

1 JAN - 31 DEC 2025

ENCOUNTER
LIVE LIFE WIDE OPEN



IMPACT REPORT 2025

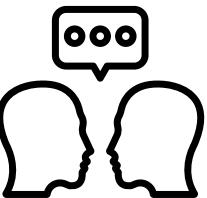
**Unleashing potential
in young people to
Live Life Wide Open!**

**LIVE
LIFE
WIDE
OPEN**

2025 IMPACT AT A GLANCE

“ Youth Encounter has really helped me focus on myself and my goals. ”

Through our programmes, we invested in the lives of 326 individual young people.



We spent **11405** hours of intentional face-to-face time with our young people

98%

Overall 98%, experienced measurable growth across our four **outcome pillars** — Identity, Purpose, Hope, and Resilience.

76%

76% **Māori** served in our Therapy and Mentoring programmes



Social Investment

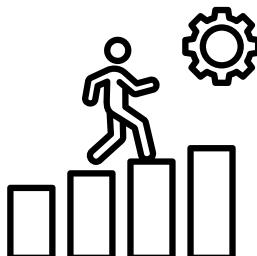
\$2,581

We invested an average of \$2,581 per young person — delivering high-impact, life-changing support.

For every \$1 invested in Youth Encounter in 2025, approximately **\$4.60** of social and economic value was created for Aotearoa NZ.



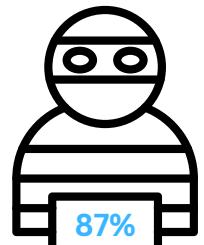
On average, we invested **35** hours of face-to-face support per young person.



Staff invested in **1077** hours of personal and professional development



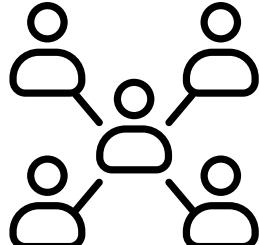
There were **3,913** hours of volunteer and voluntary contribution time given.



87% of our YJ cohort completed engagement without reoffending.



100% of participant feedback said their **experience** at Youth Encounter was good or excellent.



We estimate that more than **1900** people were impacted, including young people, their whānau, and wider community connections.

“ Youth Encounter made me feel like I can do something in life because they believed in me. ”



THE NEED

— *A Growing Youth Crisis in Aotearoa*

Young people in Aotearoa are facing unprecedented levels of uncertainty, isolation, and distress. Rising mental-health challenges, social disconnection, identity confusion, and barriers to support are making it harder than ever for rangatahi to thrive. These pressures are especially heavy for those already navigating trauma, whānau instability, poverty, discrimination, or disengagement from school — the very youth we walk alongside every week.

1. Insecure Identity — *Young people struggling to know who they are*

- 22.9% of 15–24 year-olds experience high or **very high psychological distress** — the highest in a decade.
- Māori, Pasifika, disabled, and rainbow youth experience significantly higher rates of **loneliness, discrimination, and low self-worth**.
- Many rangatahi arrive feeling disconnected from whānau, culture, and belonging.

3. Loss of Hope — *A generation struggling to believe in a positive future*

- Over **1 in 5** young people report feeling overwhelmingly anxious, depressed, or uncertain about life.
- Many youth describe feeling “stuck,” “lost,” or unable to picture a hopeful future.
- Barriers to accessing timely mental-health support worsen these feelings.

2. Lack of Purpose — *Young people feeling directionless and disengaged*

- School disengagement continues to rise nationally, with thousands of young people missing from education pathways.
- Across Aotearoa, youth report increasing technology addiction, low motivation, and reduced community participation.
- Young people without purpose are more likely to drift toward unhealthy coping behaviours.

4. Inadequate Resilience — *Struggling to cope with everyday challenges*

- Many young people are not equipped with the emotional, relational, or practical tools to handle ordinary pressures.
- Rising challenges include trauma, family instability, substance use, peer pressure, and financial hardship.
- Many are trying to cope without stable support, safe environments, or positive role models.

Why This Matters

These rising levels of insecure identity, lack of purpose, loss of hope, and inadequate resilience are the very reasons Youth Encounter exists.

Our therapeutic, activity-based model — grounded in connection, belonging, challenge, cultural safety, and relational leadership — is intentionally designed to meet these four core needs.

Where conventional systems are stretched thin, Youth Encounter fills the gap through:

- identity-building experiences
- purpose-shaping mentoring
- hope-restoring connection
- resilience-strengthening pathways

This youth crisis is real — but transformation is possible. And together, we are unlocking the potential hidden beneath the struggle.

Nearly one in four young people (22.9%) aged 15–24 in Aotearoa experience high or very high psychological distress — the highest rate recorded in the New Zealand Health Survey 23/24

CEO MESSAGE

— Why Our Ministry Matters — Now!

Aotearoa is at a critical crossroads. Our rangatahi are facing unprecedented levels of anxiety, disconnection, and hopelessness, with many struggling under the weight of complex trauma, family instability, and social pressure. Too many young people are slipping through the cracks — disengaged from school, vulnerable to unhealthy coping, and unsure of their place in the world. This is the challenge before us, and it is growing.

At Youth Encounter, we meet these young people where they are and guide them toward who they are created to be. Our therapeutic activity-based model — grounded in **Fun, Acceptance, Connection, and Empowering** — creates safe spaces where rangatahi can build **identity**, ignite **purpose**, restore **hope**, and develop **resilience**. Whether through counselling on the dirt-bike track, mentoring that awakens motivation, camps that foster community, or leadership development that grows confidence, we walk with each young person through a clear, evidence-based pathway of transformation that strengthens their whānau and positively impacts their wider communities.

Our mission has never been more essential. As the needs of our youth intensify, so must our commitment to creating places of belonging, healing, and growth. To our valued partners, donors, volunteers, and supporters — **thank you**. Your belief in this kaupapa makes transformation possible. Together, we are unleashing the God-given potential of Aotearoa's young people and empowering them to truly **Live Life Wide Open**.

— Mary Wanhill



“It has changed the way I approach things in my life and I feel more hopeful.”



“ I feel accepted and empowered to be my best self. ”

OUR PURPOSE

— *Who We Are*

VISION

Our vision is to empower all young people of Aotearoa New Zealand to live life wide open. We are dedicated to creating an environment where genuine acceptance can be found and authentic connections formed. Through our fun culture, we create a space where people not only discover their true value but are also empowered to live life to the fullest.

CORE VALUES

F

100% said they had **FUN**

A

99% felt **ACCEPTED**

C

97% said they **CONNECTED** with others

E

98% felt **EMPOWERED** to be their best

MISSION

Our mission is to create a safe place of belonging to unleash the God-given potential in our staff and participants, through therapeutic activity-based programs that restore identity, purpose, hope and resilience.

Critical to accomplishing our mission:

- ✓ **1. CULTURE DRIVEN**
Powerful culture that leads change
- ✓ **2. IMPACT FOCUSED**
Sustainable and measurable outcomes in place
- ✓ **3. ENERGIZED STAFF**
Engaged and empowered team
- ✓ **4. SAFE ENVIRONMENT**
A safe space for clients and our team

OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

- 1. From Insecurity to Identity:** Strong mental wellbeing & healthy whānau dynamics for future generations
- 2. From Despondency to Purpose:** Thriving communities grounded in positive values
- 3. From Despair to Hope:** Active contributors & role models in society
- 4. From Victimization to Resilience:** Sustained personal growth, creativity, and freedom to innovate across life



06

OUR MODEL

— A Pathway to Transformation

Youth Encounter's Live Life Wide Open Track is our therapeutic, activity-based Theory of Change — a clear developmental pathway built on connection and a holistic approach that moves rangatahi through the Mauri stages of Mauri Moe → Mauri Oho → Mauri Ora, enabling young people to grow in identity, purpose, hope, and resilience, unleashing their God-given potential to thrive.

MAURI ORA SPECTRUM

Stage 1: MAURI MOE

Untapped Potential

This state of being is withdrawn with expressions of isolation, pain, anguish and sorrow. There is darkness and inactivity.

Stage 2: MAURI OHO

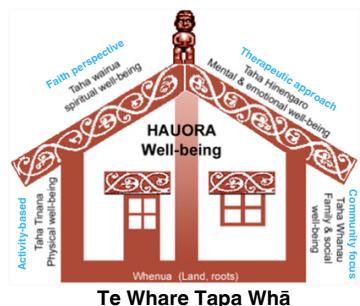
Being Awakened

This state of being indicates courage and locating inner strength. Interest has been sparked and there is a newfound willingness to participate.

Stage 3: MAURI ORA

Transformative Potential

This state of being has full awareness of and engages in purpose, identity, inspiration and motivation for the future. There is growth, hope and life.



Navigation:

1. Start Gate: Referral, assessment & plan.
2. On Track: Engagement & delivery.
3. Checkpoint: Review, revise & refer.



From insecurity
→ to **identity**
for strong mental well-being & healthier whānau

1. Connection
- creating safety & belonging through meeting each person where they are at with acceptance.

Stage 3:
Transformative Potential
'Becoming'

UNLEASHING POTENTIAL

LEADERSHIP

- FACE Leadership
- Workshops & Training
- Volunteering

MENTORING

- Poutama Mentoring
- Specialized Connect
- Moroki Mentoring
- Mahi Mentoring

CAMPS

- Dirt Bike Camps
- Snow Camps
- Young Adult Camps

From victimisation
→ to **resilience**



for personal freedom and growth

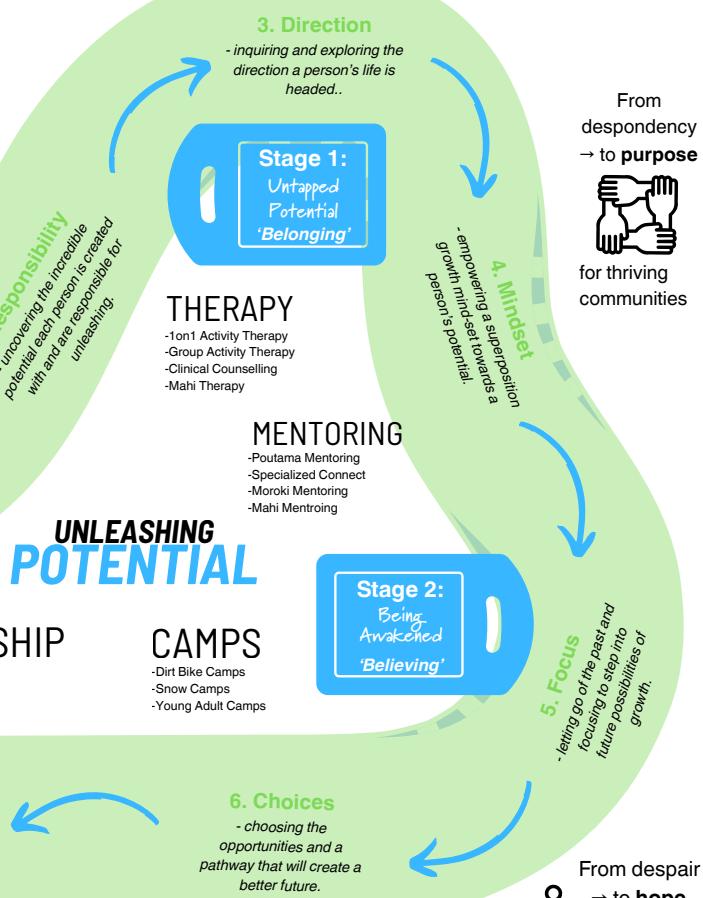
7. Freedom
- experiencing freedom in the journey of potential unleashed.

Fun | Acceptance | Connection | Empowering

6. Choices
- choosing the opportunities and a pathway that will create a better future.

5. Focus
- letting go of the past and focusing to step into future possibilities of growth.

From despair
→ to **hope**
actively contribute to society





OUTPUTS

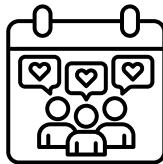
— How Much We Did and How Well We Delivered It

Youth Encounter uses a Results-Based Accountability (RBA) approach to measure the mission-critical outputs that lead to our outcomes. RBA helps us track how much we deliver and how well we deliver it, ensuring our programmes are positioned to grow identity, purpose, hope, and resilience in every young person we serve.

1. How Much Did We Do? (Quantity of Service)

326

Through our programmes, we invested in the lives of 326 young people.



We held 11 events with 219 young people attending.

Employees

14

We had 8.5 full-time equivalent employees, with an average of 341 paid hours per week.



67% of our service engagements had pre/post outcome measures in place.

46

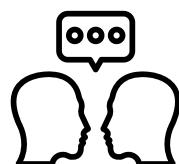
We maintained an average weekly engagement with 46 young people.



84% new client service engagements this year, with 16% returning clients.

2197

We delivered 2197 1on1 & group sessions, camps days, and event participations to our young people.



We delivered 2205 hours of 1on1 time mentoring and counselling our young people.

2. How Well Did We Do It? (Quality of Service)

89%

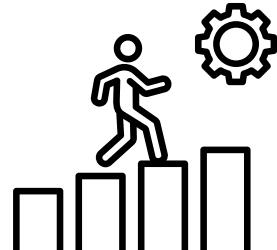
89% of rangatahi successfully completed the service they engaged in, with 70% of their identified needs met.

84%

84% attended their scheduled sessions, demonstrating strong engagement - compared with an average school attendance of 85%.

87%

87% reported feeling safe while engaging with us, passing our safety audits with zero non-conformities on our compliance.



Staff invested in 1077 hours of personal and professional development

How likely would you be to recommend Youth Encounter to a friend?

Not likely Extremely likely

1 2 3 4 5

22%

73%

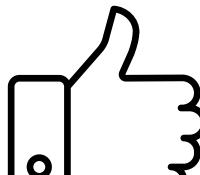
EXCELLENT
90%



95% of participants said staff friendliness and support was excellent



89% reported "very much" on our FACE value ratings



100% of participant feedback said their experience at Youth Encounter was good or excellent.

We achieved 94% staff satisfaction using the Gallup Q12 employee survey.



OUTCOMES

08

— Measuring What Matters

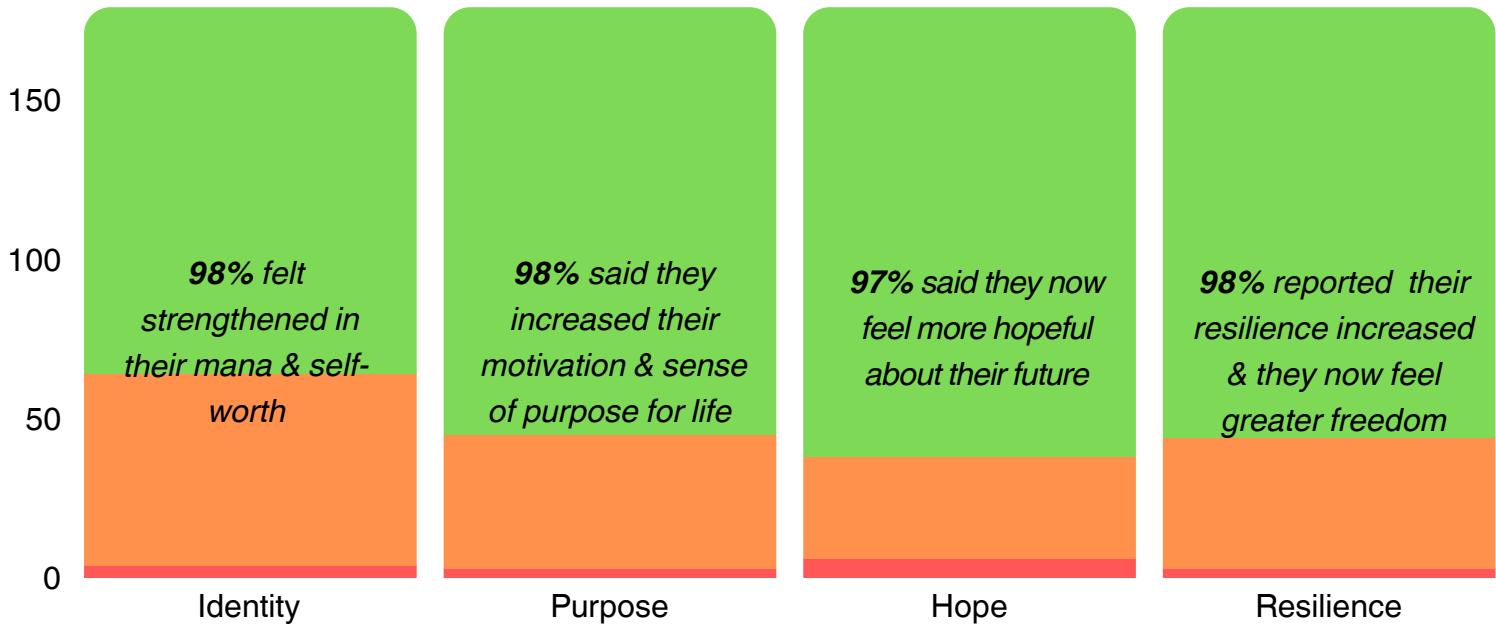
Youth Encounter measures impact through four strategic outcomes that reflect the change happening in young people's lives. These outcomes help us understand whether rangatahi are genuinely "better off" as a result of engaging in our programmes. Each service pathway is aligned to our Live Life Wide Open Theory of Change, with carefully designed indicators and questions that assess changes in identity, purpose, hope, and resilience across a young person's life, behaviour, and wellbeing.

“ Youth Encounter has helped me find myself again and find happiness. ”

2025 Outcome Results

● Not Very ● Some what ● Very much

200
From 179 feedback forms (45% of programme engagements)
these are the outcomes we have measured...



Eight Years of Proven Outcomes Leading to Impact

Over the past eight years, our Outcomes Framework has consistently shown strong, measurable increase in identity, purpose, hope, and resilience for the young people we serve.

Identity;

- Self-Worth & Empowerment (Mana): 89% of young people reported an increase in self-worth, confidence, and a secure identity.
- Whānau & Cultural Connection (Whakapapa & Hononga): 87% reported stronger, more meaningful relationships with whānau and a deeper understanding of whakapapa.
- Social & Relationship Skills (Hononga): 89% reported developing social skills to build and maintain healthy relationships.

Purpose;

- Values-Based Learning (Mātauranga): 89% reported a greater understanding of personal values and the ability to live authentically.
- Community Engagement & Contribution (Manaakitanga): 90% reported and demonstrated a clearer sense of direction and purpose in contributing to healthier communities.

Hope;

- Motivation & Aspirations: 84% reported increased motivation towards goals and aspirations with a forward-focused mindset for growth.
- Spiritual Growth & Character: 93% strengthened their spiritual understanding and leadership growth.

Resilience;

- Life Skills & Personal Development: 82% improved their ability to set and achieve goals, develop life skills, and acquire knowledge for personal growth.
- Resilience & Self-determination (Whai Wāhitanga): 87% improved their ability to overcome adversity, prepare for the future, and engage in employment pathways.

RISK FACTORS + COMPLEXITY

— Who Are Our Young People?

The rangatahi we support often face multiple and overlapping challenges that impact their wellbeing, education, relationships, and daily functioning. Many arrive carrying trauma, anxiety, family stress, or disengagement from school. Understanding this complexity helps explain why Youth Encounter's relational, therapeutic model is so crucial — and why our outcomes are so significant.

We focus on three priority cohorts to ensure our services meet the greatest areas of need while nurturing future leaders through early intervention, prevention, and safe, empowering spaces.

Cohort 1 26.5%	Cohort 2 46.5%	Cohort 3 27%
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Care & Justice-Involved Rangatahi (High Needs)

- Youth referred via Oranga Tamariki Care & Protection, Youth Justice or HCN
- Young people from families with intergenerational crime or instability in the OT system

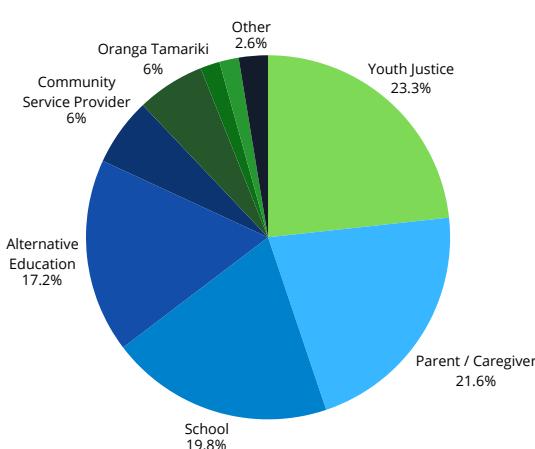
Vulnerable, Disengaged & Wellbeing-Challenged Youth (Moderate Needs)

- Youth excluded, struggling in education, including alternative education & home schooling
- Neurodiverse and young people with disabilities
- Rangatahi experiencing poverty, unstable whānau, or early risk-taking behaviours
- Youth with low to moderate mental health and wellbeing needs (e.g., anxiety, depression, low self-worth)

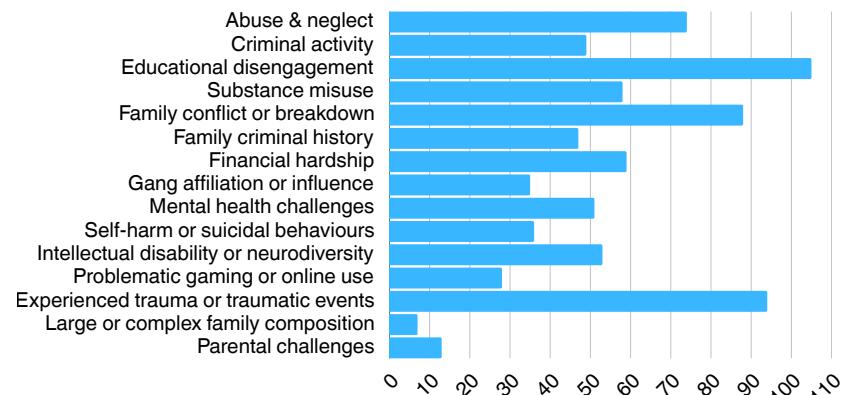
Young Leaders & Community-Minded or Faith-Seeking Youth (Low Needs)

- Youth who demonstrate leadership capabilities.
- Young people actively engaged in their personal character development and community well-being.
- Young people curious about or growing in their spiritual faith

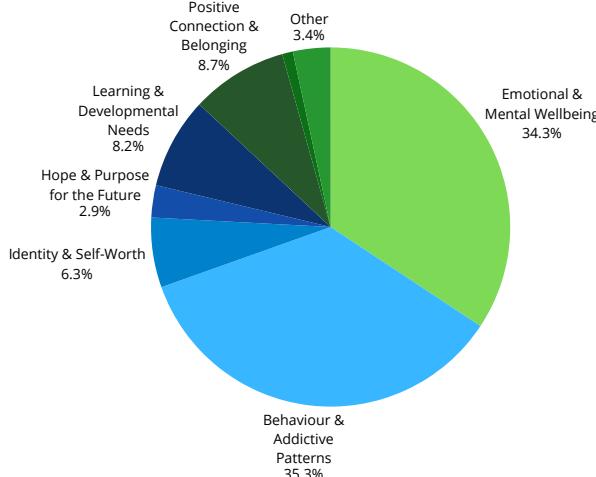
Referral Organisation/Person



Risk Factors



Referral Reasons



Story of Transformation — from isolation, trauma and hopelessness, to belonging, identity and hope.

When Carl first came to Youth Encounter, at age 15, he carried serious burdens: trauma, undiagnosed autism, social anxiety, depression — compounded by relocation and cultural disconnection.

He felt alone, overwhelmed, and on the edge of despair. At times, he struggled with suicidal thoughts, social isolation, and a deep sense of not belonging.

Through Youth Encounter's holistic, activity-based therapy, group counselling, and consistent mentoring, Carl began to heal. Gradually he opened up, found support, and gained confidence.

Over time, the person who once battled isolation became someone with hope, belonging, and identity. Today at 18, Carl is in transitional housing, pursuing vocational training to prepare for adulthood — engaged, hopeful, and walking forward.

PROGRAMMES

Youth Encounter provides a connected set of therapeutic, relational, and challenging activity-based programmes that support rangatahi at every stage of their development. Each layer plays a unique role in strengthening identity, inspiring purpose, restoring hope, and building resilience.

Over the 2025 calendar year...

- 95 therapy service engagements across 82 individual clients.
- 46 1-on-1 Activity-Based Therapy clients.
- 3x 8 week group Activity Therapy courses with 20 clients.
- 1 Mahi Group Therapy piloted with 7 out of 8 clients completing an 8wk course.
- 333 1-on1 counselling sessions.
- 81% attendance across all Therapy sessions

100% of Therapy participants highly recommend YE.

Therapeutic support to heal and strengthen identity.

THERAPY

- 127 mentoring service engagements across 99 individual clients.
- 62 participants took our Poutama Mentoring.
- 165 sessions of Specialized Connect with our mentors.
- 207 sessions of Moroki aftercare mentoring followup provided.
- 85% attendance at mentoring sessions.
- 1530 hours of 1on1 F2F mentoring with young people.
- 55 participants in Skills Development groups.

100% of participants felt that their sense of self-worth and identity increased.

Relational support to discover a pathway of purpose

MENTORING

- Total of 114 campers, with 86 youth & 28 young adults.
- 25 days of residential camp service delivery.
- 2x Dirt Bike Camps.
- Easter Camp.
- A 5 day Snow Camp.
- 2x Young Adults, with a WKND Refresh and a day camp.

Camps build community fast
— many youth experience belonging for the first time with 100% reporting a strong sense of safety on camp.

A residential experience of adventure, growth & community

CAMPS

- 14 employees and 33 volunteers giving 2205 hours of voluntary service.
- 47 workshops & trainings delivered.
- 10 attended FACE Leadership Course.
- One young leader chosen for Aspiring Leaders Forum.
- 5 engaged in our Young Leader's Mahi, contributing over 125 hours of voluntary time.

67% of long-term alumni are influencing others through leadership roles and mentoring.

Growing confident leaders to influence their world

LEADERSHIP

- 2x Beach surf events
- FMX Kings event attendance
- Crankworkz event attendance
- Youth Week Disc Golf Competition
- 4x Dirt Bike ride events
- Te Puke Spring Clean event attendance
- Community Christmas Party

Opening the door for young people to meet us in safe, fun spaces.

Events create early touchpoints that help young people feel safe, seen, and willing to engage in deeper support. They also allow families and the wider community to experience the heart of Youth Encounter.

EVENTS & COMMUNITY

219

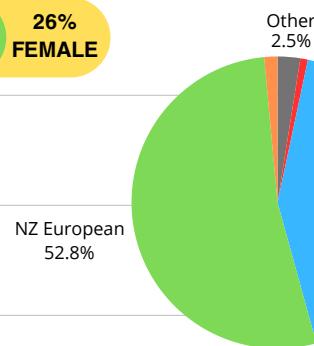
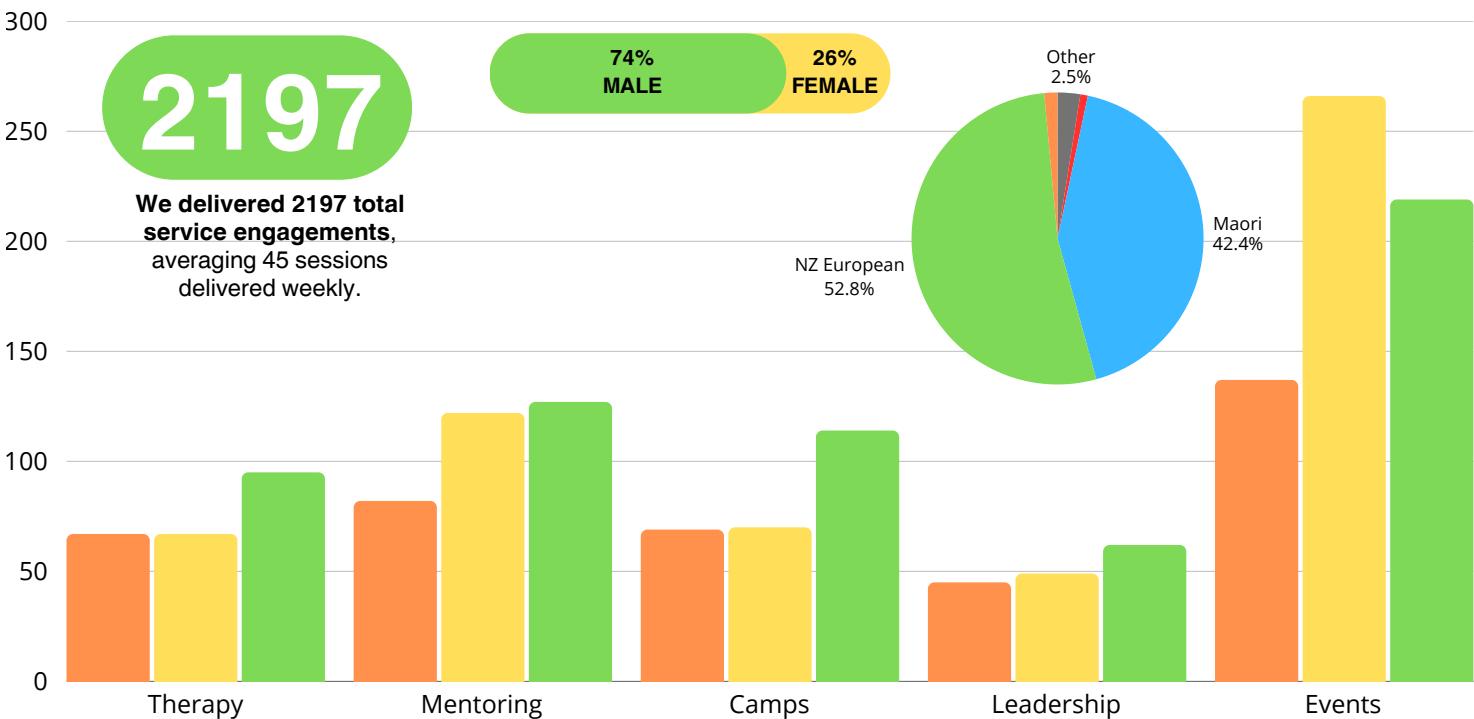
219 youth participating in 11 community events.

Programme Service Engagements:

● 2023 ● 2024 ● 2025

2197

We delivered 2197 total service engagements, averaging 45 sessions delivered weekly.



NZ European
52.8%

Maori
42.4%

Other
2.5%

LONG-TERM IMPACT



At Youth Encounter, impact doesn't end when a programme finishes. Our longitudinal follow-up demonstrates that the transformation experienced here continues years beyond engagement — shaping identity, purpose, hope, resilience, and community contribution. These long-term outcomes are especially striking given the complexity of many of the young people we serve, including those from care, youth justice, and high-risk backgrounds.

“ I now have a business with 10 employees — and I'm able to manage the stresses better because of what I learnt at Encounter. ”

Our Long-Term Impact — 3+ years post programme (data from 46 past participants, across our three cohorts)

From Insecurity → Identity

Strong mental wellbeing & healthy whānau dynamics for future generations

Long-term results show profound strengthening of identity, confidence, and stability:

- **150% increase in confidence** (from low/moderate → high/very high)
- Growth in self-worth, belonging, and emotional wellbeing
- Development of key life skills that reinforce identity:
 - Communication (78%)
 - Emotional intelligence (57%)
 - Teamwork (76%)
- Improved stability in daily life, including employment/study engagement
- Stronger whānau relationships reported in follow-up stories
- Generational impact emerging through healthier decision-making and family healing

From Despair → Hope

Active contributors & role models in society

Long-term impact data shows a powerful rise in hope, meaning, and life direction:

- Young adults reported clearer life direction, problem-solving skills, and decision-making
- Many are now role-modelling hope to others
- Participants reflected spiritual transformation and renewed meaning:
 - **67% said Youth Encounter positively influenced their faith and spiritual journey**
 - Young people made meaningful life commitments during or after camp, reflecting deep spiritual change.
- Participants now use their own stories to influence others:
 - Story sharing
 - Faith-based encouragement
 - Advocacy within friend groups and workplaces

From Despondency → Purpose

Thriving communities grounded in positive values

Three years after leaving Youth Encounter, rangatahi are stepping into purposeful roles in life and community:

- 67% employed
- 17% studying
- **84% in work, education, or training**
- Increased motivation, direction, and future focus
- High community contribution:
 - **67% in leadership roles**
 - 61% mentoring or supporting other young people
 - 48% volunteering

This shows young people discovering purpose and becoming contributors in their communities — a direct expression of this outcome.

From Victimation → Resilience

Sustained personal growth, creativity, and freedom across life

Three years later, rangatahi are demonstrating meaningful resilience, independence, and positive life function:

- Improved stability in living, work, and relationships
- Growth in practical life skills:
 - Resilience (67%)
 - Leadership (52%)
 - Problem-solving (48%)
- Movement away from harmful cycles and towards long-term wellbeing
- Increased confidence in budgeting, decision-making, and work readiness
- **Many now hold licences, employment, or stable routines**
- Alumni continue to volunteer, mentor, and give back
- Personal reflections show sustained emotional and spiritual resilience



STORY OF TRANSFORMATION

Vince's Story: From Disengaged to Determined

Numbers tell part of the story, but it's in individual lives where the true impact shines.

Back in 2018, Vince was referred to Youth Encounter by Te Puke Alternative Education. He was struggling — disengaged from school, neglected at home, involved in crime, and feeling trapped between his immigrant family's cultural restrictions and the pull of a new environment. His parents, wary of mainstream activities, allowed him to join Youth Encounter's dirt bike therapy because it was seen as a practical skill.

That entry point was life-changing.

- Vince joined a dirt bike group therapy programme where he built confidence and found connection.
- He attended a Youth Encounter camp, experiencing acceptance and sharing his own culture while learning from others.
- He was paired with a mentor and received over 50 hours of mentoring and clinical counselling to help him process trauma and adjust to life in Aotearoa.

Vince remembers: “I was not doing well in school. The whole Youth Encounter helped me get back on track and empowered me to move forward and keep looking forward.”

Over time, his self-belief grew. He learned teamwork, communication, problem-solving, resilience, and emotional intelligence. The team's consistent encouragement—“keep looking forward, both on the bikes and in life”—stuck with him.

Today, eight years later, Vince's story looks very different. His confidence has gone from moderate to very high. He now lives in Brisbane, runs a start-up with 10 employees, and creates digital tools for fitness, budgeting, and productivity. He has stepped into leadership, volunteers his time, and mentors' others.

His advice to young people is simple but profound: “There's too much pressure to be successful before you even start your life as an adult. Sometimes finishing the race safely and preparing for the next one is better than placing first.”

And to Youth Encounter, Vince says: “I owe a big part of getting my health back on track and setting a good foundation moving forward to Mary and Youth Encounter.”

For confidentiality purposes, real names or photos do not identify the person.



“Youth Encounter taught me how to deal with my problems and cope with past experiences.”

COLLABORATION + VALUED PARTNERS

Youth Encounter's mission is strengthened through deep collaboration with schools, agencies, iwi, churches, community organisations, and funders who believe in the potential of Aotearoa's young people. These relationships extend our reach, enhance wraparound support, and ensure every rangatahi can take courageous steps toward identity, purpose, hope, and resilience.

What Our Partnerships Make Possible



1. Access & Reach: Enabling more rangatahi to receive early intervention before harm escalates.

2. Wraparound Support: Ensuring whānau engagement, cultural support, and long-term mentoring.

3. Programme Delivery: Funding skilled staff, safe spaces, equipment, transport, and high-engagement therapy.

4. Sustainable Transformation: Supporting the 3-year journey from Mauri Moe → Mauri Oho → Mauri Ora.

We worked with a total of **28** **referral partners** (organisations) over 2025 to enhance the delivery and impact of our services.

The **referral organisations** we have partnered with include:

- 2 Government Agencies
- 13 Education Providers
- 4 Mental Health & Wellbeing Services
- 5+ Community Organisations
- 1 Iwi, Marae & Kaupapa Māori Partners
- 2 Churches

We honour every individual, business, iwi, funder, and community partner who stands with us. Your generosity fuels transformation — one young person, one whānau, one community at a time.
Thank you for helping Aotearoa's youth *Live Life Wide Open*.

A special thanks you to our Platinum Partners;



LICHFIELD LANDS



“ I feel accepted, and I've grown my confidence in myself. ”



Youth Encounter maintained strong financial stewardship in 2025, with diversified income streams, stable operating investment, and continued focus on directing the majority of expenditure toward frontline delivery and staff capability.

The figures presented on this page reflect our 2025 calendar-year finances.

\$844,954

Total revenue of \$844,954 for the 2025 calendar year

\$841,196

Total operating expenditure of \$841,196 for the 2025 calendar year

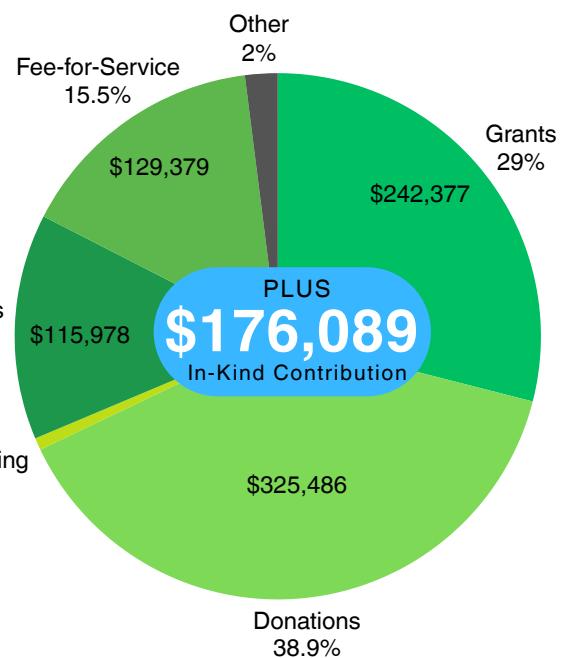
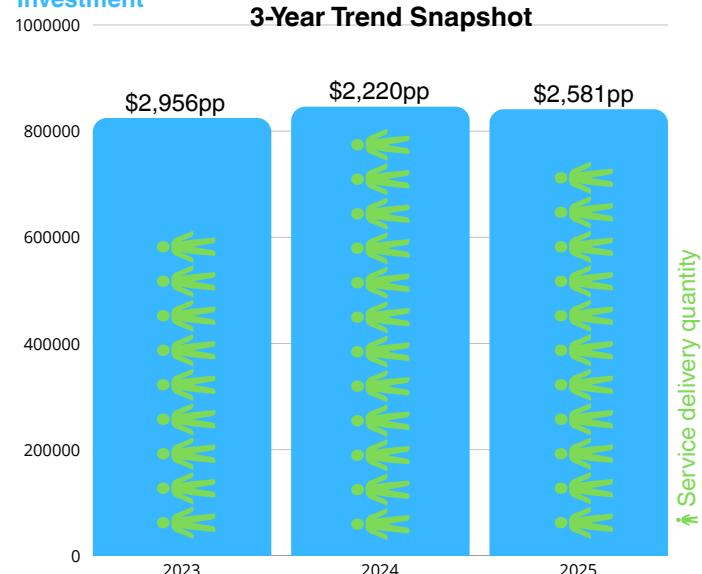
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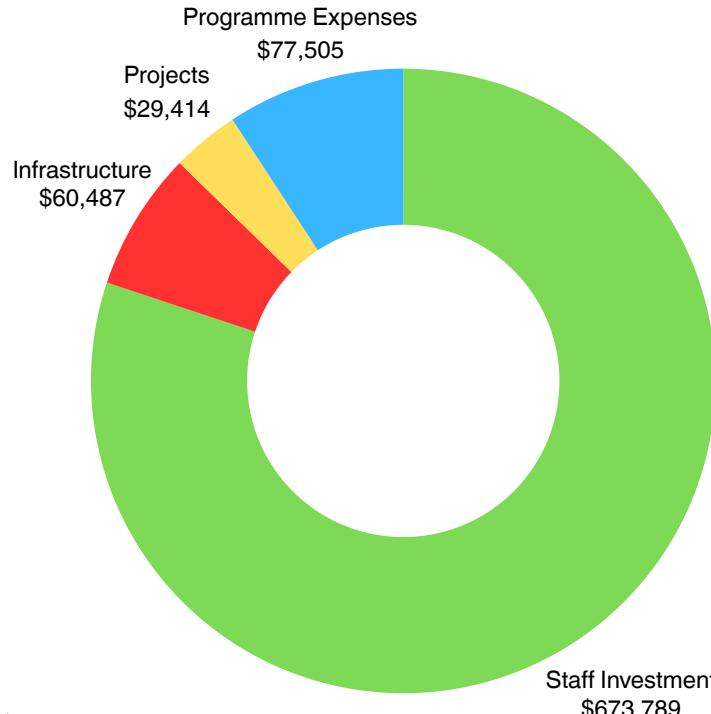
Where Our Income Came From

Youth Encounter continues to benefit from diversified income sources that reduce risk and strengthen long-term sustainability.

Investment



We closed the 2025 calendar year (as at 31 December) with total assets of \$1,442,414, total liabilities of \$93,364, and net assets/equity of \$1,349,051.



How Our Income Was Invested

89% directly fuelled **programmes and staff** — the people and support systems that bring transformation to life.

“

I'm not scared to overcome challenges anymore because I know I can do it.

”

SOCIAL INVESTMENT

— Measurable Value

In 2025, Youth Encounter supported 326 young people at an average cost of \$2,581 per participant. Using conservative New Zealand economic proxies and applying justice outcomes only to the highest-risk cohort (26.6% of participants), Youth Encounter generated an estimated \$4.60 in social and economic value for every \$1 invested. This value reflects reduced offending, increased participation in work and education, and improved mental wellbeing — delivering measurable cost avoidance for New Zealand's justice, welfare, and health systems.



Social Return on Investment

For every \$1 invested in Youth Encounter in 2025, approximately **\$4.60** of social and economic value was created for Aotearoa NZ.

Social Value Created (Conservative Estimates)

To avoid over-claiming, only three evidence-based value areas were monetised.

1. Reduced Youth Offending (applied to cohort 1 only)

Cohort 1 participants: 87 young people

Young people showing reduced offending: 76

Conservatively attributed avoided justice involvement: 23

Estimated justice system savings: \$1.61 million

(Based on conservative NZ youth justice cost proxies covering Police, courts, and supervision of \$70,000pp.)

2. Increased Employment, Education, or Training

84% of participants engaged in work, education, or training.

Estimated value (1 year only): \$4.11 million.

(Avoided welfare dependence and increased productivity; no long-term compounding applied.)

3. Improved Mental Health & Wellbeing

Significant reductions in risk factors linked to acute mental health service use.

Estimated public system savings: \$652,000.

(Conservative per-participant mental health cost avoidance.)

Total Social Value Created in 2025

Estimated total social and economic value: \$6.37 million

After applying additional conservatism for deadweight and attribution overlap, the final SROI (reportable): \$4.60 of social value created for every \$1 invested

For the cost of responding to one year of youth offending, Youth Encounter can support more than 27 young people through preventative, life-changing intervention.

Outcomes Used in This Analysis

This SROI calculation is grounded in verified Youth Encounter impact data, with conservative assumptions applied throughout.

Key outcomes from 2025 and longitudinal data include:

- 87% reduction in criminal offending among Cohort 1 (26.6% of participants) — our highest-risk cohort.
- 84% in work, education, or training at 3-year follow-up, proportionally represented across cohorts, based on longitudinal survey data.
- 98–100% improvement across identity, purpose, hope, and resilience.
- 83–88% engagement across therapy and mentoring services.
- 76% Māori participation in mentoring and therapy, contributing to equity outcomes.

What This Means

Even when justice outcomes are applied only to the highest-risk quarter of participants, Youth Encounter delivers strong social returns by:

- Preventing youth offending before it escalates.
- Strengthening pathways into employment and education.
- Reducing long-term pressure on mental health services.
- Supporting Māori and rural young people through early, preventative intervention.

This represents strong social investment value for funders, partners, and communities across Aotearoa New Zealand.



Thank you for supporting the future of our youth—we are a not-for-profit charitable trust ensuring all your support is contributing towards a catalyst for positive change. Together, we can make a lasting impact on young lives in Aotearoa NZ through unleashing their God-given potential to Live Life Wide Open.

Support us at...

www.youthencounter.co.nz/support

Bank Account Details: BNZ
- Youth Encounter Ministries Trust
02-0452-0048320-000



“ It empowered me to push through opposition and always give things my best shot. **”**

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