





Annual Report

2026

Pūrongo ā-Tau

community wellbeing

North Canterbury Trust



Annual Report
Pūrongo ā-Tau

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Our Vision

Te Whāinga

A thriving, equitable community.

Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust supports North Canterbury communities to achieve equitable outcomes, and whakamana (empower) whānau to thrive through times of challenge and change.



Who We Are & What We Value

Ko Wai Mātou, Ko Ō Mātou Uara

Our Strategic Plan 2026–2029 sets a clear direction for our commitment to creating lasting impact for our community. The plan focuses on four strategic priorities that guide our mahi:

Upholding our commitment to te Tiriti o Waitangi

Whakamanatia te Tiriti o Waitangi
We are continuing our journey to be Tiriti-honouring in heart, mind, and action.

The quality of our services

Te kounga o tō mātou mahi

We strive for excellence across all services and activities.

Health and wellbeing

Hauora

We recognise hauora (holistic health and wellbeing) is central to a fulfilling life.

Leading with purpose for the wellbeing of our community

He kaiarataki mō te hapori
We are a community leader through advocacy and innovation.

This mahi is guided by our values:

We are empowering

Whakamana
Supporting and empowering all whānau, hoamahi (colleagues) and the wider hapori (community) to reach their highest potential.

We are caring and respectful

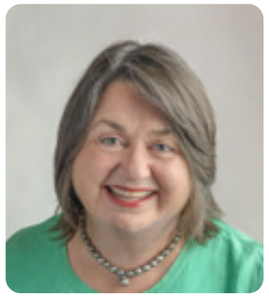
Manaakitanga
Creating a welcoming, caring, and creative environment that treats everyone with kindness, compassion, respect and dignity.

We are a place of belonging

Whanaungatanga
Engaging in positive and collaborative relationships with whānau, hoamahi and the wider hapori.

We honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Tangatawhenuatanga
Honouring Māori as Tangata Whenua of Aotearoa and giving meaningful effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi.



From Our Chair

He Kupu nā te Toihau Poari

It is my pleasure to present the Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Annual Report for 2025–2026.

This year has been one of growth, innovation and impact. The Community Wellbeing team has continued to walk alongside tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and communities, providing support, connection and opportunities to thrive.

Despite increasing demand, Community Wellbeing has remained resilient, continuing to deliver high-quality services while adapting and growing to meet the needs of our community.

A significant achievement this year has been the continued implementation of our Strategic Plan 2026–2029. Grounded in our vision of a thriving, equitable community for North Canterbury, the plan provides a clear direction for the future and reinforces our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, hauora, service excellence and community leadership.

We were also proud to launch Fence-Line Kōrero, funded through the Mental Health Foundation's All-of-Population Suicide Prevention Community Fund. Being one of only 18 organisations selected nationwide reflects both the strength of our organisation and the value of community-led wellbeing initiatives.

This year also marks an important transition as we farewell our Chief Executive, Deirdre Ryan, after 15 years of dedicated leadership. Deirdre's vision, determination and commitment have helped shape Community Wellbeing into the trusted and respected organisation it is today. On behalf of the Board, I thank her for her outstanding contribution and wish her every happiness in retirement.

"The achievements in this report are only possible because of the dedication, partnership and belief of our people and communities."

Finally, thank you to our staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, partners and supporters. The achievements in this report are only possible because of your dedication and belief in our kaupapa. Together, we are helping build stronger whānau, stronger communities and a brighter future for North Canterbury.

Ngā mihi,
Louisa Sullivan
Board Chair



From Our Chief Executive

He Kupu nā te Kaiwhakahaere Matua

This year has been one of growth, resilience and connection building.

Through Food Support, Clinical Services, Parenting Programmes, Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre and Restorative Justice, we have continued to walk alongside people during some of life's most challenging moments. An independent Social Return on Investment analysis found that every $1 invested in our Family and Transition Social Work Services generated $2.39 of measurable social value.

As well as these 'regular' services, this year brought new opportunities. We launched Fence-Line Kōrero to support mental health in our rural areas and supported significant growth at Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre as demand for education for young parents continued to increase. These initiatives reflect our commitment to responding to the changing needs of our community.

In November 2025, our journey to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi was featured in the National Business Review's Te Wiki o te Reo Māori series. The article highlighted our organisation-wide commitment to learning, partnership and action, the leadership shown by staff and trustees, and the ways te ao Māori shapes our culture, services and strategic direction. Our focus is to "walk it more than talk it", creating spaces where whānau feel welcomed, valued and able to thrive.

I would like to thank our staff, volunteers, trustees, funders, donors, partners and supporters. Your dedication, generosity and belief in our kaupapa make this work possible. Together, we are creating positive change for whānau and communities across North Canterbury.

"I leave with gratitude and confidence, knowing the organisation is well placed to continue supporting whānau and communities for many years to come."

As I prepare to retire after 15 years leading Community Wellbeing North Canterbury, I do so with gratitude and confidence in the future. It has been a privilege to work alongside so many dedicated people and to witness the strength, resilience and generosity of this community. I leave knowing the organisation is well placed to continue supporting whānau and communities for many years to come.

Ngā mihi nui,
Deirdre Ryan
Chief Executive

Our Community in Action

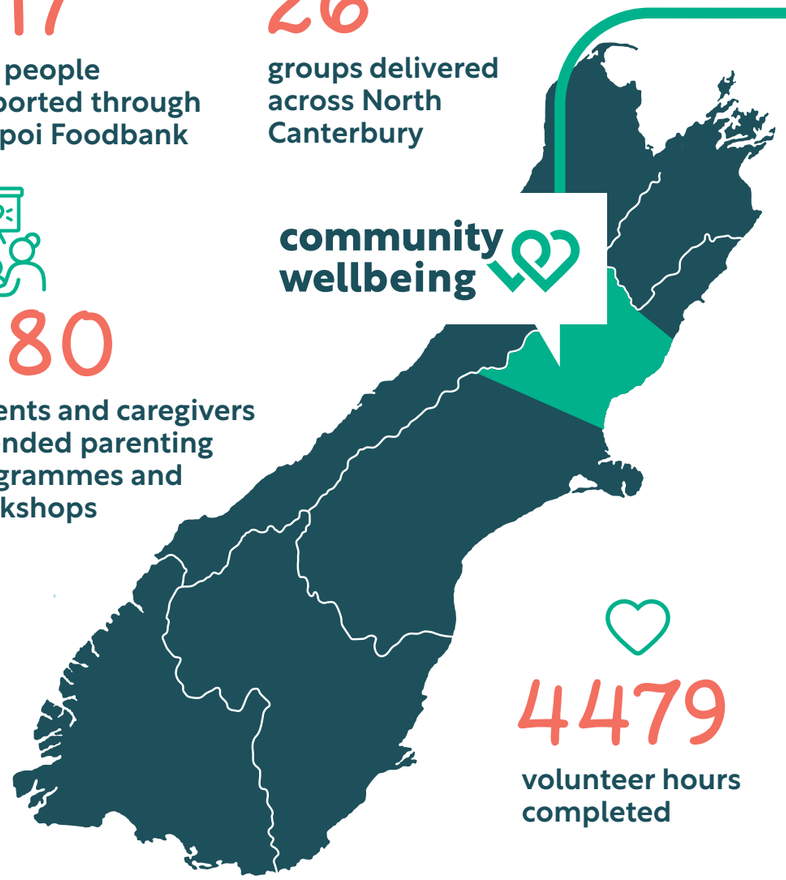
Ngā Mahi a te Hapori

2190
food parcels distributed

617
new people supported through Kaiapoi Foodbank

26
groups delivered across North Canterbury

561
new people supported through Clinical Services



119
Restorative Justice referrals supported

680
parents and caregivers attended parenting programmes and workshops

137
whānau supported through Parent Drop-In Services

4479
volunteer hours completed

Behind every statistic is an individual, a whānau, a tamaiti, or a member of our community reaching out for support. Their experiences reflect the difference that practical support, compassion and connection can make in people's lives. These words come directly from people who accessed Community Wellbeing North Canterbury services during the year:

"I was so lost and down and working so hard for my kids, and you didn't look at me and question the validation of my need.

"My wellbeing has improved. I finally feel like I have an idea of how to move forward out of a stuck and negative situation. I also gained a quiet knowledge of accepting kindly help, while still retaining my self-esteem.

"Your support has created a close relationship with my daughter, making her feel heard and has reassured her that what she was feeling was ok.

"My child has found it easier to regulate themselves at home. I find a lot less arguments and aggressive behaviour is happening at home.

"I have found Community Wellbeing to be super supportive offering multiple supports to us as a whānau. Each support, including this course, has been cumulative in helping to ease the stress in our household. It has given me many 'light bulb' moments!

"Community Wellbeing provided non-judgmental assistance for my whānau and I. They made me feel like a human being. Their support gives me stability when things are bad. This has broken the stigma of reaching out for help to community groups. I felt truly helped.

"The Kaiapoi Foodbank provided me and my family with a food parcel when we were in need. I think the parcels are very generous and the food is great. The volunteers and staff are always kind.

Our Impact

The difference our services make is reflected not only in the number of people we support, but in the outcomes achieved.

- 98% client satisfaction across all services
- 73% of clients reported improved wellbeing
- 50% of clients learned new skills and strategies
- 100% of clinical referrals responded to within three working days
- $2.39 social value generated for every $1 invested in Family and Transition Social Work Services



Food Support

Te Koha Kai

As the cost of living continues to place pressure on households across North Canterbury, our Kaiapoi Foodbank provides practical assistance, connection, and a welcoming place to turn when times are tough.

More than emergency food assistance, our foodbank helps reduce stress, strengthen wellbeing, and connect people with additional support when needed. Feedback from clients highlights the importance of being treated with dignity, kindness, and without judgement during difficult times.

Rising to the Challenge: Meeting Unprecedented Need

Te Hiki i te Mānuka: Te Hāpai i ngā Matea Inati

These outcomes are the result of our people's commitment to ensuring local whānau feel supported, welcomed and cared for during difficult times. This year, we were excited to welcome Jane Roberts as our new Foodbank Coordinator. Jane has brought energy, warmth and dedication to the role, working alongside volunteers and community partners to ensure the Foodbank continues to be a place of whanaungatanga and whakamana.

Our volunteers remain at the heart of the Foodbank. From preparing parcels and stocking shelves to providing a friendly welcome and helping behind the scenes, their generosity makes this service possible. Together, volunteers contributed more than 4000 hours during the year at our foodbank, supporting hundreds of people across our community. Their commitment reflects the spirit of manaakitanga that underpins everything we do.

We are also deeply grateful to the many businesses, organisations and individuals who continue to stand alongside us. Community Champions including Satisfy Food Rescue, New World Kaiapoi, Corde, Rangiora Toyota and our Christmas Gift Drive and Winter Care Drive partners have helped ensure local whānau have access to food and essential items when they need them most. Generous donations from community members, local businesses and supporters throughout the year have helped keep our shelves stocked and strengthened our ability to respond to increasing demand.

The impact of this support extends well beyond food. Feedback from clients consistently highlights the kindness, compassion and non-judgemental approach of our staff and volunteers. For many people, the Foodbank is not only a place to access practical assistance, but also a place of connection, dignity and hope.



2190
food parcels distributed

23%
reported greater awareness of other services and support available in the community

617
new people supported through Kaiapoi Foodbank

304
Foodbank enquiries and support calls received

4008
volunteer hours contributed

97%
client satisfaction

73%
reported improved wellbeing

26%
reported increased confidence

26%
reported moving towards their goals

"Was amazing all round, but I especially appreciate not being made to feel embarrassed having to ask for help."

Supporting Children, Young People and Families
Te Tautoko i ngā Tamariki, Rangatahi me te Whānau

Supporting Children, Young People and Families

Te Tautoko i ngā Tamariki, Rangatahi me te Whānau



561
new people supported

80%
reported improved wellbeing

$2.39
social value returned for every $1 invested

93%
client satisfaction

67%
learned new skills and strategies

100%
clinical referrals responded to within three working days

"A rangatahi was referred to the Manu Ka Rere service by their GP for support with anxiety, OCD and low mood. After attending ten individual therapy sessions and participating in the rangatahi art and crafts group, they developed strategies to manage challenges and build confidence. Months after support had ended, their GP practice reported they were thriving despite significant changes in home life, describing them as confident, engaged with friends, succeeding in study and able to confidently apply the strategies they had learned."

Every day, our clinical team walks alongside tamariki, rangatahi and whānau facing a wide range of challenges. Through counselling, social work, parenting support and wellbeing services, we provide compassionate, strengths-based support that empowers people to build resilience, strengthen relationships and move towards their goals.

This year, our team continued to respond to increasing demand and growing complexity across our services. Whānau sought support for anxiety, emotional wellbeing, parenting challenges, relationships, trauma, housing pressures and navigating life's many transitions. Through trusted relationships and a commitment to mana-enhancing practice, our team supported people to feel heard, understood and connected to the support they needed.

Feedback from clients highlights the difference that skilled, approachable and strengths-based support can make. Many reported increased confidence, improved wellbeing, stronger relationships and new skills and strategies that continue to support positive change at home, school and in the community.

Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre

Te Kura Kōhungahunga o Karanga Mai

Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre provides a nurturing, relationship-based learning environment for tamariki while supporting young parents to continue their education and work towards their goals. Working in collaboration with the Young Parents' College on the Kaiapoi High School site, Karanga Mai removes barriers to learning and creates opportunities for both parent and tamariki to thrive together.

This year has been a significant period of growth. With increasing enrolments at the Young Parents' College and continued demand for places, Karanga Mai has operated at capacity while adapting to support a growing number of pēpi and tamariki. Our team has continued to strengthen learning environments, build meaningful relationships with whānau, and work alongside young parents as they pursue educational success and brighter futures for their families.

At the heart of Karanga Mai is a strong sense of whanaungatanga. Through everyday learning, community karakia and waiata, wā pēpi, tuakana-teina relationships, and close partnerships with whānau, tamariki are supported to grow with confidence, curiosity and a strong sense of belonging. The centre works alongside young parents to respond to their aspirations and challenges, creating a supportive environment where both tamariki and māmā can flourish.

Alongside this growth, planning progressed for the expansion of Karanga Mai's facilities to ensure we can continue to provide high-quality learning experiences and responsive support for future generations of young parents and their tamariki.

Karanga Mai at a Glance

38 Tamariki enrolled

28 Māori tamariki enrolled



When one student arrived at Karanga Mai in late 2024, she had just 20 NCEA Level 1 credits, no driver's licence, a heavy substance addiction, and significant challenges impacting her wellbeing and future aspirations. As a young mother, she was also balancing the responsibilities of raising her son.

Over the following year, she embraced every opportunity available to her. Supported by the staff at Karanga Mai, she attended consistently, gained her learner and restricted driving licences, completed financial capability training, achieved NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3, and made the decision to address her addiction. By the time she delivered her graduation speech, she proudly shared that she had been sober for eight months.

Throughout her journey, this student spoke of the encouragement, support and belief shown by the Karanga Mai team, and the friendships she formed with other young parents. She described Karanga Mai as a place where she discovered her potential and began building a future she once thought was beyond her reach.

Today, she attends Ara Institute of Canterbury as a student completing a Bachelor of Nursing. "I wanted to not only make myself proud, but also my son and family proud."



Parenting Support

Te Tautoko Mātua

Parenting can be rewarding, challenging and, at times, overwhelming. Through Community Wellbeing's workshops, group programmes and one-on-one support, whānau across North Canterbury have gained practical tools, evidence-based strategies and the reassurance that they are not alone.

Feedback highlighted strengthened parenting knowledge and skills, increased confidence, and positive change for tamariki and rangatahi at home, at school, and within their communities. Parents described gaining practical strategies they could apply in everyday situations, improving communication within their whānau, reducing stress, and developing a deeper understanding of their children's strengths and needs.

Thanks to mainpower

The continued support of MainPower NZ Ltd has enabled Community Wellbeing North Canterbury to provide accessible parenting education and support opportunities for families across our region. Their investment helps strengthen the wellbeing of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau, creating positive impacts that extend well beyond the programmes themselves.

> **"I feel I have new skills to offer my children and to help them communicate. I liked learning how to get the kids to self-problem-solve. Today my girl had a successful drop off. It's fantastic."**

A particular focus has been supporting parents and caregivers of neurodivergent children and young people. Demand for these programmes remains strong across North Canterbury.



- **137 parent drop-ins facilitated**
- **26 group courses delivered across North Canterbury**
- **8 Mighty Willows' Parenting Neurodivergent Children and Youth workshops delivered across Waimakariri and Hurunui**
- **2 parenting education talks delivered in partnership with Waimakariri District Council**
- **680 parents and caregivers attended parenting workshops**
- **88% reported increased confidence in supporting their child**

Fence-Line Kōrero Project

Strengthening Connection and Wellbeing in Rural Communities

In July 2026, Community Wellbeing North Canterbury launched Fence-Line Kōrero, a new community-led initiative supporting wellbeing and suicide prevention across rural communities in Waimakariri and Hurunui. This project was made possible with support from the Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand and the All-of-Population Suicide Prevention Community Fund. Community Wellbeing North Canterbury was selected as one of only 18 organisations nationwide to receive funding from more than 450 applicants.

Fence-Line Kōrero was developed in response to identified needs within our rural communities and recognises the importance of connection, belonging, and early support. The project aims to strengthen community wellbeing by increasing awareness of available support, building confidence to have conversations about mental health, improving access to resources, and strengthening connections between local people, organisations and services.

While still in the early stages of implementation, the project has already generated strong interest and engagement from community organisations, rural networks and local leaders. Establishing partnerships, building relationships and listening to the experiences of rural communities have been key priorities during the project's first months.

By working alongside local people and organisations, the project aims to build sustainable, community-led approaches that foster resilience and create lasting positive change throughout North Canterbury.

Mental Health Foundation OF NEW ZEALAND
mauri tū, mauri ora



Restorative Justice
Te Whakaoranga Tika



Restorative Justice provides an opportunity for people affected by offending to come together in a safe, structured and supported process. Through facilitated conversations, participants can share the impact of what has happened, be heard, and work towards meaningful outcomes that support healing, accountability and restoration.

Our Restorative Justice team works alongside victims, offenders, whānau and the wider justice system to prepare participants, facilitate conversations, and ensure the process is safe and respectful for everyone involved. Each case is unique, requiring skilled facilitation, empathy and a commitment to supporting positive outcomes.

This year, the service continued to support individuals and families through increasingly complex situations. Referrals included cases involving serious harm, financial fraud and matters affecting multiple stakeholders, highlighting the important role Restorative Justice plays within our community.

119 referrals received

208 volunteer hours contributed

> **"Many thanks for this, very much appreciate being guided through this process and I'm grateful that we had the opportunity to portray our feelings in a constructive format. My thanks for all your support. We felt safe and re-assured throughout the process."**

Thank you to our Community Champions
He Mihi ki ngā Kaikōkiri Hapori



We're deeply grateful to every individual, business and organisation who made change in North Canterbury this year.

Nau te rourou naku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi
With your contributions and mine our people will thrive

It’s people, it’s community

He Tangata, He Hapori

Community Wellbeing North Canterbury only does what it does every day through the generosity of our community. Throughout the year, individuals, businesses, schools, clubs and organisations have given their time, resources, creativity and support to help ensure local whānau can access the services they need.

From fundraising events and food drives to gift collections and community initiatives, people across North Canterbury have continued to demonstrate the power of community supporting community. Your generosity has helped provide practical support, bring people together, and create opportunities for local families to thrive.

Christmas Gift Drive

Our annual Christmas Gift Drive brought the community together to ensure local tamariki experienced the joy of Christmas. More than 1000 gifts were distributed, supporting over 350 tamariki, with the support of community partners, collection sites, volunteers and donors. The campaign raised $17,463.05, alongside an estimated $21,552.73 of in-kind donations.



Winter Care Drive

As winter approached, businesses, community groups and supporters rallied behind our Winter Care Drive to provide food and essential items for local whānau. Support from organisations including MoMac, Horton Signs, The Sterling Kaiapoi, Rangiora Toyota, Bupa Ballarat, Anytime Fitness Rangiora, Freedom Lifestyle Village Ravenswood, North Canterbury Sports Trust and many others helped ensure support remained available throughout the colder months.



Car Wars

One of the year’s standout community-led fundraisers was Car Wars, organised by RJ and the Cars in Goon community. Held at The Plough Hotel, the event attracted more than 100 vehicles and raised $2,386.50 for Community Wellbeing North Canterbury. Vehicles travelled from across Canterbury, including Ashburton, to support a local charity serving North Canterbury. The success of the event has already inspired plans for an even bigger fundraiser next year.



New World Kaiapoi

Through its Family2Family campaign, New World Kaiapoi donated 214 bags of essential items and an additional $2,400, contributing almost $6,000 worth of support to the Kaiapoi Foodbank.



Rangiora RSA Club

The Rangiora RSA Club raised $15,184 for Community Wellbeing North Canterbury at their annual club charity challenge, involving games among their staff and members over a weekend in August. We are so grateful for the RSA’s amazing support and the community’s effort.

Charity Jams

Charity Jams, led by Marg Larsen and Cath Kennedy, continues to make a remarkable contribution to Community Wellbeing through the production and sale of homemade jams and preserves across Christchurch and North Canterbury.

For many years, they have quietly and consistently dedicated their time, energy, and talent to this fundraising effort, with all proceeds supporting Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre. This year alone, Marg and Cath generously donated an outstanding $8,915. We are deeply grateful for their ongoing commitment and the positive impact they continue to have on this mahi.

Community Champions

Throughout the year, community members found creative ways to support Community Wellbeing North Canterbury and raise funds for local whānau.

Community members also championed our mahi through events such as David Hill’s Christchurch Walking Festival fundraiser, helping raise awareness of Community Wellbeing North Canterbury and the work being carried out across our region.

Thank You

We are deeply grateful to the many individuals, volunteers, businesses, schools, community groups and organisations who have donated food, gifts, services, expertise, venues, time and financial support throughout the year. Many acts of generosity happen quietly and without recognition, yet each contribution helps strengthen the wellbeing of our community.

Together, you help make North Canterbury a more connected, caring and resilient place for everyone. Small actions, when multiplied across a community, create lasting change.

Grant Funders

Aotearoa Gaming Trust
Foodstuffs South Island Community Trust
Harcourts Foundation
Kiwi Gaming Foundation Limited
Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand
New Zealand Lotteries Grants Board
Rātā Foundation
The David Ellison Charitable Trust
The Lion Foundation
Twigger Women's Refuge Endowment Trust

Community Champions

Amberley Lions Club
Anytime Fitness Rangiora
Arthur Burke Limited
Blackwells Department Store
Bupa Ballarat Care Home
Cars in Goon
Charity Jams
Combined Security Solutions
Compass FM
Contact Energy Limited
CORDE Limited
Freedom Lifestyle Village Ravenswood
Hanmer Springs Thermal Pools & Spa
Highway Church Amberley
Horton Signs Limited
Hurunui District Council
ICIB Brokerweb
Kaiapoi Promotions
Kiwi Kids Bookstore
MainPower New Zealand
MoMac
NC Biz
New World Kaiapoi
New World Ravenswood
North Canterbury Sport and Recreation Trust
PAK'nSAVE Rangiora
Pegasus School
Prosser Quirke Limited
Ray White Morris & Co
Rangiora Toyota
Rangiora RSA Club
Satisfy Food Rescue
Soroptimist International of North Canterbury
Specsavers Rangiora
The Sterling Kaiapoi
Thistle Fitness
Tuahiwi School
Waimakariri District Council
Waimakariri Libraries

A special thank you to the many individuals, volunteers, community groups and donors whose generosity often happens quietly and without recognition.

Your contributions, whether through donations, food, time, expertise, fundraising, advocacy or acts of kindness, help ensure that support is available when it is needed most.

Together, we are creating a thriving and equitable community for North Canterbury.

Our People Behind the Mahi

Ngā Tāngata Hāpai o ki Muri

Behind every service, programme, conversation and outcome is a team of passionate people committed to making a difference in the lives of people across North Canterbury.

This year, our staff continued to respond to increasing demand and growing complexity across all areas of our organisation. Whether supporting families through times of hardship, providing counselling and social work services, nurturing tamariki at Karanga Mai, facilitating Restorative Justice processes, leading parenting programmes, or launching new initiatives such as Fence-Line Kōrero, our people consistently showed compassion, professionalism, adaptability and resilience.

Our values of Whakamana, Manaakitanga, Whanaungatanga and Tangatawhenuatanga are brought to life through the way our people work alongside whānau, communities and one another. We are proud of the care, expertise and aroha our team brings to this mahi.

Our Commitment to Quality

98% overall client satisfaction across Community Wellbeing services

100% of clinical referrals responded to within service targets

99% of clinical staff attended external supervision

100% staff and board participation in Tuahiwi Education Days



The Heart of Our Community

Te Manawa o te Waiora a-Hapori

Volunteers play an essential role in the work of Community Wellbeing. Every day, they generously share their time, skills and compassion to support local people and help strengthen our community.

Whether preparing food parcels, supporting Restorative Justice processes, assisting behind the scenes, helping at events, providing governance and strategic leadership as trustees, or offering practical support wherever it is needed, our volunteers embody the values of manaakitanga and whanaungatanga. Their contribution helps ensure people feel welcomed, supported and connected during some of life's most challenging moments.

This year, volunteers and trustees contributed thousands of hours across our organisation. Their commitment not only enables our services to operate effectively, but also provides something equally important – kindness, connection and a sense of community. Many of the stories shared by clients speak directly to the warmth, respect and understanding shown by our volunteers each day.

We are incredibly grateful for the people who choose to stand alongside our whānau and communities. Your generosity makes a difference far beyond the hours you give.



4008 Foodbank volunteer hours

263 Trust Board and governance hours

208 Restorative Justice volunteer hours

4479 Total volunteer hours contributed

Thank You

He mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

To every volunteer who has given their time, energy, skills and aroha throughout the year. Your contribution helps create a stronger, more connected and compassionate North Canterbury.

Behind every food parcel, every gift, and every act of support are moments that remind us why community matters.

"For many families arriving at the Christmas gift room door, the sight is overwhelming. They often need a moment to adjust and realise they really can choose beautiful presents for their children, and even a small gift for themselves or their own mum. Every whānau comes with their own story. One grandmother, who was raising her autistic grandson largely on her own, told me how meaningful it was to find gifts that suited his needs. The room was often filled with tears, hugs, relief and finally joy. Knowing we could give families a wonderful Christmas to look forward to, that's why we do this.

"Just before Christmas, I met a mother who was new to Rangiora after an incredibly difficult year. She had a large young family and was worried about how she would provide food and Christmas presents for them. Although the Foodbank had already closed, we gathered food and donated gifts so she could choose what best suited her tamariki. When she realised there was something for every child, and even a special gift for herself, the relief on her face was unforgettable.

"One dad who came through our Christmas Gift Room had worked hard to turn his life around. It was going to be the first Christmas his young son was living with him, and he wanted to make it special. As he chose gifts and books they could enjoy together, he became emotional. When we told him he could choose a gift for himself as well, he looked at us and said, 'This is going to be our best Christmas.' Seeing his pride and excitement was incredibly special.

"One day a heavily pregnant new mum came in asking whether we had any newborn nappies and baby clothing available. Being able to reassure her that we could help brought immediate relief. Moments like that remind me how much practical support can ease stress during some of life's most vulnerable times.

"An older gentleman arrived to collect a food parcel and, as I handed it to him, he paused and quietly said, 'Thank you for not judging me.' It was such a simple comment, but it reminded me that kindness, dignity and feeling welcomed can be just as important as the food itself.

"Some of our volunteers regularly visit local op shops looking for children's clothing. They buy what they can, take it home to wash and prepare, and then bring it back ready for whānau to take. Most people never see these acts of kindness, but they happen every week and make a real difference to the families we support.

A Legacy of Leadership
Celebrating Deirdre Ryan

For 15 years, Deirdre Ryan has led Community Wellbeing North Canterbury from a small local service provider into a trusted community organisation with over forty staff supporting thousands of tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and individuals across North Canterbury each year.

Her first day at Community Wellbeing was the day of the February 22 earthquake, and Deirdre has continued since then to lead the organisation through periods of both uncertainty and growth.

This has meant navigating through changing government priorities, increasing demand for services, workforce challenges and challenging funding environments. The continued maintenance and growth of contracts for counselling, social work, parenting support, food support services and Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre reflect her enduring commitment to ensuring people can access the support they need to thrive.

"Through earthquakes, rebuilds, floods, pandemics, changing governments, changing funding models, and ever-evolving community needs, Deirdre has provided calm, compassionate and thoughtful leadership" says Nicki Carter. "She has been part of the fabric of North Canterbury for a very long time, helping shape stronger, safer and more connected communities."

Deirdre has consistently balanced innovation with stability, ensuring the organisation remained responsive to the changing needs of the community. Deirdre played a key role in the development and growth of programmes such as Mana Ake and Manu Ka Rere, which have become trusted sources of support for tamariki and rangatahi.





Under her leadership, Community Wellbeing embarked on a whole-of-organisation journey to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi, investing in learning, strengthening relationships with Ngāi Tūāhuriri, and embedding te ao Māori into the organisation's culture, strategy and everyday practice. This work has helped create welcoming spaces where whānau feel safe, valued and able to thrive.

Throughout her time with Community Wellbeing North Canterbury, Deirdre has never lost sight of the people behind the numbers. Her leadership has been grounded in relationships, compassion and a genuine belief in the potential of individuals, whānau and communities to thrive. She has always led with humility and courage, fostering a culture of learning, reflection and action. The values she championed and the example she set will continue to influence Community Wellbeing long into the future.

As Deirdre steps into retirement, we acknowledge her extraordinary contribution and thank her for 15 years of dedicated service. Her impact will continue to be felt in the lives she has touched, the communities she has strengthened, and the organisation she has helped shape for future generations.

Ngā mihi nui, Deirdre. Thank you for your leadership, your vision, and your unwavering commitment to our community.

Financial Statements

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses

Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust for the year ended 30 June 2026

	Notes	2026	2025
Revenue from Non Exchange Transactions			
Government Contracts	5	2,549,140	2,483,053
Community Grants	5	404,881	402,184
Donations	5	68,621	98,435
Other	5	26,260	23,867
Total Revenue from Non Exchange Transactions		**3,048,901**	**3,007,539**
Revenue from Exchange Transactions			
Sales & Services	5	165,889	106,558
Room Hire		7,697	22,570
Interest		8,944	19,790
Total Revenue from Non Exchange Transactions		182,530	148,917
Total Revenue		**3,231,431**	**3,156,456**
Expenses			
Administration		264,681	223,341
Employment	5	2,713,723	2,509,434
Occupancy		83,517	83,803
Operating		158,145	311,520
Non Cash	5	53,971	57,776
Total Expenses		**3,274,037**	**3,185,873**
Surplus /(Deficit) for the Year		**(42,606)**	**(29,417)**

Statement of Changes in Net Assets/Equity

Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust for the year ended 30 June 2026

Movement in Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	479,630	509,047
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses for the year	(42,606)	(29,417)
Accumulated Funds 30 June	437,025	479,630

Statement of Financial Position

Community Wellbeing North Canterbury Trust as at 30 June 2026

	Notes	30 Jun 2026	30 Jun 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and Cash Equivalents	7	343,982	83,714
Receivables from Exchange Transactions		1,422	6,212
Receivables from Non Exchange Transactions		222,023	214,253
Prepayments		28,581	21,359
Investments (current)	8	122,268	218,031
Total Current Assets		**718,275**	**543,569**
Non-current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	9	135,237	180,278
Total Non-current Assets		**135,237**	**180,278**
Total Assets		**853,512**	**723,848**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	11	110,574	67,774
Employee Entitlements	10	119,247	111,860
Income in Advance - Non Exchange Transactions	19	186,667	64,583
Total Current Liabilities		416,488	244,217
Total Liabilities		**416,488**	**244,217**
Net Assets		**437,025**	**479,630**
Equity			
Accumulated Funds		437,025	479,630
Total Equity		**437,025**	**479,630**

Note: These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements and the independent auditor's report.

Full financial statements including auditor report are available at www.wellbeingnc.org.nz

We build connection & belonging:
Whanaungatanga

We honour each person's mana:
Manaakitanga

We uplift others:
Whakamana

We honour Tangata Whenua:
Tangatawhenuatanga

This is Community Wellbeing.

Leadership Team

Deirdre Ryan | Chief Executive

Mark Beswarick | Finance and Administration Manager

Antoinette Lewis | Clinical Practice Leader

Julie Best | Clinical Operations Leader

Jacinta McInerney | Karanga Mai Early Learning Centre Tumuaki

Chelsea Houghton | Fundraising and Communications Lead

Trust Board (30th June 2026)

Louisa Sullivan | Chair

Alison Hood | Deputy Chair

Jamie Dudfield

Kylie Clark

Leigh Kennedy

Steve Hutt | Hurunui District Council Representative

Shona Powell | Waimakariri District Council Representative

Rae Wakefield-Jones

Become a Community Champion

E Tū hei Kaikōkiri Hapori

Every day, local whānau turn to Community Wellbeing North Canterbury for support, connection and hope.

By becoming a Community Champion, you can help ensure vital services remain available for tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and communities across our region. Regular giving provides ongoing support where it is needed most.

Your support helps:

- Provide food and essential items for local whānau.
- Support children, young people and families to access wellbeing services.
- Strengthen parenting support and community wellbeing initiatives.
- Create opportunities for tamariki and whānau to thrive.

COMMUNITY CHAMPION
wellbeingnc.org.nz

Join a community of people making a difference.

Whether it's $10, $20 or $50 a month, every contribution helps create lasting impact close to home.

Independent evaluation shows every $1 invested in our Family and Transition Social Work Services creates $2.39 in measurable social value for our community. Your support helps make this impact possible.

Community supporting community.
Become a Community Champion today.

wellbeingnc.org.nz/champions

community wellbeing
North Canterbury Trust

www.wellbeingnc.org.nz