



2024 ANNUAL REVIEW

THE TODD FOUNDATION

An inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand
where all families, children and young
people can thrive and contribute.

Whakawhāiti Aotearoa,
hei oranga wairua,
oranga tāngata.



2024 OVERVIEW

Tēnā koutou katoa

2024 marked a significant transition for the Todd Foundation Board as we farewelled long-standing Trustee and Chair, Rebecca Turner.

Rebecca served on the Todd Foundation Board for nine years, the last four as Chair of the Foundation, providing thoughtful and principled leadership. We acknowledge her with sincere thanks and gratitude. We also welcomed Pip McCarroll, a new family Trustee, to our Board.

In 2024, we evolved our governance structure by disestablishing the Foundation's Investment Committee. This decision reflects a broader commitment from all Trustees to be more directly involved in the Foundation's financial stewardship and to ensure that financial decision-making is aligned closely with our charitable purpose and strategic goals. Our Trustees continue to step up and serve the Foundation Board through their time, continued learning and representing the Foundation in the community. We are grateful for their time and dedication.

After having a smaller donations budget in 2023, we were pleased to be able to have an increase in 2024. Our donations budget was focused on supporting our long-term community partners through funding renewals, one-off donations, and professional development funding to sustain and grow their work.

While traditional funding rounds are behind us, we continued to listen



to what was happening in the community and used a small portion of our funding to respond.

This year also saw us come together in Ōtautahi, Christchurch, for our Kaikōkiri Community Partner Hui, which helped spark a new systems change collective. This review features stories about two of our community partners, DECA and Inclusive Aotearoa and the positive impact they are having in our communities.

As we head into 2025, we are conscious of the economic pressures many New Zealand families and communities are experiencing. We'll continue our commitment to addressing the root causes of poverty, working towards our long-standing vision of an inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand where all families, children and young people can thrive and contribute. Whakawhāiti Aotearoa, hei oraŋa wairua, oraŋa tāngata.

As a final note, we would also like to acknowledge the passing of Malcolm Whyte, former Trustee and Chair of the Foundation. Malcolm was a kind-hearted and supportive leader, and we are grateful for his contribution to the Foundation.

We hope you enjoy reading this year's review.

Ngā mihi maioha,

C. Sellar

Charlotte Sellar
Chair

S. Fantham

Seumas Fantham
Executive Director





2024 FUNDING

AT A GLANCE

\$2.7m

Total 2024 donation commitments made

\$43,635

Average annual donation size (range \$1,050 to \$200,000)

\$557,022

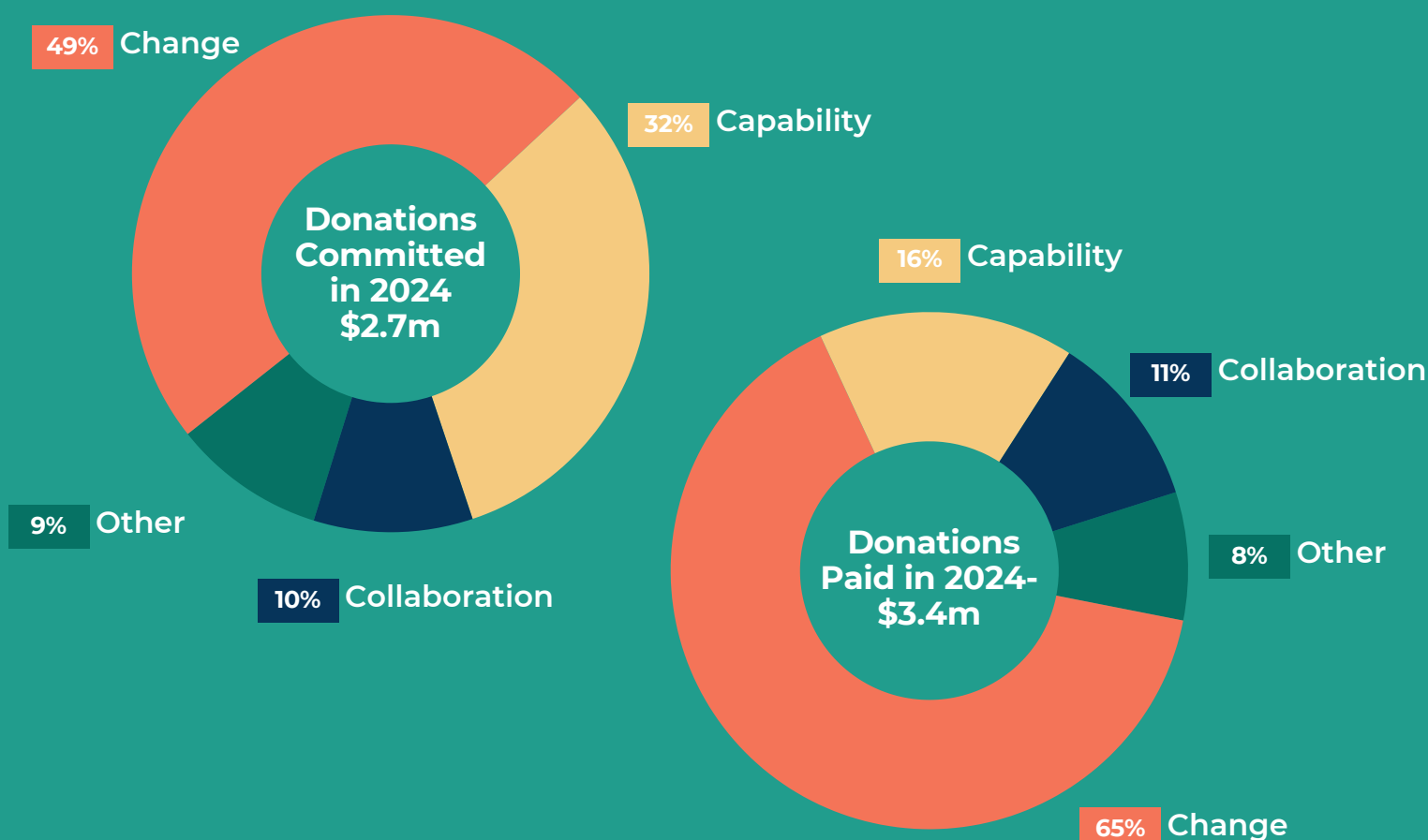
2024 operating costs

\$3.4m

Total donations paid (includes commitments made in previous years)

61%

Multi-year donations





DIGITAL EQUITY COALITION OF AOTEAROA GETTING ONLINE TO HELP OUR RANGATAHI GET AHEAD

An internet connection is something many of us take for granted, but for 130,000 households without internet access, being excluded from the digital world is a very real problem. Nearly everything required to be included in society today is online – applying for jobs, participating in education and accessing government services – these are just some things that are hard to do without an internet connection and access to technology.

The Todd Foundation has supported the Digital Equity Coalition of Aotearoa (DECA) since the idea was first floated at a digital call held by Internet New Zealand during the COVID-19 lockdowns in 2020. This diverse coalition shines a light on digital inclusion initiatives, identifies gaps, advocates, connects and creates space for collaboration and innovation. Todd Foundation Executive Director Seumas Fantham says, “The Foundation were involved right from the start and added some systemic change thinking from our experience with the Driving Change project to help kickstart the shape of DECA.”



DECA co-chair Kris Dempster-Rivett says that if people are to be included in society in this digital age, they require an appropriate device, an uncapped internet connection, and the skills necessary to function in the digital world. But DECA's recent [Affordable Connectivity Report](#), showed that many New Zealand households can't afford internet access or individual access to a reliable device. This digital divide is becoming deeper as the cost-of-living crisis grows, meaning more digitally excluded people cannot effectively participate in our society, democracy and economy.

The impact of the digital equity initiatives that DECA supports on young people can mean the difference between accessing crucial services and information and being left behind. A recent project by DECA, in collaboration with the Government, connected youth in Auckland and families on the West Coast of the South Island with the Government's Zero Data Portal offering, which meant anyone could access a portal providing free access to essential websites, covering everything from

health support to school resources, on mobile devices without using any data.

An eighteen-year-old in West Auckland who was part of this community initiative said, "Zero.govt.nz allowed me to view important information using my mobile phone anytime, anywhere. One perfect example is the information provided about StudyLink.

As a Year 13 student planning to go to university, I know that StudyLink is quite a long process, and you need a very good understanding before applying. [Zero.govt.nz](#) has provided me with enough information to successfully apply for StudyLink, which will contribute to my studies for next year."

"The Todd Foundation was instrumental in establishing DECA in 2020," Kris says. "The funding and continuing expertise provided by the Todd Foundation means we can focus on being a hub for the digital inclusion community, supporting and advising these kinds of grassroots causes working to serve communities and families impacted the most by the digital divide."





SHARING OUR FUNDING PRACTICE

RESPONDING TO A SHIFTING LANDSCAPE

In 2018, the Todd Foundation stopped having contestable funding rounds.

We made a bold shift to fund pro actively, meaning staff now spend their time seeking things to fund that connect to achieving our strategy. This has meant larger grants to fewer groups and prioritisation of high-trust, longer-term relationships when it comes to how we fund.

But this shift didn't mean we stopped responding to community needs when they arose. In fact, staying connected to what's important and changing in Aotearoa's communities is more vital for us now than ever.

Having grant rounds open is the way most funders listen to community need – so the Todd Foundation has had to stay listening in new ways. We research and provide regular landscape updates to Trustees, we go to more community-led events, we have deeper relationships with our funding peers and the communities we serve, we have relevant media alerts set up, and we survey and convene those we fund.

We usually spotlight our largest grants, change funding partners, and capability funding decisions in our stories, so this year, we thought we'd take a moment to spotlight some of our smaller, more responsive funding decisions



2024 was a big year for change and unrest in Aotearoa. So what did we fund in response to Aotearoa's shifting landscape?

- Social cohesion, or community connectedness and collective well-being is an area of increasing interest and relevance for Aotearoa. In 2024, we did some exploratory funding in this space. We contributed funding to the [Social Cohesion in New Zealand 2024 Report](#) and to a [collective pool of funding](#) for social cohesion work held by the Gift Trust.
- In July 2024, the Abuse in Care Royal Commission of Inquiry reported to the Governor-General, presented to Parliament, and made its [final report](#) available to the public. Five years of investigations and 3000 survivor accounts contributed to this report, and a crown apology was delivered in November 2024. We wanted to respond in a small way, and found [an organisation](#) led by survivors for survivors with ongoing wānanga plans to contribute funding to; as well as providing a small co-funding contribution to [TE4CL](#), an initiative led by state care leavers which aims to support more care experienced rangatahi into tertiary education.
- The Understanding Police Delivery Independent Panel completed [their research](#) into how policing is delivered and collaborative philanthropic funding ensured the findings were published and disseminated.



- July 2024 saw the launch of the new standalone Social Investment Agency, with a social investment fund promised to follow in 2025. We funded a collaborative community-led project, spearheaded by Powerdigm to build the community sector's capability to better tell their stories of social impact to get ahead of this government funding adaptation.
- Finally, as funding for the community sector continues to fall, we opened an 'email us' professional development fund for our partners so that continual learning didn't get cut as budgets continue to tighten.

The Todd Foundation team always listens and notices what is happening in Aotearoa's shifting landscape. While responsive funding is not our main strategic focus, and this is only a small part of what we do, we're still proud to be a funder who listens and responds to the changing needs of Aotearoa's communities.



TODD FOUNDATION FUNDING STRATEGY

Our vision

An inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand where all families, children and young people can thrive and contribute.

Whakawhāiti Aotearoa, hei oranga wairua, oranga tāngata.

Guiding principles

These principles are a touchstone, underlying everything we do:

- Reducing exclusion and disadvantage
- Building inclusiveness
- Strengthening communities
- Mana Māori
- Respectful relationships
- Listening and learning



Our purpose

We resource communities to create sustainable, long-term social change for children, young people and families.

We provide funding that supports:

- Collective and system-focused solutions
- Genuine, inclusive community ownership and leadership
- Evidence-informed models and innovation
- Measuring what matters, understanding what works

Our way



We fund co-ordinated, community-led action for change in selected focus areas. Our current focus area is 'Fairer Futures for children and whānau'.



We practise and incentivise collaboration through pro-active, strategic alliances with other funders.



We fund key organisations providing important capability support to the community sector.



INCLUSIVE AOTEAROA TĀHANO BUILDING BELONGING

It's been six years since the Mosque attacks in Christchurch in March of 2019 which horrified the nation and solidified for Anjum Rahman that there needed to be a better way for fighting racism and discrimination.

At that time, organisations and projects committed to combating hate in all its forms existed all around the country, but they were siloed in their areas of advocacy and there was no structure to share learning about effective approaches to countering prejudice. Most importantly, there seemed to be limited power and agency for the people actually affected by discrimination to contribute significantly to a response to the issues they faced.

So that year Anjum launched Inclusive Aotearoa Collective Tāhono, a project that convenes and supports cross-sector community efforts to improve belonging and inclusion across the country. To counter discrimination in Aotearoa, the project identified the need for a national strategy for diversity and inclusion.

With the help of a partnership with the Todd Foundation and other funders, Tāhono set out across the country holding 'belonging conversations' with diverse groups of people, and the result of these conversations now contribute to the research report '[A community-based national strategy for diversity and inclusion](#)'.

The implementation of this research is a work in progress, says Anjum, and the findings have been made available to the public, institutions, and government agencies, providing an evidence base to focus their work on.

“For us to learn how to improve inclusivity in Aotearoa, we had to understand what it feels like to belong. We asked people three questions”, said Anjum. “When do they feel like they belong, what stops them feeling like they belong, and what needs to change for them to feel like they belong?”

She says that it was clear from these conversations that sharing stories can be really healing for people, and this continues to be something the collective sees through their ongoing workshops to a wide range of groups around bridging cultures, Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and diversity and inclusion.

“You can feel the electricity in the room as people’s world view is shifted during the course of a day”.

The conversations can be tough, but the workshops are a non-judgmental space where people can feel heard. Anjum says that hitting those empathy points in people is what builds the motivation for them to make a shift with beliefs and bias that might have been driving their thinking and contributing to discrimination.



The project, Tāhono now supports a wide range of cross-sector communities enhancing the inclusion of people of different ethnic and socio-economic backgrounds, religious beliefs, sexual identities or disability status, as well as delivering workshops, and offering advisory services. Their mission is to build a social movement across the country of people, organisations and communities committed to working together to build a socially inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand.

From the initial funding from the Todd Foundation in 2019 after the attacks which helped them to get organised, to their ongoing support of the systems change projects underway now, the partnership feels like a collaborative relationship built on trust to Anjum. “The understanding and empathy from the Todd Foundation team helps the Tāhono to just focus on giving our energy to the mahi. It takes a lot of pressure off”.



“The understanding and empathy from the Todd Foundation team helps the Tāhono to just focus on giving our energy to the mahi. It takes a lot of pressure off”.



WHO WE FUNDED



In 2024 we made the following new donation commitments totalling \$2.7 million.



Change

- [E Tipu E Rea Whānau Services](#) | \$70,000
- [Leadership Lab Foundation](#) | \$240,000
- [Manaaki Rangatahi](#) | \$200,000
- [Seeds for Change](#) | \$20,070
- [Social Cohesion Fund \(Fundholder The Gift Trust\)](#) | \$100,000
- [Support and Systems-Change Solidarity Group \(SASS\) \(Fundholder Shama Ethnic Women's Centre Trust\)](#) | \$5,000
- [The Gift Trust \(Social Cohesion exploration\)](#) | \$15,000
- [The Tairāwhiti Innovation Collective \(Fundholder Tāiki e!\)](#) | \$450,000
- [Tuanui Wainuiomata Healthy Homes for All \(Fundholder Tu Kotahi Māori Asthma and Research Trust\)](#) | \$150,000
- [Wellbeing Economy Alliance Aotearoa Charitable Trust](#) | \$50,000
- [Youth Employability Aotearoa \(Fundholder REAP Aotearoa\)](#) | \$20,000



Capability

- Child Poverty Action Group | \$90,000
- Community Research Trust | \$75,000
- Hui E! Community Aotearoa | \$110,000
- Inspiring Communities | \$300,000
- Pasifika Funders Network (Fundholder PNZ) | \$75,000
- Philanthropy New Zealand | \$60,000
- Te Kāhui Pūmanawa (Fundholder PNZ) | \$100,000
- Youth in Philanthropy (Fundholder PNZ) | \$45,000



Collaboration

- Auraki | \$20,000
- Kootuitui ki Papakura | \$150,000
- Te Reanga Ipurangi Ōtaki Education Trust | \$5,000
- Weave | \$100,000



Other

- Community Partner Professional Development and Community Partner Hui | note this was a programme delivered by the Todd Foundation for all multiyear community partners | \$74,551
- Hui E! Community Aotearoa | \$10,000
- Independent Panel Report on Understanding Police Delivery (Fundholder Community Research) | \$10,000
- Inspiring Communities - Paradigm Research Project on Social Impact | \$30,000
- New Zealand Collective of Abused in State Care Charitable Trust | \$10,000
- TE4CL (Tertiary Education for Care Leavers) | \$30,000
- Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa (Fundholder The Gift Trust) | \$10,000
- Te Mauri Tau | \$25,000
- Young Enterprise Trust (Sir John Todd memorial grant) | \$60,000



RIPPLES CONTINUE TO GROW FROM THE KAIKŌKIRI COMMUNITY PARTNERS HUI

Ripples continue to grow from the Kaikōkiri Community Partners Hui

As relationship-focussed funders, we recognise that our community partners are experts and leaders in their fields. By offering them opportunities to connect and learn from one another, we can witness the ripple effects of their work, creating impacts and changes that extend far beyond our own efforts.

We saw this play out in 2024, when we collaborated with our community partners and the J R McKenzie Trust to co-design a hui. The goal was to create a space for our kaikōkiri (leaders) in the systems change and community sector to connect with others on a similar journey and share insights on better serving their communities.

The co-design team hoped to generate momentum to create opportunities for building sustainable networks, foster indigenous and community storytelling, and formalise leadership pathways that strengthen communities.

The Kaikōkiri Community Partners Hui was held in Ōtautahi Christchurch on 14-15 October, with 35 community groups from the Todd Foundation and the J R McKenzie Trust attending. The hui included recognition of the city's history and people, reflection on its growth since the earthquakes, and discussion of various other challenges it has faced. We were reminded of our connection to Christchurch providing funds for the earthquake recovery in 2011, including a \$1m youth-led grant that helped establish the [4C Centre](#) right in the heart of the city.



The sessions over the two-day hui were designed in 'unconference style', allowing time for authentic engagement and deliberate network-building. Each day also included educational sessions, a highlight being a session on butterfly leadership by our Ōtautahi local community partners Leadership Lab.

Feedback from the community partners all mentioned the connections as a valuable takeaway from the hui. Tric Malcolm of Kore Hiakai said, "I see the new relationships and reconnecting with existing ones as an absolute win! Thank you for this opportunity — both to give feedback and to participate in the whole experience. I am grateful for the way both Todd and J R intentionally foster relationships, listen deeply, and strive to do philanthropy in ways that empower the kaupapa of those they fund."

The ripples we set in motion from the connections made between change makers at the hui are still growing wider and overlapping in ways we never imagined. One outcome was the formation of the Collective Change Aotearoa network group, which last month launched Hapori, a digital community space for systems changemakers to connect, share knowledge, and support each other.





Another ripple can be found in Access Matter's Project Manager Juliana joining Inclusive Aotearoa's Tāhono Media working group. Tāhono Media is a cross-sectoral group of advocates, working together to improve media representation for under-represented communities, and Juliana brings a strong accessibility voice

to this diverse table. This is a lovely example of a connection bridging between the two host funders.

We hope to enable this event to take place again in 2026, ensuring we set in motion more ripples created by Kaikōkiri coming together in person.



HOW WE FUND

We want to support real change in communities, reduce time spent on funding proposals and reporting, and promote collaboration rather than competition. For these reasons we don't run grant rounds or accept pitches from individuals or organisations. Instead we pro-actively seek out communities, groups and collectives to partner with in our three main funding streams: change, collaboration and capability.



CHANGE



COLLABORATION



CAPABILITY

OUR PURPOSE

The Todd Foundation continues a family legacy of generosity. As a family foundation we have the opportunity to stick to long-term plans for change, to be strategic, to be flexible and to take calculated risks. The Todd Foundation was formed in 1972 to formalise and bring together the families' existing giving and exists to provide funds for charitable purposes. Our activities continuously evolve in response to community needs, with a strong focus on supporting the well-being of children, young people, their families and communities..



OUR TRUSTEES



Charlotte Sellar
Chair



Pip McCarroll



Allanah Hare



Charles Reid



Lee Cooper



Pam Davidson



Vaughan Renner



Katie Milne

OUR STAFF



Seumas Fantham
Executive Director



Sara Ware



Helen Anderson



Susie Schwartz