



**Kites Trust**

## **Mental Health and Addictions Consumer Leadership and Workforce Development Project Information Sheet #1 April 2010**

Greetings, kia ora mai rā,

Capital and Coast and Hutt Valley DHBs have contracted Kites to work on aspects of mental health and addiction consumer leadership and workforce development. This is an initial scoping project to gather information and make recommendations for further work to the DHBs by the end of June this year.

The greater Wellington region is fortunate in having a number of skilled consumer leaders, groups and consumer-led services with knowledge that we can utilise. Although this project is for the greater Wellington region we anticipate that the methods, delivery and evaluation may be of wider interest to consumers, providers, clinicians and funders in other areas.

Kites role is to facilitate processes for collecting information, perspectives and opinions to influence and inform the project and complete the final report. We have set up a project working group of consumers, Maori, Pacific, DHB and NGO workers, clinicians, managers. Together we have developed definitions and key messages for the project.

***Consumer Leadership*** - consumers in decision-making positions across the sector.

***Consumer Workforce*** in the mental health and addiction sector - workers who have disclosed experience of mental health and or addiction problems and/or using mental health and addiction services.

### **Key messages:**

- This is an opportunity to focus on consumer leadership and workforce, gain access to knowledge and understanding and influence future planning.
- This project is not about duplication. We aim to work alongside and augment what is already happening.
- Our approach is to include a wide range of people from the sector; consumers, tangata whaiora, clinicians, providers, managers and planners.
- The working group aims to advise and promote ways to develop and implement Consumer Leadership and a sustainable Consumer Workforce in the mental health and addiction health sector within the Capital & Coast and Hutt Valley DHB regions.

We are studying existing projects and literature to inform the work, including knowledge of the success and challenges in developing sustainable consumer leadership and workforce capacities within mental health and addiction services. We have considered how results from this project may best serve the range of mental health and addiction consumers in the region, including young people, older people.



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In **May** we are holding sector wide engagement events in **Wellington, Hutt Valley, Kapiti** and **Porirua**. We welcome people from all areas of the sector to attend and learn more about the project, share information and provide knowledge and expertise.

At the end of June, Kites will provide a report on the project to Capital and Coast and Hutt Valley DHBs. The report will include recommendations on mechanisms for consumer leadership across the sector and how to establish an approach for realising a sustainable consumer workforce.

The proposed implementation phase from July 2010 will allow for the sharing and joint use of expertise from the project.

If you would like more information about this project, please contact Kites.

[admin@kites.org.nz](mailto:admin@kites.org.nz)   [www.kites.org.nz](http://www.kites.org.nz)

Kind regards, nāku noa nā

Suzy Stevens  
Project Manager