



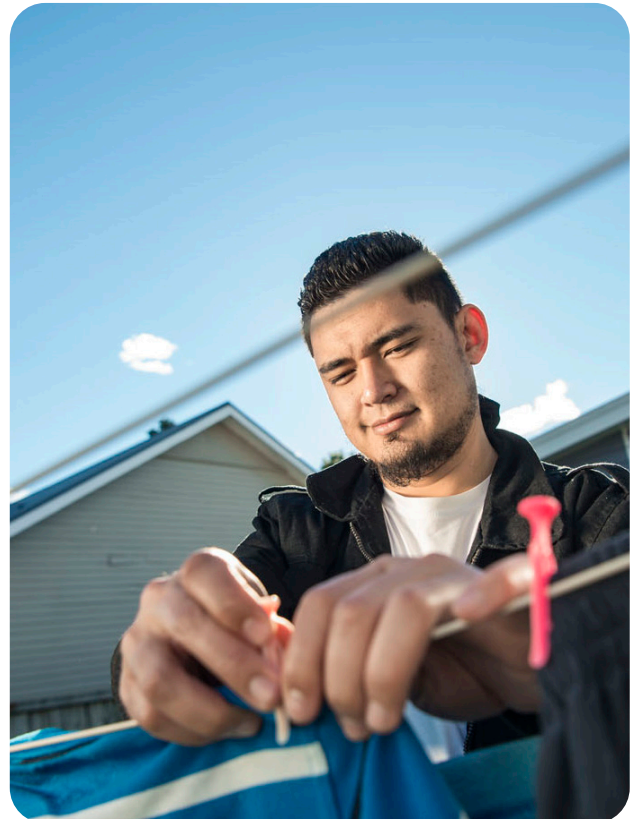
Welcome to Ahikāroa

Ahikāroa is a community housing support service for people accessing mental health and addiction services, delivered by community housing provider LinkPeople.

We work with people who are experiencing homelessness, as defined by Statistics New Zealand:

- **Without shelter** – living on the street or in a car.
- **Temporary accommodation** – in overnight or short-term accommodation in hostels, motels, refuges, motor camps and boarding houses.
- **Sharing accommodation** – couch surfing or sharing someone else's home.
- **Uninhabitable housing** – staying in dilapidated or makeshift dwellings or shelter.

Ahikāroa works in collaboration with tāngata whai ora, whānau and other services to understand a person's housing need and offers support to access a range of housing options. Ahikāroa is person-centred, which means that we take an individual approach based on the needs of each person.



LinkPeople

Linking people to housing and support



Some frequently asked questions

Who can access Ahikāroa?

A person will be receiving services from the Waikato DHB or Hauora Waikato Mental Health and Addiction Services and meet the definition of homelessness to be eligible. They will have a need for housing or residential recovery services. A referral to Ahikāroa should come from the person's keyworker. Email Ahikāroa@wisegroup.co.nz if you have any queries.

What services does Ahikāroa offer?

Residential Recovery Services: Ahikāroa coordinates access to a range of mental health residential recovery services across the Waikato and supports people to transition from residential services into more independent housing options.

Housing: Ahikāroa also provides support to access, transition into, and sustain independent housing options, such as social housing or private rentals across the Waikato DHB region. When people are referred, we meet with them to discuss their housing needs and goals. We then make a plan to work with them to find a home and address any barriers they are facing towards obtaining a home.

How long will it take to get a house?

Finding the right house, with the right number of rooms, in the right location will depend on housing availability, so we cannot give a timeframe, but we explore as many options as possible from private rental through to a range of social housing options.

What support is provided once someone is in a house?

Ahikāroa will support a person to transition into a home and then provide ongoing support to manage the tenancy. We offer support with any tenancy issues that may arise and work in collaboration with those involved in the person's care.

How long will Ahikāroa support someone once they get housed?

A person's needs will be reviewed as they progress along their housing journey in consultation with them, their whānau and their health supports. We work in collaboration to develop a plan according to the person's needs and discuss how much ongoing support is required.

Is Ahikāroa an Emergency Housing provider?

Ahikāroa does not provide emergency housing. To access emergency housing and the emergency housing grant, please contact Work and Income. If someone is already in emergency housing and would like support to move into other housing, they can still be referred to Ahikāroa by their mental health and addiction service key worker.

Ahikāroa means 'long burning fires' in te reo Māori. The name was gifted to our service and reflects the fact that our service supports tāngata whai ora and honours their dream of what a home and community means for them.