



Foreword

In May 2023, OHI Data Navigator was updated with 2022 data from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). This means the OHI Data Navigator now provides a five-year view, enabling deeper insights to help understand the experiences rangatahi have interacting with government systems in New Zealand.

Whilst we envision that the data insights we gain and the youth-centric approaches we take in this report will change and evolve over time, our recommendations do not, and reflect reccomendations made in TaiOHI Insights Reports released in 2021 2022.

Unfortunately, this five-year snapshot shows almost no shift in the experiences of exclusion and disadvantage in Aotearoa, with high rates continuing for some communities.1 While this paints a picture at the national level, more granular data is available providing deeper insights and green shoots, which can guide community-focused future mahi. Our continued view is a systems-level approach to advance structural change and support grassroots efforts is necessary, as we work to support all rangatahi to thrive in Aotearoa.

¹Data from OHI Data Navigator ²Data-driven perspective report 2020/21 - OHI Data Navigator

The TaiOHI Insights Report 2023 is the third annual report that Te Rourou, One Aotearoa Foundation has released since the launch of OHI Data Navigator. It represents an evolution of the work we have engaged alongside, offering valuable insights into the youth sector.

In this report, we look at the past five years of data, and build on the themes of previous reports. In 2022, we reflected the essence of our namesake, Te Rourou, and wove rangatahivoice through central themes of wellbeing, connectedness and aspirations for the future. Now, in 2023, we expand on this by undertaking a thematic review of youth-focused research reports from the repository collated by the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). We wrap up the report reflecting back on the calls to actions we made in 2021.2

Nāu te rourou, nāku te rourou ka ora ai te iwi

With your basket and my basket the people will thrive.



About OHI Data Navigator

OHI Data Navigator is an online tool that takes government administrative data and makes it more accessible to the community so we can better understand the experiences of rangatahi and support them to thrive.

Launched in 2021, we now have a fiveyear view of the data and enabling us to see systems-level shifts and data about specific experiences of rangatahi from a national view to a localised view. This is a free tool Te Rourou created with its partners throughout Aotearoa. Many sectors use OHI Data Navigator to measure impact over time, develop programmes for rangatahi, understand where to focus resources, plus much much more.

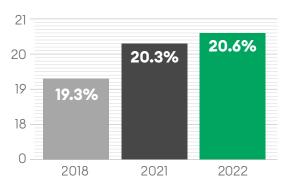
The data within OHI Data Navigator is focused on three areas, experiences of: care and protection, justice, and education and employment. Derived from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) the data is updated annually in May.



Understanding the changes in the Data Navigator

OHI Data Navigator continues to show one in five rangatahi are experiencing exclusion and disadvantage in Aotearoa. However, following a review and update to the code which generates the education data, this year there has been a slight change in the trend in levels of exclusion and disadvantage to that reported in the 2022 TaiOHI Data Insights Report. Data now shows a gradual increase in rangatahi experiencing disadvantage, reaching 20.6% in 2022 compared to 20.3% in 2021 and 19.3% in 2018.

Rangatahi experiencing disadvantage



Data improvements for 2022

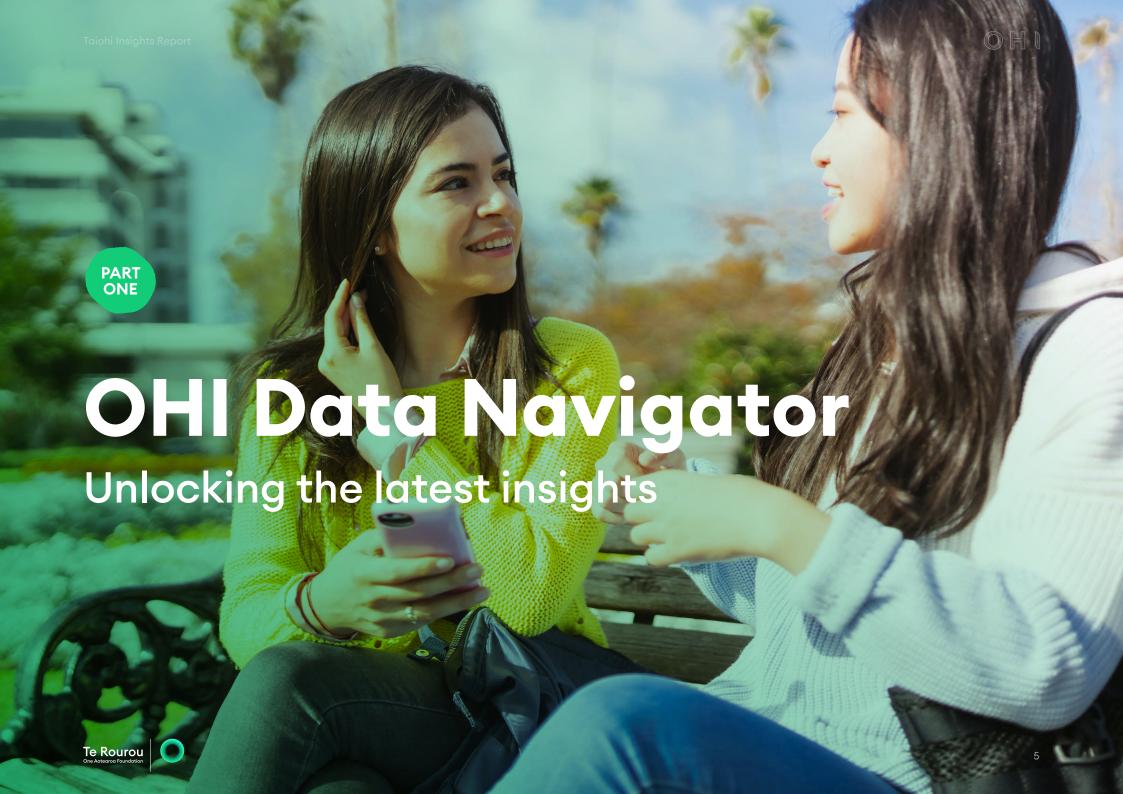
Following improvements in the quality and consistency of education data, we now believe that this data is more stable across all five years than it was in 2022 and will provide a robust base for future years.

As a result of these changes, users should be aware of the following changes to the data reported in the second TaiOHI Insights Report (2022):

- More stable educational attainment data between 2018 and 2022.
- A slight rising trend in educational and employment disadvantage for rangatahi, instead of an improving trend, which the 2022 report recorded.
- A stable to slightly increasing trend over time in exclusion and disadvantage, rather than an improving or plateauing trend.
- These changes are most observable in 2018 to 2020 data, with 19-25 year olds the most affected cohort.

https://www.datanavigator.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/10/OHI-Vodafone-TAIOHI-Insights-Report-Final-002.pdf







Income inequality is significant factor in exclusion and disadvantage

Across Aotearoa, **35%** of rangatahi live in areas with high levels of material deprivation⁴ and of these **31%** have experienced exclusion and disadvantage. On the flipside, for rangatahi living in areas with low material deprivation⁵, **10%** have experienced exclusion and disadvantage.

Around the country, rangatahi are exposed to different experiences. Some regions have much higher levels of material deprivation than others, thus increasing the likelihood of rangatahi experiencing exclusion and disadvantage.

The following chart shows the percentage of rangatahi living in areas with higher deprivation levels: compared with major urban centres and Aotearoa NZ as a whole

O Location Kawerau District Ōpōtiki District Wairoa District South Waikato Ruapehu District Far North District Horowhenua District Whanganui District Manurewa-Papakura Ward Gisborne District Waitakere Ward Invercargill City **Dunedin City** Albert-Eden-Roskill Ward Aotearoa 27% Christchurch City Wellington City Ōrākei Ward Percentage of rangatahi living in an area of specified deprivation level

4 to 7

1 to 3

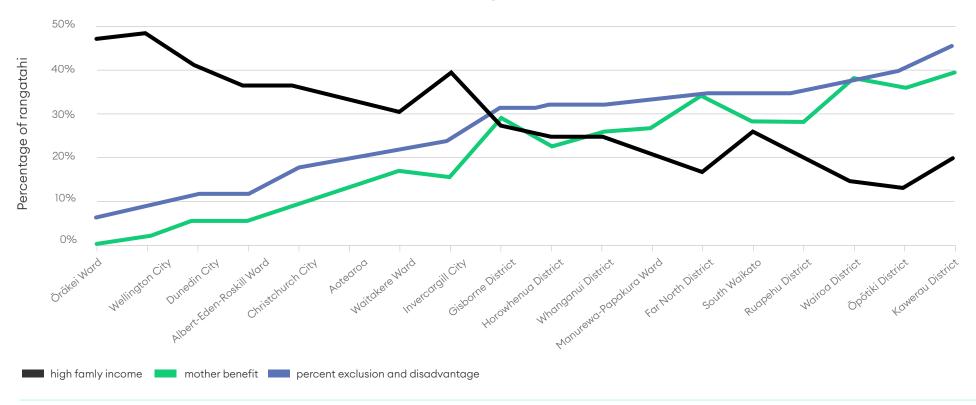


8 to 10

⁴High deprivation for this report is considered to be deciles 8 to 10 of the NZDep Deprivation Index. ⁵Low deprivation for this report is considered to be deciles 1 to 3 of the NZDep Deprivation Index.



Income inequity and exclusion and disadvantage (2022)



In Aotearoa in 2022, 20% of 12-15 year olds were living in a household where the mother received a benefit from the Ministry of Social Development, an increase from 17% over five years. However, overall household income has increased over the five years from 2018. In 2022, 38% of 12-15 year olds were living in a household with at least one parent earning more than \$80,000, an increase from 28% in 2018. Despite this, 15% of 12-15 year olds were experiencing exclusion and disadvantage, an increase from 13% since 2018.

Of 19-25 year olds experiencing exclusion and disadvantage, one in four received a benefit in the 12 months to June 2022. This compares to one in five of all 19-25 year olds, regardless of disadvantage, receiving a benefit in the same time period.

In South Invercargill, in 2022, rangatahi aged 19-25 were twice as likely to receive a benefit as those nationally, rising to three times as likely for 16-18 year olds. Nationally, almost one-third (32%) of 19-25 year old Māori received a benefit in 2022 in Aotearoa, compared to 14% of Pākehā. In South Invercargill, 42% of 19-25 year old Māori and 30% Pākehā received a benefit.







2 Economic policy decisions can result in long-term consequences

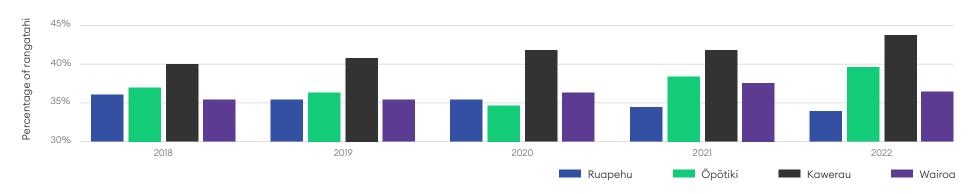
The gradual withdrawal of New Zealand government support for industry from the 1970s to 1990s, plus the shift away from local manufacturing, are known to have resulted in negative long-term impacts on a number of communities, as evidenced in Ruapehu, Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Te Wairoa. In these areas, the exiting of key industries has had a profound impact on the intergenerational outcomes for future generations, including the rangatahi represented in OHI Data Navigator.

At a national level, North Island towns have the highest levels of exclusion and disadvantage in Aotearoa. Whilst Ōpōtiki, Kawerau and Te Wairoa show increasing disadvantage in 2022, these remain some of the many communities throughout the motu (country) where rangatahi are experiencing far higher rates of exclusion and disadvantage.





Towns with rangatahi (12-25) experiencing high levels of exclusion and disadvantage



Smaller communities with high levels of exclusion and disadvantage



These communities in the North Island have the highest proportion of rangatahi experiencing exclusion and disadvantage nationally. Only Otangarei and McJorrow Park have shown any decrease in disadvantage over the past 5 years. Fordlands, Raumanga and Tarawera Park have all shown a greater than 4% increase in the proportion of rangatahi experiencing disadvantage over five years.

Data shows an increasing proportion of rangatahi in Central Rotorua are experiencing disadvantage. This stems from a combination of increasing numbers of rangatahi experiencing disadvantage and a decrease in rangatahi experiencing no disadvantage in a small area. As a result the proportion of rangatahi experiencing disadvantage in Central Rotorua area has jumped from 36% in 2018 to 64% in 2022.



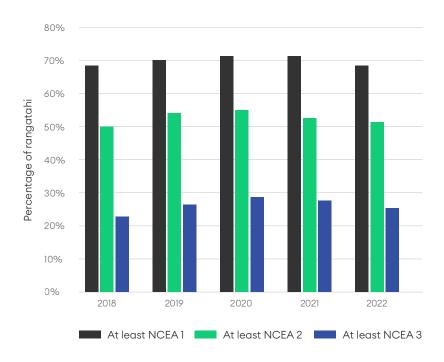


3 Education matters

National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) attainment has been decreasing steadily since 2017, except for a slight increase in 2020 ⁶. Published reports indicate there are growing barriers for rangatahi Māori to attain NCEA qualifications, by highlighting the increasing gap between attainment of NCEA level 1 by Māori school leavers compared to all school leavers. ⁷ OHI Data Navigator shows that in 2018 the gap between NCEA level 1 attainment was three percentage points between Māori and non-Māori 16-25 year olds. By 2022, this had risen to seven percentage points.

However, while this is the case nationally, in some cases the OHI Data Navigator suggests improvements in qualification attainment for some specific groups of students. Rangatahi Māori in South Invercargill are just one example with increases in the proportion of 16-25 year old attaining at least NCEA 1, 2 and 3 in the three years between 2018 and 2022, 2018 and 2022.

NCEA qualifications held by Māori rangatahi (16- 25 year olds) in South Invercargill



⁷https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0017/208070/Indicator-NCEA-Level-1-or-Above-2022_v7_FINAL.pdf



 $^{{}^6\}text{https://www.nzqa.govt.nz/assets/About-us/Publications/stats-reports/NCEA-Annual-Report-2022.pdf}$



NCEA level 2 indicator data reporting notes that holding a NCEA level 2 qualification offers young people education and employment opportunities with long-term flow on effects to better health outcomes and an improved quality of life. The report suggests that for most young people, attainment of at least NCEA Level 2 is the minimum qualification for successful labour-market participation⁸.

However attainment of NCEA level 2 is unequal around Aotearoa, resulting in barriers to employment and decreased quality of life expected for some rangatahi, depending on where they grow up.

How we view education is important. Rangatahi take multiple pathways to achieve qualifications-some earlier or 'on time', while others need more time and flexibility. Data within OHI Data Navigator shows the total overall achievement for an age bracket for NCEA. In some of our earlier research', it was found that rangatahi who transitioned into, and remained in tertiary education for as long as possible up to the age of 22, reduced the chance of experiencing further risk factors later in life. We know from data within OHI Data Navigator this pathway for rangatahi is not simple and a vast majority do not go on to complete a tertiary qualification before they are 25 years of age.

Whilst tertiary education is not the only pathway one should or can take, opportunities to understand alternative pathways for rangatahi are important, not only in secondary school but also in the transitions to work or post-secondary education–whatever that might look like. This could include marae-based learning, professional learning and development outside of apprenticeships in the workplace, for example.

⁹https://www.datanavigator.nz/thriving-rangatahi-a-review-of-protective-and-risk-factors/





⁸https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/208750/Indicator-18-year-olds-with-Level-2-2012-2022.pdf



Interactions with the Care and Protection System are a significant factor

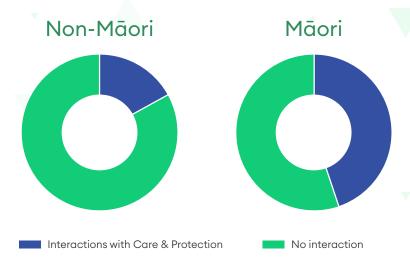
One in four (24%) rangatahi have had interactions with the care and protection system (i.e. Oranga Tamariki). This is a steady five-year trend, which has seen a two percentage point increase in interactions since 2018. Rangatahi experiencing exclusion and disadvantage were eight times more likely to have had an interaction with Oranga Tamariki than those who do not experience exclusion and disadvantage. Rangatahi Māori are 2.6 times more likely to have had experience of the care and protection system.





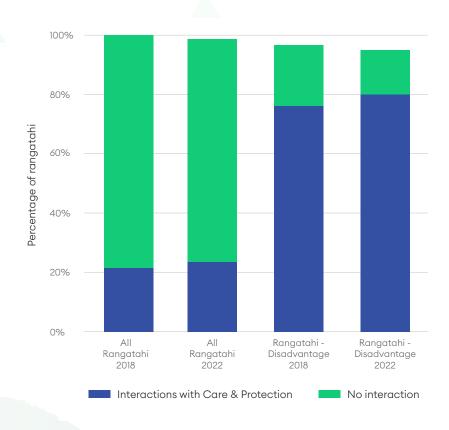


Interactions with care and protection systems 2022



Whilst the data shows that the level of interactions with care and protection for non-excluded and disadvantaged rangatahi has remained steady between 2018 and 2022, the trend is tracking upward faster for rangatahi who are experiencing exclusion and disadvantage with an increase in those rangatahi experiencing the most serious interactions from 66% to 71%.

Care and protection system interactions for all rangatahi and those experiencing disadvantage in 2018 and 2022

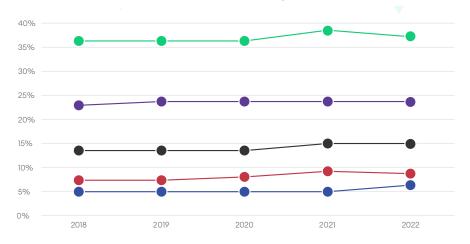






5 Structural inequities underpin exclusion and disadvantage

Exclusion and disadvantage by ethnicity



Percentage of rangatahi experiencing exclusion and disadvantage



With a five-year view over the data within OHI Data Navigator, the trends demonstrating the structural inequities that underpin exclusion and disadvantage are entrenched. Sadly, these experiences are not decreasing over time, instead they are steady. This is particularly true for Māori, isolated or rural communities and areas within larger cities where there are higher rates of material deprivation. Many are facing long-term, intergenerational impacts due to system-level failures that remain unaddressed.

The burden to navigate the complex systems that shape a young person's life currently falls back on the young person, who are often times already facing a number of hurdles to achieve wellbeing and realise their aspirations. Instead, the system needs to work for our communities. The barriers and roadblocks rangatahi are facing are largely due to the complexities of the government agencies and support services that successive governments have entrenched over generations, meaning structural change is needed to drive meaningful change.

We continue to highlight the need for radical change to the status quo, and this is important and urgent. Our communities need to be enabled with resources to address localised, whānau, community and iwi responses to supporting the needs and aspirations of rangatahi, and provide conditions where they can go on to thrive and fully contribute to society. The government needs to take a leading role in this and pave the way for other sectors to follow.













 $^{^{10}\,\}text{https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/child-wellbeing-and-poverty-reduction-group}$





Prioritising wellbeing

An Aotearoa that upholds the wellbeing of rangatahi means everyone has what they need in order to live and be happy. At a basic level this includes necessities like access to safe housing, food, and healthcare. But it also includes being able to comfortably be oneself as an individual within a collective.

A thematic analysis of the reports collated by the Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group show we need to prioritise wellbeing. To do this, we need to ensure we recognise and support people from different backgrounds and experiences. This starts with recognising the unique history of Aotearoa, and significance of tangata whenua and te ao Māori.

It involves providing accessible healthcare services that provide for everyone, including mental health services that are fit for purpose and culturally responsive healthcare. It means enabling better access to quality housing through measures like rent controls and regulations, and anti-discrimination housing policy. It includes making sure we take care

of vulnerable communities and their mana motuhake, such as Rainbow whānau through actions like providing Rainbow healthcare, better sex education and resources, and funding gender neutral bathrooms and uniforms.

It means for our disabled communities, making sure our infrastructure and services are accessible and consider the needs of everyone. For rangatahi in state care or those exposed to violence this means centring mana motuhake by including them in decision making. Finally, by using arts and culture as a vehicle to bring communities together we can create the place they want to live in through resourcing artists and art initiatives across the country, cultural events, and celebrating te ao Māori.

¹⁰ https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/child-wellbeing-and-poverty-reduction-group









Greater connectedness

A key whakaaro shared within many of the reports is that rangatahi thrive when they are able to have connectedness with the world around them, people and place alike. This means creating communities that rangatahi can, and want to, be a part of. To do this, we need to create more, and improve existing, opportunities for rangatahi to engage in civic and community participation, and evaluate whether current systems are designed to include them. Respecting rangatahi voices and providing more opportunities for them to be heard, taken seriously, and contribute to what Aotearoa looks like would help achieve this. Similarly, creating more opportunities for rangatahi to connect across regions and collaborate, listen and learn from people from different backgrounds and experiences would be beneficial.

Rangatahi also have a right to feel that their country includes them and that they have 'safe spaces' regardless of their background. This means providing representation of positive role models for rangatahi such as LGBT, Māori and Pasifika in schools or other public fora. It also means protecting rangatahi with measures such as improved hate speech legislation that would benefit LGBT and rangatahi from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

Connectivity encompasses both digital and physical spaces. Proactive action towards online data collection, privacy and surveillance, and other technological advancements would contribute to safe spaces for rangatahi to feel connected to. It involves providing well resourced community spaces and parks where people can come together, have fun, and spend quality time with friends, whānau, and with nature. It involves having quality physical spaces in combination with fostering cultural and social values that uplift rangatahi will allow them to feel connected.







Aspirations for the future

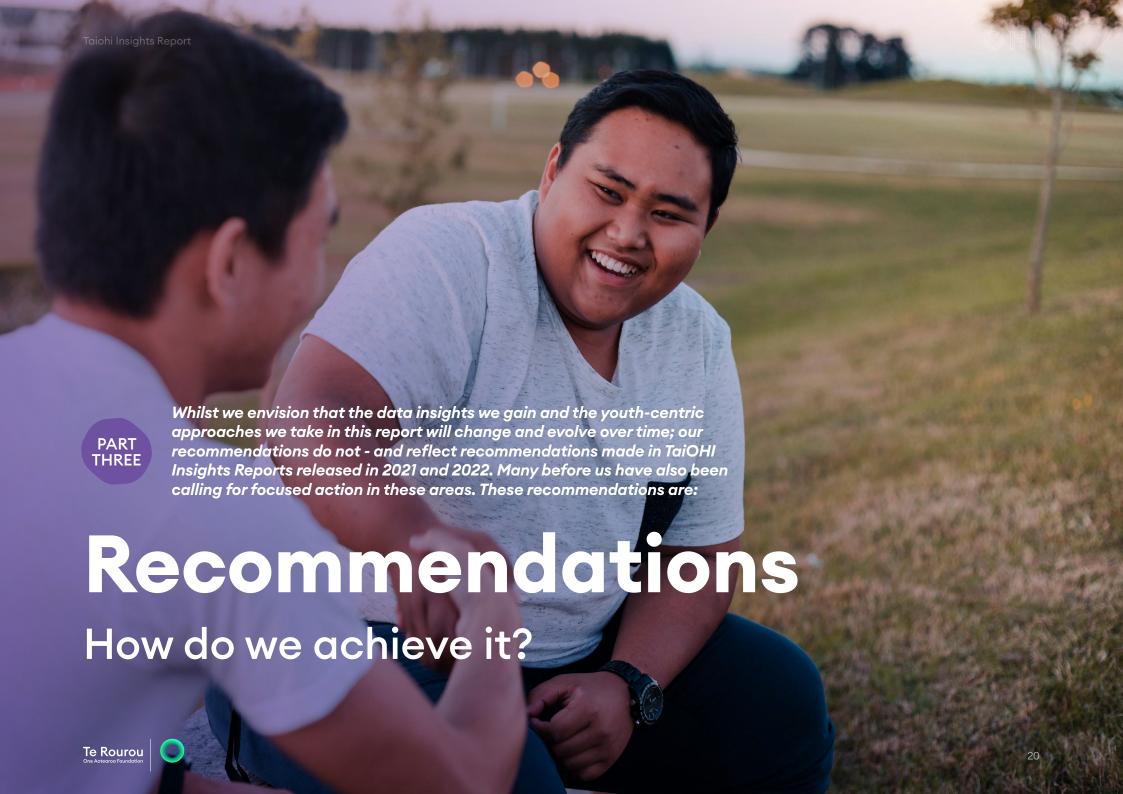
For Aotearoa, this means making transformative changes to our social systems to keep up with a rapidly changing world, such as radical action towards climate change, striving towards zero waste/ sustainability and a circular economy. It means improving urban areas with better public transport options, accessibility and quality, and implementing green architecture and urban design. To achieve this we must create a more equitable economy through tax measures that reduce wealth inequality, and improving the welfare system to ensure it doesn't leave anyone behind. Reimagining our Justice system to provide better outcomes for people, to be more representative, and reduce or remove incarceration. And importantly, having shared aspirations for the future, so that rangatahi can feel motivated to participate in creating necessary change.

It also means setting rangatahi up with the best opportunities possible by improving education, through actions such as improving quality of life for tertiary students, better support for diverse learning needs, properly resourcing the education workforce, and making learning more relevant to rangatahi through modern curriculums and learning delivery modes.

Allowing rangatahi to have aspirations is a necessary part of upholding wellbeing and creating connectedness. Rangatahi need to be able to envision a world where they can pursue their dreams, and are equipped to face life's challenges.

The research shows they need a sense of hope and assurance that changes are happening, and at the rate they need to, to ensure they have a bright future ahead, and for generations to come.







1. Centre Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Placing Te Tiriti o Waitaingi as central to systemic reform will mean delivering sustained transfer of power to iwi and community-led organisations.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi provides for the rights of tangata whenua, notably the right to exercise tino rangatiratanga. Ensuring that rangatahi and tamariki Māori are protected, and that they are able to express their views in accordance with their right to express tino rangatiratanga is integral to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Specific actions must also be taken to address disparities in social outcomes that occur for tangata whenua. The transformation needed to

enable communities to flourish is urgent, but will take time. We need a multi-faceted approach to systems change so we can empower rangatahi to thrive in their current circumstances, while also breaking intergenerational cycles of exclusion and disadvantage that have occurred through a failure to sufficiently hold Te Tiriti o Waitangi at the centre of our social systems.

Rangatahi tell us time and time again they want to be able to see themselves and people like them in the world; this means localised responses to local problems are important whilst pulling levers at a systems level for intergenerational and lasting change.





2. Decolonise the data that informs our decisions

Ensure the data we use to tell stories, identify patterns and make decisions is examined for biases and takes into account principles of Māori data sovereignty

OHI Data Navigator takes its data from government administrative data (Stats NZ, IDI) which is largely deficit data, and it is not collected for Māori or communities for the benefit of Māori or the community.

Our measure of exclusion and disadvantage is also a measure of wellbeing. This is how we can flip the script. When our rangatahi are well and thriving, the rates of exclusion and disadvantage will reduce.

In a practical sense, this looks like more protective factors and fewer risk factors present in a young person's life, for example: absence of interactions with care and protection & justice systems; household incomes that ensure our rangatahi are fed, clothed & adequately housed; and secure, healthy & long-term housing.









3. Increase income levels through wages and benefits

All of the data and research indicates income inequality and material deprivation are key drivers for exclusion and disadvantage

In the news this year we've heard more stories of rangatahi working whilst at school to alleviate financial burdens in the home. Whilst we've made progress as a society to lift wages and government benefit payments, in a cost-of-living crisis more needs to be done to ensure rangatahi have the resources they need to flourish. Household income and the burden of providing for our whānau should not be left to rangatahi. Governments must continue to invest in ways that address present needs and look to long-term solutions working in harmony with public and private sector organisations, to create a more productive and equitable Aotearoa.





4. Listen and enact whakaaro of lived-experience

To create the conditions for systemic reform, we must welcome and listen to the voices of those with lived-experience of exclusion and disadvantage. We need to genuinely promote their expertise into positions of power and influence at the decision-making tables of government, philanthropy and service providers.

We know that rangatahi want to give back to their communities and contribute in meaningful ways, but do not always feel they have the power to do so. The systems that shape their daily lives can be alienating. We need to find tangible ways to empower rangatahi based on their aspirations and interests. For example, ensuring government agencies are coordinated and resourced to involve rangatahi and different minority groups in decision making, particularly that which affects them.





5. Business on the hook for championing social change

Creating change is not just a job for the government, the social sector or Māori. The private sector should also play a role creating a more equitable, thriving society for children and rangatahi.

Here at Te Rourou, we have an aspirational goal to halve the number of rangatahi experiencing exclusion and disadvantage. As the philanthropic arm of One New Zealand, we are committed to ensuring the \$2 million koha we receive annually has a significant impact in the lives of rangatahi in Aotearoa.

Here are some examples of how we work:



The Invercargill Initiative: Lessons from participatory philanthropy

Te Rourou, One Aotearoa Foundation's Invercargill Initiative started in earnest in 2022, following initial community engagement which began in 2021. The Foundation's shift from a national to a place-based focus led them to Invercargill due to its disproportionate rates of youth disadvantage, amongst other factors. The team spent six months in the Discovery Phase, building relationships and collaborating with community stakeholders. From this phase came the four pou, or pillars, which form the Invercargill Initiative: Supercharging the Sector, Building Future Pathways, Supporting Māori Aspirations, and Creating Connection.

The initiative's uniqueness lies in participatory practices, which include Te Ōhaka Tīwhera, a fund led by rangatahi Māori, for rangatahi Māori, and the Thriving in Murihiku contestable fund, guided by local community members.

Participatory research, highlighted in the Thriving in Murihiku report, engaged the wider community at every stage, amplifying local voices. This participatory method was also used in a collaboration of Toi Āria, Community Trust South, and the Invercargill Licensing Trust Foundation, who partnered with the Foundation for the Mental Health and Wellbeing in Murihiku Southland report.

Benefits of participatory practices have already become clear, having helped to transform the Foundation from being seen as just a funder to becoming a resource for our community, fostering meaningful relationships. We have empowered those who are new to the funding process, helping to build capability within the community. This community-driven decision making has helped to ensure transparency and relevance, amplifying voices of those in areas of disadvantage.

Fostering relationships beyond funding and empowering the community to shape initiatives gives them agency and control over the process, and the product of what is funded. The buy-in has been much greater when the initiative is funded for the community, by the community. It also underpins the importance of businesses using their resources to drive lasting social change, and support efforts to create an awesome Aotearoa.





Driving towards digital equity

Te Rourou has a strategic focus on supporting kaupapa to ensure young people have safe and effective access to the digital world and all the opportunities it provides. Two digital equity programs enabled through partnership with One NZ are currently supported by Te Rourou.

Toītu te Toki – laptops for students

Toitū te Toki asks customers of One NZ to donate laptops that are no longer needed to Te Rourou. These devices are loaned to schools for student use during the year, with a continuing pipeline of laptops. This ensures ongoing access to good quality devices for education and reduces the burden on schools and whānau. The programme provides a simple and effective way for businesses to support better social and environmental outcomes. In 2023, Toitū te Toki has supported almost 300 students across two schools in Invercargill.

Te Pae Hononga – iwi-led connection

A partnership between Te Kei o Te Waka Tainui, Te Rourou: One Aotearoa Foundation, and One New Zealand, Te Pae Hononga provides Waikato-Tainui whānau meaningful connection through access to digital connectivity and learning. Connection to iwi, connection to whanau, connection to whenua, connection to that which makes whānau feel connected to purpose. Whānau who participate in Te Pae Hononga are provided free access to a One NZ broadband plan, devices suited to whanau needs, digital skills and online safety training, and cultural learning opportunities. Grounded in tikanga and te ao Māori values, Te Pae Hononga offers the opportunity for generations to learn together, where rangatahi support kaumātua with digital learning while kaumātua are able to share traditional knowledge and history in return. Through building connection to each other, connection to place and to Waikato-Tainui history, whanau are provided a space of safety and trust allowing everyone to learn, regardless of where they are in their journey.





6. Empower and resource communities to lead change

Communities must be resourced to lead systemic change for themselves.

As noted in the 2022 TaiOHI Insights Report, enabling communities to lead change for themselves goes hand in hand with the ways in which government, philanthropy and business can champion social change. By listening and acting on the advice of experts with lived-experience, and divesting decisions away from those with power to communities most affected, we will start to see activation in the community with community-led responses. Our experiences working in Invercargill provide an indication of the benefits of participatory philanthropy, and empowering communities.





7. Lean into what makes us unique

To create a more equitable, thriving society for tamariki and rangatahi, we must embrace our national identity and build the systems and structures that will help us meet our aspirations.

Enabling communities to lead change for themselves goes hand in hand with the ways in which government, philanthropy and business can champion social change. By listening and acting on the advice of experts with lived-experience, and divesting decisions away from those with power to communities most affected, we will start to see activation in the community with community-led responses. The old adage that 2+2=5 holds true, to create momentum in breaking down barriers that exist within often-entrenched systems and enable structural change to create a more equitable Aotearoa, where rangatahi can thrive.





Kuputaka | Glossary

lwi	extended kinship group, nation
Kaumātua	elder, person of status within a whānau
Koha	contribution, gift
Mana Motuhake	sovereignty, autonomy, self-determination
Pākehā	New Zealander of European descent
Tamariki	child
Rangatahi	young person
Tangata whenua	Māori, the Indigenous people of Aotearoa
Te ao Māori	the Māori world
Tikanga	customs, procedures, protocols
Whakaaro	thought, opinion
Whānau	extended familial group, family or community
Whenua	land, territory
Motu	country
Kaupapa	topic, policy, matter for discussion









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