

# YMCA Greater Wellington merge with YMCA Central

The Y has always focused on how we can better support and serve our communities. A key element that is not always immediately tangible is our rich history of strong family values, caring culture and genuine wish to make a real difference to local communities and families. We are community focused, regionally operated but supported both nationally and internationally.

We've seen growth in many areas across our organisation in the last 12 months, including successfully developing and implementing our family strengthening programmes across the region. Our focus has remained on fostering excellent community strengthening programmes along the way.

We are always open to new opportunities to continue the Ys service offerings to meet the ever-growing needs of our communities. To help continue this great legacy and ensure the very best results for our communities, we're pleased to announce that on 25<sup>th</sup> September, YMCA Greater Wellington Inc merged with YMCA Central Inc (YMCA Palmerston North and YMCA Whanganui).

While our day-to-day dealings will mostly remain unchanged, we will see an injection of new talent, expertise and resource with the introduction of new programmes in many communities proposed. The name of the entity covering the new expanded region (Lower North Island) will be YMCA Central, however, in most cases your affinity will remain with your 'local Y'.

Our offices in Lower Hutt will continue to support the whole region with local expertise in communities right across the network remaining. Over time we expect our new and existing communities to experience the benefit of growing expertise and centralised efficiencies. Across the lower north island, YMCA Central will continue to deliver Early Learning Centres, OSCAR programmes, Youth Services, Education, Health, Fitness and Recreation, Outdoor Education/Camps, and Accommodation.

We're all very excited about this merger and the opportunities it will provide to our communities and staffing alike. With a shared focus on delivering the very best in community strengthening and developing meaningful relationships with all stakeholders, we believe this merger will assist us all.

If you have any questions about this news or would like to learn more about the changes at YMCA, please feel free to call us on 0800 YMCA4U or visit [ycentral.nz](http://ycentral.nz).

