**Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Foundation Commits $300,000 to Cure Kids’ Asthma Intervention Pilot Study**

Cure Kids is pleased to announce a new partnership with Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Foundation to invest $300,000 over two years to improve care for children with severe asthma in South Auckland.

Any child who has had a severe asthma attack should be given an inhaler to deliver steroid treatment in case they have another attack – but in practice, 20% don't currently receive a preventer inhaler. The study focuses on tamariki in South Auckland aged 5 to 15 years who are at risk for an asthma attack but have not received a preventer inhaler in the previous six months.

Asthma is the leading cause of chronic illness for children in Aotearoa. The country's rates of asthma are among the highest in the world, and they are increasing. Studies show that Māori and Pasifika children are three times more likely to need hospital treatment for asthma and more likely to miss out on appropriate treatment for severe asthma.

Professor Stuart Dalziel, Cure Kids Chair of Paediatrics, Child and Youth Health, and a team of researchers at the University of Auckland will identify at-risk children and provide them with preventer inhalers, along with care and education for their whānau. The aim is to assess the safety, effectiveness, and cost of the pilot, so that it can be scaled up for national roll-out.

Cure Kids is grateful for the support of Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Foundation and its recognition of the study’s potential to make a positive difference in our young people's lives.

"Cure Kids' new partnership with Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Foundation has the potential to make a positive difference in the lives of young people. This pilot study is designed to improve care, reduce serious illness, and address inequity in health outcomes for Māori and Pasifika children with severe asthma," says Frances Benge, Cure Kids CEO.

Neerali Parbhu, Fisher & Paykel Healthcare Foundation Lead, says: “Supporting Cure Kids to do this mahi is an obvious choice for us. Understanding why Māori and Pasifika tamariki are being left behind in respiratory treatment is a good first step and we look forward to seeing the positive impact it can make in the future for young families.”

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