



**K'aute
Pasifika**

PACIFIC. NEVER PASSIVE.

K'aute Pasifika



The impact of COVID-19 on communities has been unprecedented in modern times. Charities across Aotearoa have quickly and efficiently provided vital support to vulnerable communities, often changing the way they work and the services they provide.

K'aute Pasifika (CC39336) is a registered charity based in Waikato. Their services are aimed at improving the health and wellbeing of Pacific communities and disadvantaged groups. They offer free health, education, social and employment services, all delivered with a focus on a Pacific model of care.

K'aute Pasifika have worked with Pacific and disadvantaged groups for more than 20 years. They have never seen greater need than they're seeing now. Leaupepe Rachel Karalus, Chief Executive of K'aute Pasifika, says "The families we are supporting were already vulnerable and COVID-19 has only intensified their vulnerability and added more pressure".

After assessing what type of support local communities needed most, K'aute Pasifika started delivering care packages of food and essential items at the start of Alert Level 4. "Providing free care packages is one way we can help reduce the pressures that families are experiencing," Rachel says.

At the start of lockdown K'aute Pasifika had one person taking requests for care packages over the phone. Demand was increasing every day and now they have 5 people working full time to process requests for food packages. "Covid-19 has not discriminated," Rachel says. "We are receiving requests from a broad cross-section of the community including people who we've never worked with before." They've delivered more than 1,300 care packages since the start of lockdown and demand is not slowing down. It's looking like this may become the new normal for K'aute Pasifika.

In times of crisis, charities shouldn't assume that their usual services are what their communities need most. K'aute Pasifika are currently providing services that directly respond to the needs they've seen. They noticed an increase in demand for phone credit and internet access. With many businesses providing services over the phone or online, vulnerable families were starting to feel the pinch. K'aute Pasifika was able to help these families by providing phone credit and reliable internet access. They're also delivering prescriptions to people who can't get to a pharmacy, and their registered nurse has given over 200 flu vaccinations since the beginning of lockdown.

K'aute Pasifika worked quickly and efficiently to respond to the needs of their local communities in Alert Level 4. The team acknowledge that they couldn't have done this important work alone. Food suppliers such as Gilmours, New World and Fresh Choice provided a steady food supply for care packages. They've also been supported by workers from UltraFast Fibre, the Department of Corrections, and Civtec and the NZ Police who gave K'aute Pasifika volunteers a hand packing and delivering care packages. The Hamilton City Council, St John's Methodist Church and the Enderley Community Centre generously provided the space to prepare the packages. K'aute Pasifika are very grateful for the help of the wider community saying, "We couldn't do this alone. It is thanks to the tremendous collective effort from our funders, food suppliers and volunteers that we've been able to make this happen."

Find out more about K'aute Pasifika on their [website](#) and on their [Facebook page](#).