has ever happened to me.**" Marlena's children started attending Vital 5 (Lifewise's early childhood education centres) in 2014, a time she describes as overwhelming. "I had so many emotions all at once," she says. "I didn't trust a lot of people with my children. And I was putting my trust in people I hardly knew." The teachers at Vital 5 were very understanding. "They welcomed my family and myself with warm hearts and a great sense of humour," she says. "**It was a great start to the first day of kindy.**"

Three years on, Marlena's children are confident about expressing themselves, and they love school! "I didn't expect myself to succeed as well," says Marlena, who is now the **chairperson of the parent committee**. "I have more confidence, my self-esteem is building, I was able to do courses this year that helped me better myself." She feels being chairperson is an awesome way of showing her appreciation. "Thank you Andrea, Sharon, and Cherise for all your love and support," she says. "**God bless you all.**"



Marlena is delighted with the support and encouragement she and her children have received.

Kai Time

Five meals, six whanau, and just \$30!

Lifewise's Youth Housing Service provides tenants with life skills training, such as how to live independently and be a good neighbour, while also taking on responsibilities like growing their own veges.

Lifewise recently joined hands with Monte Cecilia and VisionWest for a workshop called **Kai time!** With just \$30 worth of groceries, youth and young parents learned how to make **Spaghetti Bolognese, Chicken Stir-fry, Mince Stew, Chicken Soup, and Chicken Pasta**. Each meal could feed a whanau of six!

Along with practical cooking skills, young parents also learned about food groups and servings, plate size and portions, how to read food labels, the importance of regular exercise, maintaining a healthy body weight, and also how to care for papatūānuku, the land.



From left: Gareth, Mik, Maddy, Sandy, and John

Have you met the Splice team?

Our sister organisation in the Methodist Mission Northern family brings the residents of Auckland city centre together.

John MacDonald, Head of Mission, is the Splice visionary. He has spent the last three years as a positive presence on the streets on the city, connecting with people who don't normally have a voice, meeting, talking and advocating for them.

Sandy Ritchie is the community connector. She is focused on connecting migrants into the community and with each other, to build confidence and prevent city-centre isolation.

Mik Smellie, City Centre Fanatic, seeks innovative ways to splice in the business and the tertiary sectors of the neighbourhood. The Feijoa Guild and Random Acts of Kindness Day are just two examples of his work.

Maddy O'Dwyer is the Project Manager and Creative Communicator for Splice who uses her background in poetry and visual arts to bring people together. She is helping Splice to find its technological voice.

Gareth Farry is the creative consultant for Splice. He is involved in designing some of the arts and engagement programmes, seeking partners and utilising the uniqueness of Splice's City Centre presence for good.

To know more, visit splice.org.nz or follow them on [facebook.com/SpliceAKL](https://www.facebook.com/SpliceAKL)

Splice
Courage Compassion Community

The Toughest Big Sleepout Ever!

Heavy showers, cold winds, and low mercury levels. Yet participants of the Lifewise Big Sleepout slept rough anyway.

They had nothing but a cardboard mattress, a beanie, and their own sleeping bag. Despite the cold wet weather, leaders and influencers from business and community slept rough on the night of 6 July. They not only raised awareness about youth homelessness but also **raised \$330,090** at the 8th annual Lifewise Big Sleepout.

The Big Sleepout is Lifewise's largest fundraiser. It calls upon influential New Zealanders to forgo the comfort of a warm bed for one night and experience what thousands of homeless New Zealanders face on a daily basis: **A cold, wintery night exposed to the elements.**

With over half of New Zealand's homeless population aged under 25 (and a quarter of those being children), this year's event put the spotlight on **ending youth homelessness**. Each "rough sleeper" raised at least \$2,000 to support initiatives that help us to place young people into permanent homes and have access to the support services they need.

To know more, visit lifewise.org.nz and search BSO2017



Merge Community Peer Team



Building the Capacity of People With Lived Experience Of Homelessness

In 2016, four people with lived experience of homelessness worked with Lifewise to co-design and begin the ground-breaking Housing First programme. The programme now provides permanent housing for people experiencing chronic homelessness along with wraparound support. (See first page to know more.)

This Housing First co-design process identified the need for the involvement of people with lived experience.

Volunteers who have experienced long term rough sleeping in Auckland's city centre derive determination, drive, passion and confidence from this work. They form the **Merge Community Peer Team**, based out of Lifewise Merge Café. While the Café provides 20,000 low-cost meals a year and a vibrant safe place for the whole community to connect, the Merge Community Peer Team provides support and advocacy to people in the homeless community through the Café.

The Team's strength lies in the fact that they bring a **kaupapa Māori approach** to their engagement with people that distrust government services. They **counter the "us and them" culture**, where professionals are seen as experts, and the homeless are seen as "clients" that services do things to. The Team **empowers people with lived experience of homelessness** to take part in decision-making and influence the systems that affect them.

Come and meet the Merge Community Peer Team at **Lifewise Merge Cafe**, on 453 Karangahape Road, open weekdays from 7am-2pm

My First Pounamu

Residents of Lifewise Rotorua's Mental Health and Addiction support service design their own taonga.

Māori view taonga (treasures) as their ancestors, therefore how they are presented and treated is very special. **Taonga** have been a common sight over centuries and whanau/hapu and Iwi have passed down pieces through generations to ensure that the **mana** (pride) and **mauri** (life) is preserved. There are many forms of taonga and they often depict **kaitiaki** (guardians) and symbolic places to enhance connection, purpose and belongingness.

The residents of Lifewise Rotorua were gifted a piece of **pounamu** (greenstone) each to design their own taonga. This unique opportunity has encouraged residents to dig deep, research their ancestry and detail a piece that is meaningful and special. Our residents

are not all of Māori descent, but they all have their own beautiful cultural history and this piece resonates with their **wairua** (spirit) and recovery journey. Jim Wicklife (Programme Support Worker) works closely with them all to encourage creativity, hope and purpose. Residents are invited to present their pieces to staff, whanau/family and support people at a special presentation. This special spiritual journey will not only enlighten others, but also inspire them. Kia ora.



To know more, visit lifewise.org.nz and search Rotorua.

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