

7th April 2021

Dianne Daniels, Programme Director
Digital Wings

Tēnā koe Dianne

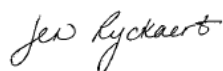
This time last year, as the country moved to control the Covid-19 outbreak, the Raukatauri team found itself trying to imagine how to respond in a way that would best support our client whānau. As families containing children and adults with complex disabilities, we knew that many were facing challenges from the lockdown far beyond the stress and uncertainty all New Zealanders were experiencing. In brainstorming how to respond, we quickly recognised the need for continued access to the music therapy that our clients found so valuable, reassuring, and stimulating prior to this upheaval in their lives.

On April 1st 2020 we began offering music therapy sessions via Zoom to many clients, with the goal of providing familiar structure and routine, continuing our goal-oriented work, and offering a friendly face in uncertain times. Also on the 1st, just five days after lockdown began, Raukatauri launched QuaranTunes, a private Facebook group providing interactive music-making videos daily from the music therapists at Raukatauri to families at home completely free of charge. When asked at the time, Raukatauri mum Victoria said, 'Being in lockdown has been really confusing for my son Alex. Thankfully, Raukatauri started QuaranTunes filling our days with music, happiness, and, importantly, a new reliable routine.'

It is your generosity that makes life-changing music therapy possible for Alex and over 500 other New Zealanders who we work with each week from Hawke's Bay to the Far North. Thanks to you we provide music therapy not only for young people with developmental disorders, but also for pre-schoolers with neurological-motor disorders, children and their families experiencing long-term hospitalisation, children impacted by trauma, adults with dementia, and many others. Music therapy provides them with the chance to express themselves, develop independence, engage with their community, and develop meaningful relationships. Furthermore, the work you enable impacts our clients' whānau and the communities in which they live. Your generosity truly changes lives through music.

We receive no direct government funding and need to raise over \$1,200,000 this year to keep all of our programmes running while also developing new initiatives. We, and the clients who we work with such as Alex, are so grateful for the essential role that you have played through your support. Thank you.

Ngā mihi nui,



Jen Ryckaert, Clinical and Centre Director

