



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **‘A WELLNESS HUB FOR ALL’**

Te Oranganui Trust is the local community health provider that has expressed interest in building on the land at 125 Grey Street, Whanganui.

The Trust has been working with the Whanganui District Council to obtain a long-term lease to develop a Wellness Hub on the site. It understands the public consultation needs to occur but felt that if people knew more about who they were and what their intentions were, that this might help the community understand the potential of what could be developed on the land.

Te Oranganui is a health and social service provider who have been a part of the wider Whanganui community for over 30 years. It offers a range of health and wellbeing, and social services. Over the years their premises have been scattered throughout the town, and they have moved from site to site. The organisation’s dream is to find a long-term sustainable option, and to then look for other partners who might want to be a part of this Wellness Hub initiative.

Te Waipuna Health is the general practice with an enrolment of 5,300 whānau (patients). Te Whare Piringa is a new centre recently opened for pregnant mums, new parents and their whānau. Terrace House is the current base for most of the organisation’s services, including Disability Support Services, Mental Health and Addictions; Family Start, Whānau Ora, and our own Innovation and Research team.

The Trust has grown to over 200 staff and its vision is to bring all its services under one roof on one site - a location that is central and easily accessible.

An exciting part of this development, has been looking into the history of the land. Te Oranganui has met with leaders from local hapū and iwi, read documents that date back to pre-European times, and then of course, the more recent use of the land at the site of St George’s School.

*“We are really respectful of history, ALL of it”, says Te Oranganui, Mātaiwhetū CEO, Whetūrangi Walsh-Tapiata. “The stories of this land will form a part of how we honour and develop the land.”.*

Te Oranganui Trust has been working with a nationally renowned architect firm, Tennett and Brown, who recently won the Gold Medal Award with the National Institute of Architects for some of their recent work. They appreciate the importance of the environment, the history and the community in their designs. This means that this development will be something that the whole community can be proud of.

Te Oranganui Trust is also aware of the heritage status of the old Saint George's School buildings and has agreed that it is important that some recognition of these buildings be maintained. The Trust has talked to the Council about what this could look like and how heritage, to some degree, can be incorporated into their ideas.

The Whanganui District Council is currently conducting a public consultation exercise, a survey that outlines five options for public consideration. Option 5 on the survey is described as a long-term lease by a "private developer".

*"That is us, Te Oranganui. That is not how we would ordinarily describe ourselves, and we wanted the community to know that in fact we are from the community, we are of the community, and we are committed to the wellbeing of the community".*

The Trust is adamant they are here to stay and want to work with the community to ignite something new but something which also respects the past.

*"We encourage those who support our vision for better access to healthcare to choose Option 5 so we can start putting this community asset to work for us all."*

Follow this link to find the survey on the Whanganui District Council website,  
<https://www.whanganui.govt.nz/Your-Council/Have-Your-Say/Consultations/Future-of-125-Grey-Street>

The survey closes this Sunday, 15 June 2025 at 5pm.

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