



THE LONG JOURNEY

MP, his wife AP and their son MP junior, had previously lived in New Zealand. They moved to Australia to pursue a better lifestyle. The family were doing well in Australia until work shortages left MP unemployed. They lived with other family members but eventually decided it was time to move home.

Unfortunately, on returning home the family had nowhere to live. This placed a lot of stress on them all and eventually they sought assistance from Work and Income who placed the family in a motel before referring them to Te Whanau Rangimarie's emergency housing.

Te Whanau Rangimarie supported the family for six months. During this time the family was offered a two storey HNZ home. However, AP has medical issues that were explained at the assessment and that meant the property would not be ideal for her and the family had no option but to decline.

They were very proactive in their search for alternative accommodation and extremely happy when they were successful with a private rental in February this year.

During their search the family worked hard to identify additional goals they wanted to achieve. This included working with budgeting support to work towards paying off Ministry of Justice debts, allowing the family to prepare for managing finances in their new home. They enrolled their teenage son in a pathways to employment training course and MP junior was lucky to receive a laptop from South Seas to support him with his new studies. He completed a three day learner's license seminar to help him with his learner's license and AP completed and passed hers as well. She's now working towards her restricted license and was gifted a car from her brother to help the family with transport.

MP registered with job search and employment agencies to find employment. TWR, South Seas and Work and Income supported the family with essentials for their new home and South Seas offered to provide on-going support to the family as they were moving out of our geographic coverage area.

The family expressed their gratitude with special thanks to the House Coordinator, Christine Williams, AP told us:

"Chrissy is a lady of high standards, she is also a good judge of character. When I started here I was hesitant, but Chrissy made it easy for my family, she made us welcome from the start. I would recommend Te Whanau Rangimarie to anyone who's needing these services. I feel safe enough to go out into society to build a much better and stronger future. Thank you so much Christine Williams for your kindness, I will not forget you and thank you Te Whanau Rangimarie."



Te Whanau Rangimarie background

Here at Te Whanau Rangimarie our emergency housing arm was set up in the early 1990's. We started off with a Women's Refuge and a transitional house for men who were released from prison. In 2010 we found there was a spike in single fathers who were seeking emergency accommodation and support services with few, if any, services available for these families.

After discussion with MSD we altered our transitional housing service description to: men and children who require emergency accommodation and support services.

Funded by MSD, this has enabled us to provide two emergency housing facilities, one for families with children and another for women and children. The properties provide communal living for up to 10 families at one time. Our families are welcomed and helped to settle in before a comprehensive assessment takes place to help us work out the best way to support the family. We encourage them to identify their future vision and support them to remain as independent as possible throughout their journey with us.

We provide safety programmes for women and children; a non-violence programme for men and positive parenting education as well as providing the whanau with advocacy services.

At the end of their in-house journey, we provide on-going home visits to assist them with the supports they need for the positive changes they want in their lives. Where a family moves out of our geographic coverage area, our workers ensure there is other support for them in place in the new area.

From 1 July to 30 March, 2017 we worked with 105 individuals from 33 families in our emergency housing. This included 51 adults and 54 children. 58% of referrals are Maori, 17% Samoan, 11% Tongan and 14% are made up of European, Cook Island, Niuean and other. 39% of these referrals have transitioned to social housing, 26% to family and friends, 19% to private housing and 16% to other.