

2026

Impact Stories & Performance Report



MULTICULTURAL NEW ZEALAND

Mana Ōrite

Huarahi Hou
Pathway to Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Communities

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated

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Foreward from our Patron



Tēnā koutou katoa,

It is a privilege to once again reflect on the work of Multicultural New Zealand and the many communities, leaders and volunteers who give life to its vision across the motu.

Over the past year, MNZ has continued to strengthen its role in helping build an Aotearoa where people from many cultures can belong, participate and contribute, while recognising the unique place of tangata whenua and the foundation provided by Te Tiriti o Waitangi. At a time when communities here and around the world are navigating uncertainty and increasing division, this work remains both timely and important.

I have been particularly encouraged by MNZ's continued commitment to strengthening relationships between tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti. This is a journey that requires sustained effort.

The Noho Marae kaupapa remains an important part of MNZ's work, bringing multicultural communities together on marae to engage with tikanga, deepen understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and build relationships with tangata whenua. These experiences strengthen belonging, shared responsibility and understanding of the foundations of Aotearoa New Zealand. Social cohesion is built through relationships, when people understand one another's stories and stand together through celebration and challenge. MNZ continues to create these connections, helping ensure that people from all backgrounds have a place in our shared future.

I also want to acknowledge the leadership of MNZ President Pancha Narayanan. I am proud of the commitment he continues to show to the organisation, its people and the Kaupapa. His leadership has helped maintain MNZ's focus on building bridges across communities, strengthening relationships with tangata whenua and ensuring that the voices and experiences of our diverse communities remain part of the national conversation. Leadership of this nature requires persistence, courage and a willingness to bring people together, and I acknowledge Pancha for the contribution he continues to make.

As we look ahead, there is still much work to be done. Partnership requires commitment, patience and a willingness to continue learning from one another. But I am encouraged by the journey MNZ and its communities are taking. When tangata whenua and tangata Tiriti walk alongside one another with respect, manaakitanga and a shared sense of responsibility for the future, we strengthen not only our communities but Aotearoa as a whole.

Ngā mihi nui,

Tā Mark Solomon
Ngāi Tahu, Ngāti Kuri

President's Foreward



Tēnā koutou katoa. Warm greetings and ngā mihi nui to all the communities, leaders, volunteers, partners and supporters who continue to strengthen Aotearoa New Zealand.

Every person in Aotearoa has at least one ethnicity, and every ethnicity carries history, language and values. Culture gives it expression that emerges from their lived experience. It is through cultural understanding that we develop respect, regard and genuine connection with one another. This is fundamental to a confident and inclusive multicultural New Zealand.

I am proud to present this year's Impact Stories from Multicultural New Zealand. They tell a story not simply of programmes and activities, but of people, community leaders and volunteers who continue to bring communities together, create belonging and strengthen the relationships that hold our society together.

This has been a challenging year. Communities have experienced weaker engagement between some government agencies and community organisations, and continuing gaps in culturally responsive health, settlement, social and community services.

At the same time, we are seeing concerning signs of polarisation in New Zealand, including tensions arising from religious differences and strongly held geopolitical views. International events inevitably affect our communities, but when those tensions become divisions between people here in Aotearoa, they threaten trust, belonging and social cohesion.

We must also recognise the risks posed by foreign interference and the growing digital environment in which misinformation and division can spread rapidly. These challenges reinforce the need for strong, trusted and independent community networks.

New Zealand has under-invested for too long in the cultural infrastructure needed to understand, connect and support our diverse population. Cultural understanding, dialogue and community relationships cannot be treated as optional or funded only when a crisis emerges.

Strong, independent and community-led social cohesion must remain a pillar of true multiculturalism in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is the purpose of Huarahi Hou – Pathway to a Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa, our platform for social cohesion. Huarahi Hou provides a space for communities to engage, build understanding, strengthen relationships and work together towards a more cohesive Aotearoa. It reflects MNZ's conviction that communities must not simply be consulted about their future; they must be active participants in shaping it.

I acknowledge with deep appreciation our Regional Multicultural Councils, community leaders, volunteers, Māori elders and iwi partners, and our Executive Council, Executive and staff. Your commitment demonstrates that connection can be stronger than division.

I extend our deepest and most sincere thanks to our funders and supporters. Your continued investment enables MNZ and our member councils to sustain this vital mahi. You are investing not merely in programmes, but in connected communities, resilience, social cohesion and the future of Aotearoa New Zealand.

These Impact Stories are stories of hope, determination and community leadership. Understanding creates respect. Relationships create trust. Cohesive communities create belonging.

That is the work we must continue.

Ngā mihi nui,

Pancha Narayanan ONZM QSM JP

President

Multicultural New Zealand

Achievements 2025 – 2026

1. Relationships with Tangata Whenua

Over the past year, our programmes have continued to strengthen MNZ's relationship with tangata whenua. A number of our social cohesion sessions were held at marae across the motu, creating valuable opportunities to sit, listen and learn alongside iwi and hapū leaders in their own spaces. These gatherings have deepened relationships, opened new conversations and allowed engagement to grow beyond formal consultation into genuine whanaungatanga.

They have also reinforced our responsibility as tangata Tiriti: to engage with tangata whenua with respect, humility and a willingness to learn. The kōrero and perspectives shared at marae have enriched our understanding of Te Ao Māori and continue to influence how we approach our work. They remind us that building a cohesive Aotearoa is not simply about bringing diverse communities together, but about doing so within the unique foundations of this country and in a way that strengthens enduring relationships between tangata whenua and all who have made Aotearoa home.

2. Serving and uniting the regions

Unity has continued to sit at the centre of MNZ's kaupapa over the past year. The executive team has maintained close engagement with member councils across the motu, offering practical support while also helping to sustain a common sense of purpose. The national office increasingly serves as a connecting point across the network, where experiences are shared, challenges worked through and opportunities developed together.

This collaboration has strengthened the relationship between national coordination and local leadership. Regional councils bring their own knowledge, priorities and community connections, while MNZ provides a platform through which those voices can be connected and amplified. The result is a stronger and more responsive national network, grounded in its regions but able to act collectively. As these relationships continue to deepen, they give MNZ greater capacity to represent the aspirations of diverse communities with coherence, confidence and a shared voice.

3. New Regional Multicultural Councils

No new councils formally joined the Federation during the year, but efforts to extend MNZ's presence and relationships across the motu have continued. Engagement is ongoing in Kāpiti, the Southern Lakes area and upper Northland, where conversations are being encouraged and local connections gradually developed.

Progress in establishing new councils takes time and depends on community interest, local leadership and the willingness of people to come together around a shared purpose. While these efforts have not yet resulted in new member councils, they remain an important part of MNZ's wider work. By keeping the conversations alive and supporting emerging

networks, MNZ continues to create the conditions from which stronger regional representation may develop in the future.

4. Working Relationships and Arrangements

MNZ has continued to bring the perspectives and experiences of multicultural communities into a range of advisory boards, reference groups and sector forums. This representation remains an important part of our advocacy, creating opportunities to contribute directly to discussions that shape policy, services and community outcomes. Throughout the year, MNZ has maintained a constructive presence in these spaces, drawing on the knowledge of its member councils and wider community networks to provide practical, grounded input.

Our relationship with Human Right Commission has continued to develop through ongoing engagement around shared areas of interest, including equity, inclusion, community relationships and social cohesion. These connections help create space for open dialogue and for multicultural perspectives to be reflected in wider conversations about the kind of society Aotearoa seeks to build.

MNZ has also continued to support Police Open Days around the motu, encouraging ethnic communities to engage with Police and become more familiar with recruitment and career pathways. Beyond recruitment, these events provide useful opportunities for communities and Police to meet in an informal setting, strengthen relationships and build greater understanding of the importance of diversity and representation within policing.

5. Matariki

MNZ continued to mark Aotearoa's Matariki holiday as an important occasion for reflection, connection and shared celebration. In 2026, the Hutt Multicultural Council led the celebrations at Walter Nash Stadium on Sunday, 19 July, bringing together communities from across the region for an evening of music, cultural performances, dance and kai.

The spacious venue created a lively and welcoming setting, with room for community stalls, performances and informal interaction throughout the evening. More importantly, the celebration provided an opportunity for people from many cultural backgrounds to come together around the meaning of Matariki, acknowledging its place in Aotearoa while sharing in a spirit of renewal and togetherness. The event reflected the role multicultural communities can play in honouring the traditions of this land while strengthening relationships and a shared sense of belonging.

6. Strengthening Social Cohesion Across Aotearoa

During the year, Multicultural New Zealand continued its commitment to building a more connected, inclusive and cohesive Aotearoa through a series of Social Cohesion Community Workshops and Listening Sessions held across the motu.

Nine in-person sessions were delivered in different regions, complemented by a dedicated online session to ensure that people who were unable to participate face-to-face could also contribute. Together, these ten sessions created welcoming spaces for people from diverse

cultural, ethnic, and community backgrounds to share their experiences, perspectives and aspirations for stronger communities.

The programme was designed to move the conversation about social cohesion from broad frameworks into people's lived experience. In the first workshop, participants reflected on what was working well in their communities, what was not working on the ground, and the common challenges affecting belonging, participation and connection. Small group kōrero and shared reflections helped identify patterns that were common across different communities and regions.

The second workshop deliberately shifted the conversation from experience to action. Participants considered practical steps that could strengthen connection and participation, including what individuals could do, what communities could do, and where support from agencies and institutions was needed. Groups were encouraged to identify priority actions rather than remain at the level of general aspirations.

At the heart of the programme was a simple belief: social cohesion grows when people feel that they belong, that their voices matter, and that they can participate meaningfully in the life of their communities. Participants spoke about fairness, respect, inclusion, trust and recognition, while also acknowledging that stronger communities are built through everyday relationships and shared responsibility.

The conversations reinforced that responsibility for social cohesion is shared. Government and public institutions have important roles in creating fair systems and responsive services. Communities create belonging, relationships and opportunities for participation. Businesses influence people's experiences through employment, workplaces and their engagement with local communities. Individuals, too, shape social cohesion through everyday choices, relationships and willingness to engage with people beyond their immediate circles.

At the same time, the sessions recognised that responsibility is not distributed equally. Communities and individuals can strengthen relationships and participation, but many structural barriers require institutional or policy responses. This distinction helped participants identify not only what should change, but also who is best placed to make that change happen.

Across the motu, the sessions demonstrated the continuing value of bringing people together in spaces where they could speak openly, listen to one another and explore differences respectfully. Participants shared challenges, examples of what was already working well, and ideas for strengthening trust and connection within and between communities.

The online session extended this opportunity beyond geographical boundaries and enabled additional voices, particularly women from regions who had been unable to participate in the in-person workshops, to contribute to the wider national conversation.

The insights gathered through the ten sessions will inform Multicultural New Zealand's continuing social cohesion work and its engagement with government and other partners. Importantly, recurring priorities and practical proposals emerging from the listening posts can also contribute to the development of future recommendations and provisos for an incoming

government, ensuring that advocacy is grounded in experiences and ideas expressed directly by communities.

Ultimately, the programme reaffirmed that social cohesion is not an abstract policy concept. It is experienced in whether people feel welcome, whether they can participate, whether institutions listen and respond fairly, and whether communities are able to build relationships across difference.

The aspiration remains both simple and demanding; people, families, whānau and communities thriving together.

7. Huarahi Hou in Schools

The Huarahi Hou project in schools continues to progress well, with MNZ working closely with the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council and local partners to strengthen the programme. Through Multicultural Day, the initiative brings tamariki together in a lively celebration of culture, identity and belonging, with hundreds of students participating through music, dance, storytelling and shared kai.

An important strength of Huarahi Hou is that it encourages children not only to take pride in their own heritage, but also to learn about and appreciate the cultures of their classmates. The creative elements provide a lasting expression of the friendships, diversity and sense of belonging fostered through the programme.

8. Rainbow Council

MNZ's work to strengthen engagement with ethnic LGBTQI+ communities remains ongoing. During the year, we have continued conversations with stakeholders and community leaders to better understand the experiences, concerns and barriers affecting Rainbow people within ethnic communities.

While this work has not yet resulted in significant new developments, maintaining these relationships and keeping the kōrero open remains important. The discussions continue to inform MNZ's understanding of safety, wellbeing and inclusion, and provide a foundation for future work. MNZ remains committed to listening carefully, building trust and supporting opportunities for more meaningful engagement as this area of work develops.

9. Seniors' Council

The MNZ Seniors' Council has continued to strengthen its work over the past year, with the Socioeconomic Initiative providing an important boost to its engagement and reach. Through this initiative, the Council has been able to connect more closely with older people in ethnic communities and gain a clearer understanding of the practical issues affecting their everyday lives.

The work has kept attention on health and wellbeing, housing, safety, financial security and intergenerational connection, while also creating stronger links with community leaders, government agencies and service providers. The benefits of the Socioeconomic Initiative are increasingly evident in the Council's ability to bring lived experience into wider discussions and

advocate more effectively for the needs and aspirations of seniors. This has given the Council a stronger foundation from which to continue advancing the dignity, participation and wellbeing of older people across the motu.

10. Women's Wellbeing Framework and Strategic Plan

Over the past year, the Women's Wellbeing Framework has reached an important stage in its development. Following professional evaluation, the framework has been strengthened and refined and has now progressed from development into implementation.

This marks a significant step forward for the Women's Council and for MNZ's wider work with women from ethnic communities. The evaluation process has helped ensure that the framework is practical, responsive and grounded in the experiences and aspirations of women across the motu. With this foundation now in place, attention is shifting towards putting the framework into practice, building participation, supporting leadership and translating its principles into meaningful wellbeing outcomes for women and their communities.

11. Race Unity Speech Awards 2026

As a long-standing supporter of the Race Unity Speech Awards, Multicultural New Zealand reaffirmed its commitment to a kaupapa that gives rangatahi a national platform to speak openly about race relations, belonging and the future of Aotearoa. The 2026 National Semi-final and Final were held at Ngā Kete Wānanga Marae at MIT in Ōtara, bringing together talented young speakers from across the motu. Amanjot Singh of Hastings Boys' High School was named the 2026 National Champion.

MNZ's Tohu Ahurea Rau – Multicultural New Zealand Award for Diversity was presented to Kylie Arada of Southern Cross Campus, Auckland. The award recognises a speaker who demonstrates empathy and understanding of the cultural, ethnic and linguistic diversity of Aotearoa. Kylie's contribution reflected the wider purpose of the Awards: encouraging young people to listen across differences, challenge prejudice and help shape a more inclusive and connected society.

12. Vaccination Clinics

During the year, MNZ supported two community measles vaccination clinics, working alongside local multicultural councils and health providers to improve access to vaccination and trusted health information. The first clinic was held in Hawke's Bay in April 2026, followed by a second clinic in June in partnership with the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council.

Both clinics placed particular emphasis on reaching communities that can face barriers to accessing mainstream health services. Alongside measles vaccination, the clinics provided opportunities for people to connect with health professionals, receive practical advice and learn about other available health and wellbeing services. By taking services directly into familiar community settings, the initiative helped create a more accessible and culturally responsive pathway into the health system. The two clinics reinforced the value of community-led partnerships in improving health awareness, building confidence and supporting preventative care across diverse communities.

13. Community Resilience

MNZ has continued to invest in strengthening the strategic capability and resilience of community leaders across the motu. Building on earlier leadership and risk-preparedness work, attention during the year remained focused on several issues that are increasingly shaping the environment in which multicultural communities operate, including socioeconomic pressures, foreign interference, digital misinformation and the wider challenges of leadership in a rapidly changing information landscape.

Socioeconomic wellbeing has remained an important strand of this work, particularly in understanding how structural disadvantage, cost pressures and unequal access to opportunity affect different communities. These discussions continue to inform MNZ's broader Socioeconomic Initiative and its engagement with communities, agencies and decision-makers.

MNZ has also maintained its focus on raising awareness of foreign interference and the ways in which external influence can affect individuals, organisations and community relationships. Alongside this, increasing attention has been given to misinformation and the digital environment, where misleading narratives, declining trust and fragmented information can quickly affect social cohesion.

Together, these areas form part of MNZ's continuing effort to equip community leaders with greater awareness, confidence and practical understanding of emerging risks. The emphasis remains on building communities that are informed, connected and resilient, while ensuring that leaders are better prepared to navigate both socioeconomic challenges and an increasingly complex social and digital environment.

14. Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day

MNZ continues to champion the last Friday of August as Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day, encouraging communities across the motu to mark the occasion in ways that reflect their own cultural identities while strengthening connection and belonging in Aotearoa.

The 2026 national celebration at Parliament, hosted by Paulo Garcia MP on Wednesday, 26 August, brought together community leaders, supporters and cultural groups in a shared celebration of Aotearoa's diversity. The programme featured performances and presentations from Filipino, Sri Lankan and Iranian communities, adding colour and cultural depth to the occasion and demonstrating the many traditions that now form part of our national story.

The Parliament celebration remained an important expression of MNZ's wider social cohesion kaupapa, creating a visible space where cultures were shared, relationships were strengthened, and the principles of mutual respect and participation were celebrated within a Te Tiriti-based framework.

15. Advocacy

MNZ's advocacy with Government and public agencies over the past year has been firmly grounded in the lived realities of communities across the motu. We have consistently advocated for greater recognition of how socioeconomic conditions particularly income insecurity, housing pressures, inequitable access to health services, and broader structural barriers directly impact people's ability to participate fully in society and experience a sense of belonging. Through our social cohesion workshops and listening sessions, we have elevated community voices into policy conversations, ensuring that advocacy is informed by real experiences rather than assumptions.

Alongside this, MNZ has actively advocated for stronger and more coordinated responses to emerging threats that undermine community trust and cohesion. We have raised concerns with decision-makers about the growing impact of foreign interference, misinformation and disinformation, digital fragmentation, and declining institutional trust. Our advocacy has focused not only on identifying these risks, but on calling for practical measures that strengthen community resilience, improve information integrity, and support people to navigate increasingly complex information environments.

MNZ has also continued to advocate for deeper and more meaningful engagement between Government, agencies, and diverse communities, while maintaining an independent and principled voice where issues of concern arise. Through advisory forums, public advocacy, community engagement, and direct dialogue with institutions, we have consistently pushed for community perspectives to be embedded in decision-making processes. Our advocacy remains focused on ensuring that diversity, Te Tiriti o Waitangi relationships, and social cohesion are not treated as separate considerations, but as interconnected foundations for a fair, inclusive, and resilient Aotearoa.

Measuring our Successes

In the 2025–2026 period, MNZ assessed its progress using the E Tū Whānau values framework, an approach first adopted in 2022 following guidance from tangata whenua. Regional multicultural councils were again encouraged to reflect on their projects and activities, linking their work to MNZ’s collective strategic priorities and considering how strongly the E Tū Whānau values were reflected in practice.

This process provides MNZ with more than a record of activity. It helps us understand how our kaupapa is being translated into action across the motu, where positive outcomes are emerging, and where further attention or support may be needed. By combining strategic priorities with a values-based assessment, MNZ is able to look beyond what has been delivered and consider the quality and wider impact of that work. This continues to strengthen our ability to learn collectively, demonstrate progress and plan future mahi with greater clarity and purpose.

Strategic Priorities

E Tū Whānau Values

A Safety for communities and their families		Aroha <i>Giving with no expectation of return</i>
B Improved inclusion		Whanaungatanga <i>It's about being connected</i>
C Sustainment and Modernisation		Whakapapa <i>Knowing who you are and where you belong</i>
D NZ as a Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Society		Mana manaaki <i>Building the mana of others through nurturing, growing and challenging</i>
E Participation in NZ Socioeconomics		Kōrero Awhi <i>Positive communication and actions</i>
F Diversity in Volunteering		Tikanga <i>Doing things the right way, according to our values</i>

E Tū Whānau Values

As an organisation committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and Tiriti-based Multiculturalism, MNZ wants to measure our success using kaupapa Māori. MNZ has advocated for E Tū Whānau values in Aotearoa New Zealand's multicultural communities since their conception in 2009.

The six strategic objectives were devised in consultation with community leadership from around the country as part of MNZ's Strategic Plan. They reflect the most pressing areas of need and growth among New Zealand's migrant and former refugee communities.

To assist with consistent measurement, we gave the following affirmations against each of the E Tū Whānau Values:

- **Aroha:** We shared as many resources, funds, time (listening or guiding), and connections as we could with those who needed it
- **Whanaungatanga:** Our community networks were grown and enhanced by this work, our RMC has grown and strengthened its membership.
- **Whakapapa:** People were able to improve their sense of belonging and identity through this work, we know the history of our group and local communities well.
- **Mana Manaaki:** We have extended our support to communities in trouble every time there was an opportunity. We have actively stood up for people or communities who were treated or viewed unjustly.
- **Kōrero Awhi:** We centred and represented marginalized voices, we navigated any conflicts and differences with compassion and clarity, we communicated with our partners and each other effectively and respectfully.
- **Tikanga:** We practice governance with awareness and integrity and have found ways to improve this year. We have done a great job of helping communities learn about E Tū Whānau values and other New Zealand ways of doing things.

Legend			
Under Developed	Developing	Well Developed	Fully Developed
"We have not thought or spoken about this yet"	"We have done some discussion and planning around this"	"We have practiced these things at least once this year"	"We practice these things on a regular basis."

A). Safety for communities and their families

1. *RMCs and their communities have easy access to information and services in as many languages as possible*
2. *MNZ understanding and communicating to the public of New Zealand cultural context associated with safety to the public of New Zealand*
3. *Understand the needs of the vulnerable in the communities that RMCs work with*
4. *Understand the needs of the vulnerable in the communities that RMCs work with*



B). Improved Inclusion

1. *MNZ will support all efforts to eradicate institutional racism and discrimination*
2. *Put in place action plans for the major metropolitan cities*
3. *Invest in a digital hub to bring together all communities in New Zealand*
4. *Develop objectives and reportable metrics for public presentation of our volunteering effectiveness*
5. *Modernising attitudes of host communities toward migrants*



C). Sustainment and Modernisation

1. *Continue to grow MNZ profile across all channels, notably digital, so we become a household name*
2. *Secure long-term funding*
3. *MNZ operating as a social enterprise*
4. *Establish 5 new Regional Multicultural Councils*
5. *Build new collaborative relationships*
6. *Bringing MNZ and NZNN networks*



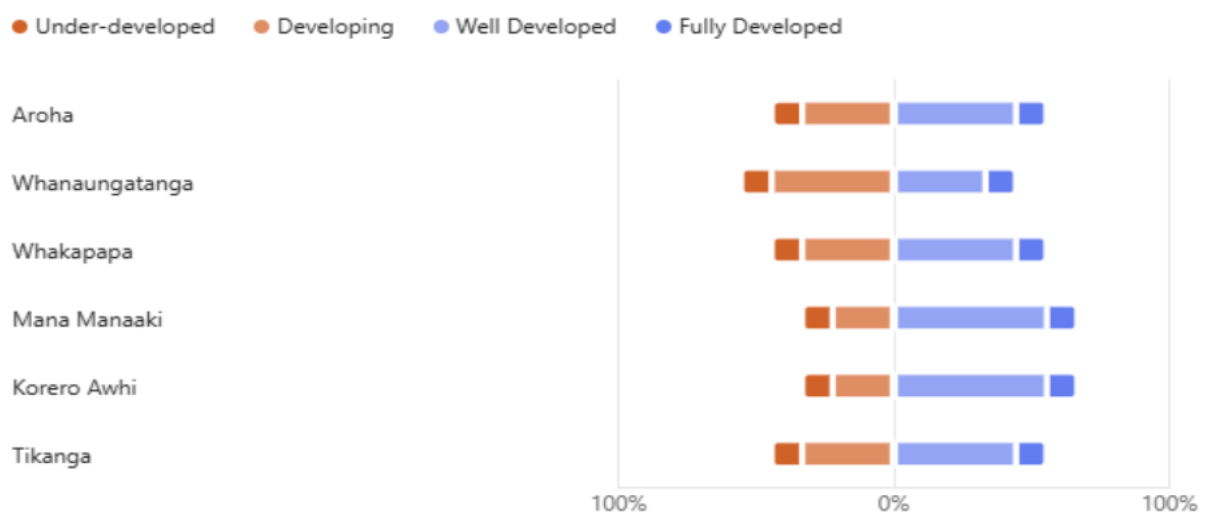
D). NZ as a Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Society

1. *Ensure governance and management practices within MNZ to acknowledge Tikanga Māori*
2. *Ensure legislation, regulations and policies in New Zealand demonstrate cultural sensitivity*
3. *MNZ to have a strategic long-term relationship with tangata whenua*
4. *Support RMCs and communities to adopt E Tū Whānau values as their basis for community safety*
5. *Improve relationship with tangata whenua*



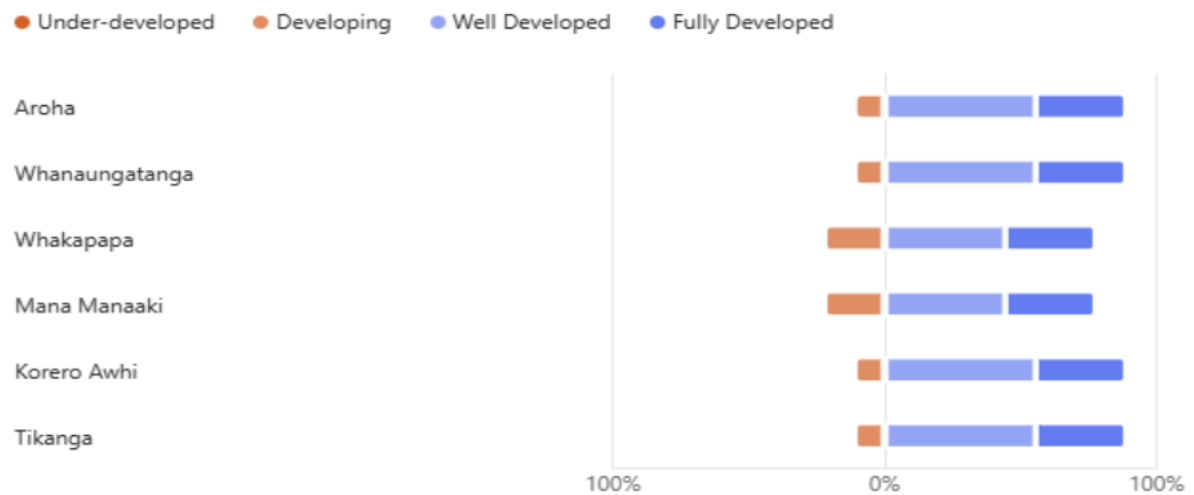
E). Participation in NZ Socioeconomics

1. *Ensuring the success of migrant businesses*
2. *Equitable policy for health, education, social services, justice and employment*



F). Diversity in Volunteering

1. *Strengthening and resourcing RMC NZNN volunteer networks*
2. *Developing resources to equip volunteers professionally*
3. *Improving cultural fit of volunteering to expand diversity among volunteers*



MNZ Office Report

The past year has been an exceptionally active one for MNZ, and the national office has continued to provide the operational backbone that allows this work to happen across the motu. With a small team supporting a wide national network, the office has coordinated an expanding programme of social cohesion workshops and listening sessions, community health initiatives, national events, council engagement, advocacy, funding, governance and the day-to-day administration of the Federation. Much of this work happens quietly behind the scenes, but it is what enables ideas to move from discussion into delivery.

The growing breadth of MNZ's work has also required the office to become increasingly agile. Alongside established programmes, the team has supported the expanding Socioeconomic Initiative, the implementation of the Women's Wellbeing Framework, work with the Seniors' Council, Huarahi Hou, Matariki and Multicultural Day celebrations, Race Unity activities, community vaccination clinics and continuing engagement around foreign interference, misinformation and community resilience. The series of social cohesion sessions held around the motu has been a particularly significant undertaking, requiring close coordination with regional councils, marae, community organisations and other partners.

To meet this expanding scope, the national office has focused on strengthening the systems and relationships that underpin delivery. This has included improving internal coordination, streamlining workflows, and ensuring that programme support is responsive and consistent across regions.

The national office has also continued to serve as an important point of connection for our member councils. Whether assisting with governance and compliance, supporting funding and programme delivery, coordinating national initiatives or simply helping councils work through emerging issues, the office provides continuity across a Federation whose strength ultimately comes from its regional and community leadership. This close relationship between national coordination and local knowledge has been particularly evident throughout the year.

Our people remain central to making all of this possible. MNZ Executive, staff, council leaders and volunteers regularly contribute well beyond what can be captured in programme reports. The achievements recorded elsewhere in this annual report are therefore also a reflection of the considerable coordination, problem-solving and teamwork taking place behind them. As MNZ's programme of work continues to broaden, the national office remains focused on providing the sound systems, responsive support and organisational capacity needed to carry that kaupapa forward.

Auckland Multicultural Council

It is my honour to present the impact stories of the Auckland Multicultural Council for the year ending 2025–2026.

This year has been one of renewed purpose, stronger partnerships and meaningful community engagement. As Auckland continues to become one of the world's most culturally diverse cities, our Council remains committed to promoting understanding, inclusion and collaboration among the many communities that call Auckland home.

A significant milestone during the year was our continued transition from the Auckland City Multiethnic Council to the Auckland Multicultural Council. While our name has changed to better reflect the communities we serve across the wider Auckland region, our mission remains unchanged—to bring people together, celebrate diversity, and contribute to a stronger, safer and more inclusive society.



Community Engagement and Partnerships

Throughout the year, the Council members participated in numerous multicultural and community events. We continued to strengthen relationships with ethnic groups, faith communities, government agencies, local boards and community organisations.

The Council members also continued to support initiatives that encourage dialogue between communities and government agencies, helping to build trust, improve communication and promote greater understanding.

The Auckland Multicultural Council continued to strengthen partnerships with organisations that share our vision of an inclusive and connected Auckland.

We maintained productive relationships with Auckland Council, community organisations, ethnic groups, faith groups and government agencies. These partnerships enabled us to

support community initiatives, exchange knowledge and identify opportunities for collaboration.



Social Cohesion and other Engagement

Building social cohesion remains at the heart of everything we do.

Throughout the year, the Council supported initiatives that promoted mutual respect, understanding and cooperation among people of different cultures, faiths and backgrounds. We participated in interfaith dialogues, multicultural celebrations and community forums that encouraged meaningful conversations and strengthened relationships across communities.

Our belief remains that diversity is one of Auckland's greatest strengths, and by working together we create stronger, safer and more resilient communities.



Advocacy and Representation

The Council members continued to advocate on behalf of multicultural communities by participating in discussions with local government, community agencies and other stakeholders.

We promoted the importance of equitable access to services, community participation and culturally responsive policies. We also encouraged greater representation of ethnic communities in leadership and decision-making processes



Organisational Development

The Executive Committee met during the year to oversee the governance of the Council and guide its strategic direction. Work continued on strengthening our governance framework, improving communication with members and increasing opportunities for community participation.

The Executive remains committed to ensuring that the Council is well positioned to serve Auckland's increasingly diverse population.

Looking Ahead - Health and Wellbeing

- One of our key achievements during the year is the organisation of a Free Health and Wellbeing Seminar, bringing together health professionals and community organisations to provide practical information on physical health, emotional wellbeing and access to available support services.
- The seminar scheduled for 18th August will reflect our belief that healthy communities are resilient communities and demonstrated the value of working collaboratively to improve awareness and accessibility of health services for culturally diverse populations.
- We intend to build on this initiative by delivering additional community education programmes in the coming year.

Our priorities include:

- Expanding community engagement across Auckland.
- Supporting youth leadership and volunteer development.
- Building stronger partnerships with business and community organisations.
- Promoting intercultural understanding and social cohesion.
- Increasing membership and strengthening organisational sustainability.



Appreciation

Our achievements this year would not have been possible without the dedication and generosity of many individuals and organisations.

Sincere thanks to:

- Our Executive Committee for their leadership, commitment and countless hours of voluntary service.
- Our member organisations for their ongoing support and active participation.
- Multicultural New Zealand
- Auckland Council and government agencies for their collaboration and engagement.
- Community organisations, faith leaders and cultural associations for working alongside us.
- Our volunteers, speakers and supporters whose contributions made our activities successful.

Together, we continue to demonstrate that diversity is not simply something to celebrate—it is a strength that enriches our city and strengthens our future.





Multicultural Aoraki

Creating Connection, Belonging and Opportunity Across South Canterbury

The 2025-2026 financial year has been a significant year of growth, reflection, and celebration for Multicultural Aoraki - one that has brought us back to our roots.

This year marked our 20th anniversary, a major milestone that gave us the opportunity to reflect on two decades of welcoming, connecting, supporting, and celebrating the diverse people who now call South Canterbury home. To celebrate this achievement, we hosted a special gala evening that showcased not only the journey of Multicultural Aoraki over the past 20 years, but also the important work that continues today to bring communities together and strengthen social connection across the region.

Alongside this milestone, we proudly delivered our flagship annual event - the Multicultural Aoraki Festival held in March 2026. The festival continues to be South Canterbury's largest cultural celebration and is a true reflection of the district's willingness to celebrate everyone who calls South Canterbury home.

The festival brought together thousands of people for a vibrant day filled with cultural performances, food stalls, educational displays, children's activities, music, and community connection. More than just an event, the festival has become a symbol of inclusion, belonging, and community pride.

Over the past financial year, Multicultural Aoraki has continued to grow as a trusted connector, advocate, and welcoming space for people from all walks of life across South Canterbury. Through community events, migrant support services, outreach programmes, workshops, and partnerships, we have worked alongside individuals, families, businesses, schools, councils, and community organisations to help make our region a place where everyone feels they belong.



Our Vision

At Multicultural Aoraki, we believe that strong communities are built through connection, inclusion, collaboration, and understanding. We are committed to helping newcomers settle successfully while also creating opportunities for long-term residents and communities to connect, learn from one another, and celebrate the diversity that makes South Canterbury special.

A Year of Growth and Community Impact

During the 2025-2026 financial year, Multicultural Aoraki continued expanding its reach and strengthening relationships throughout South Canterbury.

This year we:

- Took part in over 30 cultural celebrations representing communities from across the world including Maori, Indian, Chinese, Samoan, Tongan, Syrian and many more.
- Delivered more than 55 connection and social support activities helping newcomers and long-term residents connect with one another and with important local services.
- Attended and facilitated over 20 educational seminars, workshops, and community learning opportunities.
- Continued our core settlement and connection work supporting migrants and former refugees.
- Expanded our reach into the Mackenzie District offering additional connection and support services.
- Hosted multicultural celebrations and community events across the region.
- Supported employers welcoming migrant workers.
- Created safe and welcoming spaces for people to build friendships and confidence.
- Worked collaboratively with councils, government agencies, schools, employers, and community organisations.
- Attended more than 10 citizenship ceremonies celebrating and supporting our newest New Zealand citizens in the region.

Supporting Newcomers to Thrive

We pride ourselves on welcoming newcomers into the community and creating opportunities for people to connect, build friendships, and feel part of South Canterbury. Through our connection and social support activities, we have helped community members meet and engage with important agencies including the New Zealand Police, Fire and Emergency New Zealand, Timaru District Council, health services, community organisations, and private sector representatives.

Multicultural Aoraki also continues to act as a strong advocate and voice for newcomers across the region, ensuring communities feel heard, supported, and represented.

For many newcomers arriving in South Canterbury, navigating a new country, language, culture, and community can feel overwhelming. Throughout the year, Multicultural Aoraki continued providing practical support and pastoral care to help people settle with confidence.

Our team assisted community members with:

- Understanding local services and systems
- Connecting with schools, healthcare, and community organisations
- Accessing information and referrals
- Building social connections and confidence
- Understanding life in New Zealand
- Finding opportunities to participate in the community

Celebrating Diversity Through Events

Throughout the year, Multicultural Aoraki hosted and supported a wide range of events that celebrated the cultures, traditions, food, music, and stories that make our community vibrant.

These events created opportunities for:

- Cultural sharing and understanding
- Community participation
- New friendships and relationships
- Increased visibility of multicultural communities
- Greater understanding between cultures

Events not only celebrated diversity but also strengthened community pride and social cohesion across South Canterbury.

Creating Spaces for Learning and Confidence

This year, Multicultural Aoraki continued delivering programmes that help people grow in confidence, build social networks, and develop practical skills.

These included:

- Conversational English Clubs
- Coffee groups and social connection activities
- Community workshops and information sessions
- Leadership and participation opportunities
- Cultural learning experiences
- Youth and community engagement activities
- CV and employment workshops
- Ready to Rent workshops
- Family fun days across South Canterbury
- Immigration clinics and support services
- Health navigation support for former refugees

These programmes help reduce isolation, improve confidence, and create opportunities for people to participate more fully in community life.

Meaningful Collaboration

Collaboration has remained central to everything we do.

Throughout the year, we worked closely with local councils, government agencies, schools, businesses, health providers, emergency services, employers, and community groups to ensure communities receive coordinated and meaningful support.

We continue to work closely alongside the Timaru District Council and remain committed to advocating for, supporting, and being a voice for newcomers to the region.

Education and youth engagement have also remained an important focus this year.

Multicultural Aoraki maintained a strong presence within local schools, championing inclusion and celebrating cultural diversity. One of the highlights of the year was helping establish a Cultural Leaders Hui involving local high schools, creating opportunities for young people to collaborate, celebrate diversity, and strengthen cultural understanding.

We also facilitated cultural workshops and presentations for community organisations and private sector agencies, helping increase cultural awareness and understanding throughout the district.

By working together, we can strengthen outcomes for individuals and create a more connected and welcoming South Canterbury.

We are incredibly grateful to all the organisations, volunteers, supporters, funders, and community members who have partnered with us throughout the year.





Christchurch Multicultural Council

Fostering Social Cohesion and Multiculturalism to enrich New Zealand

Tena koutou katoa!

It is my absolute pleasure to present the 2025-26 Activity Report of the Christchurch Multicultural Council (CMC) at our 37th Annual General Meeting. I would like to warmly acknowledge the dedication and efforts of our current and former CMC members, ethnic community organisations, and partner agencies. This includes both local and central government offices, as well as NGOs that support migrants and refugees in the Greater Christchurch region.



I am also pleased to report that following a comprehensive revision of our constitution, the Christchurch Multicultural Council was successfully re-registered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022.

Inaugural World Drumming Festival

Date & Venue: Saturday 30 May 2026 at the Aurora Centre, Christchurch.

Highlights: Performance groups representing Indonesia, Sri Lanka, China, West Africa, Ghana, India-Kerala, Japan, and the Cook Islands enthralled a packed hall. A special note of appreciation goes to the visiting troupe of Sri Lankan drummers, who mesmerised the audience with an array of spectacular performances. The festival stood as a vibrant celebration of culture, rhythm, diversity, and community spirit.



Acknowledgements: Congratulations to everyone involved in making this inaugural event a resounding success, beautifully uniting people and cultures through the universal language of drumming. Heartfelt thanks go to the co-organisers - the NZ Sri Lanka Cultural Foundation, the University of Canterbury School of Music, and the Christchurch Multicultural Council, for their

vision and dedication. We also extend our gratitude to our generous sponsors, volunteers, supporters, and everyone who attended this memorable event.

Canterbury Elder Empowerment Network

Establishment & Objectives: A dedicated Working Group, comprising representatives from the CMC, Christchurch Resettlement Services, Age Concern Canterbury, and other key agencies, has been established to support and empower elders within migrant and refugee communities specifically addressing issues surrounding elder abuse. Formal Terms of Reference have been instituted to outline the Network's roles, objectives, resources, and core tasks. Additionally, a successful community forum was hosted on 20 June, featuring keynote insights from the Director of the Office for Seniors, alongside network and community speakers.

Strategic Collaboration: Productive discussions were held with Age Concern Canterbury to enhance services and support for elders within ethnic communities. The focus centered on resource-sharing, increasing cultural awareness among staff and volunteers, and assisting ethnic communities in navigating Age Concern's services to effectively reduce social isolation among seniors across Canterbury.



9th CultureFest 2025 - Selwyn Multicultural Festival

The Event: CultureFest 2025 took place on Sunday 14 September at the Lincoln Event Centre and Domain. Organised through a joint collaboration between the Selwyn District Council (SDC) and the CMC, the festival celebrated Selwyn's rich cultural tapestry. This free, family-friendly event opened with a traditional Karakia, followed by welcome addresses from Selwyn Mayor Sam Broughton and the CMC President Surinder Tandon.

Program: The festival featured main-stage music and dance performances from over 20 cultural groups, alongside more than 30 food vendors showcasing international cuisines, complemented by art, craft, and informational stalls.



Appreciation: We gratefully acknowledge the vital contributions of all participants, volunteers, and supporters, including the SDC, CMC, Lincoln Rotary Club, Lincoln University, LUSA, and various community groups. A special thank you goes to Lincoln Rotary for managing the car park, and to Archana Tandon JP for her outstanding coordination and management of the stage performances.

Preparations for the 10th Selwyn CultureFest (scheduled for Sunday 13 September at the Lincoln Domain) are already at an advanced stage.

Multicultural Cricket Tournaments - Fostering unity in diversity through Cricket.

To encourage active participation, inter-cultural friendship, and social harmony within multicultural communities, the CMC proudly supported several sporting events.



8th All Nations Multiethnic T20 Cricket Tournament:

Organised jointly by the Christchurch Metro Cricket Association and the CMC, the tournament spanned three Sundays (23 and 30 November, and 7 December). The event was proudly supported by the Christchurch City Council, MEC, and valued business sponsors. 14 diverse teams participated, and we were thrilled to host the final day of play, including the grand finale, at the prestigious Hagley Nursery Ground.

Champions: Gujarat Lions Christchurch. **Runners-up:** Punjab Warriors.

It was also a distinct honour for me to be invited to the prize-giving ceremonies of several other social cricket tournaments. We extend our heartiest congratulations to the organizers and all the players from our diverse communities.

Civil Defence Emergency Preparedness and Management for Ethnic Communities

The CMC is actively collaborating with the Christchurch City Council (CCC) Community Resilience Coordinators to bolster Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) readiness across multicultural communities. To gain a deeper understanding of current preparedness levels and community needs via emergency surveys, the CMC and its members actively participated in the CCC Civil Defence Emergency Management Workshop - Preparing for an Emergency on Tuesday 24 March. It remains crucial that emergency hubs established by Civil Defence and local communities carefully account for cultural and faith-based sensitivities during natural disasters such as earthquakes, floods, or tsunamis.

Supporting Government, Ministries, Offices and Ethnic Sector

Throughout the year, we maintained close, collaborative relationships with the Ministry for Ethnic Communities (MEC), Human Rights Commission (HRC), Immigration NZ, MSD, NZ Police, Christchurch City Council (CCC), Selwyn District Council, Waimakariri Migrants & Newcomers Group, Resettlement Services, PEETO, Network Waitangi Otautahi, and various ethnic and faith-based groups.

- **MEC Ethnic Leaders Meeting:** We actively participated in the meeting held in Christchurch on Friday 9 March, which provided a vital progress update five years after the formal launch of the MEC.
- **Christchurch Business Roundtable:** It was a pleasure to attend this hui organised by the MEC, which focused on tourism, hospitality, and the film industry as avenues to boost the NZ economy and forge stronger international business relations. The panel discussions proved highly engaging.
- **Crowded Places Forum:** The CMC participated in the Crowded Places Forum for Places of Worship, organised by the NZ Police and the NZ Security and Intelligence Services on Wednesday 26 March.
- **Living Wage Campaign:** We continue to represent multicultural communities on the Living Wage NZ - Canterbury Steering Group. We consistently emphasise the critical need for a living wage, rather than just the legal minimum, to ensure migrants can truly thrive rather than merely survive.

Supporting Christchurch City Council (CCC) and Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils

- **Attended Waitangi Day Celebration & Citizenship Ceremony:** Nga Hau e Wha National Marae, Christchurch.
- **Civic Welcomes:** CMC representatives regularly attend CCC citizenship ceremonies to warmly greet new citizens from diverse backgrounds and introduce them to the supportive role of the CMC.
- **Inter-Agency Collaboration:** The CMC maintained active participation in INFoRM (Inter-Agency Network for Refugees and Migrants) and various other pivotal community forums.
- **Civic Engagement:** We work closely with the CCC and neighbouring district councils to raise awareness of the local body election process for ethnic communities. Our ultimate goal is to encourage civic participation and secure greater representation for diverse voices on Community Boards and the Council. To this end, we actively promote voter enrolment and turnout.
- **Consultation & Advocacy:** The CMC consistently contributed to council events, activities, and public calls for submissions on vital community matters.



Key events attended and supported this year include:

- **CCC Culture Galore 2026 (Race Unity Day, 21 March):** Christchurch celebrated its rich cultural tapestry with a major milestone: the Culture Galore Multicultural Festival moved from Rayblank Park to the new Christchurch Multicultural Recreation and Community Centre in Hagley Park. The inaugural event brought together vibrant cultures, stunning performances, delicious food, and the warm spirit of Otautahi. Huge congratulations to the organizers, volunteers, performers, and families involved; Many of our own members contributed significantly to their success.
- **Buddha Birthday World Peace Prayers (BLIA Buddha Temple, Riccarton, 18 April):** I was deeply honoured to attend and offer a Hindu peace prayer at this multicultural festival, and I congratulate the temple on their ongoing efforts to foster harmony across diverse faith communities.
- **Shakti's 30th Anniversary Function** (24 October).
- **Formosa Festival (Taiwanese), Arts Centre** (1 March). **Japan Fiesta** (7 March)
- **Department of Corrections Staff Health & Wellbeing Expo (Rolleston Prison - 13 March):** Featured a highly successful joint information stall run by the CMC and Christchurch Resettlement Services.
- **Passport to Otautahi Expo & Spring Festival** (Organised by CCC and Kia Ora Academy - 13 September, Multicultural Centre).
- **Bhutanese Sanjh/Cultural Evening** (22 November). **Nepal Festival 2026** (Saturday 18 April).
- **CantaLankan Sri Lankan New Year Festival 2026** (18 April).

In addition to the above events, there were several other events organised by various community groups.

Multicultural Women Council (Chair - Archna Tandon)

Our members actively supported a wide array of initiatives throughout the year (with additional details cross-referenced across other reports). Key events organised and contributed to include:

- Selwyn CultureFest & Christchurch Culture Galore
- A dedicated Women's Self-Defence Training Course (Sunday 17 May)
- Active contributions to the national Multicultural NZ Women Council
- Robust advocacy and support for victims of domestic violence
- Highly popular Bollywood Dance Fitness classes hosted across both Christchurch and Lincoln.

Acknowledgements

Our sincere gratitude goes out to all who have partnered with us this year:

To the members of the CMC, community groups, the Christchurch City Council, and the Selwyn and Waimakariri District Councils for their unwavering support, representation, and promotional networking.

We also extend our sincere thanks to:

Christchurch Resettlement Services, Ngai Tahu, Age Concern Canterbury, Network Waitangi Otautahi, Plains Media FM96.9, PEETO, Shakti, Shama, Canterbury Interfaith Society, the INFoRM Group, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Immigration NZ, the Human Rights Commission (Race Relations), MSD, the Office for Seniors, the Office of the Ombudsman, the Christchurch Metro Cricket Association, the Rotary Club of Lincoln, NZ Police, Community Patrol NZ, White Ribbon, Living Wage Aotearoa NZ, our local MPs, City Councillors, and all our event volunteers and partners.

Your continued encouragement, collaboration, and commitment enable CMC to continue building a more inclusive, connected, and harmonious Canterbury.





Hakatere Multicultural Council

Hakatere Multi Cultural Council, based in Ashburton and serving the diverse Ashburton District community, was initially established as a local Newcomers Network more than twenty-five years ago.

Today we operate three primary programmes:

Ethnic Leaders Forum, which exists to give the elected leaders of resident ethnic communities a voice to share their experiences and challenges, and for Hakatere Multi Cultural Council to advocate alongside ethnic leaders on behalf of their communities in a well-informed and knowledgeable manner. Our ethnic leaders programme also seeks to provide governance and leadership opportunities for individual, and a stepping-stone to leadership and advocacy opportunities within the broader community, such as school boards and sports clubs.



Migrant Centre operates out of a dedicated office and welcoming meeting spaces in the Safer Mid Canterbury building, which constitutes part of Ashburton's Community House. The Migrant Centre acts as a drop-in for migrants who might need assistance in a broad variety of capacities, and our coordinator and volunteers are able to use their knowledge and networks to help make the migrant experience a more welcoming and less stressful experience.

Newcomers Network, which is our founding programme, assists all newcomers to Ashburton District, no matter their point of origin. Newcomer events are usually arranged in collaboration with many other not-for-profit organisations within the community and provide introductions to groups and activities that newcomers can pursue individually.

Our programmes are overseen by our coordinator, who operates as part of the team of social service professionals operating out of Community House, and her broad network can be engaged to help all newcomers and migrants settle productively and successfully within our community.

Our community has a deep grounding in primary industries, mostly based around agriculture, and they rely heavily on our migrant population to create the wealth and productivity that our community thrives on. Our activities and finances are overseen by a board that is elected annually, and currently consists of seven members, assisted by a paid secretary/treasurer, all of whom have a lived experience as migrants and newcomers.



Activities

This year could be viewed as one of building connections, capability, independence and leadership within our community. It has built on the many previous years of hard work and networking (the '100 cups of tea'), and Hakatere Ashburton is all the stronger for it. The activities run by Hakatere Multi Cultural Council, or organised in collaboration with other not-for-profit sector organisations, range from the formal, to leadership building, to the social.



MNZ events

Hakatere Multi Cultural Council is an active member of the New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils (MNZ) and have sent representatives to events organised or cosponsored by them.

These include their AGM and the celebration of Multicultural Day held at Parliament, the Race Unity Speech Awards regional finals, and Nowruz (Persian New Year) at Parliament.

NZ Police Community Meeting

We had a contingent attend the NZ Police Community Meeting in Christchurch, including the coordinator, two ethnic leaders and the board chairperson.

NZ Police had the five Canterbury ethnic and iwi liaison officers there, as well as bringing three senior officers from Wellington.

Superintendent Rash Naidoo, national partnerships manager - ethnic, introduced newly-appointed Assistant Commissioner Tim Anderson, who will oversee the ethnic liaison team.



Diwali

We were delighted to have an active role in the Diwali celebrations organised by local Indian societies in both Ashburton and Selwyn District, delivering the opening remarks for the Ashburton event and the karakia for the Selwyn event.

Ethnic Leaders Forum events

Our ethnic leaders have been proactive and independent in organising their own events, which we have been happy to support. This year these have included a potluck dinner and their second annual talent showcase.



Reinforcing our relationship with Tangata Atumotu Trust (TAT)

We have developed a strong relationship with the local team at Tangata Atumotu Trust, who, amongst many other things, hold a monthly craft event for Maori and Pasifika wahine at Rokowhiria Ashburton Art Gallery and Heritage Centre. A highlight this year was the TAT Samoan Language Week lunch.

Cultural Awareness Talks

In collaboration with Welcoming Communities, we have a bi-monthly cultural awareness talk, delivered by volunteers from within our community. This year these have included Fiji, Nepal, Tokelau and others.

'Taste of...' cooking workshops

In collaboration with Keep Learning Mid Canterbury we also deliver volunteer-led cookery workshops.

ADC Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy submission

Ashburton District Council has, over the last year or so, been developing an Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy. HMCC has been identified as one of the key stakeholders and taken part in workshops and feedback sessions.

When the draft strategy went out for public consultation, we made a submission and encouraged other groups to do the same. We spoke at the public hearings and supported other groups through the process.



Hutt Multicultural Council

1 Introduction

Hutt Multicultural Council Inc. (HMC) has been promoting ethnic diversity, inclusiveness & social cohesion in Lower Hutt since 1987. HMC's Strategic Plan includes:

Value - Respect, Service, Diversity, Collaboration and Courage

Vision - Promoting and celebrating cultural and ethnic diversity

Mission - Leadership and Advocacy of Racial Harmony

Purpose - Advocacy, Promote & Support, Celebrate, Connect & Collaborate.

This performance report is structured around the actions identified under the four purposes. The HMC Executive Committee, members, whanau, friends, supporters and volunteers all contributed to achieve the results briefly described below.



2 Advocacy on Racial Harmony

Members attended huis, making submissions and responding to racial harmony related actions from other organisations, both government, local government and non-government organisations to present HMC views, concerns and feedback.

HMC members regularly attended stakeholder meetings eg Hutt Valley Migrants & Former Refugee Forums.

Members also attended and helped judge the Race Unity Speech Awards organised by Bahai Society and New Zealand Police at the Police National H/Q in March 2026. We are also helping to sponsor the first runner-up in the 2025 and 2026 Regional Competition to attend a "Learning to be Heard" Global Public Speaking Challenge in Singapore. This event is in partnership with TED and Immerse Education.

We regularly attended the monthly online meetings of Multicultural New Zealand (MNZ) - Regional Multicultural Councils (RMCs) and supported the initiatives taken by MNZ.

Social Cohesion Forum - Working with Multicultural New Zealand and Upper Hutt Multicultural Council, HMC hosted a forum at Te Mako, Naenae Community Centre on 2 May 2026. This event was part of a series of events held throughout the motu bringing together members of our ethnic communities to share experiences and perspectives on growing a sense of connection and belonging in Aotearoa.

Electoral Meet the Candidates - Mayoral & At Large Candidates. 18th Sept 2025, Petone Baptist Church. By Hutt Multicultural Council & Jackson St Projects. Full house with all mayoral and at large candidates turning up. Lively session and lots of Q&As. A successful event leading to some successful candidates!

3 Promote Multicultural Events

HMC organises its own events and supports other organisations to host events targeting the multicultural communities.

HMC/Chinese Women's Chinese New Year for Children - Saturday 14th Feb 2026 War Memorial Library - We took over the general open area on the ground floor and part of the first floor of the WML. There were craft stalls, activity stalls, performances, workshops & families, lots of families! There was food & drinks. There were over 50 student volunteers from various colleges helping out at this event. We were also able to share about HMC to a lot of the families.

Multicultural Playgroup - Over the past nine months Hutt Multicultural Playgroup has continued to grow as a vibrant, welcoming, and inclusive community space for families from diverse cultural backgrounds. Families from many different ethnic and cultural backgrounds regularly attend, and we continue to welcome new families almost every week. The playgroup has become an important entry point for newly arrived migrant and refugee families to build friendships, reduce social isolation, and connect with local community services.



Another significant highlight has been the increasing involvement of fathers and grandparents in leading activities. This reflects our commitment to recognising the strengths that every family member brings to children's learning. For example, a father from Colombia led a fun Spanish language and dance session, while an Indian grandfather volunteered to read storybooks with the children. These family-led sessions created meaningful opportunities for cultural exchange and encouraged positive male and intergenerational participation in early childhood learning.

The playgroup has also become a trusted support network for many Muslim mothers. Many families describe the weekly playgroup as their regular gathering where they can reconnect with friends, share parenting experiences, and support one another in a safe and welcoming environment. For some mothers, particularly those with limited extended family or social networks in New Zealand, the playgroup has become an important source of belonging and emotional wellbeing.

Celebrating cultural diversity remains central to our programme. Throughout the past six months we have celebrated a wide range of cultural and community events, including Eid, Easter, Mother's Day, children's birthdays, and graduation celebrations for children transitioning to early childhood education. These shared celebrations help children develop an appreciation of different cultures while creating joyful memories and strengthening relationships among families.

Overall, the playgroup continues to foster belonging, cultural understanding, family engagement, and community connection, providing a supportive environment where children and caregivers learn, celebrate, and grow together.

Multicultural Youth Week - HMC was pleased to support the Wellington Chinese Women's Association and Lower Hutt youth leaders at the Hutt event on 23 May 2026 at Chilton St James School. The event involved more than 100 rangatahi, their whanau and community leaders from a variety of cultural backgrounds coming together to ask questions and share ideas about youth leadership and the future they want to work towards.

Women's Group - One of our new initiatives for 2026 has been regular gatherings of our Multicultural Women's Group. These began in March and we've now held seven sessions on Thursday evenings, mostly at Pomare Taita Community House. You can read about our first session here - <https://huttmc.org.nz/News/Women%27s-Group-off-to-a-Great-Start>. The sessions have been a great way for ethnic women to come together, share experiences, make connections and learn more about life in Aotearoa. Our sessions so far have covered: Chinese culture with Michelle and Helen from the Wellington Chinese Women's Association. Filipino storytelling and cooking with our Life Member Anita. Introduction to te Tiriti o Waitangi and Introduction te reo Maori (two separate sessions) with Wayne Paaka. Colombian Culture led by regular group member Diana. An Employment Law workshop by Community Law Wellington and Hutt Valley. An Indian Dance Workshop run by Prabha Ravi of Natraj School of Dance.

Multifest 2025/Welcoming Week - HMC's annual multicultural event was on the 20th September 2025 at the Walter Nash Stadium, Taita in Lower Hutt. There were cultural performances from 28 different ethnic communities. There were information stalls, food stalls inside and food trucks just outside the stadium. We worked with HCC's Welcoming Communities to celebrate Welcoming Week too. We again worked with Non-Stop Solutions who saved a huge amount of waste from going to the landfill!

We are currently planning an even bigger Multifest 2026 this year to happen on Sun 20 th Sept 2026 at Lower Hutt Town Hall. Keep an eye out!

Anzac Day Commemoration - HMC was again invited by the council to lay a wreath at the Hutt Cenotaph. Three of the executive members attended at 2 different services including the Naenae memorial and a note of thanks to Anita Mansell for arranging the flowers.

Citizenship Ceremony - HMC members have been taking turns representing us at the Hutt City Citizenship ceremonies. One of HMC's representatives will go up on stage with the official party. Feedback from the members have been wonderful experiences watching the new citizens in front and then congratulating them as they go on stage to receive their certificates. On average we welcome 180 new citizens at each ceremony. There were 2 ceremonies on 20 May 2026. Each ceremony welcomed 180 new citizens into Te Awa Kairangi! Both of HMC's representatives felt pride and joy in shaking hands with & welcoming all of them.

Grow Membership - In September 2025 we changed our monthly meetings at the War Memorial Library from Council Meetings to Community Meetings, switching the focus from the operation and governance of HMC (which remains the responsibility of our Executive Committee) towards bringing ethnic communities together to build connections, increase community engagement and promote social cohesion. This change has led to an increase in attendance at our Community Meetings and a greater diversity of participants. At each meeting attendees have the opportunity to introduce themselves, share any insights and let other attendees know about any upcoming community events they are involved in.

We've hosted guest speakers from HCC at several of our community meetings, beginning with Lower Hutt Mayor Fauno Ken Laban at our November meeting. Mayor Ken, who spoke alongside Hutt Valley Police Area Commander Inspector Wade Jennings, shared his plan to increase consultation with ethnic communities in Lower Hutt and answered questions from meeting participants. At our February meeting HCC engaged with ethnic communities regarding the 2026 Residents Satisfaction Survey and in May sought feedback regarding the proposed Streetscapes and Riverside Park.



Multicultural Senior's Christmas Party at Te Mako, Naenae Community Centre in December, brought together seniors from a variety of ethnic backgrounds to share kai, enjoy performances, sing Christmas carols, dance and celebrate together. Hutt City Council also provided funding directly through the Christmas Event Support Fund towards this event.

Diwali/Pongal

HMC members attended and supported various celebrations including the Wellington Mutamizh Sangam Deepavali Kondattam dinner in October 2025. This is to show our support for ur

Indian community. We also attended the Natraj School of Dance, Sapta Thandavam production.



4 Connect & Collaborate

HMC keeps connecting and collaborating with stakeholders (both organisations and individuals) to achieve HMC purposes. Various members involved with other community groups have been able to make new connections with fellow members. Some highlights of the year are:

Hutt City Council continues to be a funder and supporter to HMC. HMC continues collaborating with the Connecting Communities team at HCC & Batool Arif, Welcoming Communities Coordinator. We also continue to be approached by various council groups for feedback & connection to various community groups regarding studies, city planning etc.

Diplomatic Corp - HMC maintains relationships with the Wellington Diplomatic Corps via events organized by the various embassies and community groups. We created The Unity Cup 5-a-side football tournament between the Hutt Mayor's team vs Diplomatic Corp team vs HMC. The tournament on 15 Nov 2025 at McEwen Park, Petone was enjoyed by all and won by the Hutt Mayor's team.

New Zealand Police - Our President attended a farewell lunch for John Zhu, our Ethnic Liaison Officer. We wish him all the best and thank him for all that he has supported HMC with. We will

continue to work with the rest of the Ethnic team incl Rakesh Naidoo, Yumi Nguyen, Rabia Almbaid & Phil Pithyou and also with Wade Jennings our busy Hutt District Commander.

World Refugee Day - Members attended this event at Parliament organized by Red Cross on the morning of 24 June 2026. Good to make connections with others interested in supporting former refugees. We also supported a celebration at Whirinaki Whare Taonga on 20 Jun 2026.

Luo Community - We celebrated with the Luo Community on the graduation of their students from the English Learning Community Hub and for Mothers' Day at Maidstone Hub on Sat 9 th May 2026. It is always wonderful to see so many different community groups involved and supporting them.

Phillipines Sports Festival - 13 Jun 2026, HMC supported and sponsored medals for events including Table Tennis, Paper Plane Flying and Tenpin Bowling. A successful and fun celebration of community spirit and healthy living.

Pomare Taita Community Trust - HMC continues to collaborate with PTCT and hope to encourage more residents from around the local area to get involved with the various events and activities being planned.

Te Ara Tuao/Community Volunteer Expo - HMC had a stall at this event organized by Neighbourhood Support NZ, held on 21 st Jun 2026 at The Dowse Art Museum. We met and connected with various other wonderful volunteer groups.

Voice of Aroha YES Youth Empower Summit - 29 th May 2026 Launch at Parliament; 30 th & 31 st May 2026 summit, Pataka Art & Museum, Porirua - our President was able to attend and support this wonderful multicultural youth summit and watch talented rangatahi share their gifts and thoughts through play acting, korero and discussion panels.



Youth Organizations Forum - 9 th June 2026 by Team Naenae Trust, Te Mako, Naenae, brought together kaimahi, working with rangatahi including our President. Talk by Matt Renata an inspirational youth & community advocate that led to wonderful ideas from all.

E Tu Whanau Kahukura Workshop & Ann Dysart Award Evening - 1 st Jul 2026, Orongomai Marae & Silverstream Retreat. Wonderful symposium featuring speakers and discussions highlighting kaupapa aligned with the spirit of the Kahukura Award, celebrating leadership, innovation and impact. To then celebrate & recognize the many winners of awards and the recipient of the Ann Dysart Kahukura Award. Great experience for our President.

Mana Whenua, Waiwhetu Marae - 2 nd July 2026, The Hutt Valley Refugee and Migrant Stakeholder Forum was welcomed into the marae with a powhiri. It was good to listen to and learn about the history of the marae and about Matariki from Matua Matiu Tahi and Matua Tame Ngaheke. HMC is grateful too, to be connecting with Mana Whenua and having their guidance with our upcoming Matariki celebration on 19 th Jul 2026 at Walter Nash, Taita, Lower Hutt.

5 Acknowledgements

The Executive Committee of Hutt Multicultural Council Inc. listed below acknowledges the support received from the Hutt City Council & it's various teams to various events and activities HMC organised through-out the year. Special mention of thanks to Batool Arif, Welcoming Communities Co-ordinator and Michele Miller and the team at the War Memorial Library where HMC meets every month.

Hutt Multicultural Council also extends sincere thanks to Multicultural New Zealand, Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Ministry of Social Development, Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Human Rights Commission, Hindu Council of NZ & Best NZ Football Company.

Funding agencies - Thanks to Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS), Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Ethnic Communities Development Fund, The Mouri Ora Fund, Hutt City Events Fund, TG Macarthy Trust, Lotteries Commission, Ministry of Social Development, Pomare Taita Community Trust, Hutt Mana Charitable Trust, NZ Community Trust/Nuku Ora & some smaller sponsors.

Special thanks to Lower Hutt Domino's Pizza for sponsoring pizzas for all our Community Meetings.

Special thanks too to The NZ Sikh Society, Wellington/Gurudwara, Naenae for their continued food support for our community events.

We greatly appreciate the continued support of our Honorary Solicitor Karun Lakshman & all Executives, Committee members & volunteers who contribute their time & talents to assist HMC. Special thanks and appreciation to our patron, Mayor Fauono Ken Laban. We remember our past patron John Terris who sadly passed away 2 nd Feb 2026. Our thoughts always, with his wife, Katie.

Hutt Multicultural Council Executive Committee 2025-26

Winsome Lam, President; Haiying Shi, Vice President; Wallace Enegbuma, Secretary; Vivian Nwankwonta, Treasurer; Tribhuvan Shrestha, Immediate Past President; Executive Committee Members - Anita Mansell, (past president), Marcelo Esparas, Julian Paton. Part-time co-ordinator - Claire Thornton-Mills.



Manawatu Multicultural Council

Annual Sector Lead Report for 2025 presents an overview of the MMCs performance over the past year and reflects on the broader impact of our work in supporting culturally and linguistically diverse communities across the region. It outlines key achievements, service outcomes, and strategic initiatives delivered in response to identified community needs, underpinned by a strong commitment to inclusion, social equity, and community wellbeing.

By the end of 2025, we have grown to include 69 community members and throughout this growth, MMC has remained firmly committed to promoting mutual understanding, respect, and harmony within an increasingly diverse community. It has evolved into a vibrant and inclusive hub where cultural identities are celebrated, languages and traditions are shared, and meaningful connections are formed across cultural and social boundaries.

At the MMC centre, located in the Hancock Community House Level 2, we are dedicated to delivering accessible and inclusive support services for migrants, newcomers, international students, and people from refugee backgrounds across the Manawatu region. Beyond service delivery, our Centre has become a trusted and welcoming space where individuals and families feel safe, valued, and understood. Through opportunities for learning, connection, and personal growth, we support people to rebuild confidence, strengthen their sense of belonging, and participate fully in community life.

In 2025, MMC delivered six English Conversation classes per week, including one evening class to improve accessibility for participants with daytime commitments. Volunteer teachers developed weekly learning topics tailored to participant needs. In addition to language learning, the classes provided valuable opportunities for participants to build social connections and support networks. Across the year, English classes recorded approximately 1,900 cumulative attendances. This figure represents total session attendance rather than individual participant numbers, as many participants attended multiple sessions.



Other classes were typically delivered once per week, which contributed to lower overall attendance figures. The Computer Skills programme, delivered in partnership with DIGITS, consisted of five sessions per course, with two courses delivered in 2025. Class sizes were intentionally limited to a maximum of seven participants to allow for individualised support, resulting in a total of 64 attendances across the year.

The Yoga class recorded 302 attendances during 2025, supporting participant wellbeing and physical health. The Traditional Chinese Dance programme recorded 72 attendances and was delivered over a four-month period, with delivery limited due to the instructor being overseas. Tai Chi classes, delivered by the same instructor, recorded 85 attendances.

The Sharing Art and Culture class recorded 319 attendances during the year. This programme provided participants with opportunities to express creativity, share cultural knowledge, and strengthen social connections within a supportive environment.

As an umbrella organisation representing close to 70 ethnic community groups, MMC recognises its role in supporting community capability, wellbeing, and access to information. MMC's educational workshops focus on key priority areas including youth development, elderly wellbeing, communication and settlement support, and community education. These workshops complement MMC's wider service delivery by providing preventative education, practical life skills, and culturally responsive information to support community members in navigating everyday challenges.

In 2025, MMC delivered a broad range of educational workshops, including:

- Steps For Life
- Senior Lunchtime Programme
- Steady As You Go - delivered in collaboration with Age Concern
- Learner Licence Workshop
- Happy Women Workshop
- Happy Families Workshop
- Constitution Workshop
- Happy Seniors Workshop
- Job Interview Workshop
- Te Manawa School Holiday Programme Workshops
- Employment Workshop



Across all educational workshops delivered during 2025, a total of 3,250 participants attended. Participant feedback indicated strong satisfaction levels, with approximately 90% of respondents rating workshops as very satisfied. This participation level and positive feedback demonstrate the relevance, accessibility, and impact of MMC's education programmes in supporting multicultural communities across the region.

In 2025, MMC delivered over 500 language support sessions across multiple languages. Service data shows that Dari / Farsi was the most frequently requested language, with 378 sessions delivered during the year. This was followed by Burmese (23 sessions), Urdu (20 sessions), and Hindi (16 sessions).

Additional language support was provided in Khmer (13 sessions), Karen (11 sessions), Mandarin (9 sessions), Rohingya (7 sessions), and Turkish (6 sessions). Further support was also provided in Nepali (4 sessions), Malay (2 sessions), and several other languages including Arabic, Bengali, Samoan, Spanish, Thai, and Tongan, each with one session delivered.

In 2025, MMC organised and supported more than 59 cultural events and community programmes, including:

- Summer Reading Programme Finale
- Lunar New Year Celebrations
- Festival of Cultures (Ethkick, Multicultural Parade, and World Fair)
- Teas & Coffees of the World
- Family Fun Day - Manawatu Community Hub Libraries
- UCOL International Day and Community Connect
- Language Expo
- May Music Month
- World on Stage
- Parliament Visit
- Diwali Mela
- Palmy Play Festival

- Christmas Parade

In addition to large-scale public events, MMC continued to support community connection through regular cultural exchange activities, including monthly multicultural potluck dinners and lunches. These gatherings are typically held on the last Friday of each month and provide a welcoming, informal environment where community members can share food, traditions, and cultural experiences. Feedback from participants remained highly positive, with approximately 95% of respondents expressing satisfaction with the opportunity to engage with other cultures and communities.

MMC recognises that settlement and integration into a new country can present both opportunities and challenges for migrants, newcomers, and former refugee communities. The Community Connector programme provides culturally responsive support to assist individuals and families as they navigate services, systems, and community integration.



Community Connectors provide a range of settlement and support services, including:

- Guidance on immigration processes and general settlement requirements
- Language support and interpretation assistance
- Cultural orientation and community integration support
- Access to legal information and referral pathways
- Support with accessing safe and stable housing
- Assistance navigating financial hardship and accessing support services

In 2025, the Welcoming Schools Programme (WSP) continued to strengthen inclusive and culturally responsive school environments across Palmerston North. The programme worked collaboratively with schools, families, community organisations, and government agencies to provide practical and culturally informed support that strengthens connections between schools and migrant and former refugee communities.

Key Activities and Achievements

1. Cultural Competence and In-School Engagement

Delivered more than 140 school-based engagements with school leadership teams, ESOL staff, SENCOs, and pastoral support teams.

Supported ESOL Professional Learning Communities and provided advisory support to schools responding to the needs of newcomer students and families.

2. Enhancing Family and Community Support

Partnered with 22 schools and provided direct support through more than 75 family engagements.

Assisted families experiencing attendance and engagement challenges, supported navigation of education and health systems, and responded to settlement-related wellbeing needs.

Delivered a multi-session parent learning programme supporting families raising neurodiverse children, strengthening family capability and access to support services.



Marlborough Multicultural Centre

Looking ahead to our 20-Year Anniversary in 2026

Huarahi Hou - Many Cultures, One Home

6,000-7,000 MULTICULTURAL FESTIVAL ATTENDEES	35+ NATIONALITIES SUPPORTED	20 YEARS SERVING MARLBOROUGH	200+ ROHINGYA COMMUNITY MEMBERS IN BLENHEIM
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This report reflects the difference our staff, volunteers, Board, partners, and communities made together this year - and stands as a foundation for the next chapter of Marlborough's story.



Our Vision and Mission - Huarahi Hou

Marlborough Multicultural Centre (MMC) has served Marlborough's diverse communities since 2006. As we celebrated our 20th anniversary in 2026, we continue to be guided by our vision, Huarahi Hou - many cultures, one home - and by the values of E Tu Whanau: Aroha, Whakapapa, Whanaungatanga, Manaakitanga, Korero Awhi, and Tikanga. Over the past year we welcomed and supported people from over 35 nationalities, delivering events, advocacy, and programmes that strengthen belonging, capability, and cultural pride across the region.

This report presents our 2025-2026 impact against the two overarching outcomes of MMC's Strategic Plan 2025-2027: Strengthen Community Engagement, and Develop a Responsive and Collective Leadership.

STRATEGIC OUTCOME ONE

Strengthen Community Engagement

Cultural Celebrations - Marlborough Multicultural Festival 2026

The 2026 Marlborough Multicultural Festival was the most successful in the event's 20-year history. An estimated 6,000-7,000 people attended Churchill Glade, Pollard Park on Saturday 7 March, up from around 4,000 the previous year. What began as a gathering of fewer than 500 people in 2006 has grown into one of Marlborough's largest free family events.



Over 280 performers from more than 20 cultural communities took to the stage, from children aged two to elders aged 85. The Multicultural Parade, attended by Mayor Nadine Taylor, brought colour and pride to the afternoon. Scheduling the festival for the first weekend of March allowed seasonal RSE workers to attend.

"Festival created a strong sense of belonging, pride and connection."

- Morning Tea Debrief

Community Events and Cultural Life

- World Refugee Day - over 200 people attended despite poor weather, with a Mayor's welcome, Mihi Whakatau, and personal stories from Colombian and Rohingya community leaders.
- Evening Connections Programme (new this year) - monthly gatherings at Watery Mouth Cafe, including a Marlborough Chinese Community evening, a salsa and bachata night, and 'From Chile to Aotearoa: A Journey of Belonging'.
- Language Weeks and cultural celebrations - Chinese Language Week (organised by the Marlborough Chinese Community, supported by MMC), Kiribati Language Week, Matariki, Diwali, and more.

Capacity Building - Health, Wellbeing and Newcomers

MMC's Health and Fitness programme is fully subscribed across all classes. Yoga, Pilates, Zumba, and Aqua Aerobics run weekly, supporting the mental and physical wellbeing of participants from diverse cultural backgrounds. For many participants, these are among the first inclusive, low-cost fitness spaces they have accessed in Marlborough - and the sustained waitlist demonstrates real, ongoing demand for culturally-welcoming wellbeing environments. Alongside this, the Newcomers Network Wednesday morning teas continue to attract 15-20 participants each week, rotating between MMC and the Marlborough District Library, combining warmth with practical information for newcomers finding their feet.

Fully SUBSCRIBED HEALTH & FITNESS	15-20 WEEKLY MORNING TEA ATTENDEES	35+ NATIONALITIES SUPPORTED
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Capability Building - Advocacy and Settlement Support

Individual advocacy is the heart of MMC's daily work. In 2025-2026, our team provided one-to-one support through hundreds of face-to-face meetings, calls, and emails - across immigration, employment, family reunification, family violence, housing, health, pensions, legal systems, and civic participation - for clients from over 35 nationalities.

"Yesterday I received from NZ Immigration that my working visa has been approved and today I am excited to be back to work. Your kindness and generosity have truly made a difference."

- MMC client

Other outcomes this year included securing part-time employment for a client building financial independence; supporting a migrant woman seeking safety from an abusive relationship; guiding a Colombian youth selected for the NZ Under-19 football touring team through visa processes; helping a client maintain NZ Superannuation eligibility by securing Philippines Social Security documentation; supporting a Myanmar client's Tier One Refugee Family Support application for family reunification; and celebrating a former refugee's completion of a three-year Diploma in Aeronautical Engineering at NMIT.

Working with the Rohingya Community

Of the 50 Rohingya families settled in Marlborough, 23 (approximately 130 individuals) now reside in Blenheim. MBIE has formally acknowledged MMC's strategic role in improving long-term retention and wellbeing for this community. In partnership with Health NZ Public Health and Red Cross Migration, 26 Rohingya participants attended a Healthy and Safe Cooking series led by a Nelson nutritionist with translator support - building practical life skills, health literacy, and new community connections.

Community Capacity Gap

MMC organised and facilitated Pathways to Settlement presentations, offering guidance on settlement services and community support resources.

Strengthen Community Engagement

Co-Design and Community Input

MMC hosted its inaugural Ethnic Community Leaders Forum in November 2025, bringing together 12 leaders. Participants unanimously agreed to continue meeting quarterly - a strong signal of appetite for structured cross-community leadership. MMC also stepped into a more active leadership position in regional welcoming forums following the disestablishment of MDC's Welcoming Communities Coordinator role.

Distributed Leadership - Communities Leading Themselves

This year the Latin American community in Marlborough formally established their own Board - exactly the outcome MMC works toward: communities strong enough to lead themselves.

"MMC has had a huge impact on the lives of many immigrants in this region."

- Millaray Acevedo, Latin American Community

MMC is also supporting the Rohingya community's process of establishing their own legal entity with Community Law and has supported the re-activation of the Filipino community organisation in Marlborough by mentoring its emerging leader. Both partnerships reflect MMC's commitment to walking alongside communities, not ahead of them.

Board Skills Development - Governance Training with LEAD

MMC organised governance training facilitated by LEAD for its Board, staff, and members of the wider ethnic community. The training strengthened understanding of governance responsibilities, financial oversight, and strategic decision-making - not only within MMC, but among the emerging community leaders who attended. This deliberate investment reflects a Strategic Plan priority: strong communities need strong governance foundations.

Strengthened Networks and Partnerships

- National relationships - a two-day Auckland visit strengthened ties with MSD, Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre, and the Noor Foundation; in June 2026 a delegation of MBIE, MSD, and Auckland Rohingya representatives visited Blenheim, validating MMC's growing national role.
- Local visibility - MMC presented its mandate and community impact to the Marlborough Chamber of Commerce, opening new business partnership opportunities.
- Recognition - MMC received a commendation at the 2026 Volunteer Marlborough Community and Volunteer Awards for the breadth of its reach, recognition that belongs to every volunteer, staff member, and partner.

Looking Ahead

MMC is piloting the Marlborough Multicultural Night Market at Brayshaw Heritage Park in September and December 2026 - a new, community-owned platform for cultural stallholders and performers. The Newcomers Network, Ethnic Community Leaders Forum, Evening Connections, Health and Fitness programme, and Rohingya community programmes will all build on a strong year, with our AGM to be held on 28 September 2026.

A key strategic aspiration is for MMC to be recognised as a service provider for Marlborough - enabling us to deliver ethnic community, migrant, and refugee settlement services under formal government contracts. The Board and Centre Manager are progressing this through funding

applications, government tender opportunities, and building the systems and evidence base required. Achieving service provider status would give MMC long-term financial sustainability and formal recognition of the work we have already delivered.



Marlborough Multicultural Centre | 21 Henry Street, Blenheim | 03 579 6410 | mmc.nz

Multicultural Nelson Tasman

In 2025, Multicultural Nelson Tasman continued to promote, celebrate and strengthen multicultural communities across Nelson Tasman. Our work focused on creating places and opportunities where people from diverse backgrounds could connect, participate, lead, share culture, access support and feel a stronger sense of belonging.

Our vision is that Te Tiriti-based multicultural communities live happily and in harmony. Across the year, this vision was reflected through community-led cultural events, education workshops, youth leadership, settlement sector coordination, support for migrant and former refugee communities, and the growing use of the Multicultural Centre as a place for connection.



The year also showed the importance of local multicultural organisations in strengthening social cohesion. As communities continue to grow and change, there is a clear need for spaces where people can build relationships, share stories, challenge assumptions and work together across cultures.

Impact at a glance

In 2025, Multicultural Nelson Tasman:

- supported more than 30 community groups and agencies to use the Multicultural Centre
- delivered five community education workshops, including Te Tiriti, Cross-Cultural Awareness and Activating Allyship workshops
- hosted and supported major events including the Multicultural Festival and Tasman Asian Night Food Fair, drawing thousands of people from across the region
- delivered five Kai and Korero events, with more than 150 people taking part across Nelson and Motueka
- supported 19 multicultural activities in Motueka, reaching more than 700 participants
- supported free English conversation classes in Motueka, with volunteers contributing more than 360 hours across 40 sessions
- supported 215+ young people through Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman activities
- coordinated nine Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum meetings
- administered 12 Nelson City Council Neighbourhood Grants and 10 NBS Ethnic Community Grants
- supported communities through the Shared Communities initiative to secure \$40,800 for community-led projects
- supported two Shared Communities Pop-Up Multicultural Markets, involving 350+ community participants and attracting up to 3,500 attendees at the largest event
- attended 20 citizenship ceremonies across Nelson City Council and Tasman District Council.

Building belonging and connection

Bringing people together across cultures remained at the heart of our mahi in 2025. Through both large public events and smaller community gatherings, MNT created opportunities for people to meet, share culture, build understanding and form relationships.

Major events such as the Multicultural Festival and Tasman Asian Night Food Fair continued to be much more than celebrations. They created visible, joyful and accessible spaces where diverse communities could share food, music, dance, language and cultural identity with the wider region. These events helped strengthen pride, visibility and belonging for participating communities, while also supporting wider public understanding of Nelson Tasman's growing diversity.

Smaller gatherings were equally important. Kai and Korero events, potluck dinners and community workshops provided more intimate spaces for storytelling, cultural exchange and relationship-building. In 2025, five Kai and Korero events brought communities together through Chinese, Japanese, Burmese, Cambodian and Pasifika food and culture. More than 150 people took part across events held in both Nelson and Motueka.

The Multicultural Centre also became a significant part of this work. Since opening in late 2024, the Centre has quickly become a vibrant gathering place for communities across the region. More than 30 community groups and agencies used the Centre during 2025 for cultural celebrations, workshops, youth activities, faith gatherings and community events.



The Centre has created new opportunities for people from diverse backgrounds to connect, participate and feel a genuine sense of belonging. Through a sliding-scale hire fee structure, smaller and emerging groups have been able to host their own events in a safe and welcoming environment. This has supported greater community ownership, leadership and visibility.

Beyond being a venue, the Centre has strengthened connections between communities, agencies and decision makers through forums, workshops and

shared events. It has become an important part of local multicultural infrastructure, helping build a more connected and inclusive Nelson Tasman.

Building capability, understanding and leadership

Community education was a key area of impact in 2025. MNT delivered five workshops, including two Cross-Cultural Awareness and Communication workshops, two Te Tiriti workshops and one Activating Allyship workshop.

These workshops helped participants deepen their understanding of cultural diversity, Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the role individuals can play in building more inclusive and equitable communities. One Te Tiriti workshop was delivered with interpreter support for former refugee

community members, helping reduce barriers to participation and ensuring more people could access this learning.

Feedback showed that the workshops supported people to challenge assumptions, strengthen inclusive communication practices and build greater empathy, awareness and confidence.

One participant shared:

"I was enlightened in regards to how little I know and how multifaceted culture truly is... I am more aware and will be far more curious to ask questions rather than make assumptions."



In 2025, MNT also hosted a Meet the Candidates event during the local election period. This event connected Nelson City Council candidates with members of ethnic communities, supporting civic participation and helping ensure diverse community voices were heard.

Multicultural Youth Nelson Tasman also continued to grow as a space for youth leadership, belonging and cultural pride. MYNT created inclusive spaces for young

people through cultural activities, storytelling, community engagement and youth-led initiatives. Young people supported school projects, anti-racism conversations and civic participation opportunities.

Across the year, MYNT held 26 group meetings and planning sessions, supported 12+ community events and festivals, aired 24 youth-led radio shows on FreshFM, delivered three primary school projects and engaged more than 215 young people through movie nights and other activities. MYNT also supported young people to take part in leadership and advocacy, including youth council representation and regional youth hui attendance.

This work helped young people from diverse backgrounds feel more connected, confident and proud of their cultures, while also contributing positively to the wider community.

Supporting communities to thrive

A key part of MNT's impact is supporting communities to lead their own activities, tell their own stories and build their own capacity.

In Motueka, our work continued to grow throughout 2025. We delivered a consistent programme of activities that strengthened connection, confidence and inclusion. This included potlucks, Kai and Korero sessions, cultural workshops, language events and social English classes. In total, 19 events were delivered, reaching more than 700 participants, with an average of more than 40 people per event. For newcomers, these activities supported confidence and settlement. For the wider community, they created opportunities to engage with different cultures and build relationships across differences.



Our free English Conversation Classes in Motueka were established in response to unmet need and supported people who were unable to access formal programmes. Led by volunteers

contributing more than 360 hours across 40 sessions, the classes provided a welcoming space for language learning, connection and confidence. Participants included older residents, single mothers and migrant workers, with many forming friendships and support networks beyond the classroom.

Through the Shared Communities initiative, MNT continued to support the participation, leadership and visibility of migrant and former refugee communities across Whakatu Nelson. MNT is a key partner in this initiative alongside Nelson City Council, Make/Shift Spaces and Arts Council Nelson, and hosts the Cultural Navigator role.

Through this work, communities received one-to-one support to access funding, plan projects and overcome barriers to participation. In 2025, the Cultural Navigator supported communities to secure \$40,800 for community-led projects, with MNT providing coordination and umbrella support to enable delivery.



A wide range of community-led events and activities were supported, including two Shared Communities Pop-Up Multicultural Markets. These markets involved more than 350 community participants and attracted up to 3,500 attendees at the largest event. They created important platforms for cultural expression, participation and skill development, particularly for those not already involved in mainstream markets.

Shared Communities also supported a public mural featuring "thank you" in 46 languages, which involved more than 30 volunteers. This created a lasting symbol of belonging and diversity in Whakatu Nelson. MNT also continued to support the wider settlement sector. We coordinated nine Nelson Tasman Settlement Forum meetings, including hosting meetings at the Multicultural Centre and supporting members through the development of a new three-year action plan. This work supported stronger coordination, shared direction and collaboration across settlement-related agencies and other organisations.

Through a collaborative governance partnership with Victory Community Centre and English Language Partners, MNT also supported the Community Navigator for Migrants and Former Refugees role. This role helps improve access to services, strengthen community connections and support positive settlement outcomes across the region.

Wider community impact

MNT's work in 2025 contributed to stronger social cohesion across Nelson Tasman by supporting participation, visibility, leadership and relationships across communities.

The impact of this work can be seen in communities having more opportunities to host their own events, young people growing in confidence and leadership, newcomers building support networks, and agencies having stronger relationships with ethnic communities.

It can also be seen in the growing use of the Multicultural Centre as a trusted and welcoming place. The Centre has become a practical expression of belonging: a place where communities can gather, learn, celebrate, organise, access information and connect with others.

The range of activities supported by MNT shows the breadth of multicultural work at a local level. This includes cultural celebration, youth leadership, anti-racism education, Te Tiriti learning, civic participation, settlement support, language learning, community-led projects and sector coordination.

Together, these activities help create conditions for people from diverse backgrounds to feel seen, valued and connected, while also helping the wider community grow in understanding and confidence.

Looking ahead

As Nelson Tasman continues to become more diverse, the need for local multicultural infrastructure remains strong. MNT will continue to focus on building belonging, supporting community leadership, strengthening social cohesion and creating opportunities for people to connect across cultures. In the coming year, we will continue to support community-led initiatives, grow the use of the Multicultural Centre, strengthen youth participation, deliver community education, support the settlement sector and work alongside partners to create a more inclusive region. Multicultural Nelson Tasman is proud of what was achieved in 2025 and looks forward to continuing this work in 2026.





Multicultural Council Rangitikei-Whanganui

The key activities/events we hosted are Feast and Festival 2025 in Marton which was a great success. This time we gave it Diwali flavour as it was just before the festival of lights, Diwali. This event is getting more popular each year. All the food stalls got sold out.



Diversity Dinner

This is an invitation to ethnic and new migrants to share what they have brought to the table and talk about their experiences as well as the origin of what they're sharing with the group. Some migrant also use this event to share special milestones of their life.

Puanga/Matariki

We celebrated Puanga or Matariki, with about 25 new migrants, a very educational evening on the Māori tradition on reading the stars and the purpose of the stars aligning. I remember our forefathers using the stars for navigation/direction, assessing the weather condition etc which is worthwhile celebrating.

Newcomers' Christmas Potluck Christmas dinner in Whanganui. This group meets once a month where the families bring their stories learning about do's & don'ts and learning Kiwiana culture.



Story Telling

We also had a story telling session where 3 migrant women share their life experience and how they use their experiences and adapt to settle in a new country they have come to and made it their new home.

Beach Cleanup

Beach Clean-up at Castlecliffe Beach was a huge success and more and more people gathered for this event.



Seniors

We hold regular get together for Seniors (weekly gathering), Newcomers' Network, and Youth group.

Asia Pacific Fest

For the 1st time we celebrated Asia Pacific festival on 1/1/26 which managed to bring about people from all over north Island. Presenters and stall holders for display came from Wellington as well as Auckland. This was a real hit program with over 2,000 coming through being fed by about 15 food stalls who were all sold out. This was Diana Leu (our Secretary) vision, and she worked very hard to make this possible single handedly. We wholeheartedly thank her for the success of this event and other executives, particularly our Kaumatua Jason Herewini, who helped her.

Indian Group for Holi, Diwali & other Indian festivals, Aotearoa Chinese Culture Club with their New Year's Day, Filipino volleyball and cultural day, Festival of Cultural Unity, Heritage Food Crop Research Trust, Welcoming Communities, Whanganui Social Services Network, Cancer Society & Relay for life, Adult Learners' Week to name a few.



I attend citizenship ceremony on a regular basis to make the migrants feel welcomed together with the Tangata Whenua and the District Council Mayor, Andrew Tripe

We have regular get together for seniors where we meet for chitchat, simple exercises, day trips out and many more. Recently we lost one of our seniors and everyone joined hands to help the grieving family.

This year due to weather condition we could not hold picnic in the park.

Race Unity Week neither had Race Unity Week due to lack of funds. Instead, we started other new initiatives.

We are glad though to announce that Lotteries have funded us for 3 years that funds coordinators hours, Rent, stationery and other small expenses to run the office. RiverCity Immigration looks after expenses like other consumables, like coffee/tea, cleaning stuff etc.

I spend uncountable number of hours working with individuals, counselling, working/collecting necessities for migrant families, supporting family violence cases, teaching English, Driver licenses and many more, organising translation services for different ethnic groups.



Furthermore, I also like to thank Teena Lawrence, Vijeshwar Prasad and Diana Liu who have been a pillar of support to this organisation and welcome Anshiya Vristi Kumar (youth Leader) and Kelly Little-John (our new secretary) for their hard work with Youth Development Initiatives. Last but not the least I would like to thank our past Coordinator (Maddie Stanely) and a new person, Nitisha Sarawat for their administrative task necessary for the smooth running of this organisation.

My heartfelt thank you to Teena Lawrence who worked tirelessly for over 10 years with Multicultural council and has decided to step down due to other commitments. I wish her all the best in her future endeavours.

I as the president of the Council would like to thank our sponsors and funders, particularly, Lotteries, COGS, Community Foundation, Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Rangitikei and Whanganui district councils, and Creative Communities, Castlecliff 4square, Pizza Hut, RiverCity Immigration and there are many smaller donors.

Once again, we would like to thank the funders, volunteers and hardworking executives who provided all they could afford to make this year a very successful one.

Pushpa Prasad
President
Multicultural Council Rangitikei Whanganui Inc



Rotorua Multicultural Council

Objectives and culture

The objectives of the Rotorua Multicultural Council (RMC) are to support migrants while they settle in Rotorua; to encourage them to maintain and showcase their cultures; to build relationships between Māori and migrants; and to raise awareness of the contribution that migrants make to the Rotorua community. A characteristic of our culture is collaboration with many ethnic, government, service, educational and other organisations.

Citizenship ceremonies

The President of RMC attends every citizenship ceremony where each migrant or family group receiving citizenship has the opportunity to give a brief talk about their settlement in Rotorua. The event is attended by District Councilors' and representatives of the NZ Navy, Rotorua Police, and the Citizens Advice Bureau. At each ceremony a kapa haka group from a different Rotorua Primary School performs. The kapa haka performance and the sharing of food after the ceremony emphasise the biculturalism of Rotorua while the talks given and the traditional costumes worn by some new citizens reflect Rotorua's multiculturalism.

Welcoming new Toi Ohomai international students

Each cohort of newly arrived international students at Toi Ohomai Institute of Technology is welcomed by well-settled Rotorua migrants from the same home countries as the new students. A few weeks before the students arrive in Rotorua, a Toi Ohomai staff member responsible for organising their orientation programme sends a list of their home countries to the RMC Administrator who then invites relevant migrants to join the community welcoming event.

The students ask questions in their own language, and receive practical information about living in Rotorua, and finding the ingredients for their traditional food, a GP who can speak their language, and links to their ethnic association and a temple or church.

Waitangi Day celebration

The Rotorua Waitangi Day celebration is a community event that includes cultural performances, food stalls with traditional ethnic food, games and opportunities for the ethnic communities to be part of the celebration. Representatives from many ethnic communities participate in the finale, the Parade of Nations, with some of the participants wearing their national costumes and carrying the flags of their birth countries. The event fosters community connection and cultural appreciation. It increases awareness of New Zealand's history and the importance of the Treaty of Waitangi, encourages inclusiveness, and provides a platform for different cultures to share and celebrate their identities.

Building relationships with Plunket

The purpose of building a relationship between RMC and Plunket is to make Plunket aware of the needs of migrants and to inform migrants about the availability of the services available to young parents and their babies and toddlers. We raise awareness that caring for pregnant women, babies, and toddlers differs from culture to culture. During stressful times, the support provided by others from your own language and cultural group is of immense value.

Migrants' participation in sport

RMC expanded its involvement in sport with the purpose of encouraging migrants to participate in sport to improve physical health, build social connections, and support integration into the Rotorua community. It also increases the involvement of different demographic groups such as young men in the programmes offered by RMC. Sports activities included participation in football, tennis, badminton, bowling, waka ama, sailing and volleyball. Sport is a powerful tool for bringing people from all ages together, regardless of their language, culture or gender.

Networking for Employment included talks and workshops on topics that would help the participants to find part-time and full-time positions that match their skills and experience, and to seek promotion in their current positions. The purpose of the seminar was to support migrants and international students and their families to settle successfully in Rotorua and to make them aware of organisations that can support them.

Getting On included talks and activities on topics that would help the participants to build positive relationships with members of their families and with people that they meet while building their network of colleagues and friends in Rotorua. The purpose of the seminar was to support migrants and international students to settle successfully and to build relationships in Rotorua where they may not have trusted aunties, friends, or school and university mates to whom to turn when life becomes complicated.

Sing Out Rotorua choir workshops

The Sing Out Rotorua choir workshops bring people from diverse cultural backgrounds together through music, to promote inclusion, and to build the confidence of participants. The workshops create a sense of belonging and encourage cultural expression in a supportive and welcoming environment. The workshops are run in a wharenui and a church hall on a marae to enhance relationships between Maori and migrants. The choir director is Jenna Nanako from Japan and people of different ages, cultures, and singing abilities take part. Participants learn songs, vocal techniques, singing out and harmony as a group. The events also include a time to share over food. Participants new to RMC take part, including members of the Rotorua District Choir.

Latin American Fiestas

The purpose of the fiestas, organised by RMC, is to celebrate Latin American culture, promote diversity, and bring the wider Rotorua community together. The fiestas aim to showcase traditions, food, music, and dance while strengthening cultural pride and community connections. The fiestas are held at the Rotorua Thursday Night Market. A feature of the fiestas is the participation of Rotorua residents and New Zealand and international tourists in the traditional dancing in the street, led by the paid performers. The fiestas provide the opportunity for local performing arts groups to showcase their work to a wider audience.



Te Reo and English Learners course

The purpose of the Te Reo and English Learners course was to teach the ten migrant learners a pepeha and to develop their English language skills while they learned about Maori culture and the history of Rotorua. The course ran for ten weeks, two hours per week, and was taught by a Te Reo kaiako and an English language teacher. The course ended with a Speech NZ examination. Each migrant received a detailed report on their Te Reo and English presentations. In addition to their pepeha, each migrant gave a talk about a historic Maori Rotorua figure or event. They also introduced a guest speaker and participated in a role play. Migrants with limited English gained confidence in speaking in social situations and they were very proud of their ability to introduce themselves with a pepeha. They learned a lot from one another's talks about, for example, the characters behind Rotorua's street names. Rotorua is a bicultural community and gaining confidence in Maori language and culture is an important part of settling in New Zealand. The course was funded by Immigration NZ, confirming the importance of bicultural knowledge in Rotorua.

Preventing family violence in the ethnic communities

The Ministry of Social Development made \$50,000 available for a programme organised by the Rotorua Multicultural Council. Six Ethnic Champions from the Chinese, Indian, Latin American, Philippine, South African and Sri Lankan communities were appointed and trained by Family Focus to be the culturally safe points of contact for victims. Family violence in the migrant communities is mostly kept under the radar. The usually female victims will not complain in fear that the male breadwinner in the family might be sent to prison or deported. That could leave the women without a visa, a job, an income, or a driver's license. Part of the education programme involved spreading the knowledge about special visas for victims of family violence. Migrant women were supported and placed in contact with the appropriate organisations such as the Citizens Advice Bureau, Family Focus, Women's Refuge, the Police, and immigration advisors. Talks were given to service organisations and to ethnic associations by the Ethnic Champions.

Senior Migrants Group

Multicultural NZ had identified the need to provide support to older migrants who might be isolated. The events of RMC's Senior Migrants Group provide a supportive space for older migrants to connect, reduce social isolation, and improve their overall wellbeing. It helps them to feel included in the



community, share experiences, and access useful information. The monthly programme include social activities, discussions, presentations, cultural sharing, and trips out of Rotorua. Topics have included health, travel back to a birth country, community services, gardening in Rotorua, and support networks.

Professional Speaking for Migrants course

The purpose of the Professional Speaking for Migrants course, which was taught for the 14th year in Rotorua, is to take migrants who can hold a one-to-one conversation in English to where they can present a talk to an audience, participate with confidence in a NZ style job interview, and introduce a guest speaker. At the end of the course, which runs for three hours per week over 10 weeks, they gain a Speech NZ Certificate in Professional Speaking. About ten migrants complete the course every year. It is funded by the Mokoia Community Association with scholarships to fund half of the Speech NZ fee provided by the Geyser Community Foundation as scholarships.



Cuppa and Speak sessions

A migrant from Argentina who had completed the Professional Speaking for Migrants course worked with the English language teacher to set up Cuppa and Speak sessions which are held on Monday evenings from 6 to 7 pm at a local cafe. Over the summer holiday the sessions became Walk and Talk, with small groups wandering around Kuirau Park talking about trees, flowers, and geothermal features such as boiling mud pools. The participants give a koha which goes to the English language teacher.

Participating in the Rotorua Christmas Parade

Participating in the Rotorua Christmas Parade is one way in which Rotorua's residents are made aware of the presence of the various ethnic communities. The participants in the parade enjoy dressing up in their traditional costumes and sharing a meal after the parade with migrants from many

other countries. For two years in a row the RMC entry won the award for the Best Walking Entry. See photo below.

Membership of committees to represent migrants

Members of RMC's Executive Committee represent the ethnic communities on the Rotorua Police Ethnic Advisory Board, the Rotorua Community Leadership Collective, and the Civil Defence Welfare Committee. They also serve in leadership positions in their respective ethnic associations. Through these governance roles, local government, the Police, various Government Departments, and other settlement support organisations are made aware of the issues of concern to the migrant communities.

Dr Margriet Theron ONZM

President, Rotorua Multicultural Council



The Multicultural Rotorua entry in the Rotorua Christmas Parade enters Government Gardens through the Prince's Arch and Gateway.



The annual Rotorua Multicultural Police Tennis Tournament is supported by Police Headquarters. Among the participants were the Rotorua District Commander of Police and the Rotorua Police Ethnic Liaison Officer.



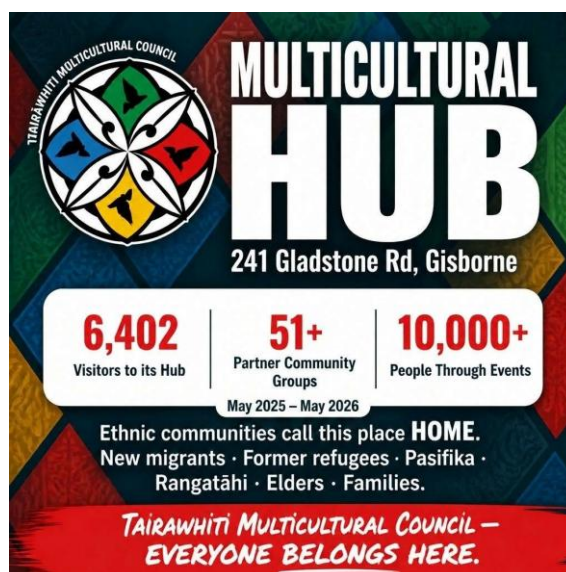
Tairawhiti Multicultural Council

"Everyone Belongs Here"

Tena koutou, talofa lava, namaste, bula vinaka, ni hao, kumusta, and warm greetings to our whole community. The Tairawhiti Multicultural Council (TMC) is a registered charity supporting ethnic and multicultural communities while promoting inclusion and diversity across our region. This has been a year of milestones: our Multicultural Hub welcomed thousands through its doors, our signature festivals drew some of their biggest crowds yet, and our tenth Colour Run splashed a decade of diversity celebrations across Gisborne. These are some of the stories behind those numbers - stories of new migrants, former refugees, Pasifika, rangatahi, elders and families who call Tairawhiti home.

A Place to Call Home: The Multicultural Hub

At 241 Gladstone Road, in the heart of Gisborne, sits a space that ethnic communities across Tairawhiti now simply call home. Over the past year the Multicultural Hub recorded 6,402 visits, hosted more than 51 partner community groups, and helped bring over 10,000 people together through TMC events - milestones we celebrated publicly in July 2026.



A year of milestones at the Multicultural Hub, May 2025 - May 2026.

The ethos of the hub is simple: free to use, or a koha. New migrants drop in for advice and a friendly face. Community groups hold their meetings, classes and celebrations here. Volunteers have kept the doors open and the kettle warm, giving their time week after week so that anyone seeking information, assistance or simply a social connection has somewhere to go.

The hub hums with activity all week. Tai Chi Tairawhiti has met every Monday evening for a full year - principal instructor (sifu) Walter Walsh leads a team of eight other instructors, with between 26 and nearly 50 people attending depending on the season; classes are free, and newcomers can simply turn up. Yoga classes stretch out across the main hall. Pacific communities gather for talanoa sessions where stories, challenges and aspirations are shared openly. Free immigration workshops and talanoa, run in partnership with the Tairawhiti Fijian Community and licensed immigration advisers, help families

navigate visas and settlement, while English-language and IELTS preparation sessions support newcomers whose next step depends on their language confidence.

Left: a community yoga class fills the hub. Right: a Pacific talanoa session in action.

In May 2025, Trust Tairawhiti granted \$50,000 to support the hub space and TMC's community connector role - a role the Trust described as crucial in helping migrant families to navigate essential services, access resources, and build meaningful connections within Tairawhiti. With funding applications underway for new flooring, heating and air-conditioning, and a dedicated hub co-ordinator, the hub's second year promises to be even busier than its first.



Left: a community yoga class fills the hub. Right: A Pacific talanoa session in action.

Ten Years of Colour: The Gisborne Colour Run

In May 2026, close to 1,000 people ran, walked and danced their way through clouds of colour at the tenth annual Colour Run for Diversity & Inclusion. What began a decade ago as a bold idea - celebrating difference by covering everyone in the same rainbow of paint - has become a beloved Gisborne tradition and one of the region's most joyful public events.

Behind the colour is a small army of volunteers in hi-vis: marshalling the course, painting faces, handing out powder and cheering on every finisher. Even the four-legged participants go home wearing a bit of rainbow. The Colour Run captures what TMC is about - you cannot tell who is a new migrant and who is fifth-generation local when everyone is covered head to toe in pink, blue, yellow and green.

Colour Run crew and supporters - and one very colourful four-legged finisher.



Left: Colour clouds at the 10th Colour Run for Diversity & Inclusion, May 2026. Middle and right: Diwali celebrations

Lighting Up Tairawhiti: Diwali Festival of Lights

On Labour Weekend in October 2025, around 1,000 people gathered at Marina Park to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights. There was free kai, henna art, rangoli art and bouncy castles for the tamariki, before the celebration moved to an evening of cultural performances at the Multicultural Hub. Festival-goers shared an abundant feast - dal makhani, vegetable biryani and sweet jalebi - in a celebration of light over darkness that has become one of the most anticipated dates on Gisborne's community calendar.

Celebrating Women, Sharing Kai

Each March, the Multicultural Women's Day Celebration and International Food Festival fills Marina Park with the aromas, colours and sounds of dozens of cultures. Local food and craft stalls line the park near the Rose Garden, cultural performances of music and dance fill the stage, and the evening closes with live music. The event, free to all, honours the women who hold our communities together - and proves, plate by plate, that food is the fastest road to friendship. Across its annual calendar, TMC's events have now brought together more than 10,000 people across Tairāwhiti over the years - gatherings consistently ranked among the most popular and welcoming in the region.

Healthy Together: Vaccination Drives and Wellbeing

TMC's impact reaches well beyond festivals. Working alongside local health providers such as Tūranga Health, TMC and its member communities have supported vaccination and immunisation drives that bring protection closer to whānau - from the COVID-19 response through to community immunisation events. Member groups like the Gisborne Filipino Community have turned health outreach into true community occasions, with volunteers in hi-vis serving kai alongside the clinical teams, so that turning up for a vaccination feels less like a medical appointment and more like catching up with friends.

Wellbeing runs through everything TMC does. As president Arish Naresh puts it, events that bring the community together allow them to really engage and connect, and that's one way to provide psychosocial support.



Gisborne Filipino Community volunteers supporting a community health drive alongside Tūranga Health.

Standing With Our Communities: Preparedness and Resilience

When Cyclone Gabrielle cut Tairāwhiti off from the world, TMC members went door-knocking through the silence - no power, no WiFi, no phones - finding displaced people safe accommodation, food and reassurance. Within days, TMC had set up a community hub with services from Immigration New Zealand, the Ministry of Social Development and Inland Revenue, and the only public WiFi in town, helping people connect with agencies, access language support and complete funding applications.

That experience now shapes TMC's preparedness work. The Council has distributed 350 emergency grab bags, run workshops on making a household emergency plan, and produced emergency-preparedness videos delivered by community members in their own languages - 23 languages and counting. The same model has been extended to everyday education: at the hub, community members film multilingual videos on topics like recycling and waste sorting, so essential local knowledge reaches every kitchen in every language. This work saw TMC nominated for Gisborne District Council's Superheroes awards for those who stood out during the emergency.

Stronger Together: Our Partners

None of this happens alone. More than 51 community groups now partner with the Multicultural Hub, and TMC works alongside organisations across the region including Trust Tairāwhiti, Gisborne District Council, NZ Police, Turanga Health, the Tairāwhiti Fijian Community, the Gisborne Fijian Indian Collective, the Gisborne Filipino Community, the Gisborne Sargam Group, The Sunrise Foundation Gisborne/Tairāwhiti, BDO Gisborne, Emerre & Hathaway Insurance Brokers and many more



Left: filming multilingual community education videos at the hub. Middle: TMC brings ethnic communities and NZ Police together. Right; Partnerships in action at the Multicultural Hub.

Join Us

The Multicultural Hub is at 241 Gladstone Road, Gisborne. Find us on Facebook at facebook.com/TairawhitiMulticulturalCouncil or email diversetairawhiti@gmail.com.

Prof. Arish Naresh
President
Tairāwhiti Multicultural Council



Taranaki Multi Ethnic Council

Haere Mai! and Welcome,

The past year seems to have flown by quickly since I took over last August 2025. We lost a valuable member of our executive team Geetha Kutty in March 2026. It has been a shock not only to the council but also to the wider community, as Geetha had supported people from diverse ethnic backgrounds in many different ways. Her legacy stays on.

Taranaki Multi Ethnic Council held about 18 meetings including community and many extravaganza meetings. A huge thanks goes to the core team and all the other executives for their unwavering support during the year and specially around events that we have held. Thanks to some extraordinary volunteers like David, Emily, Celina, Ozzie, Sambeda who have come forward to assist and work behind the scenes to help make every event successful.

Family Fun Day: was held in August 2025 where many families came and spend the day in a relaxed environment. They mixed around, enjoyed the games, face painting, music, food and connected with other diverse people and went home with happy memories of the day and prizes they had won. It was exciting to see the little and big ones enjoy the day.



Spring Fiesta: returned after a long hiatus. This was held in November 2025 and well received by all those who attended. The D.J was wonderful with his playlists and kept the people going. Many thanks to Hiran Fernando and Bevinda for taking the lead in organising this event. All those who attended were happy, enjoyed the evening socializing and dancing and wanted to go on. Many suggested that we should make it a yearly function.

Christmas: was the last event for 2025 and held in the beginning of December as later families go away on a holiday or some have office parties. It was a relaxed evening where one community played a skit, and another group sang the carols, where the audience joined in, followed by Santa appearing with his goody bag and distributing gifts to all the children. Smiles appeared on their faces. Everyone gathered enjoyed the programme and went home in a festive spirit after playing games and having food.

Multi Ethnic Extravaganza: This event is always a highlight of the year and was held on 7 March 2026. I wish to thank all the executive members, stakeholders, volunteers, friends. There are too many to mention and I don't want to say names lest I miss out on some. Special thanks again to the fabulous executive committee and coordinators - Narayan Kutty (Vice President and Food Co-ordinator), Bevinda Dias (Treasurer), Ming & Cheryl (Secretaries), Hiran Fernando, Ian Jackson (Parade), Geetha Kutty (Arts & Crafts), Olena Williams (Media), Gordon Gower (Waste management), Carol (Liaising with Racing club), and all other volunteers. For the past few years Bevinda and myself have been the Event Co-ordinators for the Taranaki Multi Ethnic Extravaganza and so we continued again this year as well. My huge appreciation and thanks to our service providers, the Maori Wardens, Rotary Club, NP Volunteering and others. With the works happening at the Raceway we had to work through some challenges, as there were fewer car parks compared to the previous years, some exits could not be used, in the end it worked out for TMEC and NP Raceway after a few meetings at the venue. TMEC and NP Raceway again decided to have a combined Extravaganza and named the Race as the Multiethnic Race which took place at the same time and TMEC collaborated with Raceway staff to make both a grand success. TMEC was given the privilege to name the races and the event was advertised in the race books as well. Approximately more than 7500 people including all age groups attended the combined event



The Vibrant Street Parade

The Street Parade was a vibrant event, showcasing a celebration of diverse cultures. There was a Cambodian lady alone carrying her country flag with pride. In spite of wet weather there were participants donned in their traditional attire from their countries of origin, proudly carried national flags and enlivened the atmosphere with their unique ethnic music, creating a joyful and inclusive display of heritage. Families enjoyed a festive atmosphere with art and craft stalls, henna designs, flax weaving, a magic show, and a lively bouncy castle, making it a hit for all ages.



Quiz Nite: Our final event for the financial year was a fantastic Quiz nite held in June. The tables got sold out and everyone who came to the quiz nite enjoyed the food, quiz session, fabulous company of each other and some lucky ones went home with prizes they had won. Someone commented on their facebook that 'Taranaki Multi Ethnic Council does an amazing job of weaving cultures of our community together, building unity and celebrating diversity'.



Acknowledgements and appreciation:

Sponsors: I would like to thank all our funders TOI Foundation, NPDC, PUB Charity, AOTEAROA Gaming Trust, We Care Trust and NZCT as your support has made it possible for us to have our events and connect the diverse community together.

Local Businesses: New Plymouth Raceway, Mitre 10, Jijo John - Ray White Real Estate, Bayleys - Anurag Bhatnagar, Small Business Accounting - Chartered Accountants, Sai Rane - SRM Mortgage, Jasmeet Jassal - Ray White Real Estate, Seaview Workshop, Bell Block Service Centre, Graphix Printers, Shankar Nautiyal - Property Brokers, Honda Hub, Verbrec, New Plymouth Volunteering, Taranaki Cancer Society, Verbrec - Logi Cam Tents, McDonalds Real Estate have helped us in our events.

Some of the programmes that were attended Taranaki Japan day, Sisonke - Africa day, Chinese Dragon boat festival, Diwali, Filipino Independence Day were all fabulous and we take some learning from each of them. We have booked the NP Raceway for Extravaganza on 6 March 2027. With the work still progressing at the NP Raceway we plan to have a meeting to discuss our planning for next year. I would like to thank the Art & craft stall holders, food stall holders, Children's entertainment providers, NP Raceway staff and people of Taranaki who attended the event which made it a success.

Our core purpose is Building Bridges of Friendship, and we can see this happening when we see the diverse group coming together and participating in our events. We are grateful for the success of the events, and I would like to thank and appreciate all the executives and volunteers as they dedicate their time to meet and help in organising each event for the community in the most vibrant way. It is their unwavering commitment, enthusiasm and amazing strength behind the organisation and everything they do behind the scenes.

Natalie Fernandes
Taranaki Multi Ethnic Council
President



Taupō Multicultural Community Council

Building a Connected Multicultural Community

During the reporting period, Taupō Multicultural Community Council continued to strengthen its foundations as a community organisation supporting the diverse communities of the Taupō District.

A significant milestone was the completion of the Council's incorporation process, establishing the organisation formally as an Incorporated Society. This provides a stronger platform for future community representation, partnership and service development.

The Council also established a regular community presence at Waiora House, with an office open each Friday from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm. The office provides an accessible point of contact where community members can connect with the Council, seek information, learn about local activities and discuss community needs.

Strengthening Community Connections

An important focus has been connecting multicultural communities with one another and increasing awareness of the groups and activities already operating across Taupō.

The Council promoted the work of local community groups including International Mums, which provides regular opportunities for women and children from different nationalities to meet, participate in activities and learn about other cultures.

The Council also highlighted Pacifica Bloom, a collective supporting Pacific women and girls, including its community health promotion activities such as breast screening awareness.

Through its communications, the Council provided a platform for community organisations to promote their activities and encouraged local groups to share information for wider circulation.

Celebrating Culture and Identity

The Council supported greater visibility of the cultural diversity of the Taupō District by promoting community celebrations and significant cultural and faith occasions.

This included promotion of the Taupō Filipino Club's Philippine Independence Day celebration, providing an opportunity for members of the Filipino community and the wider public to celebrate culture, identity and community together.

Information was also shared about significant cultural and faith occasions, including Eid al-Adha, Matariki, Onam Festival, Raksha Bandhan and Te Tiriti-based Multicultural Day. This contributes to greater community awareness of the traditions and occasions that are important to Taupō's diverse communities.

Promoting Understanding of Aotearoa New Zealand

The Council used its community communications to make information about life in Aotearoa New Zealand easier to understand and more accessible.

Matariki was introduced not only as a public holiday, but as an opportunity to understand its significance as the Māori New Year and its themes of remembrance, celebration and planning for the future. Information about local gatherings, storytelling, stargazing and shared kai encouraged participation in community celebrations.

The newsletter also included practical explanations of everyday New Zealand expressions, such as “bring a plate”, alongside greetings in different languages and an interactive word activity. These simple initiatives help newcomers become more familiar with local language and cultural practices while recognising the multilingual character of the community.

Improving Access to Information and Services

The Council helped connect community members with reliable information about government services and changes that may affect them.

Information was shared about forthcoming changes to the New Zealand citizenship process, including the planned introduction of a citizenship test from late 2027. The Council also circulated information about changes to online tenancy bond services, helping residents identify official sources where they could obtain further assistance.

The Council also promoted community resources covering arts, recreation, education and local services. These included Waiora House, Taupō District Council, local events directories, creative arts networks, sports organisations and learning opportunities. By bringing these resources together, the Council helped make it easier for residents, particularly those who may be newer to Taupō, to navigate and participate in community life.

Supporting Settlement and English-Language Participation

Supporting migrants and former refugees to participate confidently in community life remains an important part of a welcoming multicultural community.

The Council promoted an English Language Partners Home Tutor training opportunity, encouraging people within its networks to become volunteer tutors supporting former refugees and migrants to learn English and settle successfully in Aotearoa New Zealand.

By sharing opportunities such as this, the Council acts as a connector between community members, volunteer organisations and services that support successful settlement and participation.

Encouraging Civic Participation

The Council also supported community understanding of the democratic process by sharing Electoral Commission information ahead of the 2026 General Election. Community members were informed about changes to enrolment requirements, important enrolment deadlines, the Māori Electoral Option, ways to check or update enrolment details, and opportunities to work at voting places.

The information also encouraged communities to identify suitable voting venues and participate in Electoral Commission engagement. This reflects the Council's broader role in helping diverse communities participate fully in civic and public life.

Our Emerging Impact

The Council's work during this period demonstrates an emerging role as a community connector, information hub and platform for multicultural participation.

Through its physical presence at Waiora House, community communications, promotion of cultural activities, dissemination of trusted public information and connections with local organisations, the Council is helping create the conditions for people from different cultural backgrounds to:

- connect with one another and with local services;
- participate in cultural and community activities;
- better understand life and institutions in Aotearoa New Zealand;
- access opportunities for learning, volunteering and civic participation; and
- have their communities and cultures recognised within the wider Taupō community.

These activities contribute to the Council's overarching aim of supporting, connecting and celebrating the multicultural communities of the Taupō District.





Tauranga Regional Multicultural Council

During 2025-2026, Multicultural Tauranga continued to play a vital role in supporting migrants and former refugees to successfully settle, connect, and thrive in the Bay of Plenty. Through a diverse range of programmes and services, we strengthened community connections, promoted wellbeing, built confidence and celebrated the rich cultural diversity that makes our region a welcoming place to live.



Our **Women's Wellbeing Programme 2025** provided migrant women with a safe and supportive environment where they could build friendships, improve their wellbeing and develop confidence. Through interactive workshops, guest speakers and shared experiences, participants gained practical knowledge about health, community services and life in New Zealand while reducing social isolation and establishing meaningful support networks. The programme has empowered women to become more active and engaged members of their communities. Multicultural Tauranga also launched a Book Project, a book series featuring stories created by immigrant writers from the local community, celebrating the diverse experiences, cultures, and journeys that shape Tauranga. The October launch brought together more than 60 community members for an afternoon of storytelling, music, art, and multicultural food, creating a space for connection and cultural exchange. At this event, two books were introduced: *Home Is in Our Hearts* exploring family bonds across generations and borders, and *The Story of Two Best Friends* highlighting friendship, heritage, and belonging in a new country. This on-going initiative supports migrant voices, promotes understanding and inclusion, and encourages families and children to celebrate the richness of Aotearoa New Zealand's diverse communities.

The **Multicultural Picnic 2025** and the **Senior Migrant Lunch 2025** were events held during Welcoming Communities Week and Seniors Week. These initiatives supported Tauranga City Council's Inclusive Communities accredited status by promoting connection, inclusion, and participation among diverse communities. Multicultural Tauranga also hosted **Ethkick 2025** in collaboration with NZ Police, that brought together 8 teams and more than 200 players and

spectators from diverse ethnicities. The event achieved its goal of using sport as a platform to celebrate diversity, encourage participation, and strengthen connections between migrant communities and the wider Tauranga community. Ethkick provided an opportunity for people of different ages and backgrounds to come together in a spirit of teamwork, inclusion, and friendship, reinforcing the value of sport in building a connected and welcoming community.



We delivered a **Community Learning Hub 2025**, in partnership with local education providers, funded by the Ministry of Education aimed at supporting migrant parents better understand the New Zealand's education system. The 10 sessions were held at Papamoa College, Tauranga area with attendance by 20-25 families each session covering various topics from how NZ education system works to the role of Deans, NCEA and ESL support. These sessions equipped families with knowledge about school pathways, learning support services, English language learning and ways to engage confidently with their children's schools. By strengthening parents' understanding of the education system, the programme has helped build stronger partnerships between families and schools and contributed to improved educational outcomes for migrant children. During the year, we successfully delivered the **Migrant Workplace Communication Course 2025**, an innovative programme designed by Speech NZ, to improve workplace communication, public speaking and employment readiness. Eight successful participants developed confidence in speaking English in professional settings through practical presentations, role plays and cross-cultural communication activities. The programme culminated in all eight participants successfully achieving their Speech New Zealand assessment, demonstrating significant personal growth, increased confidence and enhanced employability.



Multicultural Tauranga, like many of our regional councils, supported the National Race Unity Speech Awards by hosting a **Regional Speech Competition in 2026** in collaboration with the local Baha'i community. This initiative provided a valuable platform for young people to share their perspectives on race unity, inclusion, and belonging while developing confidence and

public speaking skills. The event encouraged meaningful conversations about diversity and social cohesion, bringing together students, educators, community leaders, and supporters from across the region. Through this partnership, Multicultural Tauranga strengthened its commitment to empowering youth voices and promoting a more inclusive and connected multicultural community.

Last but not least, one of the highlights of the year was the **Tauranga Multicultural Festival 2026**, which once again brought together more than five thousand people from across the region to celebrate our cultural diversity. Through 32 vibrant performances, international cuisine from more than 20 countries, cultural displays, family activities, the festival showcased the traditions and talents of our many ethnic communities while fostering understanding, inclusion and social cohesion. The festival continues to be one of the region's premier celebrations of diversity and reflects the growing multicultural identity of Tauranga and the Western Bay of Plenty.



These achievements have been made possible through the dedication of our committee members, staff, volunteers, facilitators, community partners, funders and supporters, especially Ministry of Ethnic Communities. Together, we are creating a more welcoming, inclusive and connected Bay of Plenty where people from all cultures are valued, supported and empowered to contribute. As our region continues to grow in diversity, Multicultural Tauranga remains committed to building strong communities where everyone has the opportunity to belong and thrive.

Left: Multicultural President Premila D'mello with Ministry for Ethnic Communities Engagement Officer Mr. Fungai Mhlanga.



Te Tai O Poutini West Coast Multicultural Council

Our Story

Te Tai o Poutini West Coast Multicultural Council exists to build a welcoming, inclusive and connected West Coast where people of every culture, ethnicity and background feel they belong.

Across the Grey, Buller and Westland districts, we work alongside ethnic communities, schools, local government, community organisations, volunteers and businesses to celebrate diversity, strengthen social inclusion and create opportunities for people to participate fully in community life.

As our region continues to grow in cultural diversity, our role has become increasingly important. This year has demonstrated the power of community partnerships, cultural celebration and practical support to strengthen relationships and create a genuine sense of belonging.



Our Impact at a Glance

- Connected more than 1,500 people through multicultural events and community activities.
- Supported 10+ multicultural celebrations across the West Coast.
- Partnered with schools to promote cultural understanding among young people.
- Continued the Neighbourhood Nosh programme, supporting vulnerable families through free community meals.
- Strengthened our governance with eight new committee members representing diverse cultural backgrounds.
- Expanded partnerships with schools, local councils, community organisations, volunteers and cultural leaders.

Celebrating Diversity, Building Community

One of the most rewarding aspects of our work is seeing people from different backgrounds come together to celebrate culture.

Throughout the year the Council supported a wide range of multicultural celebrations, including the Greymouth Cultural Food Fair, Simunye Food Culture Festival, Oman National Day, Filipino Christmas Celebration, Filipino Language Week, Sri Lankan New Year, South African Heritage Day and the Multicultural Mother's Day celebration. These events brought together hundreds of people to share food, music, language, traditions and stories, creating opportunities for meaningful cultural exchange.

The Greymouth Cultural Food Fair transformed the town centre into a vibrant celebration of diversity, attracting approximately 300–400 people and featuring around 20 cultural food and community stalls. The Simunye Food Culture Festival welcomed approximately 500 attendees and showcased the incredible contribution of multicultural communities to life on the West Coast.

These events did more than celebrate culture—they created opportunities for conversations, friendships and understanding that continued long after the events ended.



Investing in Young People

Supporting young people to value diversity is an investment in the future of our communities.

The Council partnered with Karoro School and Westland High School to support Cultural Food Days, encouraging students and families to proudly share their cultural heritage. Through traditional food, storytelling and cultural displays, students learned about one another's backgrounds while developing respect, curiosity and appreciation for different cultures.

These partnerships strengthened relationships between schools and multicultural communities while creating welcoming environments where every student could feel seen and valued.

Supporting Community Wellbeing

Building strong communities also means supporting people through times of need.

Through the Neighbourhood Nosh initiative in Buller, the Council continued providing free community meals for people experiencing hardship. Delivered with the support of volunteers and community partners, the programme reduced food waste, supported vulnerable families—including migrant families—and created opportunities for people to connect through kindness and shared purpose.

For many people, the programme offered more than a meal—it reinforced that they are part of a community that cares.



Strong Partnerships, Strong Communities

Our achievements are made possible through strong partnerships with schools, cultural organisations, local councils, community groups, volunteers, local businesses and service providers. These collaborations have expanded opportunities for multicultural communities and strengthened the social fabric of the West Coast.

The election of eight new committee members has broadened the diversity, skills and representation within our leadership, ensuring that the Council reflects the multicultural communities it serves. We have also invested significant effort in improving governance by developing a comprehensive Policies and Procedures Manual, reviewing our governance practices and strengthening our organisational systems. These improvements will support the Council's long-term sustainability and capacity to continue serving multicultural communities across Te Tai o Poutini.

Looking Ahead

The cultural diversity of the West Coast continues to grow, bringing new opportunities to learn from one another and build stronger communities. Over the coming year, Te Tai o Poutini West Coast Multicultural Council will continue to celebrate diversity, support newcomers, strengthen community leadership, build meaningful partnerships and advocate for an inclusive West Coast where everyone has the opportunity to participate and thrive.

Together, we are creating communities where diversity is celebrated, inclusion is valued and every person feels they belong.

Karliën van Heerden
Chairperson
Te Tai O Poutini West Coast Multicultural Council



Te Kaunihera Ahurei o Heretaunga Upper Hutt Multicultural Council

UHMCC's work this past year has taken place in a climate of rapid change — adapting to a new normal, navigating emerging challenges such as AI, responding to community safety concerns, and supporting our people through new journeys. Despite these shifts, I am deeply encouraged by the friendships, partnerships, and successes that continue to grow around us. The vision of a Tiriti-based Multicultural Aotearoa is resonating more strongly than ever within local leadership and across our communities. At the heart of everything we do remains our unwavering kaupapa of Mana Ōrite — equality for all.

Thank you to everyone whose effort and aroha have shaped initiatives such as the Tiriti-based Multicultural Day, Huarahi Hou in schools, our many cultural festivals, and the countless everyday actions through which we embody this mauri. It is a privilege to serve such a passionate, focused whānau. Each year, I am humbled again by what you show is possible when community leads with purpose. Below is a summary of our achievements from the past year.

Community Engagement Key Stakeholders

1. Upper Hutt City Council

We extend our sincere thanks to both the Council and the Councillors for their sustained engagement and support of our events, initiatives, and community aspirations. We also acknowledge outgoing Mayor Wayne Guppy, who has served as our Patron for many years. His long-standing support has provided stability and encouragement as we continue to grow our presence and impact in Upper Hutt. Mayor Peri Zee, who is very supportive of our mi:

Multicultural Mural Project

A partnership with UHCC, Maidstone Intermediate, and Lagan's Pharmacy on the Multicultural mural celebrates our city's growing cultural diversity and shared love of nature that connects everyone who has made Upper Hutt their home. Murals like this one don't just look pretty – they help add value to public spaces in Upper Hutt.



2. Relationship with Ōrongomai Marae

Ōrongomai Marae, alongside Linda Pahi and their dedicated team, continue to stand as steadfast supporters of our kaupapa, contributing to many of our events and showing genuine enthusiasm for deepening our relationship. We acknowledge Matua Mike for his leadership and the immense guidance he provides, and we extend our heartfelt congratulations to Ōrongomai Marae on their 50th anniversary — a milestone that reflects decades of mana, resilience, and service to the community. Their commitment to nurturing whanaungatanga and upholding tikanga enriches our mahi and strengthens the foundation upon which we collaborate. Moving forward, UHMCC remains dedicated to growing this relationship through shared initiatives, cultural engagement, and ongoing dialogue, ensuring our work continues to be grounded in tikanga, guided by mana whenua, and uplifted through meaningful partnership.



3. Welcoming Communities

UHMCC continued to work closely with the Welcoming Communities kaupapa, strengthening alignment and shared pathways for migrant and former refugee communities. Together, we helped establish the Hutt Valley Refugee & Migrant Stakeholder Forum and supported efforts to increase community participation in local democracy. We acknowledge Barry Gall for his key role in launching the forum and his strong support of UHMCC during his time at UHCC. This kaupapa is now embedded within the Communities and Partnership workstream, and we look forward to ongoing collaboration with the team.

4. Relationships with local schools

As a means of re-building connections with some of our most important taonga of the community, UHMCC has been actively working to re-establish and strengthen its relationships with local schools. Recognising that tamariki and rangatahi are central to the future of our hāpori, the centre has begun reconnecting with school leadership to offer cultural workshops, shared events, and learning spaces that celebrate diversity, identity, and community wellbeing.

- **Huarahi Hou in Schools**

UHMCC published another Cultural Calendar for local schools, showcasing significant cultural events that together represent at least 95% of students in Aotearoa. This initiative grew from a simple but powerful aspiration: to ensure that every student, every culture, and every community has a moment in the spotlight.

By highlighting the diverse whakapapa of our tamariki and rangatahi, the calendar creates opportunities for students to safely celebrate and share their cultural heritage with their peers. It supports schools to build inclusive environments where identity is affirmed, curiosity is welcomed, and cultural pride is nurtured. Through this mahi, UHMCC continues to champion the vision of an Aotearoa where diversity is not only acknowledged but celebrated as a source of collective strength.



1. Relationships with the Community Patrol

UHMCC is in the early stages of building a strong relationship with the local Community Patrol, with their involvement at events like the Wallaceville Community Day and our Community Gathering warmly received by the wider community. Recognising their vital role in neighbourhood safety, we are exploring ways to deepen this partnership, including inviting a representative to join our board and ringfencing funding to support their mahi. We look forward to growing this relationship and continuing to walk alongside the Community Patrol in service of our community.



Upper Hutt Multicultural Council Activities

- **Meet the Candidates** Focused on the Multicultural Strategy, this event provided valuable insights from candidates and meaningful engagement with our community.
- **Citizenship Ceremonies** UHMCC proudly attends ceremonies at Whirinaki Whare Taonga, supporting new citizens and strengthening our relationship with UHCC and DIA.
- **Wallaceville Community Open Day** Our second open day welcomed nearly 300 residents, connecting them with local services and creating a warm, engaging space for community building.
- **Multicultural Festival** A vibrant celebration featuring over ten cultural performances, hauora support from Tū Ora Compass Health, and delicious food stalls showcasing local businesses.

- **Festival of Lights 2025** Nearly 300 people joined us at Maidstone Intermediate for an uplifting celebration of belonging, attended by dignitaries and community leaders.
 - **Santa Parade** A joyful highlight of the year, giving our cultural communities a fun moment in the spotlight with colourful performances along Main Street.
- Lunar New Year Festival 2026** A special celebration honouring Waitangi Day and welcoming the Lunar New Year, bringing our diverse communities together in unity and cultural pride.



Regular Programmes

- **Sewing Club**
Our popular Friday Sewing Club continues to foster creativity, connection, and belonging at Family Works. A key milestone this year was replacing the 30-year-old overlocker, and we remain grateful to our dedicated volunteers who make this programme thrive.

Distinguished Service Award

UHMCC acknowledged two special leaders for our distinguished service awards Wayne Guppy, the former Mayor of Upper Hutt was awarded and acknowledged for his exceptional leadership and public service, his long-standing support and dedicated commitment as Patron of the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council.

Pohswan Narayanan, founding President of the Upper Hutt Multicultural Council for her vision, dedication, commitment and leadership as the founding resident of the UHMCC.



Waikato Multicultural Council

I am pleased to present this Impact Report on behalf of the Executive Committee of Waikato Multicultural Council Inc. (WMC). This report reflects the variety of activities and achievements over the past year of WMC in meeting their vision and objectives. WMC has continued to work enthusiastically and positively to enhance the cultural and socio-economic welfare of the migrant and ethnic communities in the Waikato. This was done through communication and liaison with various organisations followed by many events held within the region over the past year.

Networking and participating in meetings and multicultural activities in our region

- Diwali and Eid celebrated at Parliament, Wellington
- Waikato Indian Cultural Society, Diwali at Hamilton Lake
- Waikato interfaith Council – Service on “Hope”
- Hamilton City Council, Welcoming Weeks
- Rudra Entertainments, Hamilton Mela 2025
- Hamilton Kirikiriroa events symposium, Hamilton Gardens
- Nepali Association, Tamu Lhosar 2025 celebrations
- Addiction Practitioner Ajay Kumar, session on “Safer relationship with Alcohol”
- Hamilton City Council ‘s Welcoming Communities Coordinator – Discussions on upcoming events
- Hamilton City, Invitation to attend the Swearing in ceremony and Inaugural Council meeting of the newly elected council members for the 2025 – 2028 term.
- Indian Consul General Mr M Sethi, discussions on developing business relationships with Indian counterparts.
- MNZ AGM Wellington and MNZ SGM to discuss and adopt new constitution
- Ethnic Health and wellbeing Hui with Asia Network Inc. - 7 sessions.
- ASMA Foundation, “Garba” organised by Madhuri Mourya
- Bengali Association, “Durga Puja”
- Asian Family Services Health Promoter and Counsellor Miran Chun, discussions on their advisory services and accessibility of resources for all communities.

WMC held the following events: - Waikato Multicultural Evening, Lunar New Year, Multicultural Mother’s Day and celebrated 30 events alongside our affiliated organisations: - Diwali, Matariki Multicultural Day combined with Tree planting, New Years Mela, Independence Day celebrations of various countries and Multicultural Christmas celebrations.

Anzac Day Hamilton City Council Anzac Day Civic Commemoration service representing Waikato Multicultural Council Inc., Lest We Forget.



Multicultural Mother's Day celebrations

Cooperating Church Hall, Hamilton. A day for Mothers and children to gather, interact and share in games and singing, a special day to acknowledge the much-valued role of Mothers as first teachers in providing the foundational development of our future generations.



Trust Waikato Strategic Planning Hui

WMC was represented at the Hui, which was held at the Settlement Centre, Boundary Road, Hamilton. The Trust Waikato Strategic Plan sets out goals where organisations plan towards achieving vibrant and resilient communities through engagement in arts, culture and heritage along with environmental and community development projects.



Invitation Kari Virunthu Thiruvha Tamil Society Waikato

celebrated Thamizh Puthaandu and Ramzan Festival. This colourful event marked the beginning of the Tamil New Year. The audience was entertained by colourful dance items, artists and talented story-tellers.



Waikato Senior Indian Citizens Association (WSICA) AGM in Hamilton. It was a privilege to be called to oversee the election process along with Sucha Singh and Dr Manilal Jogia. WSICA is a very

committed organisation, providing programs for the health and wellbeing of its senior citizen members.



SHAMA Hamilton. A new service for men titled “Shama Services

for Men” was launched recently. The service focuses on family violence intervention. A very informative session was held which

covered a range of support services that are available for early intervention.



EPHATA Initiatives Trust

Launched at Hamilton's Settlement Centre, this initiative empower refugees by advocating for accessible mental health and disability services. It fosters community resilience, promotes conflict resolution, and builds a lasting sense of belonging within all communities.



Invitation to launch Matariki Ki Waikato 2025 Wet weather didn't dampen the spirits of those who gathered at The Hamilton Gardens at dawn to herald the start of Matariki. The atmosphere, korero, entertainment and kai inside were all greatly enjoyed and appreciated. Many thanks were conveyed to Te Ohu Whakaitia Charitable Trust, and the Matariki ki Waikato Festival Team for the excellent organisation and warm hospitality.



11th Annual Matariki Multicultural Tree Planting

Organised by Earth Diverse and Hamilton City Council. Waikato Multicultural Council along with several organisations participated in this significant event, a big thankyou went to all who helped at the annual Matariki Multicultural Tree Planting event at Waiwhakareke Natural Heritage Park. For more than a decade now it's been wonderful to see so many people of all ages and all walks of life help in restoring this area to what might have been its natural habitat centuries ago.



Supporting the Welcoming Communities Plan WMC was grateful for this opportunity to speak in support of the Welcoming Communities plans and envisages Hamilton City Council will continue to participate in the funding of this programme that benefits so many communities.



Tamil Society Waikato showcased Kalai Vizha celebrating the three pillars of Tamil culture: Iyal (literature), Isai (music), and Natakam (drama). The evening featured an array of cultural performances dedicated to these three pillars. There were also various stalls showcasing Tamil art, crafts, and cuisine.



Manaaki Village's Welcoming Week continued into its second day, featuring multiple stallholders promoting charitable organisations. The event presented a vibrant and cohesive display of diverse cultures through dance and art performances.



The Chinese Golden Age Society celebrated mid autumn festival also known as "Moon Festival". The occasion is celebrated honouring the autumn harvest and family unity. It was a privilege to be part of this special occasion.

1 of 18 Citizenship Ceremonies

Hamilton City Council's citizenship ceremonies were held at the Atrium, Wintec with Mayor Tim McIndoe presiding. WMC committee member Jung Mi Ko is also on the welcoming committee. On this occasion, a total of 185 recipients from 30 countries globally became New Zealand Citizens.



Waikato Indian Senior Citizens Association (WISCA)

Arranged a summer retreat at Orewa Beach, north of Auckland. The trip was enjoyed by all, a visit to the Auckland Botanical Gardens was also included in the trip. WISCA is very proactive in the care and wellbeing of its senior citizens.

The Waikato Interfaith Council

Convened its year-end meeting hosted by Latter Day Saints Church. The meeting was followed by a performance from the Latter-Day Saints Choir, and later by the annual Temple View Christmas Lights ceremony.



Kirikiriāroa observed Waitangi Day

On the banks of Waikato Awa. Our Awa is central to the identity of Kirikiriroa, a place of connection, life, and deep cultural significance. In gathering beside the river, we shared our stories that bind our city and its people together.



Lunar New Year Celebrations 2026

Celebrated in collaboration with Chinese Golden Age Society, The Asian Network Inc., Chinese Friendship Society, NZ Republic of Korea Friendship Society and Waikato Vietnamese Friendship Trust. The Lunar New Year was celebrated with a delightful array of performances from all age groups.



ASMA Foundation celebrated “Holi” The Indian festival of colours marking the end of the Indian winter season, it is celebrated with families and friends. Colourful powders are playfully scattered over one another to mark the beginning of spring.



Hamilton Kirikiriroa

Annual event saw the convergence of ethnic community leaders and partners dedicated to creating a welcoming, inclusive, and resilient Hamilton Kirikiriroa. Several topics were discussed. The forum aimed at uniting our diverse communities to develop shared understanding, fortify relationships, and co-design initiatives that promote belonging and participation across our city.



Ugadi Celebration This Hindu New Year festival marks the beginning of a new lunar month and the start of the Indian spring. Ugadi is derived from Sanskrit language, it translates to "the beginning of a new age" or "new year," symbolizing renewal and prosperity.



Race Unity speech awards were held in Hamilton.

The awards were first initiated by the New Zealand Baha’i Community in 2001. A total of eight students from various Waikato schools took part in the speech awards. The topic for the day was "The great ocean of diversity" the winners were from Morrinsville College and Hillcrest High School, both students will travel to Auckland to take part in the National competitions in May this year.



Palm Sunday

An invitation was extended to join in for the “Easter Musical and Devotional Service” held on Palm Sunday, 29 March at The Latter-Day Saints church, Temple View. The evening concluded with a children’s choir and musical items from soloists and musical performers, all centred on the message of hope, and renewal that Easter represents.

Ravinder Powar, MNZM, JP
President
Waikato Multicultural Council Inc.





Waitaki Multicultural Council

Communities in Harmony

Tēnā koutou katoa, good day, goedendag.

For 18 years, Waitaki Multicultural Council has been building a welcoming home for migrants and newcomers across the district, and 2025 was no exception. Guided by our mission of Communities in Harmony, our small but dedicated team of staff, committee members, and volunteers kept the heart of our work beating: helping people settle, connect, and feel like Waitaki is home.

Family Connect: the core of what we do

Every Monday morning at the Oamaru Plunket Rooms, parents and their kids gathered for Family Connect: a safe, welcoming space built on peer-support and connection. Over the year the programme grew steadily, supported by a rotating schedule of local speakers covering everything from health and safety (Plunket, Public Health Nurses, St John) to community and culture (Oamaru Library, Rotary, Forrester Gallery) to civic life (Waitaki District Council, Citizens Advice Bureau). Families also came together for cultural celebrations woven right into Family Connect sessions: International Women's Day, Matariki, Diwali, and Sinhala & Tamil New Year - with food sharing, traditional dress, storytelling, and crafts bringing our diverse community together in one room.



Building confidence and wellbeing

English Conversation Classes expanded this year to run beginner and advanced streams side by side, held Tuesday evenings at Waitaki Community House and staffed entirely by volunteer tutors. New friendships were formed over practical, everyday English practice.



Our Health & Wellbeing Programme, shaped and reshaped throughout the year to meet the community's needs, delivered weekly Latin Dance Fitness sessions drawing 14-20+ participants each time, alongside hands-on workshops: mandala art, natural perfume making, memory book creation. five rounds of yoga, a kids' sports morning, and two family cricket introduction afternoons.

Reaching beyond our own doors

We connected with the wider Waitaki community too: donating 100 toys (70 to Rotary Club Toyarama, 30 to the North Otago Toy Library), distributing 100 Welcome Packs across the

district with support from Network Waitaki, mounting a multicultural-themed Christmas tree display in the Historic Precinct, and fundraising for Plunket through their Dunk-It campaign. Season two of Migrant Musing, our podcast hosted by Maddy Lovatt, continued shining a light on migrant stories old and new.

The numbers behind the year

Across ten months of Connect activities, we recorded 1,729 total programme attendances, peaking at 245 participants in a single month (September 2025). Our Facebook page reached 373,060 views and 44,607 engagements over the year: a reflection of just how connected our community has become.

Our people



None of this happens without people. This year we welcomed Jasmin back into the fold after her early involvement in Waitaki Multicultural's history, and farewelled Laura, Fiorella, and Socorro with deep thanks for their contributions. Our staff team grew to three: David took on event management and funding, securing a funded gazebo for outdoor events; Justyna continued refining our Wellbeing Programme to keep pace with community needs; and Rico kept our books and administration on a steady path. We're grateful too for former chair Maria Buldain,

Waitakian of the Year 2025, who left the organisation in a healthy, vibrant position, and for every volunteer who gave their time this year to make newcomers feel they belong.



We'd also like to thank our funders who made this year's work possible: Lotteries Community Grants MSD E Tū Whānau, Waitaki District Council, Network Waitaki Catalytic Foundation.

Robert Roodnat
Chairman, Waitaki Multicultural Council

We Connected To The Wider Community Too...



Donations of toys to Rotary Toyorama and the Toy Library



Waitaki Multicultural Welcome Packs Distributed through the Community



Multicultural themed Christmas Tree display in the Historic Precinct



Raising funds for Plunket via their Dunk-It for Plunket campaign





Multicultural Whangarei

At Multicultural Whangārei, we are passionate about making our city a place where everyone feels at home. As a not-for-profit community organisation, we provide support services that help migrants and newcomers navigate the transition into their new lives.

Our work goes beyond practical settlement support. We bring people together through community, classes, workshops, and cultural events that celebrate diversity and build mutual understanding. We believe that by empowering newcomers to share their unique cultures, we create a richer, more connected Whangārei where everyone truly belongs.

Our Services:

We provide support services that represents the interests and concerns of migrants and newcomers, this includes employment assistance and advocacy.

Our Classes:

- Everyday English for Beginners and Intermediate ESOL Learners
- Intermediate Spanish
- Creative Writing
- Flax Weaving
- Creative Connections Arts & Crafts



Multicultural Day 2025

Echoes of Home at the Hundertwasser Art Centre was an unforgettable event. Shared stories, heartfelt memories, and genuine connections brought the true spirit of "home" to life.

The panel's openness in sharing their journeys, combined with the engagement of our attendees, turned Echoes of Home into far more than just an event; it became a deeply moving shared experience. We are incredibly grateful to everyone involved for helping us create a space where we could all feel connected, inspired, and celebrated.



Ethnic Football Festival 2025

What an incredible day on the field! In collaboration with Tikipunga Football Club, NZ Police, the former Rotary Club of Whangārei City, and Rotary Auckland Airport, we hosted a fantastic festival dedicated to the beautiful game. This event was all about bringing our diverse ethnic communities together, celebrating connection, and bonding over a shared passion for sport. Thank you to everyone who laced up their boots and made it a day to remember!





The Latin American Fiesta 2025

brought the richness of Latin America to life. From food and live music to dance performances, the event fostered a deeper appreciation for the wonderful Latin American cultures thriving within the Whangārei community.

Colours in the Park 2026

was an unforgettable celebration of community, music, and food.

Bringing a project of this scale to life requires a massive collective effort. We are incredibly grateful to our key partners. Our heartfelt thanks go out to the performers, stallholders, and

sponsors who brought such energy to the day, and to our wonderful attendees for creating such a joyful, festive atmosphere.

Race Relations Day 2026

In celebration of Race Relations Day, we teamed up with Whangārei District Council, Welcoming Communities Whangārei, WINGS, and English Language Partners Whangārei. Our collaborative space at the Taste Whangārei Multicultural Fair on Cameron St Mall was a beautiful success, showcasing the vibrant cultural diversity that makes our city so special.



Te Puangarua Matariki 2026

Once again Multicultural Whangārei is proud to have participated in this year's Te Puangarua Matariki Ceremony and celebration at St Stephen's Hall. We extend our gratitude to the Onerahi community for their continued warm hospitality towards our multicultural whānau.





Multicultural Council of Wellington

Multicultural Festival in Celebration of Chinese New Year Gala

The Multicultural Festival in celebration of Chinese New Year Gala took place on 14 February at Te Marae, Te Papa Museum. Welcoming close to 1,100 attendees, the event featured 20 cross-cultural performance troupes showcasing Kapa Haka, Chinese traditional dance, lion dance, Indian classical dance, Southeast Asian folk routines, Pacific Island cultural displays and live instrumental ensembles, including guzheng, pipa and string bands.

We co-delivered the event with core partners: Wellington City Council, China Cultural Centre in Wellington, Te Papa, local communities and diplomatic representatives. Youth performers took centre stage, highlighting intergenerational cultural heritage transmission.

This festival reinforced our shared values of peace, unity and cross-cultural understanding, drawing crowds from migrant, Māori and Pacific communities alike to celebrate shared festive joy.



The 2026 Wellington Lantern Festival

The 2026 Wellington Lantern Festival ran across 14 and 15 March at the Wellington Botanic Garden, drawing approximately 20,000 visitors over the two days. MCW participated fully in the public lantern festivities, coordinating multi-ethnic cultural performance slots.

The large-scale lantern displays and interactive cultural stalls created a vibrant shared space for all ethnic groups to



experience Lunar New Year traditions, further bridging cultural divides and strengthening city-wide multicultural bonds.

Additional parallel Lunar New Year engagements included the Parliamentary Lunar New Year Reception for MPs and ethnic leaders, as well as intimate cultural dinners hosted by the New Zealand Malaysian Society and local Asian community groups, centring elderly migrant voices and encouraging cross-group dialogue.

MCW 2025 Annual General Meeting

The MCW 2025 Annual General Meeting was held at the Embassy of Peru on 14 October 2025. The move to a diplomatic venue strengthened the event's cross-cultural character, with attendance from MCW members, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Ministry of Education, New Zealand Police, Wellington City Council, Multicultural New Zealand, community stakeholders, leaders of cultural organisations and representatives from several embassies.

During the meeting, we formally reviewed the 2024–2025 financial statements, presented updates on our progress and impact, held Executive Committee elections, and opened the floor for discussion on key community concerns. These included support for migrant youth, access to healthcare for ethnic older people, and funding for multicultural events. The meeting demonstrated the collective strength of our community and reaffirmed MCW's mandate to amplify underrepresented ethnic voices and support inclusive, people-centred positive change across Wellington.



Embassy Co-Hosted 2025 End-of-Year Reception

MCW partnered with our patron, Her Excellency Jane Connolly, Irish Ambassador to New Zealand, to co-host the official 2025 End-of-Year Reception at the Embassy of Ireland on 3 December 2025. The evening brought together ethnic community leaders, cultural performers, diplomatic staff, local council officials and volunteer coordinators.

Attendees reflected on a full year of cross-cultural partnership milestones, while Ambassador Connolly shared remarks highlighting the important role multicultural councils play in strengthening both international and domestic community connections. The reception provided a warm and formal setting to recognise volunteer contributions and strengthen cross-cultural and cross-national collaboration networks for future joint events.



Commonwealth Day 2026 Parliament Celebration

MCW community leaders were invited to attend the national Commonwealth Day celebration held at Parliament on 9 March 2026, themed Together We Thrive. The event aligned closely with MCW's core mission of cross-cultural collaboration and mutual respect across the Commonwealth nations represented within Wellington's migrant population.

Discussions focused on shared multicultural challenges, including refugee integration, youth belonging and ethnic community safety, and encouraged new cross-Commonwealth cultural exchange initiatives involving MCW.

Race Relations Day 2025 Parliament Celebration

MCW also participated in the official Race Relations Day commemoration hosted at New Zealand Parliament on 26 March 2025. The gathering focused on national conversations about anti-discrimination, equitable ethnic representation and addressing cross-cultural tensions.

Our delegation shared grassroots Wellington community experiences of racial inequity and contributed to discussions on strengthening local anti-racism programmes, migrant mental health support and inclusive access to public services for ethnic minorities.

International Women's Day Celebrations

MCW participated in 2026 International Women's Day events held at New Zealand Parliament, the Embassy of Ireland and by the Pakistan Association of Wellington.

The events honoured trailblazing wāhine from Māori, Pacific, Asian, African and European ethnic backgrounds, with discussions focusing on gender equity, ethnic women's leadership and breaking systemic barriers faced by migrant women professionals, students and community advocates.

Our delegation connected with corporate partners, government officials and women community leaders, gathering insights to help shape future MCW programmes supporting ethnic women's leadership development and migrant women's wellbeing.

ANZAC Day Citizen Wreath-Laying Service

On 25 April, the MCW Executive team joined Wellington City Council's official ANZAC Day wreath-laying ceremony to honour all New Zealand service personnel, veterans and those who lost their lives in conflict.

Our multicultural wreath paid tribute to migrant, Pacific and ethnic servicemen and women whose contributions are often overlooked in mainstream commemorations. The event

reinforced our commitment to an inclusive national identity that recognises the diverse backgrounds of all New Zealanders who serve our country.



Matariki Ahi Kā Celebrations

MCW joined the city-wide Matariki Ahi Kā celebrations on Wellington's waterfront in 2026, taking part in large-scale Māori cultural projections, live indigenous performances, shared communal kai and reflective fireside sessions themed Mānawatia a Matariki.

This provided an important opportunity to build reciprocal cultural understanding between migrant ethnic communities and local Māori iwi. Our team facilitated cross-cultural dialogue, encouraging attendees to reflect on the past year, celebrate collective community progress and consider inclusive cultural initiatives for the year ahead. MCW also worked with the Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt and Porirua Multicultural Councils in celebrating Matariki.

Youth and Community Wellbeing Programmes

Wellington Phoenix Football For All

MCW maintained its close partnership with Wellington Phoenix's Football For All initiative, attending match-day celebrations at Sky Stadium to recognise the programme's positive impact.

The initiative provides free football, referee and coaching training to more than 100 young people from refugee and low-socioeconomic multicultural households. Beyond physical activity, the programme builds youth confidence, a sense of belonging and cross-cultural friendships. MCW continues to promote the programme to ethnic community families and connect refugee youth with registration and transport support.



Pacific and Ethnic Community Volunteer Patrol

MCW members Prem Singh, Lonie Martin, Sue Lata and Channa Ranasinghe continued their active service with the Pacific/Ethnic Volunteer Patrol, a community safety initiative established to support vulnerable Pacific, migrant and ethnic residents, particularly young people at risk of police contact.

Patrol volunteers provide on-street guidance, peer support and community oversight to de-escalate conflict, reduce harm and empower local communities to take greater ownership of neighbourhood safety.

MCW provides ongoing promotion, volunteer recruitment and cultural guidance for the patrol team to support culturally appropriate community outreach.

Policy and Sector Leadership: Ethnic Advantage Conference 2025

MCW's Executive delegation attended the Ministry for Ethnic Communities' Ethnic Advantage Conference 2025 in Auckland, themed United Against Headwinds.

The one-day summit brought together more than 300 ethnic community leaders, civil servants and industry representatives to address shared challenges, including global economic pressures, anti-ethnic discrimination and migrant access to services.

The programme featured four expert panel discussions and three breakout working groups focusing on ethnic leadership, youth resilience and cross-sector collaboration. Our team contributed to roundtable policy discussions, sharing Wellington community insights and building connections with national ethnic sector leaders to advocate for increased central government funding for multicultural councils nationwide.

Performance Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

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Entity Information

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

'Who are we?', 'Why do we exist?'

Legal Name of Entity

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated "NZFMC"

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Incorporated Society reregistered under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022 and a registered charity under the Charities Act 2005

Registration Number

445336, CC36978

Entity's Purpose or Mission

To promote, support and share information among the Regional Councils and New Zealand's Multicultural Communities.

To work with more recent migrants and refugees achieve successful settlement outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand through adequately funded and resourced volunteering capacity to support migrants achieve successful integration into their respective communities.

Entity Structure

The New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils (NZFMC) is an umbrella organisation for the multicultural communities in New Zealand. It is governed by an Executive Committee elected for a one-year term, comprising five positions: President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past-President. Additionally, there are 24 executive members, each representing an active Regional Council.

NZFMC's operational arm oversees the implementation of the organisation's programmes and operations. This team consists of two full-time staff members, one part-time staff member, and interns who work at various times of the year. Volunteers and contractors are also engaged for specific roles and projects as needed. Operating regionally around the country allows NZFMC to connect directly with both ethnic and mainstream communities at the grassroots level, fostering a bottom-up, asset-based community development approach to their support services and leadership initiatives.

The National Office interacts with central and local government agencies, NGOs, and business leaders to build awareness and advocacy around the challenges faced by New Zealand's ethnic communities. One key initiative is the NZFMC Huarahi Hou programme, which aims to connect recent migrants, refugees, and newcomers with tangata whenua through the local marae. This programme offers new migrants the opportunity to be welcomed onto marae and to participate in a range of tikanga Māori activities led by tangata whenua around Aotearoa/New Zealand.

The NZFMC Women's Wellbeing Framework, currently under review for an update, includes learning modules designed to help women of all cultures thrive in New Zealand. This framework educates and empowers women to embrace the rights and freedoms available to them in New Zealand. More recently, NZFMC has initiated the creation of a similar programme for seniors.

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

NZFMC's income mainly comes from project-targeted contestable grants and membership fees. Over the past year, NZFMC has obtained grants from Ministry of Ethnic Communities, Lotteries Grant Board, MSD, NZ Police and membership fees. NZFMC relies on contestable grants and volunteers support to deliver its services.

Main Methods Used by Entity to Raise Funds

NZFMC does not engage in fundraising activities.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

NZFMC has a volunteer Executive Committee to provide the organisation's direction, advising on strategic planning, current projects, policy and risk, and monitoring financial performance. The organisation has a wide volunteer base for operating work and events held across New Zealand.

Physical Address

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info@mnz.org.nz

Website

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Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/MulticulturalNZ>

Approval of Performance Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

The Executive Committee are pleased to present the approved performance report including the historical financial statements of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2026.

APPROVED



Pancha Narayanan

President

Date 19/06/2026



Prem Singh

Treasurer

Date 19-06-2026

Statement of Service Performance

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

'What did we do?', 'When did we do it?'

Description of Entity's Outcomes

We have continued to assess our performance as a strong and growing national network, considering not only our financial management but also the values, responsibilities, and governance principles set out in our constitution. This approach supports our wider role in strengthening social cohesion across Aotearoa New Zealand.

As an organisation committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, NZFMC seeks to measure success through a kaupapa Māori lens, alongside its responsibility to migrant and former refugee communities. The six strategic objectives were developed through engagement with community leaders from across the motu as part of NZFMC's Strategic Plan, with social cohesion as a central guiding focus. These objectives reflect key areas of need, growth, and opportunity within migrant and former refugee communities, while also supporting inclusion, trust, participation, belonging, and stronger relationships across wider society. In this way, NZFMC's work remains responsive to community realities while contributing to a more cohesive, equitable, and connected Aotearoa New Zealand.

Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs

Key strategic objectives and outcomes of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils aim to achieve, influence and deliver are:

Outcomes and Outputs	2026	2025
Outcome A: Safety for communities and their families		
Output 1. Regional Multicultural Councils and their communities have easy access to information and services in as many languages as possible		
Initiative 1: Give Nothing to Racism, COVID-19 Response. Improved through the implementation of the Digital Hub.	7 Completed	1 completed, 2 under progress.
Output 2. NZFMC understanding and communicating to the public of NZ cultural context associated with safety to the public of NZ		
Initiative 1: Waitangi Day celebrations in all regions around New Zealand. Additional safety policy improvements identified for implementation.	20,000 6 meetings of the Crowded Places Community Advisory Group. 4 Community Safety Planning Meetings. Regular monthly updates on misinformation.	20,000 6 meetings of the Crowded Places Community Advisory Group. Regular monthly updates on misinformation.

Initiative 2: Race Relations Day celebrations in all regions around the country. Additional safety policy improvements identified for implementation.	30,000 - 40,000	30,000 - 40,000
Initiative 3: Race Relations Day Speech contest jointly with the Bahai Community. Additional safety policy improvements identified for implementation for wider community participation.	Regional Multicultural Councils are on the panel of judges during regional heats. Tohu Ahurea Rau – Multicultural NZ Award for Diversity at finals and on judging panel for semi finals and finals	500. Regional Multicultural Councils now involved with regional heats of speech awards.
Output 3. Understand the needs of the vulnerable in the communities that Regional Multicultural Councils work with		
Initiative 1: NZFMC / Regional Multicultural Council to have established demonstrable relationships with local clubs and associations including specifically with Age Concern, Lions Club, CAB and RSA.	Women's Wellbeing Framework progressed to implementation stage. Evaluation complete.	Women's Wellbeing Framework progressed to evaluation stage.
Outcome B: Improved inclusion		
Output 1: NZFMC will support all efforts to eradicate institutional racism and discrimination		
Initiative 1: Organise NAPAR (National Action Plan Against Racism) sessions.	No substantive progress recorded. NAPAR did not move into active implementation during the reporting year, so no new measurable milestones or deliverables can be reported. MNZ continued to monitor the issue within its wider social cohesion and anti-racism work.	Further work on NAPAR draft is with Ministry of Justice.
Output 2. Put in place action plans for the major metropolitan cities		
Initiative 1: Auckland Leadership Forum needed for this metropolitan city.	3 Auckland Leaders' meetings and a Wananga at Auckland University Marae in August 2025.	MNZ Auckland office now supports outreach to Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Multicultural Leaders.
Output 3: Invest in a digital hub to bring together all communities in New Zealand		
Initiative 1: Model of NZFMC Digital Hub being extended to other communities.	NZFMC Digital Hub is now fully developed and provides enhanced community updates from across the regions.	Being developed

Output 4: Develop objectives and reportable metrics for public presentation of our volunteering effectiveness		
Initiative 1: Build an extensive national associates network which we can share information, consult and cooperate on matters of common interest and concern. Communities Commission for Culture	The development of the programme has made a significant contribution to advancing social cohesion initiatives.	Awareness and training programmes being developed.
Output 5. Modernising attitudes of host communities toward migrants		
Initiative 1: Approach wider communities of New Zealand for a cohesive interaction with migrants.	Multicultural Day in August and Matariki events are now part of annual calendar of MNZ.	Multicultural Day in August and Matariki events are now part of annual calendar of MNZ.
Outcome C: Sustainment and Modernisation		
Output 1: Continue to grow NZFMC' profile across all channels, particularly digital, so we become a household name		
Initiative 1: Discuss and agree to a new organisational purpose with a new high-level operating model to support delivery. As well as build out the rest of the new operating model	- Media Release, Submissions, Newsletter and Reports - 22 - New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils' Strategic Planning and regional initiatives developed into social cohesion deliverables.	- Organise biannual regional meetings of Regional Multicultural Councils in the Northern, Central and Southern regions (Participants) - Under review currently - Youth Engagement/App Development and leadership development (Participants) - New programmes being developed currently - Media Release, Submissions, Newsletter and Reports - 15 - New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils' Strategic Planning and Annual Hui (Participants at President's Hui) - 12
Initiative 2: Improve internal and reporting processes, evaluation, and delivery capability to enable NZFMC to change its model of funding.	Continuous improvements to financial reporting and project investment plans.	Improvements to financial reporting and project investment plans

Initiative 3: Take a concerted effort to examine and improve NZFMC' organisational culture, particularly the resistance to change and internal conflict.	Progress has been made in strengthening organisational culture, particularly through increased awareness of the need for change and more constructive approaches to managing internal conflict. While resistance to change remains an ongoing challenge, the organisation has taken steps to improve communication, clarify expectations, and support a more collaborative working environment.	Not Applicable
Output 2. Secure long-term funding		
Initiative 1: Long-term sustainable funding model being developed.	Multi-year projects being developed with MoU partners and MEC.	Multi-year projects being developed with MoU partners: MSD and NZ Police. Also being developed with MEC.
Output 3: NZFMC operating as a social enterprise		
Initiative 1: Ensure collaborative working relationship with government agencies and businesses. Discuss with government agencies including Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment, Ministry of Justice, Human Rights Commission, UNESCO, Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Productive Commission and Ministry of Social Development the new NZFMC purpose and operating model, and the potential for core funding to deliver specific outputs and outcomes aligned with that purpose and operating model. NZFMC' Executive have established direct relationship with the Chief Executive of Ministry for Ethnic Communities, Commissioners at Human Rights Commission, Deputy CE at Ministry of Social Development, the new Commissioner of Police, with regular meetings. NZFMC Executives are invited regularly to meetings with government agencies. There are memorandums of understanding with Police and Ministry of Social Development.	85 Meetings both in-person and online	80 Meetings both in-person and online
Output 4: Establish 5 new Regional Multicultural Councils		
Initiative 1: Ensure collaborative working relationship with government agencies and businesses. To establish RMCs in unrepresented areas.	While the establishment of new councils continues to present challenges, progress is being made through ongoing engagement, relationship-building, and support for emerging community leadership.	Work in progress on establishing a multicultural council in Kapiti.

Output 5. Build new collaborative relationships		
Initiative 1: Develop more Memoranda of Understanding with partner organisations. (A memorandum of understanding (MoU) is a document that describes the broad outlines of an agreement that two or more parties have reached).	Progressing various initiatives with Race Unity Speech Awards and with MBIE.	1. Statement of Shared Principles signed with MBIE. 2. MoU being developed with Race Unity Speech Awards.
Output 6. Bringing New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils and NZNN networks		
Initiative 1: Elevate the current status of Newcomers Network	No further progress recorded during the current year. The matter remains under consideration following the previous year's review.	Being reviewed.
Outcome D: NZ as a Tiriti-based multicultural society		
Output 1: Ensure governance and management practices within New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils to acknowledge Tikanga Māori.		
Initiative 1: All governance and management documents to demonstrate an appreciation of Tikanga Māori, through all our publications – they as much as possible bilingual. Bilingual calendar published.	1. Increased use of te reo Māori in MNZ office daily correspondence. 2. Links to Māori language resources available on MNZ website.	1. Increased use of te reo Māori in MNZ office daily correspondence. 2. Publication of 2025 Māori language calendar on MNZ website.
Initiative 2: Develop and share widely a discussion document on what a Treaty-based Multicultural future can be for New Zealand.	Social Cohesion initiatives being progressed.	Huarahi Hou publication fully operational.
Output 2. Ensure legislation, regulations and policies in New Zealand demonstrate cultural sensitivity		
Initiative 1: Promote and support efforts for legislation for New Zealand's Multicultural Framework.	OIA – 0 Open letters – 0 Support letters – 5	OIA – 0 Open letters – 1 Support letters – 3
Output 3: New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils to have a strategic long-term relationship with tangata whenua.		
Initiative 1: Consult tangata whenua in how to bring Tiriti-based Multicultural values into our constitution.	Being Reviewed	Being Reviewed

Initiative 2: New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils continue to support the regions to learn and help them to engage in a long lasting relationship with tangata whenua.	Wananga at Auckland University Marae in August 2025. Regular MNZ engagements with Te Āti Awa.	1. Te Poho o Rāwiri Marae visit in Gisborne on 18 May 2024. 2. Noho marae at Murihiku Marae - Waihōpai Rūnaka in Invercargill on 22 and 23 June 2024. 3. Noho marae at Hakatere Marae in Ashburton on 10 and 11 August 2024.
Output 4: Support Regional Multicultural Councils and their communities to adopt E Tū Whānau values as their basis for community safety.		
Initiative 1: Track our achievements against the E Tū Whānau values.	Values measure incorporated into annual report and being monitored.	Values measure incorporated into annual report and being monitored.
Output 5. Improve relationship with tangata whenua		
Initiative 1: Planned visit to Waitangi Treaty Ground on an annual basis.	Being progressed.	Being reviewed.
Outcome E: Participation in NZ socioeconomics		
Output 1. Ensuring the success of migrant businesses		
Initiative 1: Collect information about supporting small businesses.	During the past year, there was increased emphasis on socioeconomic issues through hui discussions. This work is now being developed into a guiding model for the MNZ Business Council.	MNZ Business Council restructure planned.
Output 2. Equitable policy for health, education, social services, justice and employment		
Initiative 1: Work with partner organisations for equity policies.	Ongoing contact has been maintained with Age Concern, Hui E!, Volunteering New Zealand, Community Networks Aotearoa, Citizens Advice Bureau, and similar community-sector organisations to support collaboration, shared learning, and stronger sector relationships.	Regular contact with Age Concern and Hui E.
Outcome F: Diversity in Volunteering		

Output 1: Strengthening and resourcing Regional Multicultural Council and New Zealand Newcomers Network volunteer networks.		
Initiative 1: Digital resources.	Resources on misinformation developed and circulated.	New policy framework being developed with Flightdec.
Output 2. Developing resources to equip volunteers professionally		
Initiative 1: Ensure that member councils enhance their governance capabilities and remain informed about regulatory accountability prerequisites.	Resource kit on socioeconomics, foreign interference and misinformation circulated to networks.	Resource kit to be updated after July-August 2025 training sessions.
Output 3: Improving cultural fit of volunteering to expand diversity among volunteers.		
Initiative 1: Increased the number of collaborating partnership through projects/programmes.	Continued collaboration with community and sector partners to support food security, seniors' wellbeing, newcomer settlement, youth engagement, and wider social cohesion initiatives. Relationships with Sikh community organisations, Age Concern, local and district councils, and Race Unity networks continued to inform MNZ's community connection and support work.	1. Collaboration with Sikh community on emergency food provision initiatives. 2. Collaboration with Age Concern NZ for MNZ Seniors. 3. Newcomers Network: Collaboration with Local and District Council. 4. Supporting the Race Unity Speech Awards.
Initiative 2: Participation in the communities football to include regional football tournaments in all remaining regions (Players and Volunteers participated).	The community football tournament was not delivered during the reporting year. Given current organisational capacity and competing programme priorities, this activity was not progressed.	Being planned for the second-half of 2025.

Statement of Financial Performance

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	NOTES	2026	2025
Revenue			
Government Service Delivery Grants	1	18,391	2,000
Non-Government Service Delivery Grants	1	116,043	120,000
General Grants	1	-	59,122
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	1	9,687	3,950
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	12,876	17,205
Other revenue	1	-	6,292
Total Revenue		156,998	208,569
Expenses			
Costs related to commercial activities	2	142,298	134,624
Volunteer and employee related costs	2	147,054	166,355
Other expenses	2	7,764	8,022
Total Expenses		297,116	309,002
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		(140,118)	(100,432)

Statement of Financial Position

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated As at 31 March 2026

'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'

	NOTES	31 MAR 2026	31 MAR 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Bank accounts and cash	3	133,644	179,641
Debtors and prepayments	3	510	215
Term Deposits	3	360,958	350,968
Total Current Assets		495,113	530,824
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	3,425	4,005
Total Non-Current Assets		3,425	4,005
Total Assets		498,538	534,829
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	5,073	10,327
Employee costs payable	4	8,069	2,945
Unused donations and grants with conditions	4	126,757	22,800
Total Current Liabilities		139,899	36,072
Total Liabilities		139,899	36,072
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		358,639	498,758
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	6	358,639	498,758
Total Accumulated Funds		358,639	498,758

Statement of Cash Flows

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Cash Flows from Operating Activities		
Cash was received from:		
Government Service Delivery Grants	2,641	(17,920)
Non-Government Service Delivery Grants	235,750	152,720
Fees, subscriptions and other receipts from members	9,430	4,610
Cash receipts from other operating activities	-	6,292
Interest, dividends and other investment receipts	12,876	17,205
GST	(727)	1,227
Total Cash was received from:	259,970	164,134
Cash was applied to:		
Payments to suppliers and employees	(294,282)	(299,357)
Total Cash was applied to:	(294,282)	(299,357)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	(34,312)	(135,223)
Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities		
Payments to Acquire property, plant and equipment	(1,926)	(2,065)
Receipts from the sale of property, plant and equipment	231	-
Total Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	(1,695)	(2,065)
Net Increase/(Decrease) in Cash	(36,006)	(137,287)
Bank Accounts and Cash		
Opening cash	530,609	667,897
Net change in cash for period	(36,006)	(137,287)
Closing cash	494,603	530,609

Statement of Accounting Policies

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

'How did we do our accounting?'

Basis of Preparation

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated has elected to apply Tier 3 (NFP) standards on the basis that it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses equal to or less than \$5,000,000. All transactions in the Performance Report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. The Performance Report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate in the foreseeable future.

Grants & Donations

Grants and donations are accounted for depending on whether they have been provided with a "use or return" condition attached or not. Where no use or return conditions are attached to the grant or donation, revenue is recorded as income when the cash is received. Where grants or donations include a use or return condition, the grant or donation is initially recorded as a liability on receipt. The donation or grant is subsequently recognised within the Statement of Financial Performance as the performance conditions are met.

Subscription Revenue

Relates to annual membership fees paid by Regional Multicultural Councils and is recognised on an accruals basis.

Interest Income

Interest Income is recognised as income on an accruals basis.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of GST except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Bank Accounts and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Receivables

Accounts receivables are recognised initially at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less an allowance for any uncollectible amounts. Individual debts are known to be uncollectible are written off in the period that they are identified.

Employee Entitlement

Employee entitlements are measured at undiscounted nominal values based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These may include salaries accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not taken at balance date.

Property, plant and equipment

Plant and equipment are recorded at cost, less accumulated depreciation.

Depreciation

Items of property, plant and equipment are stated at cost, less accumulated depreciation and any impairment losses. Any donated assets are recorded at their fair value at the date of acquisition.

Depreciation is calculated on a diminishing value method using depreciation rates:

Office Furniture and Equipment	10% to 48%
Computer Equipment	48% to 67%

Leases

Operating lease payments, where the lessors effectively retain substantially all the risks and benefits of ownership of the leased items, are recognised as an expense in the Statement of Financial Performance on a straight line basis over the lease term.

Operating lease incentives are recognised as a liability when received and subsequently reduced by allocating lease payments between rental expenses and reduction of the liability.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Notes to the Performance Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
1. Analysis of Revenue		
Government Service Delivery Grants		
Auckland Council Grant	-	2,000
Ministry of Social Development	18,391	-
Total Government Service Delivery Grants	18,391	2,000
Non-Government Service Delivery Grants		
Ethnic Communities Development Fund	16,043	-
Lottery Grants	100,000	120,000
Total Non-Government Service Delivery Grants	116,043	120,000
General Grants		
Other Grants	-	59,122
Total General Grants	-	59,122
Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members		
Function and Dinner Registration	2,643	1,719
Membership Subscriptions	6,000	2,435
Other Registration Events	1,044	(203)
Total Fees, subscriptions and other revenue from members	9,687	3,950
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
Interest Income	12,876	17,205
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	12,876	17,205
Other revenue		
Bad Debt Recovered	-	6,327
Reimbursed Expenses	-	(35)
Total Other revenue	-	6,292
Total	156,998	208,569
	2026	2025

2. Analysis of Expenses

Volunteer and employee related costs		
Contractor's Fee	19,378	18,074
Loss of Pay	1,800	3,260
Staff Salaries	125,876	145,021
Total Volunteer and employee related costs	147,054	166,355
Costs related to commercial activities		
Accommodation	5,714	4,510
Accounting Fees	3,044	3,544
AGM Accommodation	5,077	5,103
AGM Catering	6,632	229

	2026	2025
AGM Design & Publication & Photography	4,166	4,439
AGM Koha/Gifts/Presenters	1,822	569
AGM Transportation	7,210	4,799
AGM Venue	8,572	13,358
Auckland Office	4,710	3,623
Bad debts	152	-
Bank Charges	90	100
Catering	22,750	26,497
Digital Hubs and Website Hosting	8,935	2,620
Donation	10,000	10,000
Executive Meeting Catering	127	-
General Expenses	-	371
General Koha/Gifts	1,115	2,409
Insurance	908	2,773
Legal Fees	1,245	-
Loss on disposal of assets	-	21
Marketing & Advertising	420	2,215
Minor Assets	322	919
Office Administration	321	327
Postage & Shipping	16	106
Printing & Stationery	841	707
Rebate or Waiver	-	3,906
Rent	17,787	16,416
Sitting fee and honorariums	950	313
Telephone, Fax, Internet	1,214	1,152
Training & Development	895	512
Transportation	17,022	23,086
Executive Meeting Transportation	867	-
Health Project	2,185	-
Staff Amenities	87	-
Women Council Others	6,150	-
Parking	950	-
Total Costs related to commercial activities	142,298	134,624
Other expenses		
Audit Fees	2,400	2,200
Depreciation	2,274	3,489
Subscription & Membership Fees	3,090	2,333
Total Other expenses	7,764	8,022
Total	297,116	309,002

	2026	2025
3. Analysis of Assets		
Bank accounts and cash		
ASB Society Cheque Account 00	131,386	127,557
ASB Society Business Saver 50	2,208	52,034
Petty Cash	50	50
Total Bank accounts and cash	133,644	179,641
Debtors and prepayments		
Account Receivables	985	515
Bad Debt Provision	(475)	(300)
Total Debtors and prepayments	510	215
Other current assets		
Term Deposits	360,958	350,968
Total Other current assets	360,958	350,968
	2026	2025
4. Analysis of Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Payables and Accruals	5,803	14,405
Credit Cards	93	210
GST	(823)	(4,289)
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	5,073	10,326
Employee costs payable		
Accrued Annual Leave	8,069	2,945
Total Employee costs payable	8,069	2,945
Unused donations and grants with conditions		
Grants in Adv - NZ Police	15,000	-
Grants in Adv - Lottery Grants	100,000	-
Grants in Adv - Ethnic Communities Development Fund	11,757	22,800
Total Unused donations and grants with conditions	126,757	22,800

	2026	2025
5. Property, Plant and Equipment		
Office Furniture		
Opening Cost	5,657	8,458
Purchases	-	-
Disposals	-	(20)
Current year depreciation	(81)	(103)
Accumulated Depreciation	(5,243)	(7,919)
Total Office Furniture	333	416
Office Equipment		
Opening Cost	41,664	40,619
Purchases	1,926	2,085
Disposals	(2,687)	-
Current year depreciation	(2,192)	(3,386)
Accumulated Depreciation	(35,618)	(35,728)
Total Office Equipment	3,092	3,590
Total Property, Plant and Equipment	3,425	4,006
	2026	2025

6. Accumulated Funds

Opening Balance	498,758	599,190
Surplus/(Deficit)	(140,118)	(100,432)
Total Accumulated Funds	358,640	498,758

7. Commitments

Commitment	At balance date 2026	At balance date 2025
NZFMC entered into a lease agreement with ACE Aotearoa Focus 2017 for premises at 192 Tinakori Road, Wellington commencing 01 July 2020 and ending 30 June 2023 with a right of renewal for a further three terms of one year each. The annual rental is \$17,787.40 GST exclusive (2025: \$16,416.00)	\$17,787.40	\$ 16,416.00

8. Contingent Liabilities and Guarantees

There are no contingent liabilities or guarantees as at 31 March 2025 (Last year - nil).

9. Related Parties

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year. (Last year - nil).

10. Events After the Balance Date

There were no events that have occurred after the balance date that would have a material impact on the Performance Report (Last year - nil).

11. Ability to Continue Operating

The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Independent Auditor's Report

New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026



NMA Nelson Marlborough Audit Ltd

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Committee of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated

Report on the Performance report

Opinion

We have audited the performance report of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated on pages 3 to 22, which comprise the entity information, the statement of financial position as at 31 March 2026, the statement of service performance, the statement of financial performance, and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the performance report, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion the performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- the entity information for the year then ended
- the financial position of New Zealand Federation of Multicultural Councils Incorporated as at 31 March 2026 and its financial performance, and cash flows for the year then ended

in accordance with Tier 3 (NFP) standards.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and the audit of the entity information in accordance with the International Standard on Assurance Engagements (New Zealand) ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised).

Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in *the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report* section of our report.

We are independent of the Society in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 (Revised) *Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (IESBA Code)*, and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in, the Society.

Information Other Than the Performance Report and Auditor's Report

The Committee are responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the statement of service performance on pages 6 to 12 but does not include the performance report and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the performance report does not cover the other information and we do not express any form of audit opinion or assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with our audit of the performance report, our responsibility is to read the other information, and in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the performance report, or our knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.

If, based on the work we have performed, we conclude that there is a material misstatement of this other information, we are required to report that fact. We have nothing to report in this regard.

The Responsibility of the Committee for the Performance Report

The Committee are responsible on behalf of the entity for:

- (a) Identifying outcomes and outputs, and quantifying the outputs to the extent practicable, that are relevant, reliable, comparable, and understandable, to report in the statement of service performance.
- (b) the preparation and fair presentation of the performance report which comprises:
 - the entity information
 - the statement of service performance
 - the statement of financial performance, statement of financial position, statement of cash flows, statement of accounting policies and notes to the performance report

in accordance with Tier 3 (NFP) standards issued in New Zealand by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

- (c) for such internal control as the Committee determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the performance report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Committee are responsible on behalf of the Society for assessing the Society's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Committee either intend to liquidate the Society or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Performance Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the performance report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could be reasonably expected to influence the decisions of users taken on the basis of the performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and ISAE (NZ) 3000 (Revised), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Society's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Committee and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Society's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Society to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, and content of the performance report, including the disclosures, and whether the performance report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

NMA Nelson Marlborough Audit Ltd

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PO Box 732
Nelson 7040

19 June 2026

Kōrero awhi

Communicate positively
Act with compassion
Be courageously honest
Do what you say

Whakapapa

Identity, a sense of
belonging
Living a healthy lifestyle
Commitment & responsibilities
Future focused
Know the history

Mana / manaki

Be the best, expect the best
Build the mana of others
Give generously
Hospitality, second to none



Aroha

Affection & appreciation
Loving
Nurturing
Total acceptance

Whanaungatanga

Connected at many levels
Enjoy being together
Strong relationships
Support one another
Participate in the wider
community

Tikanga

Do what is right
Keep people safe & protected
Culturally & spiritually strong
Knowledge & skill acquisition

Image source: <https://etuwhanau.org.nz/our-values/>



Multicultural New Zealand

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