

Media Release

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Women's refuges across Waikato to access free dental procedures from Braemar Charitable Trust

A major funding grant from the Clare Foundation will allow Braemar Charitable Trust to deliver free dental procedures and dental surgeries to six women's refuges across the Waikato region.

Clare funds groups who can make positive change happen for women, oral health, youth well-being and the environment. It will fund Braemar Charitable Trust \$180,000 across the next three years to deliver dental help to women's refuges in the wider Waikato region.

Braemar Charitable Trust is the 100% owner of Braemar Hospital which is one of the largest private hospitals in New Zealand. The Trust aims to advance health equity and access and boost health outcomes in the region, and undertakes a variety of charitable activities to achieve this including free community surgeries, scholarships, health sector capability building and funding medical research.

The Trust's wide range of free community surgeries are delivered by surgeons and anaesthetists who are credentialed to work at Braemar Hospital and want to donate their time. The Trust pays for other costs including nursing care, drugs and consumables. It also works closely with dentists, oral surgeons and other oral health professionals and groups who give their time, free or at a reduced rate, to help those in need.

The Trust has worked with Hamilton's Waikato Women's Refuge for some time, but this Clare Foundation funding is designed to deliver dental assistance specifically for women who have been the victims of domestic violence and are staying in refuges in Hamilton, Taupo, Tokoroa, Waitomo, Hauraki and Taumarunui.

Trust Manager Paula Baker says New Zealand's issues around oral health are well-documented, but for those women accessing support in women's refuges, dental work can be life-changing.

“We know how hard it can be for many to access dental care and some women have historical or urgent dental issues that require attention. Thanks to the amazing support and foresight of Clare and our wonderful dental supporters, we will be able to help some of these women.”

Anne-marie Maikuku, Strategic Funding Lead - Oral Health at Clare, says the Foundation is pleased to be funding Braemar Charitable Trust to continue and widen its work with women’s refuges across the Waikato region.

“It’s important to us that we partner with organisations driving change in the oral health space and we have been impressed with the work that Braemar Charitable Trust has been undertaking so we are thrilled to be supporting their mahi for the next three years.

“Good oral health is the backbone of disease prevention and ongoing self-confidence. If we can help these women as they rebuild their lives, it will make a huge difference to their future.”

Braemar Charitable Trust has also made it simple for anyone to donate to its work via a new [online donations portal](#). Donors can pay for a specific surgical procedure as part of the Trust’s Community Surgery Programme, or make donations towards scholarships, research or a general fund. To find out more, visit braemartrust.co.nz.

Find out more about [Clare Foundation](#).

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Media inquiries – not for publication. For more information contact:

Paula Baker MNZM
Trust Manager, Braemar Charitable Trust
paulab@braemartrust.co.nz
027 224 2316

Alice Montague
CEO, Clare Foundation
alice@clare.nz