Community Networks Aotearoa

Annual Report 2026

Executive Committee

















Holly Snape,
Chair

Top left to right: Liz Davies, Deputy Chair. Andrew Beyer, Secretary. Chris Glaudel, Treasurer. Tess Casey, Committee Member.

Bottom left to right: Jayden Cromb, Committee Member. Liz Hawes, Committee Member. Kura Moeahu (Māori Advisor)

CNA Staff



Ros Rice,
Executive Officer.



Patrick Davies,
Engagement Officer.



Dan & Lydia Campbell-Robinson (Aye Studios)
Part Time Communications Officer.

Holly Snape, Chair's Report

Community Networks Aotearoa



Tēnā Koutou Katoa, and welcome,

This year has been one of strategic focus and significant transition for Community Networks Aotearoa. Our strategic review has sharpened our understanding of CNA's role as a nationwide network: connecting people and organisations, strengthening the sector, and ensuring community experience and expertise are heard by those making decisions.

A particularly important part of the year has been planning for leadership succession. After more than two decades leading CNA, Ros is retiring from the Executive Officer role. Her contribution to the organisation and to the wider community sector has been extraordinary, and the Executive Committee is deeply grateful for the knowledge, relationships and commitment she has brought to CNA over so many years. Following a robust recruitment process, we are delighted to welcome Tess Casey as our new Executive Officer and look forward to supporting her as CNA enters its next chapter.

From a governance perspective, our focus has been on turning strategy into stronger relationships, greater sector influence and a sustainable future for CNA.

Some highlights include:

- Using our Members' Hui to listen to members, strengthen relationships and test our strategic thinking against the realities of people working in communities across Aotearoa.
- Seeing our Better Banking research translate into practical impact, including stronger relationships with BNZ and First Credit Union and new opportunities to work together for the benefit of the sector.
- Delivering a political panel that created a valuable two-way conversation between the community sector and political representatives, giving our members the opportunity to hear directly from decision-makers while ensuring sector experience was also heard.
- Supporting the Connecting for Change conference, held in July in partnership with the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services, as part of our wider commitment to connection, professional development and a stronger collective sector voice.
- Managing a major leadership recruitment and transition process while keeping CNA's long-term organisational capacity, resilience and strategic direction at the centre of our decisions.

This year also brought the loss of our much-loved Kaumātua, Papa Julius – Te Urikore. Papa Julius was a pivotal part of CNA for many years, bringing wisdom, guidance and encouragement to our hui, events and Executive Committee. Our team and Committee were privileged to spend time with his whānau and to visit his grave together. He remains an important part of CNA's story, and we carry his contribution with us. E te rangatira, moe mai rā. We welcome Kura Moeahu Ngāruahine, Te Āti Awa, Taranaki –Tuturu, Ngāti Mutunga, Ngāti Tama, Ngāti Toa QSO who has graciously come on board to shepherd our continuing journey.

As an Executive Committee, we finish the year with a clearer strategic direction, strong relationships across the sector and beyond, and confidence in CNA's next chapter. We are grateful to our members for the trust they place in us, to our partners and funders for their support, and to our small and highly committed staff team for the mahi they continue to deliver. Our role is to provide good governance, ensure accountability and create the conditions for CNA to remain a strong, connected and influential national network for the community sector.

Ngā mihi nui,
Holly Snape
Chair, Executive Committee



Whakamaharatanga — In Memorium:
Papa Te Urikore (Julius) Waenga (Te Whānau-ā-Apanui and Ngati Porou)

It is with great sadness that we acknowledge the passing of our beloved Kaumatua Te Urikore (Papa Julius) Waenga. Te Whānau-ā-Apanui and Ngati Porou are his iwi, but he has also resided proudly in Pōneke Wellington for 50 years.

Papa had complex and wonderful stories about his life at the Cape on his father's farm, and tales of his family. How proud he was of them all! Papa gifted CNA with our te reo name – Te Hapori Tuhononga o Aotearoa. He carried us through many meetings, Hui, conferences and events.

He has been laid to rest at Mākara next to his partner as he wished, and the staff and Executive Committee visited Ngā Iwi o Te Motu Urupā to pay our respects to this man who became part of Community Networks Aotearoa for over a decade.

Moe mai ra, Papa.
Farewell Matua Papa,
Arohanui.



Ros Rice,
EO Report

Community Networks Aotearoa



Tēnā Koutou Katoa, and welcome,

The 13th of November is my very last day working at Community Networks Aotearoa. When I started in this job back in 2007 we were called The New Zealand Council of Social Services. Those were tough days for this organisation, after some stressful years, but with the support of the Executive Committee and with special thanks to the wonderful Andrew Beyer who supported me in my work, I have grown alongside my beloved organisation and I have witnessed amazing moments with our membership and our friends in this essential sector.

I will miss you all but, I am sure I will pop up now and then. I am returning to Dunedin where my family live, and many friends from my days there say they are excited to see me come back. A lot of coffees are being set up on my arrival.

I want to thank everyone who has supported me, tolerated me, stood up for me, and been proud of me. You are all treasures in my life and will not be forgotten. Thank you all.

Executive Committee

What an incredible group of people. I have had a stable group of highly skilled people who have been available when I needed them, who have advised me, who have worked with me and supported me. The best governance group I have ever worked with. I want to mention in particular, our Chairperson Holly Snape. I am so grateful to Holly for her unfailing support, calm demeanour when I am panicking, amazing sector knowledge and terrifying intelligence.

I have been so lucky to have such a competent committee, and I am so glad that they have all chosen to return to work with Tess Casey who is going to take over from me. 😊

Part of our committee was our Kaumatua Papa Julius Waegna. I was so upset when Papa passed. We knew he was unwell, but it was a great shock. He will always be remembered and loved.

It is with great gratitude that we have been able to welcome Matua Kura Moeahu as our Māori advisor. Thanks to Kura for stepping up to this role. We are so honoured and I hope he enjoys working with all the team who will be continuing in our sector work.

Staff Work

Working with Patrick and Dan in the office over 2026, has been joyful and enabled us to achieve amazing things. The three of us work closely together as a team, which is both energising and exhausting all at once.

I also want to mention my friend the amazing Christine Garrett. Christine is the accountant and advisor who is behind many of the decisions and reports of about our financials. But Christine has been with us so long that she is also our close friend, we have shared many things together. Christine was in the office the day I got the call that my brother had died, Christine and her lovely dog Leia have kept us company many days, while we were all struggling to deal with the complexities of running our organisation. Her knowledge and help are so much appreciated.

Over the years I have had the honour of working with quite a few different friends. I would like to mention Lisa Woods, Fionn Peat, Ciara O'Callaghan and Sarah Doherty.

Also, we can't forget the wonderful Jane Horan who we spent over a year doing some different projects.

Collaborations

This past year has involved a major collaboration with The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services. Together our combined staff presented a fantastic joint conference, 'Connecting For Change'. I am sure other reports will discuss this collaboration, but from my point of view, I think this may have been the best conference we have ever been involved with. Frankly this conference rocked. Special thanks to Alicia Sudden and her team for working so hard alongside us.

We have been continued collaborating with Pointsbuild who are the platform for the "Tick for Governance" on-line training. We work with them to update when there is new legislation or other changes in the course. This regular collaboration takes place several times a year and is in the middle of a re-haul during the last few months.

We have been collaborating with Louisa Joblin and Sue Barker when doing our on-line zooms on different subjects. These lawyers are very generous with their time and donate time to us when appropriate.

I want to acknowledge Sue Barker who financially enabled us to hire Jehan Casinader as the MC for our Political Panel which was a great success.

That brings me to the BNZ, who is now our organisation's choice of bank. We worked with the BNZ along with their NGO support team, especially during the time when Incorporated Societies had to update their constitutions and reregister with the Companies Office. Thank you to the BNZ staff especially Niro, Rachel and Cherie who supported CNA by providing a free venue for us more than once in the BNZ partnership centre.

We have continued working on a collaboration with WiseComply to provide testers whose input will develop a compliance app that organisations can use for organisation management, with a compliance dashboard and reminders alongside guided workflows for registration updates, annual returns and rule changes. We hope this inexpensive app will eventually greatly aid our governance boards and staff to keep up with the ever-increasing compliance requirements we are all currently facing. Also, thanks to our funder JR McKenzie for providing the ability to ensure organisations testing the app can continue using it for a year without charge.

We enjoy being part of the Constellation. This group of multiple Wellington NGOs and some regional networks is working together on several vital and important projects, and we like being able to work together with these other non-profit bodies.

The Future

Please welcome Tess Casey the new Executive Officer of CNA. I can't think of anyone better to step into this role. Tess knows this organisation really well and she and I have been friends for years. She will be a great reviewer of where the national office sits, and what the team should be doing. I have been here quite long enough, and I am very happy to pass this role onto Tess.

Our amazing membership

My final annual report cannot finish without my grateful thanks to our incredible membership. From you, our Executive Committee has been appointed; from you our projects and events and discussions have evolved. I know so many of you, and it has been such a pleasure and an honour to have worked with you over the last years. Your wisdom, passion, empathy and dedication have humbled me, and I have had the best time with you all. Thank you for being here and being part of this organisation. Thank you for being in your communities and working to support and help in those communities. You are all special.

Finally, I leave this role that I have truly loved with a passion. Thank you for having me and never stop caring and loving our people. That's why we all exist and it is incredibly important that we all continue. I know many people say it would be great if this sector wasn't needed but I believe that is looking through the wrong lens. As long as we are all human and as long as this species exists, we will prove our humanity by being there for each other.

Ngā mihi nui,
Ros Rice, Executive Officer



2026

Financials

CNA Treasurer, Chris Glaudel



CNA Financial Report 2026:

For the year ended 30 June 2026

Community Networks Aotearoa completed the year ended 30 June 2026 in a sound financial position, while continuing to invest in the capability needed to support our members and represent the community and voluntary sector. The year ended with a deficit of $36,386, broadly unchanged from the prior year's deficit of $36,385. Total revenue was $345,781 and total expenses were $382,167.

The result reflects a year in which revenue was lower, particularly from the Tick for Governance training programme, conference revenue and interest income, while CNA maintained its people and service capability. Employee remuneration and related expenses were $288,943, representing approximately three-quarters of total expenses. This reflects our commitment to retaining the skills and capacity needed at a time of increasing complexity and demand for CNA's leadership and support.

CNA's principal funding continued to come from the Ministry of Social Development, with government service delivery grants and contracts of $300,212. Other income included $15,000 from NZ Lotteries, $858 of general grant income from the J R McKenzie Trust (with a further $14,142 recorded as deferred revenue until spent), membership fees and subscriptions of $5,227, commercial activity revenue of $8,526, and interest and investment revenue of $15,958.

At 30 June 2026, CNA held total assets of $408,360 and total liabilities of $93,770, leaving net assets and accumulated funds of $314,590. These funds comprised accumulated surpluses of $306,576 and restricted reserves of $8,014. Cash and short-term deposits were $182,285 and current investments were $201,114. Net operating cash flow was close to break-even at a cash outflow of $13.

The increase in liabilities primarily reflects deferred revenue of $49,578, including $35,010 of conference income invoiced in advance for the Connecting for Change conference held after balance date. CNA continues to apply prudent financial oversight and has a policy of retaining sufficient reserves for one year's operating costs. The Performance Report also confirms that CNA has the ability to continue operating for at least another year after balance date.

On behalf of the Executive Committee, I thank CNA staff and our accountant, Christine Young, for their careful financial management and support throughout the year. I also thank Finance Subcommittee members Andrew Beyer and Holly Snape, together with the wider Executive Committee, for their continued oversight and commitment to balancing positive outcomes for members with managed levels of financial risk.

The full results are set out in:

- *CNA Performance Report Summary 2026*
- *The accompanying independent review report and management letter*

Ngā mihi nui,
Chris Glaudel | Treasurer, Executive Committee

Welcome new members

Te Rūnanga o Kirikiriroa Charitable Trust

Kāpiti Impact Trust

DV Bryant Trust

Wairoa Community trust

Connected Neighbourhoods Trust

LEAD The Centre for Governance

2026

Activities

Our Activities over the Last Year



Sector Event:
– ‘1 Sector, 6 Parties Respond’ Election Panel

Ahead of the 2026 General Election, CNA hosted “1 Sector, 6 Parties Respond”, bringing representatives from six political parties together to discuss issues affecting charities, iwi organisations and Not-for-Profits. The event gave the Community and Voluntary Sector an opportunity to put its priorities, concerns and questions directly to political decision-makers and hear a range of policy perspectives.

Facilitated by MC Jehan Casinader, the discussion reflected issues raised by the sector, including increasing demand, funding pressures, supporting whānau and communities, and advocating for positive change. The panel also highlighted the value of cross-party dialogue and a willingness to work collaboratively, while recognising that the real test will be turning these commitments into practical action.

The event was live-streamed, extending participation beyond those able to attend in person, with the recording available through CNA’s YouTube channel. CNA sincerely thanks BNZ for providing the venue and Sue Barker Charities for their generous sponsorship, without which the event would not have been possible.

“1 Sector, 6 Parties Respond” demonstrated the importance of ensuring the Community and Voluntary Sector has a strong voice in Aotearoa’s political and policy conversations.

CNA YouTube: ‘1 Sector, 6 Parties Respond’ Political Panel.

Collaborators: Jehan Casinader (Celebrity Speakers), Sue Barker Charities Law, BNZ, Streamliner Productions, The Chubby Baker.



Engagement:
Connecting for Change Conference

One of the major events of the year was Connecting for Change, the joint conference hosted by Community Networks Aotearoa and the New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) on 28–29 July 2026 at the Black & Gold Harbourside Function Venue in Wellington.

The conference provided an opportunity for people working across the community, social service and voluntary sectors to come together, share experience and explore the issues shaping their work. The partnership with NZCCSS reflected CNA's commitment to collaboration across the sector and to creating spaces where organisations can learn from one another rather than working in isolation.

The conference programme brought together speakers, workshops and opportunities for discussion around the realities facing community organisations. It provided a valuable opportunity to step away from the day-to-day pressures of community mahi, consider the wider environment in which organisations operate and build relationships that can continue beyond the conference itself.

The two-day conference created space for learning, discussion, relationship-building and reflection on the challenges and opportunities facing the sector. It was an opportunity for organisations to share their experiences, learn from one another and strengthen connections that extend beyond the conference itself.

Some reflections from attendees:

"It was an inspiring and well organised conference"

"Just a great 2 days all around, lots of learning, heaps of connecting and some wonderful speakers!"

"Networking was really productive. The programme gave enough unstructured time for real conversations and I have come away with a number of sector colleagues who we can share data and practice models with."

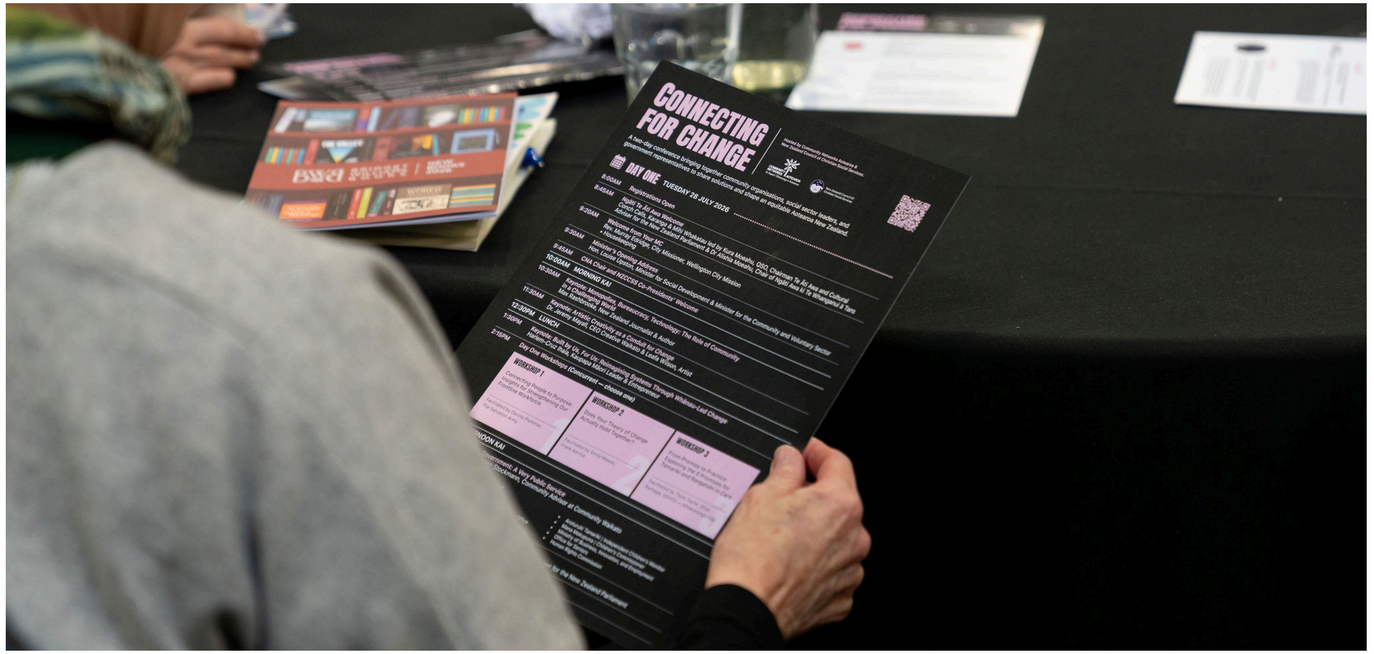
Collaborators: New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services

Sponsors: MSD, First Credit Union, Frank Group, Social Investment Agency, Bridget Williams Books, Rothbury Insurance Brokers, Society of Mary

Image library: Conference Gallery


MAX
RASHBROOKE
MONOPOLY, BUREAUCRACY
& TECHNOLOGY:
THE ROLE OF COMMUNITY IN A
CHALLENGING WORLD
New Zealand Council of
Christian Social Services
Calling forth a just and
compassionate Aotearoa


MPs & BILLS.
Dr Vanessa Weenink – National
Crimes (Sexual Violence Consent Reform) Amendment Bill
Glen Bennett – Labour
Residential Tenancies (Unfair Rent Increases) Amendment Bill
Ricardo Menéndez March – Green
Social Security (Purpose and Principles
for the Elimination of Hardship) Amendment Bill
Oriini Kaipara – Te Pāti Māori
Youth Homelessness Prevention Bill
Laura McClure – ACT
Incorporated Societies (Small Societies) Amendment Bill
Jamie Arbuckle – New Zealand First
Community
Networks Aotearoa


CONNECTING
FOR CHANGE
DAY ONE TUESDAY 28 JULY 2026
WORKSHOP 1
WORKSHOP 2
WORKSHOP 3

Engagement:
Sharp Strategies WebEvents

Sharp Strategies has continued to develop as one of CNA's practical learning and support initiatives. Rather than relying solely on traditional presentations, the programme is designed to give community organisations access to expert knowledge and practical answers on issues that directly affect their governance, management and day-to-day operations.

During the year, Sharp Strategies responded particularly to the challenges associated with the re-registration of Incorporated Societies, governance responsibilities and the changing environment surrounding the 2026 General Election. The emphasis has been on useful, accessible information that organisations can take away and apply immediately.

This approach reflects CNA's wider role: listening to the issues that members are experiencing and then creating practical responses. Sharp Strategies provides a space for organisations to ask questions, hear from people with specialist knowledge and work through issues collectively.

2026 Sharp Strategies:

Been DeRegistered? What Now?
Ros Rice in Kōrero with Louisa Joblin (MoranLaw) & Rachel Woodhouse (BNZ)

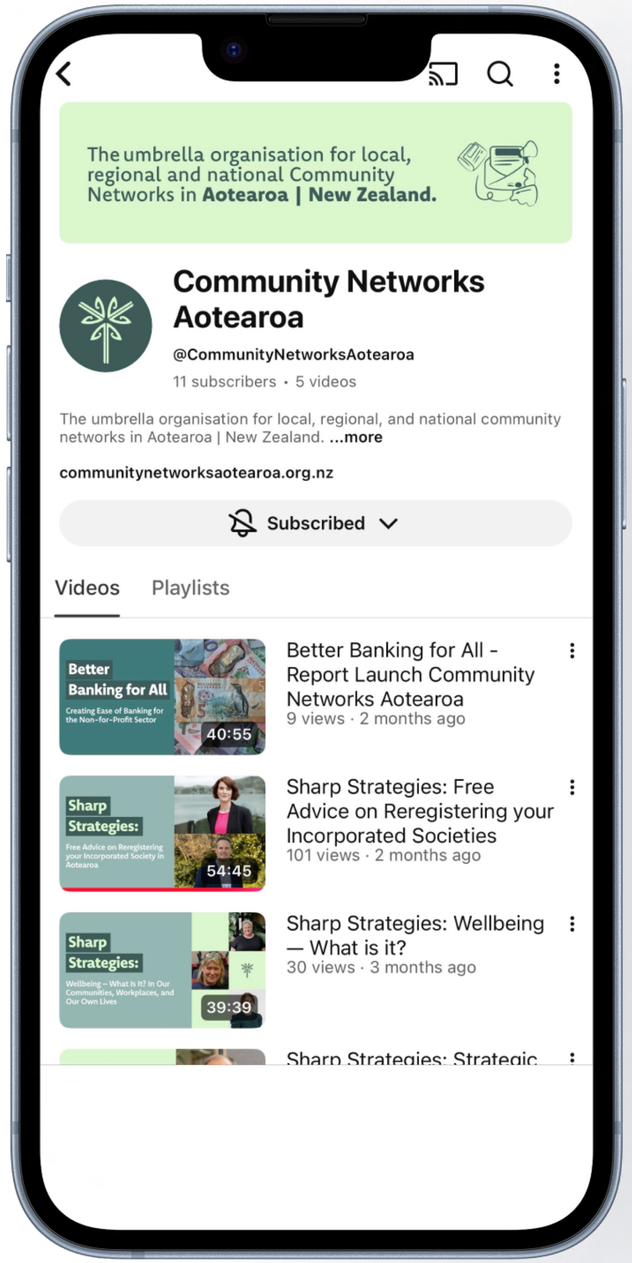
Watch recording.

Your Year to Volunteer
Patrick Davies in kōrero with Michelle Kitney, Tumu Whakarae Chief Executive Volunteering New Zealand, Kate Aplin, Manager Volunteer Central & Chris Joseph, Manager/Trustee Volunteer Kāpiti.

Watch recording.

Stats, Stories & Voices – Sector Report
Patrick Davies in kōrero with Dr. William McInerney (Research, Philanthropic Services, JBWere) & Louisa Joblin (MoranLaw).

Coming soon.



Media:
Collaborative Voices

CNA’s Collaborative Voices is a wonderful example of how radio can create space for connection, curiosity, and community. The show brings together a diverse range of voices and perspectives, exploring an impressively broad mix of topics, experiences, and ideas.

Its episodes are consistently engaging and interesting, moving between personal stories, community issues, creative conversations, and thought-provoking discussions.

What makes Collaborative Voices particularly valuable is its openness to different people and viewpoints, making each episode an opportunity to discover something new while hearing voices that are often underrepresented in mainstream media.

Collaborators:

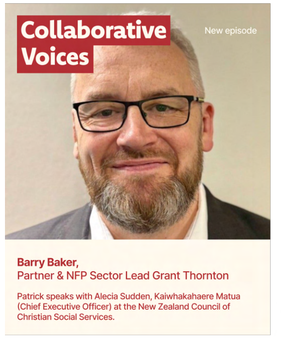
Wellington Access Radio

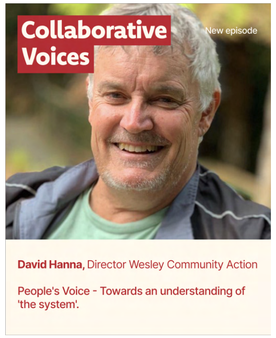








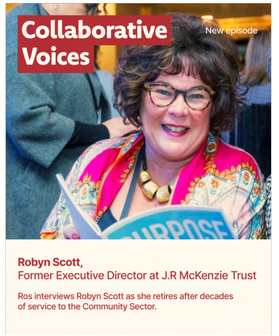












Sector Resource:
Tick for Governance

Governance capacity remained a significant focus for CNA during the year. CNA's Tick for Governance programme reached an important milestone, with more than 1,000 users having either completed the course or being actively engaged with it by February 2026.

The programme provides accessible governance learning designed specifically for not-for-profit organisations in Aotearoa. Its continued uptake demonstrates the ongoing demand for practical governance support, particularly at a time when community organisations are dealing with increasing compliance requirements, financial pressures and changing expectations.

CNA has also continued to build its wider suite of governance and organisational support resources, recognising that strong governance is an essential foundation for sustainable community organisations.

The initiative continues to provide accessible governance learning designed specifically for not-for-profit organisations, supporting boards and community leaders to build their knowledge, confidence and capability

Collaborators: Pointsbuild Inc



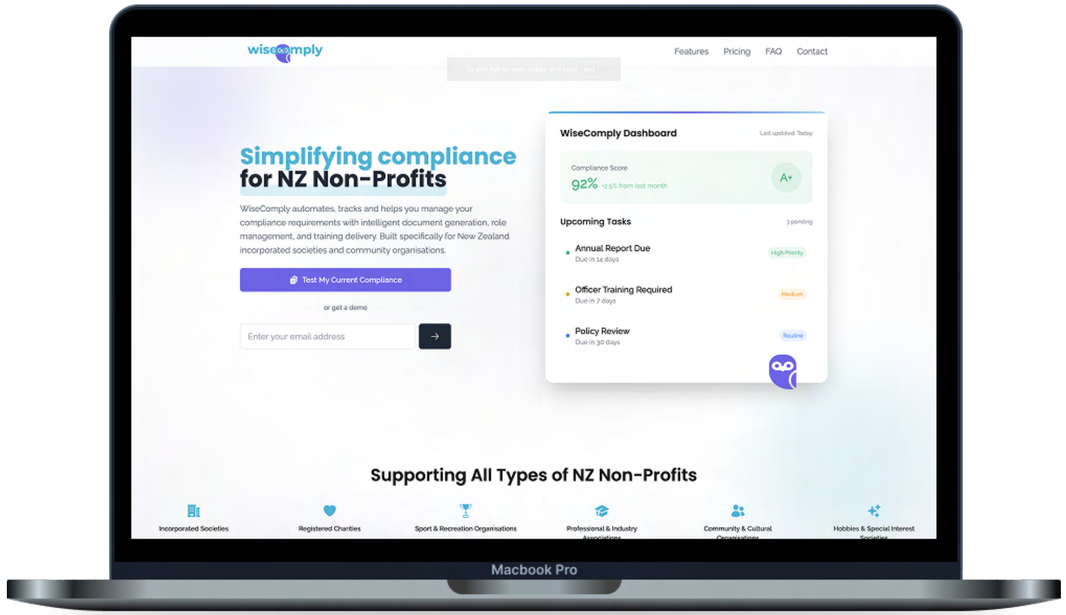
Sector Resource:
WiseComply

During the year, CNA expanded its work to help organisations manage compliance requirements. Its collaboration with WiseComply provides community organisations with a practical tool for keeping track of legislative and compliance obligations as requirements change. Community Networks Aotearoa. With the support of funding from J R McKenzie Trust we offered (and continue to offer) the opportunity to beta test the current build of WiseComply finding glitches and improvements towards the final product.

For small and medium-sized community organisations, compliance can place a significant administrative burden on already stretched boards, managers and volunteers. CNA's work in this area is intended to make those obligations easier to understand and manage, allowing organisations to focus more of their time and energy on their communities.

Together with Tick for Governance and Sharp Strategies, WiseComply forms part of a broader approach to organisational capability: providing community organisations with practical tools, knowledge and support rather than expecting each organisation to navigate complex requirements alone.

Collaborators: WiseComply, J R McKenzie Trust



Acknowledgements

Principal Funder: Ministry of Social Development

MINISTRY OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

Funders: Lotteries

Project Funders: Todd Foundation, J R McKenzie,

Conference Sponsors: MSD, First Credit Union, Frank Group, Social Investment Agency, Bridget Williams Books, Rothbury Insurance Brokers, Society of Mary

Collaborators & special mentions: Steven Moe, Garth Nowland Foreman, Louisa Joblin, Sue Barker, WiseComply, Pointsbuild.

Living Wage 12+ years accredited.



Ngā mihi nui.

Community Networks Aotearoa is an umbrella organisation for local community networks. Our membership includes not-for-profit and voluntary social service organisations all over the country. We are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and are guided by our membership.

Get in touch!

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