



pure kiwi mettle

NEW ZEALAND'S ALUMINIUM SMELTER

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MEDIA RELEASE

Rio Tinto supports vulnerable families with Invercargill Women's Refuge donation

While the threat of COVID-19 is currently under control in New Zealand, the consequences of lockdown are still being felt by many New Zealand families.

These include reports of a significant rise in calls to police and support services regarding family harm.

In recognition of these ongoing impacts, Rio Tinto (NZAS' majority owner) has donated \$100,000 to Invercargill Women's Refuge as part of its COVID-19 relief package, a global programme to support communities as they respond and recover from COVID-19.

NZAS chief executive and general manager Stew Hamilton said "I am grateful Rio Tinto is recognising the impact COVID-19 has had on our local community. Women's Refuge is a very worthy recipient of this funding."

"Domestic and family violence prevention is an issue close to our hearts at Tiwai, and we have trained a number of employees as Domestic Violence Champions on site. We recognise that COVID-19 has added significant additional stress onto families and this donation will help Women's Refuge to provide a safe haven for families" he said.

The funding is being used for a new garage to store donated furniture and other household items for families in need, a replacement vehicle/s, equipment to run women's programmes, and to start a 'crisis needs' fund to help women not eligible for welfare get set up in alternative homes.

Refuge Services Co-ordinator Cathy Robertson is very grateful for the support. "I would really like to thank Rio Tinto for this very generous donation, it means a lot to our organisation and will make a huge difference in the work we do. We expect the impacts of COVID-19 to be felt for a very long time and this funding will help many families in need," she said.

ENDS

For further information, refer to the NZAS website www.nzas.co.nz.

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