

FOUNDATION

A THRIVING, INCLUSIVE  
& EQUITABLE TARANAKI

RESPONDING  
FOR OUR REGION  
REGIONAL RESEARCH REPORT  
2022



## OVERVIEW

Toi Foundation is a strategic grant maker, who proudly contributes towards better outcomes for present and future generations in the Taranaki region.

Like any organisation, we are always evolving to ensure we achieve the long-term, transformational social change we are striving for across the rohe.

We recently commissioned some research with Infometrics to help further inform future funding and investment decisions so that we can continue to enhance the lives of more people in our region by being responsive to changing community needs and aspirations.

Integrity is hugely important to us as an organisation and this recent independent research helps to ensure that we remain focused on meeting the greatest needs in the community as we strive to build a thriving, inclusive and equitable Taranaki.

This research provides us with clear direction on how we can be more impactful catalysts for change - collaborating and partnering with the organisations that are doing, or looking to do, great work in our region to address four key areas:

ENHANCED CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING

RANGATIRATANGA – EMPOWERING MĀORI ASPIRATIONS

IMPROVED ENVIRONMENT

INCREASED ACCESS TO OPPORTUNITIES

Toi Foundation will still have a strong, agile community support focus via our Strengthening Community Fund but in-order to improve the outcomes for all people in the region we will have a strategic, targeted, innovative, and collaborative philanthropic approach moving forward.

## KEY FINDINGS

The key findings in the research are well aligned to these focus areas with jobs, training, connectivity, health outcomes, Māori wellbeing, environment and more coordinated support in South Taranaki coming through as the areas for opportunity to fulfill our purpose of building a thriving, inclusive and equitable Taranaki.

<p><b>CIVIC ENGAGEMENT IN TARANAKI IS HIGH</b>, with strong election turnout, and a higher proportion than the national average volunteering. Higher rates of unpaid childcare in Taranaki are worth further investigation.</p>	<p><b>HEALTH OUTCOMES PRESENT CHALLENGES FOR THE REGION</b> with lower life expectancy, fewer GP visits, and the highest rate of avoidable hospitalisation in New Zealand. Access to healthcare appears to be a challenge.</p>	<p><b>HOUSING OUTCOMES ARE MIXED IN TARANAKI.</b> Home ownership is higher than the national average, and household crowding is lower. But affordability is worsening, housing needs are rising, and housing quality is of concern. Particularly in South Taranaki, where there is a need to enable greater levels of housing support, with substantial increases in the Housing Register.</p>
<p><b>AVERAGE DEPRIVATION IS HIGHER</b> in Taranaki than across the rest of New Zealand, with a slightly higher level of benefit dependency, a high but volatile Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) rate, and persistent unemployment reinforcing this trend.</p>	<p><b>CONNECTIVITY IS LOWER IN TARANAKI THAN OTHER PARTS OF THE COUNTRY</b>, with lower internet access, and a slightly smaller share of the population with a driver licence, which limits social mobility.</p>	<p><b>MĀORI OUTCOMES IN TARANAKI ARE ALSO MIXED</b>, with poorer housing, connectivity, mental health, and discrimination outcomes for Māori in the region. However, Māori in Taranaki report strong cultural outcomes, with positive rates of manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, and whānau support.</p>
<p><b>EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES IN TARANAKI REMAIN POSITIVE</b>, but still with room for improvement. Early childhood education participation is higher in Taranaki, but school leaver educational attainment, and tertiary education progression, could be improved to unlock further talent options for Taranaki.</p>		

We are very aware that many of the issues raised in the research are not unique to Taranaki, but we are privileged to be here, on the ground with strong relationships and purpose to create positive social change for our community, so we welcome the opportunity to help be part of the solution in our region.

## AREAS OF FOCUS

### Housing needs are rising.

Whilst home ownership in Taranaki is one of the highest across Aotearoa, the number of households on the Housing Register in Taranaki is rising – from 32 in March 2015 to 615 in March 2021.

South Taranaki continues to have the lowest home ownership rate in the region and it has fallen heavily since 2001. Māori are also adversely affected by low (and declining) home ownership rates.

Whilst Taranaki's housing affordability remains better than the national average, the ratio of incomes to house prices is has been steadily rising.

Housing quality data shows Taranaki houses are more likely to be damp and mouldy, compared to the national average. 18% of Taranaki houses were sometimes or always mouldy. Dampness sits at 21%.

### Higher rate of people looking after children in Taranaki.

Child support is an area for further investigation, with higher levels of unpaid childcare work potentially signalling barriers in this area.

In 2018, Taranaki had the second and fifth highest rates of unpaid work to look after a child not in their own household and a child in their household, respectively.

If barriers to childcare are understood, further support could be examined for families in Taranaki, enabling families to access childcare, and free up time for family members to undertake other pursuits in employment, or elsewhere in the community.

### South Taranaki requires a greater focus across the board, due to a range of concerning outcomes.

An integrated approach to supporting those in South Taranaki will be important to addressing interdependent issues.

Improved health outcomes are a key area to address to deliver better foundations.

### Mental health presentation is higher in the region than the national average.

Infometrics estimates show 5.3% of the local population accessed mental health support. This proportion was above the 4.8% rate recorded nationally, with the region showing the 6th highest rate of mental health need.

### Highest rate of avoidable hospitalisations.

Taranaki has the highest rate of ambulatory sensitive hospitalisations (ASHs) of all New Zealand regions. ASHs are avoidable hospitalisations that could have been prevented with earlier intervention, often through primary care.

20% of the region's population visited the ED, compared to 15% nationally and this number is rising.

Health Survey analysis also shows that there is a higher level of unmet need for primary healthcare in our region. 37% of the population in Taranaki had an unmet need, compared to 31% nationally.

### Support delivered by Māori organisations in Taranaki are likely to enable better outcomes, given strong manaakitanga, kaitiakitanga, and whānau support.

Focus is needed on Māori-centric approaches to housing access and models, alongside support for greater levels of Māori employment to reduce benefit needs.

We know there is no silver bullet to addressing the issues and needs that exist in the region, but we strongly believe that coordinated support and collaboration between central government, local government and local organisations and providers, like Toi Foundation and its partners is the best way to create the sustainable, long-term, intergenerational change we need and want in Taranaki.

### Unemployment rate persistently higher.

Continued support is required to assist those in Taranaki into employment, given persistent unemployment and room to improve education outcomes.

### Low rates of connectivity.

In an increasingly digital society, internet connectivity is rapidly becoming a necessity for employment, education, social and cultural connection.

Improved connectivity will reduce access challenges around digital exclusion and educational, employment, and social opportunities, and allow our region to remain linked into processes and change.

### Support needed to limit waste output and reduce emissions.

New Plymouth District recorded the highest waste diversion rate, with around 46% of generated waste being recycled. South Taranaki reported 34% of waste was diverted from landfill, with only 24% of Stratford waste recycled.

Statistics NZ regional greenhouse gas emissions estimates show Taranaki was the second most emissions intensive region in 2019. Although energy generation is part of Taranaki's carbon story, data shows that primary industries and manufacturing contributed 72% of the region's carbon emissions in 2019.

## WE'RE ALREADY MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Whilst the research identifies many shortfalls and gaps that need ongoing and increased support, it is important to acknowledge work that is already being done in our communities.

Here is a snapshot of grant recipients, who are providing programmes and services that meet the needs of our region.



RODERIQUE HOPE TRUST

Roderique Hope Trust provides transitional housing to those in need in the Taranaki region, with five properties in North Taranaki and two in South Taranaki. Families who are homeless, can come to stay in one of these properties for up to twelve weeks.

Michelle Ramage of Roderique Hope Trust says, "Providing emergency housing and support, gives whānau a chance to make a plan that is filled with hope. We're tailoring solutions to make sure families don't go without."

"We reached out to Toi Foundation when the need arose to replace a vehicle that was no longer fit-for-purpose, and funding has allowed us to purchase a van that we use to move furniture between properties, setting up each home up appropriately for the families that come to stay. The ability to pick up and drop off items that are donated, means the families in need don't go further into debt."



KIDSAFE TARANAKI

Kidsafe Taranaki has been running for over twenty years with a focus on prevention and reducing the risk of childhood injuries.

After noticing Taranaki had a higher rate of admissions to the Children's Ward of children injured in various accidents compared to the rest of the country, work began on what measures could be taken to reduce the number of injuries.

There are now a number of programmes in place, including education of young parents on household safety and changes that can be made to prevent injuries in the home. Most recently, Kidsafe has been involved in doing car seat installation and set up checks, ensuring children are restrained safely.

Paediatrician Dr Stephen Butler, Chairman of Kidsafe Taranaki explains, that "Analysis of data over a number of years shows the impact they are having, with a dramatic fall over the past 15 years. But we are still seeing children injured and there remains a need for us to do more. Funding enables Kidsafe to continue doing this important work in the community"

"Prevention should be the focus and does make a huge difference. If we can stop kids being injured, it is far better than treating the injuries once they occur."



KINDERGARTEN TARANAKI

With 24 learning centres across the region, Kindergarten Taranaki is providing early childhood education for over 1,100 children.

Kristina Forsberg, Facilities and Service Team Leader explains that, many of these education centres were designed in the 1950's and 60's, for two teachers, less children and a very different curriculum. "Grants from Toi Foundation are enabling Kindergarten Taranaki to take a structured approach to returning functionality to the region's kindergarten facilities."

Dawn Osman, Chief Executive for Kindergarten Taranaki talks about the extensive list of facility upgrades. "Bathroom facilities to improve sanitation and space for an increased number of children as well as catering for accessibility needs. Kitchens upgrades to better meet the needs of the teaching programme and food safety standards. Also heat pumps, so we can make spaces warmer, drier and healthy."

"We hope that these upgrades will give parents and caregivers confidence to leave their tamariki with us in functional, safe and hygienic learning environments"

These upgrades have a life span of 15 years. Over this time, many young people and their whānau will benefit.



#### WISE CHARITABLE TRUST

Paul Scouller of WISE Charitable Trust says the organisation has insulated over 15,000 homes since they began doing insulation around the Taranaki region.

“We’ve also created 500 jobs during that time as well. Sometimes we bring people off long-term unemployment and we put them through training and pathways. Some years ago when unemployment in Waitara was actually crippling, we were able to be a bit of a shining star in that space and create employment for local people. It’s just been fantastic over that time.”

WISE Charitable Trust applied for a grant from Toi Foundation because they know the need is great out in our community. “Prior to applying to the funding, our biggest challenge was the amount of people within our region that were living in cold, damp, mouldy homes. In South Taranaki, we see more of a need because the homes there are colder, damper, and have multiple issues. We can improve the health benefits of those homes through our insulation programme.”

“Toi Foundation support has enabled us to get out into the community, get into homes, insulate homes, and that’s just the start of making them a warmer, drier, healthier, happier place to live.”



#### TE ARANGA O TARANAKI

Te Aranga o Taranaki was born out of the Covid-19 2020 lockdown, to respond to the potential economic impacts that might result for Taranaki’s eight Iwi Post Settlement Governance Entities (PSGEs), and is focused on developing a Māori Housing Strategy for the region.

Emere Wano says, “It is about bringing the Maunga to life, and our people living around the Maunga, not just in urban environments. So that regardless of where people choose to live, they can do so in warm, dry, connected housing.”

“At the outset, one of the gaps we identified was how might we achieve this? How does this work take place working across the different PSGEs without gaps in knowledge?” Emere explains that they were working a lot on anecdotal information and assumptions. Finding a way to inform their work was important, and would enable strategic delivery.

Toi Foundation support has enabled Te Aranga o Taranaki to operationalise the collective data, and share of this evidence across nga iwi o Taranaki.

“A recent survey of housing tells us the affordability is a huge issue for our people. With the cost of rent rising and the availability of rental stock, also the changes in lending policies. Understanding where our people are at, and what these issues are, means we can make a Taranaki Māori Housing Strategy that can inform in an evidence based way.” says Wano. “We can put the infrastructure in place that allows people to live and thrive where they want to be.”



#### MB3

MB3’s focus is on ensuring that technology works to inspire learning. Adam Ellis, Director of Technology for MB3 explains that, “Connectivity and technology works really well in school, but the second you move beyond school, connectivity is a challenge, and you’ve got children that rely on internet to stay connected to their peers and connected to their schools”.

Data that MB3 have received shows the need to be able to connect to the internet is becoming more important, especially in education - with the majority of Government services moving to online only, coupled with the fact that children learn just as much after 3:00PM on the internet as they do in school.

A Toi Foundation grant has allowed MB3 to connect with the community and understand what is required, then build a custom solution that allows communities to connect.

Katherine Cross, Managing Director of MB3 says, “Technology is a very unique landscape and very difficult for a lot of telcos to actually get good connectivity into the region as well. As part of the community project, we’re able to use the school’s fibre to send up a signal to our towers, which we then beam out to our houses. We connect those users through and test them and make sure that it works.”

“They have a very fast and safe connection through to the school”, adds Katherine. “They’re not able to go onto websites that they shouldn’t be looking at. Basically, what they’re accessing at school, they’re able to look at when connected at home.”



Much of what we are doing already, will contribute to better outcomes in our region, but together we can reach further and deeper.

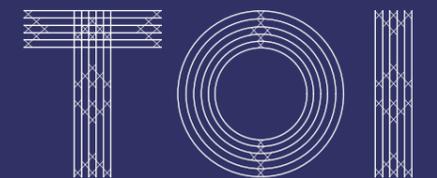
Toi Foundation is not claiming to have all the answers and solutions ourselves. What we do have is strong relationships and funding that, when applied to the right programmes and initiatives could help to drive some of the social change required. We know that together we are stronger.

We are really excited about the projects that we have funded recently and initiatives that are in the pipeline. We are proud to be contributing to better outcomes for present and future generations across the region.

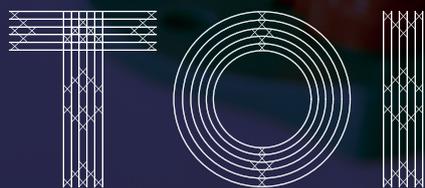
You can find out more about ‘How We Fund’ but visiting our website: [toifoundation.org.nz](https://toifoundation.org.nz)  
Alternatively, you can contact Toi Foundation: (0800) 769 9471  
[info@toifoundation.org.nz](mailto:info@toifoundation.org.nz)

*Taranaki tū kau, ākina a hau, ākina a tai, te matua manawa whenua, te matua manawa tangata, te takapou horanui o taiwīwī, o taiwāwā, o taiheke tangata.*

*Taranaki people; proud and resilient, people of the land and all corners of the earth, woven together, supporting each other, united in community.*



FOUNDATION  
A THRIVING, INCLUSIVE  
& EQUITABLE TARANAKI



FOUNDATION

21 Dawson Street | New Plymouth 4310  
Taranaki | New Zealand  
(06) 769-9471 and (0800) 769 9471  
info@toifoundation.org.nz  
[toifoundation.org.nz](http://toifoundation.org.nz)