

whānau can't cope with legal dope

synthetic cannabis is harming our community

he mihi – thank you

On behalf of the Waitākere Community Law Service (WaiLaw), we would like to thank everyone for attending our community event. As you know, the turnout was incredible and even though only 100 people RSVP'd - we were delighted when almost 200 people turned up!

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank Una Macnaughtan for showing real courage to stand in front of a crowded hall to share her story. We appreciate that this must have been a difficult thing for her to do, but we know that Una hopes that by telling her story, this may prevent other families going through the same experience.

a community response

WaiLaw felt this was a community problem, and therefore required a community solution. Thus, we were extremely pleased that the hall was full of various stake holders, including

- Members of parliament
- council and local board members
- agency representatives from the health, mental health, social, and community sectors
- school principals and staff
- New Zealand Police
- the youth sector, including young people
- representatives of the Maori, Pacific, Asian and community representatives
- and of course, those in our community who have had their lives impacted on by legal highs.

Synthetic Cannabis is harming our community

Proactive, Preventative

Educate our Whanau about the effects

Action to stop the sale of legal highs

Know where to seek help

Our Communities

Uniting

Together

so where to from here...

Ko tau raurau, ko taku raurau, kia ora ai te iwi (with your knowledge, and my knowledge, the people will be well). It was hoped that by bringing various stakeholders together, we as a community could find holistic solutions which would influence change at a local, regional and national level. Accordingly, we were pleased with some of the initiatives which emerged from this hui.

→ nation-wide rally - waitākere

A Waitakere Community Rally is being organised which will link with the nation-wide rally on the 5 April 2014. Please gather at 12 pm at the Corban's Art Centre. Details are as follows:

5th april 2014 – 1 pm to 4 pm.

Meet at Corban's Art Centre at 12pm

Don't forget to bring.....

- Your placards, and your passion!
- At least two people with you – we need to show community support that we don't want these products in our community.
- Dress in Black which symbolises the darkness that legal highs have on families.
- Bring white balloons to represent hope.



To keep updated, like **BAN SYNTHETIC WAITAKERE** on Facebook as this will be the official page for any updates, or community responses to this issue. If you have time to volunteer please let Steph through this page. <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Ban-Synthetics-Waitakere/611569525602060?fref=ts>



Collecting evidence and data is a critical aspect in policy development, and influencing change. Please take the time to fill out the Legal High survey being run by Hāpai Te Hauora. Click the link provided to complete the survey. <http://hapai.co.nz/2014-legal-highs-survey>

wailaw social media

As we were unable to show our video due to technical difficulties on the day, we have uploaded it to WaiLaw's Facebook page. Don't forget to like and follow our social media pages to keep up to date with the latest in legal and community news:



<https://www.facebook.com/waitakerecommunitylaw>

<https://twitter.com/wailawyer>

Use the hashtag **#goodbyelegalhighs** to keep updated.



other ideas

- Resourcing tool kits to educate and make aware the effects of Synthetic Cannabis for our families and youth,
- Establish a support group for families who are effected by Synthetic Cannabis,
- Lobby to central government on the LAPP restrictions, and at a national level
- The council and local board to work more closely together – linking ideas around this issue, lobbying and cross-party working together
- Monitoring of the shops who are selling synthetic cannabis and also having an awareness of those who are selling to under 18?

To end on a lighter note – West Aucklanders who attended the hui were described by the Herald as being 'rowdy'. According to the Oxford dictionary, rowdy is defined as "noisy and disorderly". However, as most of us Westies are known for being passionate –(Having, showing, or caused by strong feelings or beliefs), it's not surprising that the reporter confused the two!

If you have any more ideas, or would like to implement a new initiative, please link to the [Ban Synthetics Waitākere](#) page.