

# Community Project: *Healthy Village Action Zone*



## COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP & COLLABORATION

Auckland DHB funds the HVAZ programme, which is a nurse-led community initiative involving 14 churches. The focus is on health education, nutrition and fitness, health screening and empowering the Pacific community through self-management education.

## Sione's Story

At school, a nine-year-old boy was found to have group A streptococcal infection (GAS+). His family was already aware of the risk of rheumatic fever through church programmes and took measures to make their home warmer, bought extra blankets and made sure their son finished his course of antibiotics.

At the same time, the boy's 51-year-old grandfather found his throat was feeling unusual. He went to his GP and had swabs taken, which came back positive. He was put on antibiotics for 10 days, too.

The whole family got together to support each other and to make sure no one else was affected. Pamphlets were delivered to their home and support was provided by their GP.

## IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ALLIANCE HEALTH+

Pacific Engagement Strategy (PES), the new initiatives for the ProCare churches, this year included:

- 1 Rheumatic fever health education sessions delivered to over 650 people in three months.
- 2 Supporting 14 churches to be creative and develop rheumatic fever innovation projects.

Five events have been scheduled for August 2017, which will include music, drama and cultural activities – the Pacific way of delivering health education. Around 1,000 families are expected to attend the event.



- 3 All 14 churches were provided with pamphlets and information on rheumatic fever.
- 4 Church ministers were informed of the high Pacific rate of this illness and took to the pulpits to reinforce the message.
- 5 The Parish Community Nurse (PCN) facilitates health screening in the community to identify and refer at-risk patients to their GPs. She also case-manages the mild-to-moderate patients. Three churches identified GAS+ cases and the PCN worked closely with these families to provide added support.

