annual report

2024 – 2025

Rape Prevention Education

Whakatū Mauri Trust

Our Vision

Aotearoa is free from sexual violence, coercion and harm.

Our Values

Our core values are endorsed and practiced by our board, staff and volunteers.

Professional

Compassionate

Innovative

Balanced

Courageous

Our Pou

Manaakitanga

We work to strengthen, empower and educate people and communities to demonstrate responsible stewardship in all aspects of our mahi.

Whanaungatanga

We establish, nurture and maintain equitable, safe, respectful, reciprocal relationships.

Āhurutanga

We create and cultivate a culture of safety for people of all sexualities, gender identities, ethnicities, religious beliefs, abilities and culture.

Mahitahi

We work collaboratively to eliminate sexual violence in Aotearoa.

We are commmitted to TE TIRITI O WAITANGI *and our identified pou of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, ahurutanga and mahitahi*

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Chair's Report

Melissa Fergusson

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Rape Prevention Education continues to play a vital role in creating safer communities through education, advocacy, and collaboration. The prevalence of sexual harm remains a confronting reality in Aotearoa, and the need for prevention-focused education has never been greater.

This year, we acknowledge and thank our Executive Director, Debbi Tohill, who has led RPE with vision and commitment for the past 10 years and will step down in July 2025. Debbi's leadership has shaped the organisation's direction and strengthened its voice in prevention education. The Board began the recruitment process for RPE's next leader in June 2025 to ensure a smooth transition following Debbi's departure. We also thank Chillion Sanerivi for his valuable contribution as Treasurer and acknowledge his service as he recently stepped down from the Board. It's a pleasure to welcome Anne-Marie Parsons, who joined the board in March 2025.

As a Board, our focus this year has been on ensuring RPE's long-term sustainability. We have reviewed governance practices, strengthened financial oversight, and supported management in exploring new funding and partnership opportunities. We continue to be inspired by the dedication of our staff and volunteers, who deliver RPE's services with professionalism and care despite the ongoing funding and resource pressures faced across the sector.

The year ahead will bring both challenges and opportunities. We remain committed to advocating for greater investment in prevention and to ensure that RPE's work continues to influence policy across Aotearoa.

On behalf of the Board, I extend heartfelt thanks to our Executive Director, staff, volunteers, and supporters. I also acknowledge my fellow Board members - Deputy Chair Nalini Dutt, Anne-Marie Parsons, Cathy MacKenzie, Charlotte Trevella, Dr Emma Barker Clarke, and Siobhan Patia for their commitment and guidance, and our funders and community partners for their continued trust and support.

Together, we continue to work toward communities across Aotearoa where all people can enjoy respectful relationships free from sexual violence, coercion, and harm.

Melissa Fergusson,

Chair

Executive Director's Report

Debbi Tohill

It is with mixed feelings that I write my final Annual Report for RPE as I leave in July.

As I reflect on the past year, it has felt like a year full of challenges and less opportunities than usual. The change in government has signalled a new direction, with many organisations losing funding due to government reprioritisation. We have been fortunate to retain our contracts with Te Whatu Ora and Oranga Tamariki but we have been affected by significant challenges in philanthropic funding and gaining new opportunities which have sustained us in the past. We are fortunate to have good reserves which will keep the organisation buoyant in this difficult time.

Demand for BodySafe continues and the revived programme is getting excellent feedback. A key area of focus this year has been responding to the removal of the Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) guidelines which were removed by the Coalition government in December 2024. We were interviewed by the Education Review Office and have given feedback on the new draft guidelines, alongside many of our partners.

I would like to express thanks to all who contribute to RPE's work from our casual educators, committed staff and Leadership team and our volunteer Board. With a refreshed board I am excited to see RPE's future direction. I know that our work makes a difference to all that we work with, whether it is a Year 10 student learning about consent for the first time to community workers keen to explore how their attitudes and beliefs can contribute to creating safe cultures for their communities. I know that RPE will remain committed to eliminating sexual violence in our communities and look forward to seeing its development over the coming years.

Thank you to everyone who has supported me in my time at RPE.

Ngā mihi nui,

Debbi Tohill,

Executive Director

Goal One

We lead and contribute to the prevention of sexual violence with advocacy and awareness raising

RPE has actively contributed to and/or attended national and local initiatives:

Meetings with the Minister for Prevention of Family and Sexual Violence, **Hon Karen Chhour**.

Meetings with Labour's spokesperson for Family and Sexual Violence, **Helen White**.

We were **interviewed by the Education Review Office** as part of the consultation for the redevelopment of the Relationship and Sexuality Education (RSE) Guidelines.

We have actively **contributed to submissions on the Relationship and Sexuality Education Guidelines** which were withdrawn from the Coalition government at the end of December 2024. As well as our own submissions, RPE contributed to joint submissions with Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa and Auckland Womens Coalition for Family and Sexual Violence as well as contributing to others. We took part in a session with ECPAT's Communities of Learning.

We attended the **launch of the Second Te Aorerekura Action Plan 2025-2030** and contributed to discussions during the consultation and development process.

We **contributed to a panel for University of Auckland's Centre for Arts and Social Transformation** on Ying Wang's research on young Asians accessing sexual violence services.

The Executive Director was the **Sexual Violence Prevention representative for Auckland Women's Coalition for Family & Sexual Violence** and **represented the Coalition on Netsafe's group.**

The Executive Director was the **Prevention Portfolio** holder on Te Ohaakii a Hine – National Networking Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST) and chairs monthly meetings for the Prevention sector.

The Programme Development Lead is an **active member of the Rainbow Violence Prevention Network (RVPN)** working collaboratively with Rainbow and Violence prevention organisations and dedicated individuals around Aotearoa.

RPE is active in **sector interagency meetings** with a range of providers of sexual health information in Auckland. These include Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa (formerly Family Planning), Burnett Foundation (formerly NZ Aids Foundation), Village Collective, Te Kaha o Te Rangatahi Trust, Auckland Sexual Health Service, Rainbow Youth, the Light Project and others. **Joint training or network meetings** are held for our teams during school holidays and are fantastic opportunities for the teams to learn from each other. Managers of these organisations also meet to **share sector knowledge and expertise**.

The Executive Director is the **Chair of Project Restore** who provide restorative justice for survivors of sexual violence.

We **supported several students doing their Degrees, Master's or PhDs in sexual violence prevention**, schools education programmes and related topics.

We **contributed to a project with the Helen Clark Foundation**, funded by the Clare Foundation, **addressing gaps in legal and policy framework governing sexual violence in New Zealand**.

Several staff **attended and presented at TOAH-NNEST's conference Te Tāmata Tipu Sexual Violence Conference 2024** with staff presenting on Our Night Wise project, Rainbow Best Practice Guidelines and participating in panel discussion.

We **presented to the United Nations women's group** in New Zealand

We **co-presented one of ACC's Learning over Lunch seminars**, with Lesley-Ann Guild representing the RVPN on Primary Prevention In Action from a rainbow perspective.

We **attended the national Strangulation, Choking and Rough Sex seminar** hosted by the University of Victoria including take part in the Youth Panel.

We did **regular media interviews, and provided advice and consultation**.

Goal Two

We support organisations to embed sexual violence prevention practices with professional training and development

Cross-sector collaboration remained a key driver of equity and scale. Partnerships with health, justice, education, NGOs, and media supported our broader prevention goals.

We continue delivery of sexual violence prevention workshops to University of Auckland to staff, resident advisors and student leads as part of their Cultures of Consent action plan.

- Our presenter was awesome. Sensitive and engaging. Thank you for this, it was very beneficial, and I believe it will help my club and me personally.
- Awesome workshop, insightful for all levels of knowledge on sexual harm/ violence, engaging, relevant and key learning.
- I thought the workshop was valuable and loved the delivery.
- The content was presented well (tough, topic, the group discussion wasn't awkward) and provided actionable insights that guides the policies we will implement. I would bring close friends, partners, to this training.
- Love the workshop. It's helpful!

We delivered two workshops to the Medical Council's Professional Conduct Committee members.

"Thank you for your session. It was spot on and really helpful"

Rape Awareness Week – We partnered with HELP's Dear Em programme to present a panel discussing the prevelance of rape culture in New Zealand, and what people can do about it.

We were an expert voice on the Ministry of Social Development's Love Creep campaign across three different campaigns; MaiFM's (MediaWorks) 10x week radio campaign answering listener questions about (un)healthy relationship, influencer Cam Mansel's three part online discussion series about relationships, and MSD's primary Love Creep social media campaign providing expert analysis on 'love creep' patterns.

We attended a performance in the Tautoko Mai Prima Facie Tour and took part in the after show panel with Cassandra Woodhouse and Alison Mau.

We organised and attended interagency meetings with other organisations including Te Kaha o Te Rangatahi, Auckland Sexual Health Services, Burnett Foundation, Help Auckland Dear Em, STIEF, Village Collective, Positive Women.

Professional development trainings on sexual violence prevention and dealing with disclosures have been provided to many organisations including:

- Midlands Sexual Assaualt Services
- University of Auckland medical students
- Whangarei Rape Crisis,
- Te Rito Womens Centre
- North Shore Womens Centre
- University of Waikato

Quotes from participants:

"Presented by a skilled trainer with years of expertise, knowledge heart and wisdom. Found this both an excellent refresher and added more knowledge and wisdom. Fantastic facilitator and discussions."

"I found the workshop interesting and challenging at the same time, I found the discussion time useful and found the time went by so quickly. I felt safe to share my thoughts and wonderings on the topics presented."

"We have already allocated a child protection lead within our school and set up a clear structure for disclosures (this was not there before)."

Goal Three

We are innovative in developing current and new workstreams to secure opportunities for our sustainability

As the Government's National Strategy for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Te Aorerekura beds in and the second National Action Plan was released in December 2024, RPE has been eager to take up new opportunities to grow and develop current and new workstreams. We look forward to the outcome from the review of ACC's Hikitia project and roll-over in 2027.

We have continued our partnership with Shine to deliver workshops to frontline court staff. Our two Lead educators are accredited by Shine to deliver these workshops. They have delivered workshops in Auckland and regional areas. They have delivered workshops in Auckland and regional areas.

RPE is continuously working towards building new workstreams for future sustainability.

ACTIVITY	2024 # of people	2025 # of people
Delivery of BodySafe Programme to secondary schools	4489	3856
Delivery of BodySafe Alternative Education Centres/Teen Parent Units	394	311
Delivery of Professional Education Programmes	509	955
Delivery of Programmes in Tertiary settings	636	512
Information & Referrals - Survivors	20	8
TOTAL	**6048**	**5642**

BODYSAFE TiakiTinana

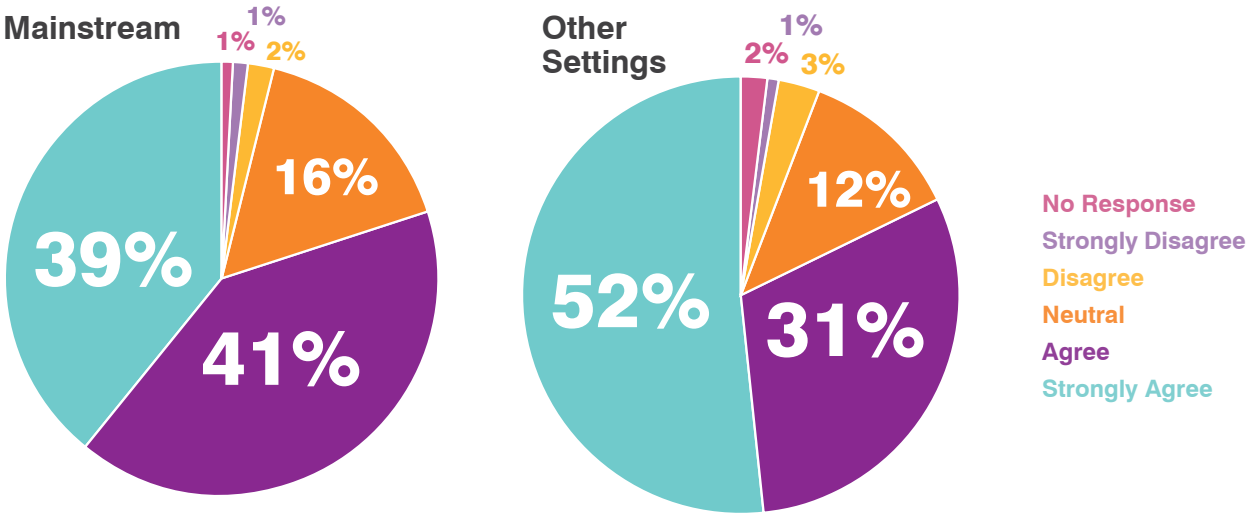
Our BodySafe Tiaki Tinana programme was updated to reflect feedback from a youth advisory group held in late 2024. New scenarios were introduced for 2025 addressing emerging topics of concern including; deep fake images, choking and stealthing (non-consensual condom removal).

We delivered BodySafe Tiaki Tinana in 17 schools and adapted versions of the programme in 4 learning support units, 12 alternative education settings and 5 parent groups.

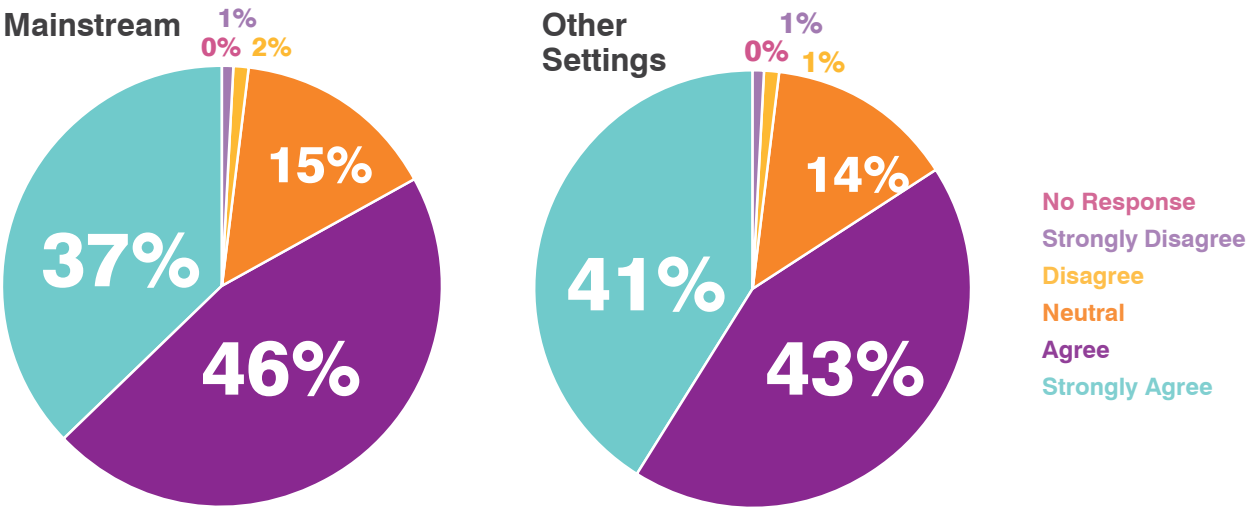
Feedback from students continues to be positive. Student voice through evaluation and focus groups tells us students value the opportunity to have conversations that are often not happening anywhere else in their lives. Common themes when students are asked about the most important thing they learned include; deeper understanding of consent, understanding their rights and what is and isn't okay, places to go for help, how to take action to help others and learning that they are not alone.

Some highlights of evaluation findings include:

I would recommend the BodySafe Tiaki Tinana programme to other students/schools:



I have learned skills that will help me behave respectfully in my relationships:



Voices of Our Stakeholders

BodySafe School Staff

Thank you for allowing the students access to this support. I don't feel well trained in this area so it's a big help to us.

"Your programme teachers were awesome - students were engaged and activities and resources were at the appropriate level. Students got a lot out of this course – very important learning!"

You have created a really safe environment that allows students to opt in and out of the discussion. Very relatable and epic rapport with the students.

BodySafe Participants

It is ok to ask for help and it is never your fault.

"That talking about the stuff we learnt in BodySafe is normal and important to learn and talk about."

That as part of consent, it's alright to change your mind. I know 4 D strategy - direct, distract, delegate, and delay. I also know the 4 keys to consent - ask, listen, respect, check in. Also sexual harm is never your fault.

"That it is ok to say no and that I am not alone and that I should not feel bad about myself."

Alternative Education Staff

The facilitators are stars. Every session they build great rapport with students, making them feel at ease.

Alterative Education Participants

To understand what others are feeling, to respect their decisions. Giving consent and being respectful to others and their boundaries.

"There are people out there willing to help, to talk about the important stuff and these facilitators care."

How to help someone when they aren't safe and how to give good advice, be a good friend when they are comfortable enough to say something.

Young Parent Units

"To understand what others are feeling, to respect their decisions. Giving consent and being respectful to others and their boundaries."

There are people out there willing to help, to talk about the important stuff and these facilitators care.

"How to help someone when they aren't safe and how to give good advice, be a good friend when they are comfortable enough to say something."

Young Parent Units Participants

Body safe around our babies, keeping them safe, learning about their private parts, helping parents teach their kids that they have a voice. How much support we have.

BODYSAFE TiakiTinana

Goal Four

We ensure a safe, inclusive and learning environment for our staff

The RPE Board are an important part of the team, providing governance and oversight of our organisation. This year Melissa Fergusson has taken over the Chair role, after Laverne Robinson resigned. Many thanks to Laverne for her oversight and support in her time as board member and Chair. We would also like to acknowledge our Treasurer, Chillion Sanerivi who has resigned.

Upskilling our staff is very important and we have had regular internal and external trainings for our educators including:

- Understanding vicarious trauma, compassion fatigue and burn out.
- Relationality and working across cultures/differences.
- Communication, pre-briefing and de-briefing.
- Content updates after changes made on the advice of a youth advisory group including emerging issues such as deep fakes, stealthing and strangulation.
- Facilitation

Our Strategic Goals (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) include Kawanatanga/Governance, Tino Rangatira/Maori self-determination and Oritetanga/Equity. We are working towards ensuring that these goals are included in all our work, that we are developing relationships with Maori organisations and iwi and wherever possible, offering our services to support others. Staff training is an important part of our commitment to these goals.

We are grateful for the support of our government funders including Te Whatu Ora and Oranga Tamariki for their ongoing support of the BodySafe programme and enabling us to do wider community initiatives. We have been fortunate to retain these contracts as we move into the next financial year. We also acknowledge the huge support that we have received from philanthropic, community and gaming trusts to meet the increased demand of our BodySafe Programme for high decile schools.

We thank our Kaumatua, Papa Fred Hollaway and his wife Whaea Marlene for their ongoing support.

We thank you

Our Board

Chairperson
Melissa Fergusson

Treasurer
Chillion Sanerivi

Secretary
Charlotte Trevella

Other Board Members

Cathy Mackenzie
Nalini Dutt
Siobhan Patia
Emma Barker-Clarke
Anne-Marie Parsons *(joined March 2025)*

Our Staff

Staff

Executive Director,
Debbi Tohill

Operations Manager,
Ashiana Shah

Programme Development Lead,
Lesley-Ann Guild

Project Initiative Lead,
Hadley Taylor

Programme Coordinator,
Sera Elliott

Lead Educator,
Sylvia Bellingham

Lead Educator,
Jules Puckle

Educators

Renee Annan
Sam Bunkall
Christy Perkinson
Tashina Whaanga
Kirsty Cochrane
Daniel Goodwin
Ulysse Nicolo
Ngaio Simmons
Huiming Wu
Alistair Thomas
Jeanne Wilson
Lauren Carr-Harris
Maxine Gray
Millie Turton
Erica Ngin
Elena Beets

Our Funders

Aotearoa Gaming Trust

Auckland Council (Howick, Waiheke, Puketapapa, Upper Habour & Papakura Local Boards)

Auckland Council Albert Eden Accommodation Support

Department of Internal Affairs – Community Organisations Grants Scheme

Dragon Community Trust

Foundation North

Four Winds Foundation

John Illott Charitable Trust

Lottery Auckland Community

Oranga Tamariki

Presbyterian Support (Northen) Shine

Skycity Auckland Community Trust

The Potter Masonic Trust

The Lion Foundation

Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand

The North & South Trust Limited

The Trusts Community Foundation

Trillian Trust

University of Auckland

We Care Community Trust

Our Financials

FY25

Profit & Loss

Rape Prevention Education

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

$000's	
Total Income	695
Total Expenses	892
Net Profit	**(197)**

Balance Sheet

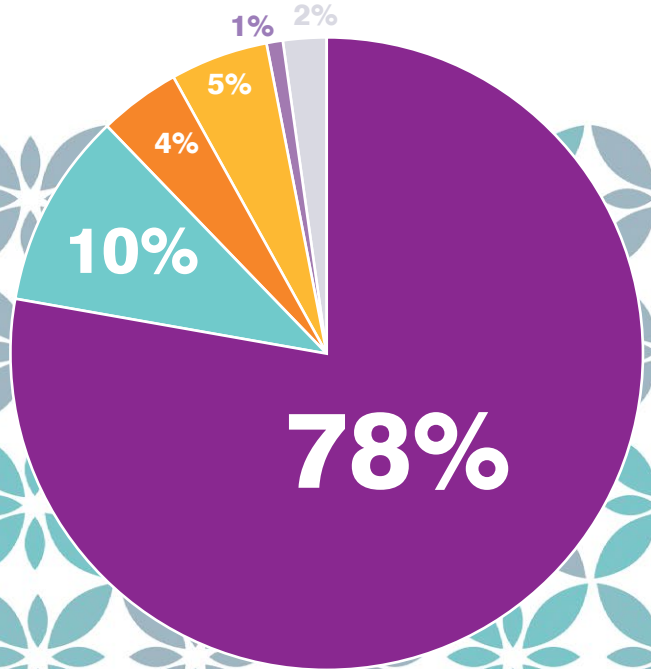
Rape Prevention Education

1 July 2024 – 30 June 2025

$000's	
Total Assets	390
Total Liabilities	(119)
Net Assets	**271**

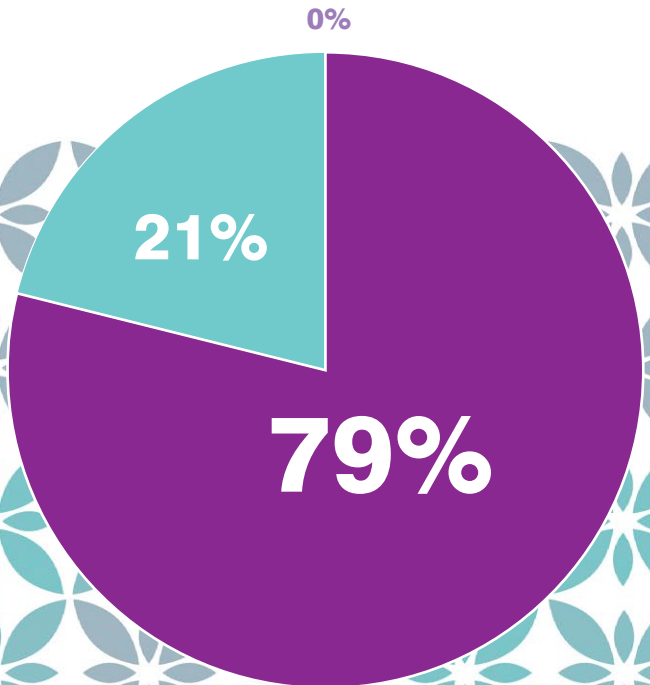
Income by category

- Government contracts
- Trust grants
- Training income
- Fee for Services
- Donations
- Other income



Expense by category

- Volunteer & employee cost
- Costs related to providing service
- Other expenses



Rape
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Whakatū Mauri Trust

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