

NPDC City Centre Stakeholder Comms – Rough Sleeping Action  
October 2025

Kia ora koutou,

We last provided an update on this Kaupapa in July; since this time significant progress has been made in the work with our rough sleeping community. Below is an overview of what has been happening and what is coming up.

Thank you to the Taranaki Chamber of Commerce for supporting this work and distributing this update.

- **YMCA Night Shelter – Te Whare o Tapatahi:** The YMCA has been a long-standing provider of essential services for our rough sleeping community, including access to kai, laundry, and shower facilities. In September, they officially opened *Te Whare o Tapatahi*, a dedicated night shelter for men, following a dawn blessing. The shelter includes sleeping quarters for 20 and continues to offer evening and morning kai, hygiene facilities, and tailored outreach support.

The service currently operates three nights a week (7pm–7am on Mondays, Fridays, and Saturdays), with aspirations to expand to a seven-night model as funding allows.

- **Salvation Army:** On Wednesday's and Friday's, the Salvation Army are providing showering facilities (including soap, shampoo, conditioner and towels) for women sleeping rough. Laundry and drying services are also available on these days. The Salvation Army are also offering sleeping bags, mats, pillows and socks, kai and wrap around support as needed.
- **CBD Police beat team:** In partnership with Council, the Police beat team is based in the bus hub on Ariki Street and tasked with addressing crime in the city. They are taking a proactive approach to engaging with retailers, deterring crime and referring people to support agencies.
- **Lockers:** Prisoner Aid and Rehabilitation Services (PARS) have been working to provide locker storage in and around the CBD. This is nearing reality with the first set of three lockers scheduled to be installed on the corner of Ariki and Egmont Streets.

- **Daytime Support & Engagement:** A steering group was initially formed to explore options for a dedicated day space for people sleeping rough. Through this process, the YMCA was endorsed as the lead agency to progress this kaupapa. While securing a permanent five-day-a-week facility has proven challenging, the YMCA has adapted by leveraging existing partnerships and resources.

Tuesdays are now dedicated to wraparound support, with external partners such as MSD and Pinnacle Health providing on-site services — a model that has proven both effective and well-received. The YMCA is also working toward launching a Saturday daytime programme at an offsite location by the end of the month. This initiative will focus on creating and maintaining vegetable gardens — a project that guests are genuinely excited about. The gardens will support healthy eating and wellbeing, with plans to share surplus produce through local foodbanks and as gifts to nearby schools.

### **How You Can Support**

There are many ways to support Te Whare o Tapatahi. The YMCA welcomes both contact and non-contact volunteer roles, with full training provided. Financial and practical donations are also greatly appreciated, and a wish list of needed items is available.

One of the most powerful ways people can help is by challenging stereotypes and having open, compassionate conversations with friends and whānau about homelessness and the realities faced by our Tapatahi whānau.

To learn more or contribute, visit: [The YMCA Rough Sleeping Shelter – Te Whare o Tapatahi Fund - Taranaki Foundation].

If you have any questions or suggestions, please feel free to get in touch.

Ngā mihi,



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