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### **Northland Chamber of Commerce and Healthy Families Far North join up to celebrate business excellence**

After 40 years of business excellence in Northland, the annual Westpac Business Excellence Awards will this year see the Northland Chamber of Commerce incorporate Healthy Families New Zealand principles for the first time.

Business awards category entries and nominations are now closed, but the MoreFM Customer Choice Award and Northern Advocate Hall of Fame Award entries and nominations will remain open until Friday 22 September.

Northland Chamber of Commerce CEO Tony Collins says that entrant workshops have been held throughout the entry process with the 40-plus entrants, either individually or in groups.

“We wanted to integrate the ethos of Healthy Families NZ within the existing awards framework, so we reiterated the need for businesses to show that they are not only sustainable financially, but culturally, environmentally and socially as well. A big part of this is valuing their workforce wellbeing in ways that are broader than just workplace health and safety. It is about workplaces benefiting the communities in which they operate,” he says.

Healthy Families Far North kaiwhakahaere Shirleyanne Brown says that the Northland Chambers of Commerce have been a key champion in supporting the Healthy Families NZ approach – to improve the health and lives of people where they live, learn, work and play.

“Healthy Families Far North is about enabling an approach to chronic disease prevention across the Far North District that embodies seven key principles, including Leadership. The Northland Chamber of Commerce has provided outstanding leadership for Northland businesses since the awards’ inception 40 years ago and by supporting a holistic view of good business, will continue to champion good health in workplace settings across the region,” she says.



The Westpac Business Excellence Awards 2017 presentation ceremony will take place on Friday October 27.

**Ends**

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