



***A New Zealand where the negative impact of substance abuse
is no longer an issue within our communities.***

BRAVE HEARTS NZ MANAWA KAHA AOTEAROA

Welcome, tēnā koutou,

Our Festive Season newsletter keeping you all up to date with what is happening.



Message from Erin

In October I was privileged to attend the second National AOD Lived Experience & Whānau Forum (LEW Forum) in Auckland. This hui was a continuation of the Wellington event in June. The focus was on solidifying work streams, establishing an interim steering group, and ensuring that Te Tiriti o Waitangi is honored through the Forum's practices. The event was hosted by Community Alcohol & Drug Services - Te Whatu Ora Waitematā (CADS), who were commissioned to scope the design of interfacing AOD clinical and lived experience networks. There was robust kōrero around the interface with the Clinical Forum as well as questioning how Te Tiriti o Waitangi would practically be honoured through the LEW Forum's practices. Brave Hearts participation in this forum is an important step toward driving change and ensuring the voices of whānau are heard in discussions about alcohol and drug (AOD) services.



Our hearts go out to you and your family for the coming holiday season of Christmas and New Year. I know the past year has been difficult for many of you and want you to know that you are not alone. At Brave Hearts we believe in the importance of community, support, and kindness - especially during times when it's needed most.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish our team – Lynn, Pare, Ros and our very special volunteer facilitators, a very happy and relaxing holiday.

SUBMISSIONS on the Mental Health Bill

The Health Committee is now inviting submissions on the Mental Health Bill.

The committee has extended the closing date for submissions to Friday, 20 December 2024. This bill would repeal and replace the Mental Health (Compulsory

Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992. The bill aims to create a modern legislative framework for compulsory mental health care. Brave Hearts will be making a submission on behalf of all our whanau and families.

If you would like to make your own submission here is the link or please make contact with us.

https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/54SCHEA_SCF_538751B7-FEA5-4DCC-CCE2-08DCE18E31B4/mental-health-bill

Welcome to our New Board Member: Errol Brain



My wife Tracy and I own The Drug Detection Agency Bay of Plenty/The Lakes and have done so for the last 10 years.

I am the father of 3 daughters Molly, Isabella & Scarlett-Rose.

My background was in professional rugby, and I am still involved in the game in a Governance role as a director of The Chiefs Super Rugby Club.

I am very honoured to be involved with Bravehearts and look forward to meeting new people and being of service to the trust.

Message from Lynn

I would like to thank everyone for trusting us, reaching out, learning and connecting.

It is not an easy thing to do when you are in crisis.

Brave Hearts has been nominated for the 2025 Heart of The Community Award via TECT - we are extremely proud of all the volunteers and staff who contribute daily to meetings, phone calls, messages or one-on-one sessions. Every bit counts.

[TECT 2025 Finalist Video - Brave Hearts](#)



Follow us on Facebook or join our closed Brave Hearts group, for all our monthly meetings you can pop onto the website

[Brave Hearts NZ | Facebook](#)

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Brave Hearts NZ Regular Giving Program

A big thank you to all our very generous donors. We are grateful and appreciate that we cannot do this without your support.

A monthly pledge of \$25.00 would contribute to the cost of operating the 24/7 telephone hotline that is available to everyone in the community who needs help to cope with this horror.

A monthly pledge of \$50.00 would provide a counselling session for a family, giving them the tools to keep safe and the 'know how' to best help the addict.

A monthly pledge of \$60.00 would contribute to the costs of the group support meetings being held in your community.

A pledge or a one-off gift of any size would make a difference.

To make a pledge or a one-off gift online go to: www.bravehearts.nz

To donate by bank transfer:

Brave Hearts NZ

03-0415-0051504-00

Reference: Your Name

We will forward a receipt at the end of March each year.

We would like to acknowledge our generous donors and supporters for their continued support, which enables us to offer our services free to the community.

