



# ANNUAL REPORT 2023



**Big Brothers Big Sisters  
of Nelson–Tasman**

*Tuakana Teina*

**-OUR VISION-**

**EVERY  
CHILD WHO  
NEEDS  
A MENTOR,  
HAS A  
MENTOR.**

# CONTENTS

CHAIR'S REPORT	4
DIRECTOR'S REPORT	6
STATISTICS 2023	8
RECENT FEEDBACK	10
PROGRAMME OUTCOME EVALUATIONS	12



**This report is written for presentation to  
the 26th Annual Meeting of  
Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson-Tasman  
(BBBSNT), December 2023.**

# CHAIR'S REPORT



**This is my Chair's report for the 26th Annual General Meeting of Big Brothers Big Sisters of Nelson-Tasman (BBBSNT). BBBSNT is a wonderful organisation assisting young people, adults, families, caregivers and our community. The connections made by Board members, Programme Director, Mentoring Coordinators, Mentors, families and Mentees make a real difference to a healthier community.**

BBBSNT is linked to BBBS International through our affiliation to BBBS New Zealand (BBBSNZ). Policies and procedures are developed internationally, nationally and locally. We have adopted the suite of policies developed nationally and this has been a real benefit for us. We review our strategic plan annually.

One challenge faced during the year was in February 2023, whereby we accepted the resignation of Yasna Keys, our newly appointed Programme Director. We went through another appointment process and are very pleased to have appointed Tracee Neilson for the role. We have welcomed Tracee and are most appreciative of her dynamism in accepting the challenges of networking, fundraising and running our team of Mentoring Coordinators. There are a lot of challenges and moving parts to her role.

We enjoyed another successful fundraising dinner, and it was clear people in our community enjoyed it. A big thank you to Tracee, Cushla, Chelsea and our whole team who helped bring this about. I would like to express to our many sponsors our appreciation for the level of support shown through donations and sponsorship.

We are targeting male Mentors to meet the need of the 36 boys seeking a Mentor.

We have a very supportive staff team which works extremely well together and shares a common commitment to high professional standards and to providing the best possible support for our young people and their Mentors. During the year we have welcomed Rochelle Nicholls and Jo Lavington into the role as Mentoring Coordinators and Jo is also our Programme Coordinator, a role vacated by Cushla Vass taking a role with BBBS National. I would like to thank our Mentoring Coordinator team for their ability to face challenges and being such an effective and positive team.

We give Cushla our best wishes in her new role in BBBS National.

Our working relationship with the Nelson Police continues to be a significant contributor to the success of our programme. Again, the Board wishes to thank the Police for their continued funding of the Programme Director's position, the provision of office space and support services and the close liaison and support. We thank Mike Wardle for his time with us as the Police Liaison for BBBSNT and for his significant contribution this year as we again navigated the Programme Director appointment process. We wish Mike all the best as he has transferred to Canterbury. Welcome to Adam Ramsay, our new Police Liaison. I also greatly appreciate Ian Langridge who has a great knowledge of our connection with Nelson Tasman Police and the history of our organisation.

This year we have said farewell to Lani Evans as Trustee, due to her commitments with a growing and thriving family. We very much appreciate Lani's commitment and involvement over many years and wish her well for the future.

My thanks to all Board members for their enthusiasm for BBBSNT and for their commitment to the governance of the organisation:

Melissa Munro - Deputy Chair and Treasurer  
Sue Herd - Minute Secretary  
Adam Ramsay - Police Representative  
Campbell Rollo   Ian Langridge   Nathan Dunn   Tanya McMurtrie

## **Finances 2022-23 Financial Year**

The level of support BBBSNT can provide is due entirely to the generosity shown by businesses and individuals within Nelson-Tasman and other funding providers. A significant challenge we face is supporting the tamariki and rangatahi who would like a mentor. Currently we have 36 boys and 20 girls on our wait list and we are aiming to increase our capacity to meet this need. This requires significant funding to meet the cost of our staff. With inflationary pressures we are needing to increase funding. Our community is facing real financial challenges because of current economic conditions, and this is a key focus area.

Fundraising got another major boost with the 2023 fundraising dinner and auction and the generosity of those who bought tables and bid at the auction. The dinner and auction contributed around \$62,000 this year, a tremendous contribution. We greatly appreciate the support of our community.

Tracee and team have again been very successful submitting funding applications to organisations which have supported us in the past and to new organisations which have supported us for the first time. The success they have achieved is the result of well researched, professional applications and excellent communication with key people in those organisations.

We must again acknowledge all our sponsors, commercial, organisational, and personal, who continue to contribute financially or in kind in support of BBBSNT. Their continued support and enthusiasm for the work BBBSNT does is vital in enabling our Board, staff and Mentors to continue to maintain the standards and get the results we have achieved to date.

Programme Director Tracee Neilson has acknowledged our sponsors individually in her report.

## **The BBBSNT Programme**

Throughout the year we have served as many as 246 matches. We have 56 young people on our waiting list for mentors, and 36 of those are boys. Our focus remains on match support and the obligation we have to make the BBBSNT environment as safe as we can for staff, Mentors and young people in the programme and requires us to ensure we are committed to excellence in match support and management. We have targeted more male mentors and have had good success with a previous advertising campaign called "22 Men for 22".

## **Reviewing our future focus**

As a result of change of personnel, we deferred our February 2023 BBBSNT board and staff review of our the Strategic Plan. With the appointment of Tracee as Programme Director we are now engaging with Iwi representatives to review the Strategic Plan and will follow on with Board and staff members in early 2024 to ensure it remained relevant and focussed while providing the challenges required for constant improvement and development of the programme.

## **Thanks to special people**

I would like to acknowledge the contributions made by Johnston and Associates towards our audit and our honorary solicitor Jeremy Glasgow, of Glasgow Harley. Without these contributions BBBSNT could not achieve the results outlined in this report.

I also thank our Board members, Programme Director Tracee Neilson, Programme Coordinator Jo Lavington, and our team of Mentoring Coordinators, who work tremendously together to provide the support to our tamariki and rangatahi. This is an awesome programme, and we have a great team to deliver it.



**Richard Kempthorne**

Chair, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Nelson Tasman

1 December 2023

# DIRECTOR'S REPORT



**It's a privilege to report to you as the Programme Director for Big Brothers Big Sisters Nelson Tasman (BBBSNT) an organisation which delivers so much impact here in the community – from Tapawera through Motueka, Moutere, Golden Bay and across Richmond, Stoke and Nelson.**

We have so many tamariki and rangatahi whose potential we ignite by matching with a positive role model whilst providing consistency and opportunities every child should have. Our Volunteer Mentors are instrumental in making this programme a success.

2023 was a challenging year for BBBSNT particularly with changes at the helm. I would like to acknowledge Cushla Vass ensuring the smooth running of our branch from March 2023 until I joined in July. This has not gone unnoticed.

The complexities facing our young people, exacerbated by the cost-of-living crisis, has meant the services we provide are now all the more important. Across the year we served a total of 246 matches with an incredible 21,300 volunteer hours donated by our Mentors and Board members. We currently have 151 active matches, having had many School Based Teen matches close for the 2023 academic year. Since our very first match back in 1998, we have supported over 1500 matches in Nelson-Tasman.

The waiting list for young people is currently sitting at 56 young people, 36 of whom are boys – down from 46 as at this time last year. Our campaign to attract 22 men for 2022 has contributed to this. In 2023 we trained and matched 72 new Mentors and have over 19 ready to be trained and matched. Match retention has increased by 24% over the last 5 years and average match length for BBBSNT is just short of 2 years.

Diversity also has increased with our nationalities on the programme including Chin, Columbian, Māori, Pasifika, English, South African, Thai and also gender diverse children coming onto our programme.

We welcomed Rochelle to our team in May and it is a huge advantage having her based in Mohua. Rochelle is well connected having grown up in the Bay and made significant progress working alongside Abbey at Golden Bay High School as well as raising funds. Jo, who temped for us in May and June, has now joined us permanently in dual role of Programme Coordinator and Mentoring Coordinator. We look forward to Jo developing in this role. Cushla has moved to the National office and continues to provide great support. It's with significant sadness we accepted Maree's resignation in early December having been with BBBSNT almost 9 years. She will be hard to replace given her expertise, passion, and experience, not to mention her kindness. We wish Maree all the very best.

Our Charity Golf Day in February was once again hugely successful raising over \$21,000 and special thanks to Sarah Goodfellow for her hard work, and BNZ for their sponsorship. Thank you also to all who attended, donated, and purchased items on offer.

Our Charity Dinner and Auction at the Rutherford Hotel went off with a bang again and raised nearly \$62,000. An enormous thanks to our dinner sponsor Nelson Airport and to ticket purchasers, those who donated auction items, and those purchased the items on offer.

2023 has been another busy year with events for our Mentors and Mentees including a BBQ at Rabbit Island, paint balling, a fishing day, horse riding and jet-boating. The exciting event was the overnight

camp at Bethany Park – it was wonderful to bring this back after many years and we look forward to 2024 camp! Participants snorkelled, went on the water slide, paddled a waka and even had a go at the Police Physical Competency Test. This was a fantastic opportunity with many new experiences for many of our Littles and a great way for Mentors to connect. A fun time was had by all judging by the feedback.

The team attended the National Hui in Christchurch in June and are excited the Hui will be here in Nelson in June 2024. I was pleased to attend the Leadership Hui in October and found the topics of financial management, governance, leading from the front, strategic planning and iwi engagement all to be very useful.

2023 saw BBBSNT celebrate its 25th year of operation. We held a fitting celebration and were appreciative of Bowater Hyundai hosting us. Thanks to Dave Marshall, Ross Leinert and Drew Ewan travelling from afar and it was great to see so many faces from the early days in attendance.

Big Brothers Big Sisters remains hugely grateful to our sponsors, donors, and funders. Their investment in our organisation is invaluable in allowing us to match more children with Volunteer Mentors. Special mention to our partners Tasman District Police, and to our Cornerstone Sponsors - Pics Peanut Butter, Heartland Group, Bowater Hyundai, BNZ, Richmond Mall, New Zealand King Salmon, Gallagher, Asphalt and Construction, More FM, Johnston Associates, Nelson Airport, and new sponsors Nelson Orthodontics and NPD.

Thank you to our loyal regular donors and match sponsors – FinestKind, Munro Dental, TTK, Nelson Heat Pumps, Assured Group, Stevens Orchard Lawyers, ATEC, Pauline Field, TNL International, Thwaites Diesel, Fulton Hogan, Craigs Investment Partners, Fujifilm, Summit Motueka, Euan McIntosh, I Lewis, Jos and Jean Van Der Veldt, Alex Rutherford, Fonterra, Rotary Club of Whakatu and The Rotary Club of Nelson. Also, thanks to our funders – Rata Foundation, Lotteries Foundation, Top of the South Community Foundation, Pub Charity, Nelson City Council, Tasman District Council, COGS, NZCT, Lion Foundation, Mainland Foundation, Tindall Foundation, Motueka Community Board, Golden Bay Community Trust and Golden Bay Community Fund.

Our programme would not be possible without our incredible Mentors, who so generously donate their time each and every week. We are indebted to every person and company that has participated in our programme since its inception. Thank you for helping us make a long-lasting difference to the children in our community – the success stories are powerful and inspiring.

I would like to thank the Board for their service throughout 2023. They are a great team to work with, with fantastic skills, knowledge, and experience. Their support, along with our amazing staff, has been invaluable.

**Tracee Neilson**

Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters, Nelson Tasman

1 December 2023

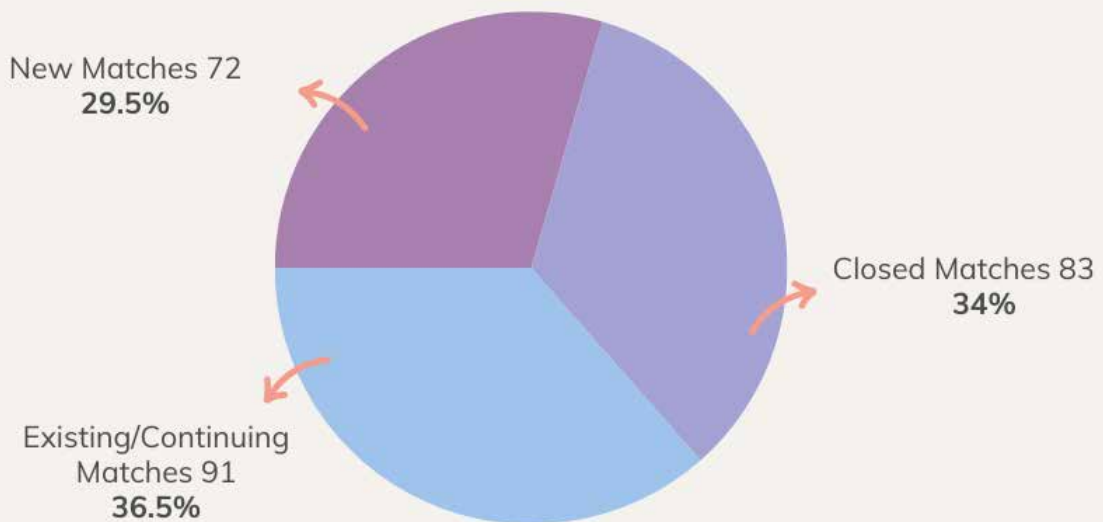


# STATISTICS

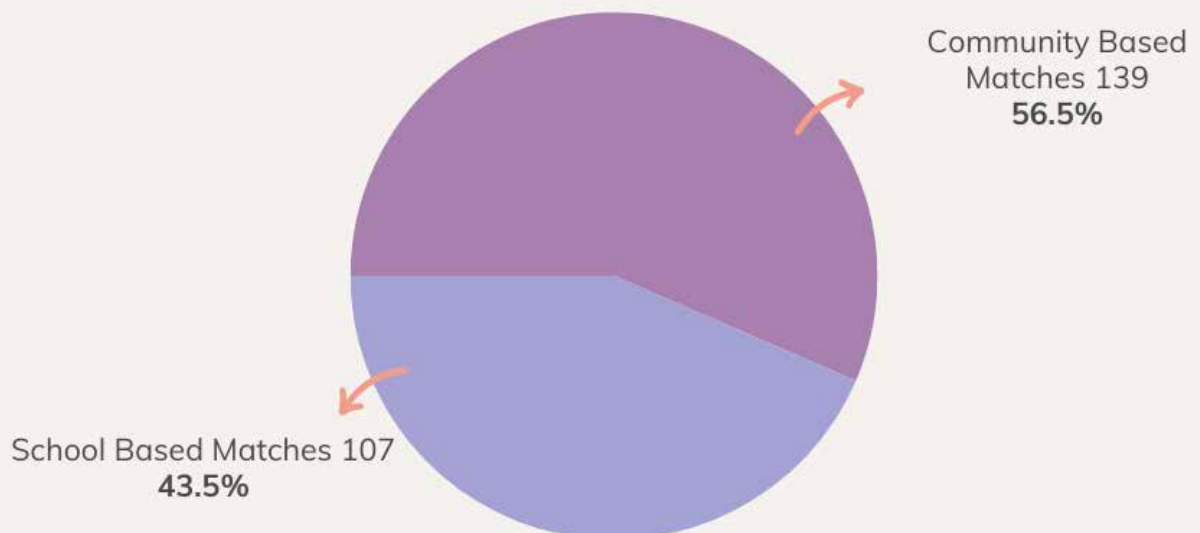
## 2023

### RATIO OF MATCH ACTIVITY

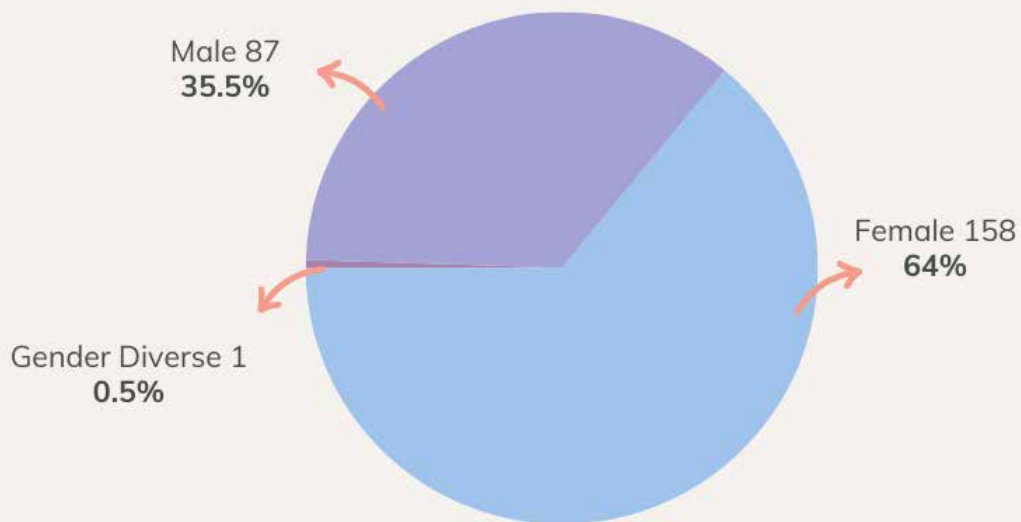
246 Matches Served



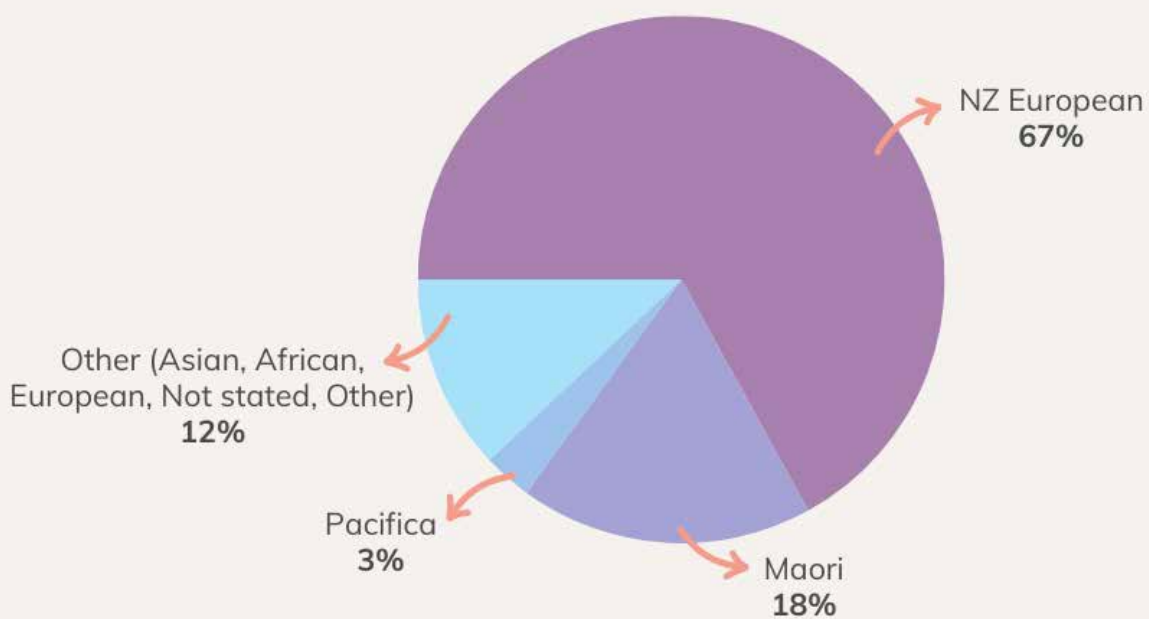
### PROGRAMME TYPE



## GENDER RATIO Across all Match Types



## YOUNG PERSON ETHNICITY



# FEEDBACK

## FROM PARTICIPANTS

"The best thing about having a mentor is he has time for me, I can tell him my thoughts and he always listens""the worst thing about having a mentor is having to go home."

"It's a time I can be without any cares, just be myself. The bond and relationship and spending time together is very helpful"

*Isabelle (Mentee aged 11)*

**"I have someone who will listen to me. He always turns up when he says he will"**

**"She is the one who I can get all my emotional stuff out with"**

"Having someone I trust to spend quality one on one time with me. He also does stuff with me that Mum can't" *Jadon (Mentee aged 13)*



**"I have thoroughly enjoyed growing a relationship with her and have especially enjoyed how much more confident and open she became each week we met"** *Emma (Volunteer Adult Mentor – matched 1 year)*

**"Building and seeing the growth, maturity of young person"**

*Curtis (Volunteer Adult Mentor – matched 3 years)*

**"Seeing how far she has come and how she has forged her own path"**  
*Emma (Volunteer Adult Mentor – matched 6 years)*

**"You do great work and the small things and small connections really are the big things in little children's lives, and make a huge difference between them rebounding and being resilient or quietly giving up"**

**"Whoever provides funding should provide more for such a brilliant service for my family, and I'd like that blessing to go to others who need it"**



**"You have been the most consistent male figure in his life... he just adores you"**

# PROGRAMME

## OUTCOMES EVALUATIONS

### Summary statistics for 2023

Programme outcome evaluations are conducted every year with the volunteer, parent and teacher of the young person.

Parents and teachers report that young people on our programme have greatly improved outcomes in the following areas:



#### CONFIDENCE

- **91% have improved self-confidence**
- **78% are more able to express their feelings**
- **76% are more confident in being able to make a good decision**
- **70% have developed a hobby or interest**



#### COMPETENCE

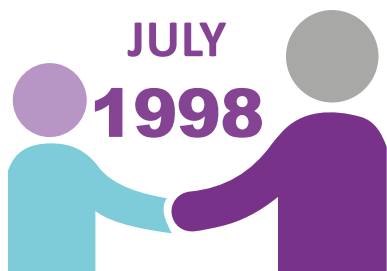
- **67% have improved their academic performance at school**
- **60% improvement in attitude towards school and learning**
- **63% are positively participating more actively in classes**
- **54% have much improved behaviour in class and at school**



#### CARING

- **71% are more trusting of adults (parent, mentor and teachers)**
- **64% have an improved positive relationship with family members**
- **73% are able to relate better towards their peers, including positive communication skills, caring behaviour towards others**
- **71% have developed better positive relationships with other adults**

**1ST MATCH**  
MADE ON 28TH  
JULY



**1998**



**25**  
years

in partnership  
with Police

**MORE THAN**  
**1392**  
matches  
served



**MORE THAN**

**200,000**  
VOLUNTEER HOURS!



generously  
SUPPORTED BY  
**14 LOCAL**  
CORNERSTONE  
SPONSORS



**AVERAGE MATCH LENGTH**

**= 725 days**  
(1 year, 11 months)

**OUR STAFF HAS GROWN  
FROM 1 TO 7**



**CELEBRATING**

**Big Brothers Big Sisters**



in Nelson-Tasman

**LITTLE STATS...**

**91%** have improved  
self confidence

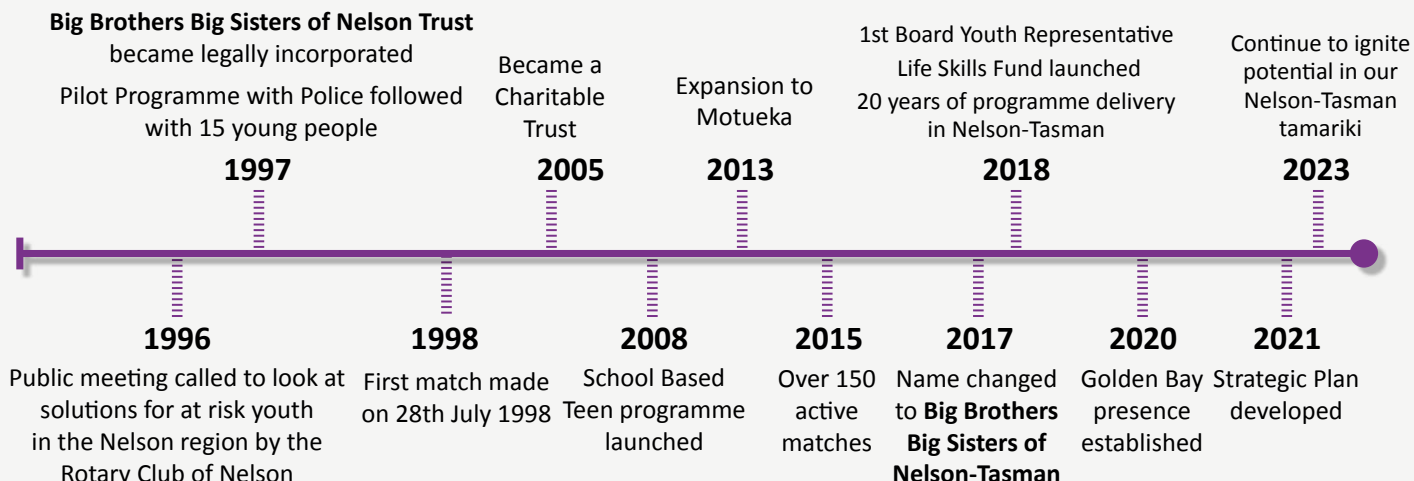
**78%** are more able to  
express their feelings

**76%** are more  
confident in being  
able to make a good  
decision

**70%** have developed  
a hobby or interest

# TIMELINE

## Our Story So Far...



# 2023



# CELEBRATING 25 YEARS IN NELSON-TASMAN



# THANK YOU TO OUR CORNERSTONE SPONSORS AND OUR FUNDERS...



## THANK YOU TO OUR MATCH SPONSORS...

- Stevens Orchard Lawyers • FinestKind • Nelson Heat Pumps • TTK
- Rotary Club of Nelson • Thwaites Diesel • TNL International • Munro Dental
- Rotary Club of Whakatū • ATEC • Fulton Hogan • Assured Group
- Rotary Club of Rutherford • Pauline Field • Craigs Investment Partners
- Forsyth Barr • Blueberry IT