

TODD MULLER MP for Bay of Plenty

Community Newsletter | Winter 2020



This is the time of year when my winter newsletter normally gets distributed to households throughout the Bay of Plenty electorate. In previous years I would have described events I'd attended and constituents I had connected with. But this winter, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, there have been no large gatherings or community engagements and the only meetings I've been to were electronic. So it seems appropriate to reflect upon what our community has been through and what I expect we have ahead of us.

For some, the pandemic prevention measures were stressful, scary and confusing. Others used the lock down to embark upon new hobbies or exercise regimes. Many kept working as their roles were deemed essential - those people on the front lines did an incredible job dealing with difficult situations in hospitals, call centres, supermarkets, rubbish trucks and pack houses, to name just a few.

Others in our community stepped up on a voluntary basis, helping the elderly and vulnerable people in our society, delivering food and medication to those who couldn't leave their homes. During lock down my team and I reached out to constituents and business owners to check on their wellbeing and I was proud to learn that our people in the Bay of Plenty had been so caring and supportive of each other under such difficult circumstances.

My team and I have compiled a selection of support services available locally and some of these are listed on the reverse of this letter. Others are provided at www.toddmuller.co.nz/covid19.

Our country's lock down has left some industries bereft of customers and I fear we will see many businesses close down; while the wage subsidy has been extended for

some employers, other significant costs still have to be covered at a time when our export markets are slow and overseas visitors are not coming. Growing unemployment will reduce the discretionary income in our local markets so we have a huge challenge ahead.

The recently announced apprenticeship and training fund may help people transition into new jobs, which is good news for our primary sector who have traditionally lacked domestic workers with the dairy, horticulture and agribusiness skills required. This is an opportunity for New Zealanders to develop new careers and appears to have positive long-term potential.

All of us will find our lives altered by the effects of Covid-19. New Zealand is better positioned than many countries for a swift recovery as long as the right economic strategies are put in place.

We must support our own local and domestic producers, service providers and retailers. I am confident that, here in the Bay, we are in a great place to support, if not lead, New Zealand's economic recovery and regeneration.

Shop local, save jobs, be positive, and encourage your family and friends to holiday here in the Bay. We'll give them a warm welcome.

Until next time,

Todd Muller
MP for Bay of Plenty

Todd Muller | MP for Bay of Plenty

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Support Resources for Bay of Plenty Constituents

Below are a selection of support resources available in our community. Many are run purely on donations so please make contact directly with them if you'd like to enquire about offering assistance. A wider list of support options is at www.toddmuller.co.nz/covid19



Papamoa Family Services

Papamoa Family Services has been providing support to the Papamoa community since 1993 and are committed to offering a range of services to individuals and whānau/families that are meaningful, confidential and solution focused. Services include financial mentoring, food support, social work, family support and counselling.

Monday to Friday 9-4 pm. 35E Hartford Ave, Papamoa Beach
T: 07 574 7170 | E: admin.pfs@acw.org.nz
www.papamoofamilyservices.acw.org.nz



Welcome Bay Community Centre

Helping vulnerable people with food, firewood and clothing, JP services, budgeting, social work and counselling.

Monday to Friday 9-5 pm. 242 Welcome Bay Road
T: 07 544 9774 | E: centremanager@welcomebay.org.nz
F: www.facebook.com/WelcomeBayCommunityCentre
www.welcomebay.org.nz



Kai Aroha - Papamoa/Greerton

Each Friday night Tania and her team serve a delicious and nutritious menu to those who can't put food on their table.

Fridays at 6pm
Gordon Spratt Reserve, 120 Parton Road, Papamoa
Greerton Hall, 1263 Cameron Road, Greerton
www.facebook.com/kaiarohataurangi

We Care

A helping hand, a listening ear and practical support for carers, seniors, those living on their own without support nearby, and people who are unwell or have a disability.

T: 0800 777 797 | E: help@wecare.kiwi | www.wecare.kiwi

Legal queries

Tauranga's Community Law centre for advice: Baywide Community Law.

T: 07 571 6812
E: reception@baywidecls.org.nz
www.baywidecls.org.nz

Employer Advice

The EMA has opened its Advice Line to all businesses with Covid-19 related employment questions. T: 0800 500 362

Ministry for Social Development

MSD/WINZ administer the social housing list, wage subsidy and all superannuation and job seeker benefits.

General enquiries 0800 559 009
Superannuitants: 0800 552 002
www.msd.govt.nz

Salvation Army - Support & Loans

Support is available at the Salvation Army for any who are struggling. Assistance can include food, emergency clothing and furniture, optical needs and advocacy for housing, health and education. Ask them about low or no-interest loans via Good Shepherd or visit www.goodshepherd.org.nz/good-loans.

T: 07 578 4264
E: Tauranga.CM@salvationarmy.org.nz

Mental Health Helpline

Call or text 1737 any time of the day or night. The Mental Health Foundation has published a set of tips and advice for people who are struggling at www.mentalhealth.org.nz

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