

GIVE IT A WHIRL

Connecting Together



Paediatric Occupational Therapy

Connecting Together is a service run by Owner and Occupational Therapist, Melissa Walker-Tate, to provide care, intervention, therapy and guidance to children and families.

Melissa and her team can assist with delayed developmental skills, fine motor control, toilet training, emotional regulation, social skills, sensory processing and more.

While we were visiting, Melissa showed us a few of the many tools and activities that she uses in her sessions. The first of which was a therapeutic sensory swing – a double layer of soft cotton and spandex which can be used when sitting, standing and lying down.

Inside the swing, kids learn body awareness, balance, motor planning and spatial skills. It's also a great space to just lie motionless while enjoying the calming effect of the movement – just ask Chenay who nearly fell asleep in the swing.

Next, Kate's vestibular function was tested using the spinning 'astronaut board'. Melissa played a track on her phone, while spinning Kate clockwise three times. After assessing Kate's eyes for any irregular movement, Melissa then spun her another three times counter-clockwise.

Our vestibular system centres and grounds our body so we know exactly where we are and which way is up, even when we are upside down. It is an essential foundation for all sensory processing and movement control. The training that Melissa offers is designed to develop optimal vestibular function.

Shawna's co-ordination, balance and listening skills were tested in the next exercise. She was asked to carry a tray of water-filled cups from one end of the room to the other, stepping over and removing obstacles as she went.

Melissa and her team work with kids of all ages, up to 16 years. They listen to parent's concerns, and determine the



right way forward, whether it be private therapy or group sessions.

If you're unsure whether or not your child could benefit from Occupational Therapy, Melissa encourages all parents to give her a call for friendly, no obligation advice.

Get in touch with Melissa

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Marketview Report



This month, we're sharing the latest Marketview Report, which compares the period of November 2021 with November 2022.

The total spend in Pukekohe in Nov '22 was \$57.0M – an increase of +8.2% over the previous year & a contribution

of 2.7% to the total Auckland Business Association Spend of \$2.2B.

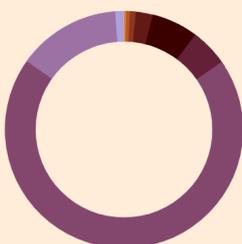
The number of transactions in 2022 also increased by +13.5% to 908, 165 which is to be expected as Aucklanders were no longer confined to their houses.

Interestingly, the average transaction value decreased slightly in 2022 to \$63.76 – down from \$66.90 the previous year.

Below you can view the origin of people spending in Pukekohe over this time, as well as in which sectors.

Origin of people spending in Pukekohe

Total spend \$57.9M



Origin	Spend	% of total
Rodney District	\$188k	0.3%
North Shore City	\$268K	0.5%
Waitakere City	\$435.6K	0.8%
Auckland City	\$1.3M	2.3%
Manukau City	\$3.7M	6.3%
Papakura District	\$3.0M	5.1%
Franklin District	\$40.2M	69.4%
Rest of NZ	\$8.1M	14.0%
International	\$722.4K	1.2%

Sector Spending

Comparing November 2021 - 2022

	Spend	% of total	Share Change
Accommodation	\$7.5k	0.0%	0.0%
Apparel & Personal	\$2.9M	4.9%	+1.1%
Cafes, Restaurants, Bars & Takeaways	\$5.0M	8.6%	+2.8%
Department Stores & Leisure	\$11.0M	19%	-2.7%
Fuel & Automotive	\$9.0M	15.5%	+2.4%
Groceries & Liquor	\$18.8M	32.5%	-3.9%
Home, Hardware & Electrical	\$8.6M	14.9%	-3.2%
Other Consumer Spending	\$2.6M	4.5%	+3.4%