



Wesley  
Community  
Action

ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

# Real change happens when it is led by the people wanting change



**KĀORE MĀ TE WAHA ENGARI  
MĀ TE RINGA**  
Actions speak louder than words  
- Nā Rua Rakena





Members of our Grow Me! team in Cannons Creek from left: Puia Hualngo, Lisa Kokiri, Gina Wong and David Kepa.

# FROM THE DIRECTOR AND BOARD CO-CHAIRS

## Kia ora

Increasing challenges for whānau, reduced government funding, more uncertainty for those most vulnerable, increasing cost of basic items, declining housing opportunities, increasing unemployment, stressed public services ... these are realities that Wesley Community Action responds to daily.

From these challenges we work with people to find new approaches and ways of making a difference. Ways that give people more agency in what and how things change and less under the control of others. We continue to learn that by doing this, people can move to living a better life, in spite of the challenges, and we remain healthy and vibrant as an organisation.

Our three pou for change guide this work:

- Whānau led
- Community driven
- Warm hearted

We recently thanked and farewelled Peter Glensor, our chair of 20 years. Peter is a champion of community leadership, a chair who combined wise governance with open community-oriented approaches, and a person who knows the roots of Methodism. Peter's departure provided the opportunity for us to take the next step in our Kaupapa Te Tiriti journey and appoint co-chairs – Roger Blakeley and Eugene Ryder – to replace Peter.

Times are tough – but Wesley Community Action is tougher.

**Roger Blakeley**  
Co-Chair

**Eugene Ryder**  
Co-Chair

**David Hanna**  
Director



We extend our heartfelt thanks to our former chair Peter Glensor (above) for his many years of dedicated service – his contribution to our organisation has been huge. And a warm welcome to our new co-chairs, Roger Blakeley and Eugene Ryder. We're looking forward to the next stage in our development as a Kaupapa te Tiriti organisation.



# OUR MAHI

Wesley Community Action is a creative change organisation that works in communities and with whānau across all ages and stages within the wider Wellington region. We run services, design new initiatives and support and partner with people and groups doing great work to sustain whānau and communities to live lives that they value.

Our kaupapa is based on our Methodist heritage and our many years of experience working alongside whānau. This has taught us that people respond best when they are respected, have their

strengths identified and named, and can use those strengths to make the changes they want.

Te Ara Wēteri (The Wesley Way) is at the heart of our work. It helps people to actively contribute to the change process.

We are committed to becoming a kaupapa te Tiriti organisation – one that actively works to honour the Treaty of Waitangi. We are evolving as we resist the dominant ‘doing to’ people approach (colonisation) to one that supports people ‘to do’(rangatiratanga).

## Our mahi spans five inter-related foundations for a good life:



Connected and supportive whānau



Financial stability



Warm, safe and dry housing



Good kai



A healthy natural environment

# OUR HIGHLIGHTS 2024 – 2025



## CONNECTED AND SUPPORTIVE WHĀNAU

Our work to help build connected and supportive whānau spans the whole life cycle from pēpi and new parents to kaumātua / seniors. We also work with rangatahi (teenagers and young adults) and with wāhine and tāne who are looking for connection, support, challenge or growth.

### TAMARIKI AND THEIR CARERS

#### During the year we:

- Supported 187 pēpi / tamariki and their whānau to have the best start in life through the Family Start programme.
- Worked alongside 13 whānau to help 22 tamariki stay with or return to their family through the Mana Whānau service which provides intensive whānau-led support to build resilient and skilled whānau and reduce the number of tamariki going into – or staying in – care.
- Advocated for and supported another 104 whānau experiencing challenges through the Strengthening Families, Family Wellbeing and Hapori programmes based at Wesley Waitangirua.
- Established Te Waka Kotahi: Intensive Carer Support to provide Oranga Tamariki carers with periods of intensive, flexible support in their own homes. In the first 10 months our two ICS kaimahi worked alongside 15 carers. An evaluation report found that this approach led to significantly more stable placements, better



“Oh mate – I’m a lot nicer! Me and my daughter, how we sort things is a lot calmer and it’s so much nicer in my house.” – ICS carer

school attendance, happier and more confident carers, and fewer emergency calls for social workers.

- Supported 40 tamariki and their whānau at three schools in Otaki through the Social Workers in Schools programme.

### KAUMĀTUA

#### During the year we:

- Supported 125 vulnerable kaumātua to stay living in their own homes through the Supported Independent Living programme.
- Responded to 285 referrals to the Elder Abuse Response Service from people living in the greater Wellington region.
- Supported 50 kaumātua to set up an Enduring Power of Attorney through a free legal advice service funded by Te Whatu Ora / Health New Zealand and administered by us.

- Changed the name of our Ageing Well programme to Connected Ageing and changed the focus to providing one-to-one support to older people who are feeling a bit isolated, helping them to re-find their sense of social self and weave connections in the community.
- Hosted 25 to 30 regular participants and a stable crew of volunteers at our weekly Connected Ageing coffee group.

## RANGATAHI, WĀHINE AND TĀNE

### During the year we:

- Continued to support the growth of youth wellbeing and resilience among rangatahi in Porirua through youth-development programme Te Roopu Tiaki Rangatahi (TRTR).
- Filled our lounge at Cannons Creek with local tāne at our regular Aotearoa Pasifika Mens Group where they enjoyed a good kai, a korero and a chance to connect.
- Ran regular fitness training and kick-boxing classes at our Unity Fitness gym based at Te Pae Urungi in Miramar. This included supporting a group of six young tāne to take part in competitive kickboxing fights.



- Worked alongside more than 40 rangatahi through our Mana Rangatahi programme at Te Pae Urungi. Most of the participants were disengaged from school or in alternative education and the aim was to build connections and develop skills and capabilities to help them create a positive future.
- Hosted 4 gatherings for tāne at Te Pae Urungi to help create spaces where they feel safe to share and connect and to seek further help.
- Continued developing a community garden in the heart of Waitangirua through Broject, a community initiative based in Porirua East that works alongside club whānau to broker pathways to employment and training through practical skill development including driver licensing, work experience, and community development.
- Hosted regular 'Open Art Studio' sessions at Wesley Rātā Village, as well as our popular 10-week Painting with Babies course, and an 'Art for All Ages' school holiday programme, all run by local artists.
- Re-launched our popular monthly Koha Café at Wesley Rātā Village. It had been on hold for much of the year due to building work.
- Participated in the Lower Hutt Art Trail weekend for the second year running.
- Continued to engage with large numbers of club whānau and others through WhānauFluence, a closed moderated Facebook page for whānau who want to break down cycles of intergenerational disadvantage.
- Delivered Brotalk to 507 people around the country and developed a new programme for young people called Brotalk Junior. Brotalk has been designed by and for whānau to create positive, supportive and healthy whānau relationships.
- Designed and started delivering a new 5-week parenting course for whānau in Porirua East called Parent-Hood.



## FINANCIAL STABILITY

### During the year we:

- Ran 4 Good Cents financial wellbeing courses at Wesley House in Cannons Creek.
- Ran 2 Good cents courses as well as strength-based facilitation training with staff from two Pasifika organisations – O Le Nu'u in Porirua and Niuvaka Trust in Palmerston North. They are now delivering Good Cents courses themselves, with coaching support from the Good Cents team.
- Held 4 Train-the-Trainer courses for FinCap in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch. FinCap supports budgeting and financial capability services throughout New Zealand
- Supported members of the Porirua Wealth Pool to take on administrative roles. During the year members contributed \$80,000 to the wealth pool and \$19,000 was lent out. Almost \$300,000 has now been saved since the wealth pool was set up in 2019.
- Made the difficult decision to put the Porirua Time Bank to sleep due to team capacity.



## WARM, SAFE AND DRY HOUSING

### During the year we:

- Provided warm, safe, dry and affordable rental homes to more than 90 people throughout Wellington and another 65 people at Punavaioia in Flaxmere.
- Finished work on Kōwhai Court, a social housing development which has converted the former hospital wing at Wesley Rātā Village into 15 apartments. Residents started moving in in September 2025.
- Hosted the Minister of Housing Chris Bishop at the official launch of Pōhutukawa Apartments, another building project at Wesley Rātā Village to convert the former Strand rest home into 16 affordable rental apartments.
- Supported 27 vulnerable households to stay living in their rental homes through the Sustaining Tenancies programme.



"It's non-judgmental, nobody puts anyone down, we have discussions, that is a safe space here."  
- Porirua Wealth Pool member



## GOOD KAI

The focus of our kai work is on addressing the root causes of poverty-related hunger and working with others to build long-term, sustainable, positive change to the food system – powered by community to feed whānau while protecting our water, soil, air and climate. During the year we supported communities to get access to good kai in a range of ways:

- Supported 11 communities to distribute 58,218 packs of well-priced, good-quality fresh produce to people throughout Wellington through the Wellington Region Fruit and Vegetable Co-op. We co-ordinate the co-op in partnership with Te Whatu Ora / Health NZ.
- Developed a pilot programme called Local Harvest to connect Wellington communities with local growers and help build a stronger, more sustainable food system. Participants used an online platform called CoShop to order produce grown in Kapiti and Wellington. This was distributed through the Fruit and Vege Co-op's community-powered model.



- Established Grow Me!, a vege-growing initiative working with local residents and organisations to grow and distribute seedlings to home gardeners throughout the region using a community-supported agriculture model. The number of participants has increased with each planting season.
- Continued to provide emergency food parcels through our Community Pantry in Cannons Creek.
- Continued to partner with the Wellington Eastern Suburbs Foodbank to provide a regular food cupboard at Te Pae Urungi in Miramar.
- Supported six community groups on their journey to making amazing biology-rich compost.
- Supported community māra (gardens) on our properties in Cannons Creek, Waitangirua and Naenae.



## A HEALTHY NATURAL ENVIRONMENT

We believe that doing what we can to be kaitiaki for the environment and to counteract climate change fits with our kaupapa as an organisation committed to building and sustaining healthy systems.

### During the year we:

- Continued measuring our carbon emissions and waste levels and working towards reducing them.
- Diverted 1193 kg of waste from landfill through a composting hub at Wesley Rātā Village and another 750 kg at Wesley House in Cannons Creek.



- Reduced electricity use dramatically at Wesley House thanks to solar panels on the roof.
- Took possession of our first electric vehicle with support from Hutt City Council's low-carbon acceleration fund.
- Facilitated quarterly hui of the Ngahere Korowai collective, a collaboration between our Mens Group and other organisations to plant the bare hills behind Porirua East with native trees. We also supported the Mens Group to deliver presentations about Ngahere Korowai to various groups and members started connecting with other sanctuaries around the country. They also carried out water testing and embarked on a new pest-trapping project.

### During the year we also:

- Undertook the difficult process of reducing our Family Start team from 10.75 to 4 following a cut in government funding. Staff showed great resilience and grace during this process.
- Successfully tendered to run a new programme, Whānau Ora, based in Porirua. Whānau Ora is a whānau-centred approach that empowers whānau to achieve their goals by placing them at the forefront of decision-making for their own well-being and future.
- Continued to provide backbone support to New Zealand P-Pull, a national movement of people working together to lead the way to a methamphetamine-free future. This included translating the NZ P-Pull 'bible', Methy Business, into Samoan and delivering 600 copies to Samoa, along with 1000 copies of Samoan-language versions of NZ P-Pull brochures.

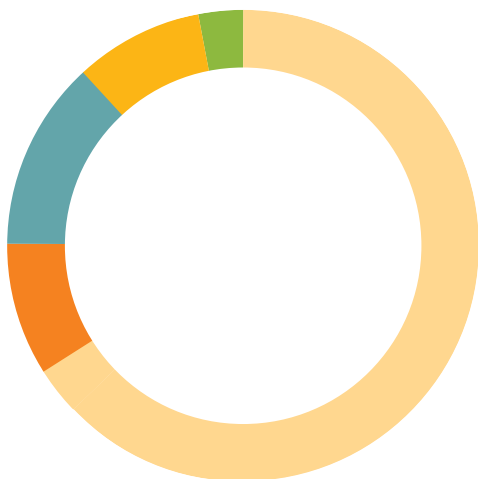
- Used funding from an initiative called Resilience to Organised Crime in Community to support activities in several programmes including TRTR, Broject and NZ P-Pull. ROCC is a partnership between iwi, police, health providers and community agencies to address the impact of drugs and alcohol, family harm and offending behaviours.
- Continued to provide backbone support to Common Ground, an initiative that builds community connection which is based at Walter Nash Park in Taita.
- Through Te Hiko, our centre for community innovation, we continued to facilitate community conversations and learning including:
  - Just Change, a learning circle of doers and doners coming together to address inequality and think differently about philanthropic funding.
  - Porirua Assembly on Climate: We worked with Ngāti Toa Rangatira to support them to carry out this groundbreaking example of deliberative democracy, with our Te Hiko Practice Lead Makerita Makapelu co-facilitating the assembly hui.
  - Tē Pātē Kaitiaki group: We facilitate this group of local leaders who are collaborating to activate a community-run space in the heart of Cannons Creek.
  - Te Hiko learning network: Twice a year we bring together people who are working on community-led changemaking across the region to learn and connect together.



**Te Hiko**

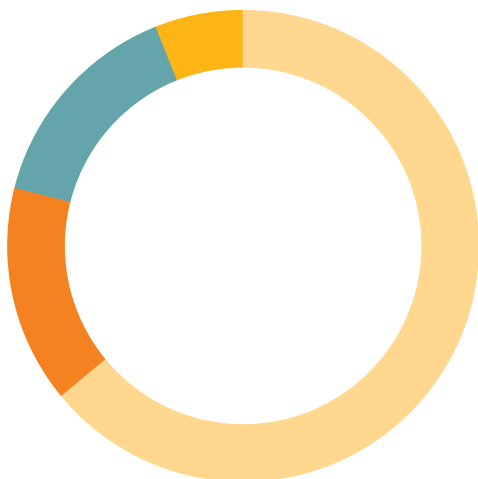
Centre for  
Community Innovation

# FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE



## WHERE OUR REVENUE OF \$8.99M CAME FROM

	%	\$m
Fees and services	66	5.89
Rent income	9	0.82
Grants, bequests and donations	13	1.16
Interest revenue	9	0.82
Government grants: rent subsidies	3	0.30



## WHERE OUR EXPENSES OF \$8.25M WERE USED

	%	\$m
Employee-related costs	64	5.24
Operating and administration	15	1.25
Occupancy (leases, power, insurance rates, maintenance)	15	1.24
Depreciation	6	0.52

The income and expenses costs shown on this page have been taken from the full audited financial statements of Wesley Community Action for the year ended 30 June 2025.

Copies of the full financial statements are available from Wesley Community Action.

**Many thanks to the organisations that funded our work in 2024-2025:**

Board of the Wellington Methodist Charitable and Educational Endowments Trust	Porirua City Council
Clare Foundation	St Joan's Trust
Hutt City Council	Te Nukuao Wellington Zoo Local Conservation Grants
JR McKenzie Trust	Tindall Foundation
Mas Foundation	Todd Foundation
Methodist Church of New Zealand/ Te Haahi Weteriana O Aotearoa	Transpower Community Care Fund
Nikau Foundation	Wellington City Council
Nuku Ora	Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust
NZ Lotteries Grants Board	WWF Community Conservation Fund

**Thank you to everyone who made individual donations during the year. Your generosity is much appreciated.**

**Thanks also to the Just Change team of donors who donated both money and time to deepen our understanding about how we effect change.**

Special thanks to MinterEllisonRuddWatts who provide free legal services to kaumātua involved with Te Waka Haumarū, our Older Persons Team, setting up Enduring Power of Attorney for those who cannot afford to pay for them.



Wesley  
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A member of the Methodist Alliance 