

## **Health Navigator Charitable Trust launched by actress Anna Hutchison**

Health Navigator Charitable Trust was publicly launched last night at an event hosted by Kiwi actress Anna Hutchison.

The event, held at AUT's School of Hospitality and Tourism building, was organised by a group of AUT public relations students currently working on a pro-bono awareness-raising project for the Trust.

The Trust runs several projects including an innovative website dedicated to helping New Zealanders prevent and manage long-term health conditions and a long-term conditions clinical network.

At the event Anna said she was excited to be a part of the Trust and represent the important work it does:

"It is an honour to be part of a project aimed at helping New Zealanders live better quality, healthier lives. Throughout my career, the support of the New Zealand society has been amazing, and I feel privileged to be able to give something back through representing Health Navigator," she says.

The event was attended by a wide range of people including newly elected members of the Auckland DHB, representatives from Counties Manukau and Waitemata DHBs, the Heart Foundation, Arthritis NZ, Diabetes New Zealand and Mental Health Foundation among others.

The event aimed to inform those in attendance about the aims of the Trust and upcoming initiatives, such as a health literacy project in collaboration with public Libraries, launch of a Long-term Conditions Clinical Network and Long-term Conditions conference in April next year.

Health Navigator Clinical Director, Dr Janine Bycroft, spoke of the significance of long-term conditions in society.

“Everyone is affected in one way or another by long-term illnesses be it a family member, friend or oneself, so having accessible information for all New Zealanders on the website, and actively generating greater knowledge through the clinical network, is very important and will effect all Kiwis,” says Dr Bycroft.

“This new way of sharing knowledge is creating trusted and useful resources for people managing long term health conditions in families across the country” said chair, Mary-Anne Boyd.

### **AUT Involvement**

The Health Navigator Charitable Trust public launch was coordinated by five public relations majors studying towards a Bachelor of Communication Studies at AUT.

This group were allocated the not-for-profit as part of a university assignment designed to allow students practical experience and simultaneously create awareness for an organization who cannot afford professional public relations.

“We were really thrilled to be given Health Navigator for our project. The Trust was virtually unknown to the New Zealand public and many health professionals. Raising awareness for the important messages and work conducted by the Trust was a great challenge and one we were proud to be a part of,” says student Sam Vogts.

The students are currently finishing their work for the Trust, and will leave the not-for-profit with several ideas to work on over the next year.

**Ends**

For more information and questions, or to arrange an interview please contact:

Sam Vogts

E: [samvogts@gmail.com](mailto:samvogts@gmail.com)

M: 021864870