

MINISTERIAL COMMITTEE ON POVERTY

Increasing the quality of housing in areas affected by Rheumatic Fever

The purpose of this briefing is to provide the Ministerial Committee on Poverty with an overview as to initiatives currently being undertaken by Housing New Zealand (HNZC) and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority (EECA) to target programmes to high risk households in areas that experience a high rate of Rheumatic Fever and other respiratory illnesses associated with poor quality housing.

Housing New Zealand

The Corporation undertakes a significant amount of work through its core products and programmes that support households in the highest need to achieve improved health outcomes.

The Corporation's Healthy Housing programme and the Corporation's insulation/heating retrofit upgrades have targeted areas where there is a high concentration of state houses, and, in the case of Healthy Housing, areas with high levels of acute, housing-related hospitalisations (i.e. hospitalisations for infectious diseases).

These upgrade programmes aim to reduce the risk of these housing-related health problems, including rheumatic fever and overcrowding, and improve the condition of state housing.

The Corporation will work with the RF Programme in 2012/2013 to align these upgrade programmes with the RF Programme.

Healthy Housing Programme rollout

From 2008/2009 the Healthy Housing programme was delivered in the following regions:

- Northland
- Auckland – (split into East and Central Auckland 2009/2010)
- Counties Manukau (south Auckland and regions)
- Hutt Valley

Northland was completed in 2008/2009. The remaining areas are still receiving Healthy Housing upgrades.

Healthy Housing works with the DHBs to assess where upgrades will occur. These are specialised, targeted interventions, including the installation of range hoods, bathroom vents, window vents, heat pumps, internal and external railings, hand held slide showers, curtains, and carpets.

Appendix A provides more details on the type and number of interventions under the Healthy Housing Programme since 2000/2001.

In the current financial year, Healthy Housing is upgrading 100 homes for families with the specific aim of alleviating their serious health issues. These will be carried out in the following areas:

- 30 in Auckland

- 40 in Counties Manukau
- 30 in Hutt Valley

To date the Corporation has completed 48 Healthy Housing upgrades in 2011/12:

- 29 in Counties Manukau
- 15 in Wellington/Hutt Valley
- 3 in Auckland

In 2012/2013 the Corporation intends to upgrade 160 properties under this programme in the same areas of Auckland, Counties Manukau, and the Hutt Valley area. Appendix B details the number and area of households included in the Healthy Housing programme 2011/2012.

The Healthy Housing and upgrade programmes are being rolled out to coincide with the areas where the Rheumatic Fever Programme is being implemented. The Corporation has already upgraded a number of its properties in these areas and will continue to upgrade houses, with a focus on making houses warmer and dryer.

Appendix C provides a table and A3 maps outlining the upgrades, modernisations, energy efficiency, and the Healthy Housing programmes carried out in the Rheumatic Fever Programme areas as at February 2012.

The table below shows the number of state houses in Rheumatic Fever areas which are still to be checked for insulation standards. Approximately 2,891 of the properties left to be checked are expected to have been done by the end of this financial year, with the remainder to be inspected and completed in 2012/13.

Location	No. of properties included in 2011/12 programme remaining to be completed	Balance of properties to be checked for standard of insulation in 2012/2013	Total no. of properties in RF Areas still to be checked for insulation and upgraded (if required)
Northland	194	470	664
South Auckland *	1492	2686	4178
Waikato *	491	946	1437
BOP (Whakatane)	77	95	172
Lakes District	55	50	105
Tairāwhiti (Gisborne)	212	141	353
Hawkes Bay (Hastings)	37	123	160
Porirua	333	-	333
TOTAL	2891	4511	7402

Properties situated in Rheumatic Fever Areas will be given the highest priority in 2012/13 to ensure they are expected first with insulation upgrades carried out as required.

Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority

EECA is already working with service providers and third party funders to target communities with high health needs.¹ EECA will, in partnership with the Ministry of Health, district health boards and third party funders, further target Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart at households at high risk for rheumatic fever [RF]²

EECA has added Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart information to a table provided by the Ministry of Health showing areas that will be targeted for a health programme aimed at reducing rates of rheumatic fever in children. Against each region, EECA has shown the delivery of insulation to homes in the area around the targeted schools to date (Appendix E).

Appendix F shows maps for Porirua and for the East Cape showing delivery in target areas, with the red dots representing Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart retrofits against the blue dots, which represent the schools listed by the Ministry of Health.

In 2012/13 EECA will do more targeted work with health agencies and funders to ensure that more households in these areas receive grants for warmer, drier homes. In addition, EECA will continue to focus on delivery to groups of people at highest risk from rheumatic fever by seeking funding for low income Māori and Pacific households and for people previously admitted to hospital for respiratory disease.

EECA has provided in the table an indication of special projects aimed at low income households which may help families prone to rheumatic fever. Although this is not a comprehensive list and no projects are currently focussed specifically on rheumatic fever, it does provide an indication of work currently underway to target low income, high risk households.

One example of a special project is the Warm Up Counties Manukau programme where the Counties Manukau District Health Board, in partnership with a range of funders, has established a programme to provide insulation to 1,000 low income families with high health needs – e.g. asthma, ear infections, bronchitis, pneumonia, and chronic lung disease.

The Warm Up Counties Manukau programme has provided a model for similar schemes with other DHBs targeting rheumatic fever. For example, the Canterbury District Health Board, alongside other funders, has adopted the model and plans to approach 500 people previously admitted to hospital with cold-related illnesses to encourage them to insulate and, if necessary, fund the retrofit.³

EECA also supports iwi-funded special projects which are likely to cover households at high risk of developing rheumatic fever. For example, one of EECA's service providers has a project with Tūwharetoa where the Settlement Trust is providing funding for iwi members around the country to have insulation installed.

¹ Households covered by existing special projects currently, for example, those aimed at low income Maori and Pacific households, are likely to have reached many households with high risk factors for rheumatic fever.

² Although rheumatic fever is caused by bacterial infection, there is evidence that cold, damp houses are major contributors that cause the sore throats that lead to rheumatic fever. Insulation retrofits mean drier, warmer houses that can contribute to a number of improved health outcomes, including reduced rates of rheumatic fever.

³ <http://health.msn.co.nz/healthnews/8451213/chch-heating-plan-aims-to-reduce-illness>

Recommendations

I recommend the Committee note:

1. Progress already made by Housing New Zealand and the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority to address issues of substandard quality housing in Rheumatic Fever concentration areas;
2. Housing New Zealand intend to have insulated every state house, where practicable, by the end of 2012/13, prioritising rheumatic fever concentration areas;
3. In 2012/13 EECA will do more targeted work with health agencies and funders to ensure that more households in these Rheumatic Fever concentration areas receive grants for warmer, drier homes.

Hon Phil Heatley
Minister of Housing

Appendix A

Number of interventions undertaken on Corporation properties as part of its Healthy Housing Programme from 2000/2001 to 31 March 2012

Detail of upgrade work	Counties Manukau	Auckland	Hutt Valley	Northland	Total
Extension of property	307	45	5	10	367
Relocatable Unit	2	0	0	0	2
Wing Attachment	15	5	0	0	20
Buy-in	32	1	0	1	34
New Build	22	16	0	0	38
Design Improvement - Modernisation	310	75	16	0	401
Moved to Private Sector	87	8	0	6	101
Insulation	2,382	999	183	397	3,961
Ventilation	4,888	2,037	725	698	8,348
Heating	31	39	538	257	865
Bathroom Refits	744	216	124	0	1,084
Heat and Dry	107	168	0	0	275
Transfer	424	69	7	13	513
New Application	240	40	3	5	288
Notice of Remedy	25	1	0	0	26
Household Action Plan	1	0	0	0	1
Total	9,617	3,719	1,601	1,387	16,324
Number of joint assessments (include if risk assessed only)	6,575	2,530	877	743	10,725
Number of households assisted	5,911	2,220	733	700	9,564
Capital expenditure	\$100,517,955	\$17,426,093	\$6,916,625	\$4,416,847	\$129,277,520

Appendix B

Number of properties that have received Energy Efficiency Retrofits⁴/Heating as at 29 February 2012, and Healthy Housing broken down into region as at 30 March 2012

Region	Energy Efficiency Retrofit			Energy Efficiency Heating			Healthy Housing			
	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2011/ 2012	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2008/ 2009	2009/ 2010	2010/ 2011	2011/ 2012
East Auckland	320	1,744	24	308	267	4	247	283	151	7
Central Auckland	771	1,195	16	211	204	6	0	187	141	
South Auckland	657	699	7	147	302	1	552	1,353	359	25
North and West Auckland	350	609	21	86	120	0	0	0	0	0
Waikato Coromandel King Country	338	855	299	123	393	140	0	0	0	0
Bay of Plenty	150	200	292	66	205	219	0	0	0	0
Northland	0	52	243	0	224	62	1	0	0	0
Manawatu Taranaki Wairarapa	472	693	779	242	670	7	0	0	0	0
Wellington Hutt Valley	1,108	1,126	402	421	1,107	297	207	267	244	15
East Coast Hawkes Bay	750	1,200	206	182	826	366	0	0	0	0
Christchurch Nelson Marlborough	145	0	240	143	577	217	0	0	0	0
Southern	42	14	21	65	214	156	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	5,103	8,417	2,550*	1,994	5,109	1,475	1,007	2,090	895	47

*Note that in 2010/2011 there were 7 energy efficiency retrofits completed for Housing Agency Account properties, raising the total number of EERs for that year to 2,567.

⁴ An Energy Efficiency Retrofit can include: ceiling insulation; underfloor insulation; subfloor lining to underfloor insulation; on ground vapour barriers; removal of rubbish from subfloor and ceiling space; hot water cylinder wraps; hot and cold water pipe insulation; window restrictor stays; draught stoppers on timber doors; flush filling of unused screw holes. Note: not all of these are applicable in every property.

Appendix C

Indicative upgrades, modernisations, energy efficiency, and Healthy Housing upgrades carried out in the Rheumatic Fever Programme areas as at March 2012⁵

Location	Energy efficiency	Healthy Housing	Modernisation	Upgrades
Whangarei City	435	768	288	125
Clendon	1,056	894	641	680
Mangere	992	2,847	620	2
Whakatane Township	192		147	
Gisborne City	592		213	
Hastings (excl Flaxmere)	732		176	2
Flaxmere	290		110	3
Eastern Porirua	1,075		718	1656
Total	5,364	4,509	2,913	2,468

Note: some houses had more than one type of intervention.

⁵ These figures are indicative as the Corporation records information by Neighbourhood Units which do not correlate precisely with rheumatic fever areas

Appendix D

Maps of Housing New Zealand Properties Upgraded in Rheumatic Fever Areas

Appendix E

Schools and communities covered by current rheumatic fever sore throat services (funded through the rheumatic fever prevention programme), as of 28 February 2012

Provider area	Name of school	Community	Warm Up New Zealand: Heat Smart Programme total 1 July 2009 – 30 Mar 2012
Porirua	Cannons Creek School	Porirua City	Porirua City 551 low income (LI) Insulation 1,004 general income (GI) Insulation 207 LI Heating 219 GI Heating Pacific Peoples special project – part-funded by Regional PHO.
	Corinna School	Porirua City	
	Glenview School	Porirua East	
	Holy Family School	Porirua East	
	Natone Park School	Porirua East	
	Porirua East School	Porirua East	
	Tairangi School	Waitangirua, Porirua	
	Te Kura Maori o Porirua	Waitangirua, Porirua	
	Windley School	Porirua East	
Provider area	Name of school	Community	
Northland	Te Kura o Otangarei	Otangarei, Whangarei	Whangarei District 2,173 LI Insulation 1,086 GI Insulation 389 LI Heating 170 GI Heating
	Whau Valley School	Whangarei	
	Te Kura Kaupapa o Te Rawhiti Roa	Kamo, Whangarei	
	Manaia View School	Raumanga, Whangarei	
	Morningside Primary	Whangarei	
	Hora Hora School (Te Mai)	Whangarei	
Provider area	Name of school	Community	
South Auckland <i>Schools and rollout yet to be confirmed</i>			Auckland 12,657 LI Insulation 18,522 GI Insulation 2,278 LI Heating 3,306 GI Heating Counties Manukau special project. ASB Community Trust funding.

Provider area	Name of school	Community	
Waikato <i>Service providers yet to be confirmed</i>			There are 9 Territorial Local Authorities in the Waikato region – EECA requires more information on the areas to be targeted. Huntly Energy Efficiency Trust funding for rural Waikato.
Provider area	Name of school	Community	
Bay of Plenty	Waimana School	Waimana, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty	Whakatane District 919 LI Insulation 387 GI Insulation 122 LI Heating 54 GI Heating Funding secured by local providers for special projects in BoP.
	Matahi School	Matahi, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty	
	Waiohau School	Waiohau, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty	
	Tawera School	Ruatoki North, Ruatoki, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty	
	Ruatoki School	Ruatoki, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty	
	Taneatua School	Taneatua, Whakatane, Bay of Plenty	
	Huiarau School	Ruatahuna, Bay of Plenty	
Provider area	Name of school	Community	
Lakes * Nurse-led service based in Rotorua providing services to schools & community to access high risk groups	* Central City Area Schools in Rotorua	Central City Area Rotorua	Rotorua District 1,336 LI Insulation 1,034 GI Insulation 178 LI Heating 100 GI Heating Taupo District 750 LI Insulation 665 GI Insulation
	Lake Rotoiti area schools	Lake Rotoiti Area (rural)	
	Taupo schools	Taupo	

			123 LI Heating 78 GI Heating Tuwharetoa special project – aimed at iwi members (nationwide). Funding secured by local providers for special projects in HB.
Provider area	Name of school	Community	
Tairāwhiti	Illminster Intermediate School	Gisborne	Gisborne District 2,175 LI Insulation 822 GI Insulation 219 LI Heating 171 GI Heating Eastland Community Trust funding for low income households.
	New Life Christian Academy	Kaiti, Gisborne	
	Te Wharau School	Outer Kaiti, Gisborne	
	Waikirikiri Bilingual School	Kaiti, Gisborne	
	Elgin School	Outer Kaiti	
	Kaiti School	Outer Kaiti	
	Lytton High School	Riverton, Gisborne	
	TKKM o Nga Uri A Maui	Lytton West, Gisborne	
	Turanganui-A-Kiwa Activity Centre	Gisborne Central	
	Cobham School	Elgin, Gisborne	
	Te Kainga Whaiora Children's Health Camp	Gisborne City Centre	
	Riverdale School	Gisborne	
	Muriwai School	Muriwai, Gisborne	
	Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Te Waiu O Ngati Porou School	Ruatoria, Gisborne	
	Whakatutu School	Whatatutu, Gisborne	
	Te Karaka School	Te Karaka, Gisborne	
	Waikohu Area School	Te Karaka, Gisborne	
	Patutahi School	Patutahi, Gisborne	
	Manutuke School	Manutuke	
	Ngata Memorial/Manutahi	Ruatoria, Gisborne	
	Hatea A Rangi	Tokomaru Bay	
	Hiruharama School	Waitakaro, Ruatoria	
	Makarika School	Ruatoria, Gisborne	
Mangatuna School	Tolaga Bay, Gisborne		

	Potaka School	Hicks Bay	
	Tolaga Bay Area School	Tolaga Bay, Gisborne	
	Kawakawa Mai Tawhiti School	Hicks Bay	
	Mata School	Tokomaru Bay, Gisborne	
	Whangara School	Whangara, Gisborne	
	Tikitiki School	Tikitiki	
	Te Waha o Rerekohu School	Te Araroa, Gisborne	
	O Waipiro School	Waipiro Bay, Gisborne	
	Tapere Nui a Whatonga School	Tikitiki	
	Waipiro Bay School	Waipiro Bay	
	Te Puia Springs School	Te Puia Springs	
Provider area	Name of school	Community	
Hawkes Bay	Flaxmere Primary School	Flaxmere, Hastings	Hastings District 1,849 LI Insulation 1,756 GI Insulation 501 LI Heating 499 GI Heating
	Irongate School	Flaxmere, Hastings	
	Peterhead School	Flaxmere, Hastings	
	Flaxmere College	Flaxmere, Hastings	
	Kimi Ora Community School	Flaxmere, Hastings	
	Te Kura Kaupapa Maori O Ngati Kahungunu Ki Heretaunga	Bridge Pa, Hastings	

Appendix F

Maps of Properties Insulated in Rheumatic Fever Areas Insulated under the Warm Up New Zealand Programme