



## MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release: **8<sup>th</sup> October 2009**

### Diabetes NZ Auckland Could Be a Real Winner

Diabetes NZ Auckland has been nominated for a Mitre 10 Community of the Year Award in the inaugural New Zealander of the Year Awards.

A non-profit charity, it is run by a small staff and a huge team of volunteers and works to educate and support people affected by diabetes.

It has been nominated by a long-term member, Gail Ellison, who says she has received outstanding continuous support and assistance from the organisation over the years.

“Each member of the small, dedicated team at Diabetes Auckland constantly works beyond what could ever be expected. Against the background of ever growing demand, they have unstintingly delivered a highly-professional and consistent service to those in need,” she says.

Gail Ellison says of note is Diabetes Auckland’s HOPE Programme (Healthy Options = Positive Eating).

“It is a first in New Zealand, delivering Prevention messaging and practical training to high-risk schools and to the parents of these children in a culturally appropriate format, thereby ensuring the highest possible adoption of lifestyle changes with family groups and their wider community.”

The national coordinator of the New Zealander of the Year Awards, Grant McCabe, says it’s great to see such small localised groups such as this getting some recognition.

“Ultimately, these Awards give all of us the opportunity to say thank you and give encouragement to individuals and community groups for their dedication and contributions to New Zealand”

Nominations can now be made for the following category awards:

- The Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Award
- The Ryman Healthcare Senior New Zealander of the Year Award

- The Coca-Cola Amatil Young New Zealander of the Year Award
- The Mitre 10 Community of the Year Award
- The Kiwibank Local Heroes Awards

Winners of each of the five categories will receive \$5,000 courtesy of Kiwibank and all nominees will receive a certificate of appreciation of their achievements.

Nomination close on 20<sup>th</sup> November and application forms are available from Kiwibank and Mitre 10 branches or free phone 0508 692 927. You can also nominate online at [www.nzawards.org.nz](http://www.nzawards.org.nz)

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