

Harikoa Life Newsletter: February 2025

Building Inclusive Communities Together



HARIKOA

A Reminder

Harikoa Life is a **mixed housing initiative** designed to provide a **long-term quality of life** for people with disabilities, particularly when families are no longer around to provide support. As a **family-driven initiative**, our goal is to **refine and test a model** that can be **rolled out by local communities and organisations on a national level**, ensuring stability, security, and a sense of belonging for individuals with disabilities.

A New Level of Urgency

Over the past couple of weeks, this initiative has become especially crucial in light of funding changes from the government and the increasing level of uncertainty in the disability sector. Our approach aims to address these challenges by offering sustainable and community-driven solutions that prioritise both affordability and independence. Our immediate focus is to mobilise the North Shore disability community for our pilot operation. A key objective is to foster local family networks, enabling families to work together in supporting independence and building a meaningful life within a mixed housing community.

The responsibility for ensuring the long-term wellbeing of our loved ones now falls solidly on parents. We can only succeed by working together. After two years of research and engagement, we are now moving into the implementation phase of the initiative.

Community Workshops – A Huge Success with Many Lessons Learned

Thank you to all the parents, individuals with disabilities, and organisations who attended our workshops at Ray White Glenfield as well as other locations. A special thanks to Glenn Carpenter and his team. We especially appreciate the valuable input from the numerous one-on-one and small group meetings held recently. These workshops further highlighted the difficulties and uncertainties many parents are facing and the urgent need to accelerate our pace of delivery in 2025.





Introducing the Harikoa Foundation

We are excited to announce the establishment of the Harikoa Foundation, a charitable trust dedicated to securing donations and supporting ongoing research and development (R&D). The Foundation will also play a critical role in supporting the **establishment of local branches** and supporting long-term sustainability.

We are also beginning to seek **donations and potential impact investors** to accelerate our work. If you are interested in contributing (money, time, know-how etc) or know of individuals or organisations that may wish to participate, please contact us at donations@harikoa.org.nz.

Collaborating with Community Housing Providers (CHPs) and other Organisations

Our long-term goal is to reduce dependence on government funding, but we recognise that not all families can afford ownership-based solutions. We are actively **forming relationships** with **Community Housing Providers (CHPs)** and other organisations to explore **long-term rental and other options** for families who may not be able to purchase or invest in their own living units.

Communal Investment Fund – Expressions of Interest

There is a growing need for a **cooperative investment fund**, rather than parents setting up a single home or trust fund to provide some housing security. While these single initiatives often start well, they tend to become unstable once the family is no longer around and the dynamics within the home change over time.

To this end, we have begun discussions with **professional fund managers** to establish a **communal investment fund**, governed by **whānau and people with disabilities**. This fund offers a **more stable and secure long-term solution**, providing a **wider range of residential choices** as individuals with disabilities age. It simply makes **more sense to work together** in this regard.

If you are interested in this initiative, please contact us at wealth@harikoa.org.nz.

Volunteer Opportunities

As part of our **value-for-money** approach, we are increasing efforts to engage with **volunteers**, including **family members and retirees**. This also aligns with our shift towards **more natural relationships**, enhancing the social networks of residents with disabilities while **helping to reduce costs**. While we are at the beginning stages of the initiative, we would love to hear from you.

If you are interested in **volunteering opportunities**, please reach out to us at volunteers@harikoa.org.nz for more details on how you can contribute.



Responding to Financial Pressures and Government Cost-Cutting Measures

The government is under significant **fiscal pressure**, and the situation is unlikely to change in the foreseeable future. This has had a **severe impact** on the disability community, as highlighted by the recent editorial in the **New Zealand Medical Journal**. As a result, we are **redoubling our efforts** to ensure that **value for money and efficiency** remain core principles of Harikoa Life.

We are currently compiling a White Paper. Please let us know if you would like to review and provide feedback. **A major focus of the White Paper is demonstrating the value for money achieved by establishing local branches that maximise independence**, backed up by a member-driven cooperative organisation, ensuring more funds are allocated directly to **support, housing, connection, and other essential services**

We invite **stakeholders, policymakers, and interested parties** to join us in this important discussion. If you have insights or wish to participate, we would love to hear from you.

Upcoming Events & Ways to Get Involved

- **Online Workshop in March** – covering key developments and opportunities for engagement [[Click Here](#)]
- **Workshops and Meetups in North Shore** – especially for families interested in the pilot operation. Our primary focus is to develop **family networks** and start the **detailed design of the mixed housing centre**.
- **Engaging with other regions and local disability service providers**
- **Detailed Research** – Linked to the Harikoa Foundation R&D, we are starting a **broader survey** to gain a **deeper understanding of exactly what people require on a national level**. This research will help **design the most suitable solutions** for New Zealand, which can then be expanded nationwide.

Join Us!

Harikoa Life is not just about housing—it's about creating a **place where people belong, connect, and thrive**.

We are particularly interested in connecting with **people with disabilities who want to live in a community** yet also have the ability to do so.

We look forward to growing Harikoa Life together with you. Let's make 2025 a year of progress, inclusion, and community!

Kind regards

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PS: Harikoa is the Māori word for joyful. It is therefore about a Joyful and Fulfilling Life.

