

# Te Pūrongo O Te Pou Whakarae CEO Report

**HAVE  
ADREAM**

CHARITABLE TRUST  
NEW ZEALAND

**As always, I start by thanking all of our staff (past and present) for their incredible commitment to our kaupapa (purpose) and their unwavering dedication walking alongside our tamariki (children), rangatahi (youth) and whānau (family).**

We are all only able to do this too because of the I Have a Dream “team of hundreds”, made up of financial donors, volunteers and mentors, our Board of Trustees, other in-kind partners and supporters in so many forms, and multiple fellow service providers active across our communities. We acknowledge and awhi (embrace), particularly, our 4 kura (school) partners in Whangārei as well as our Upper Hutt kura partner, Te Kura o Hau Karetu.

It is the collective excellence and strength of this whole Dream Team, combined with the huge experience that we have gained operating in Aotearoa over the last 20 years, that has set the stage for what I am certain is going to be a very exciting and hugely impactful period ahead for I Have a Dream.

We have titled this Annual Report ‘Building on Impact’.

2023 was a really significant year for the number of big initiatives that either got underway and/or were completed. All of which, collectively, now represent a very strong foundation enabling I Have a Dream to go to the next awesome levels in terms of expansion into new communities nationally, partnering with private and/or public sector organisations. It is also a foundation that will continue to strongly support and sustain our ongoing commitment to our current Whangārei partners and communities. That remains paramount.

- Starting in January 2023 and completing in June 2023, Wellington based firm ImpactLab undertook a review of our Whangārei operations to determine our Social Return on Investment (SROI) using their GoodMeasure framework. We got an extremely positive result. Our core SROI figure of \$1:\$3.60 (every \$1 invested by I Have a Dream results in \$3.60 returned to NZ) positioned I Have a Dream in the higher range of SROIs that ImpactLab have seen across the GoodMeasure evaluations (over 300 in total) done to date. This is a significant positive outcome and milestone for I

Have a Dream, being the first externally validated measure of impact of our Whangārei operation. We will utilise and leverage this great impact measure in a number of ways in 2024, including in our ongoing engagements with the Government as well as with current and potential new donors and other supporters.

For the Government, as Scott notes in his letter, we believe that the ImpactLab research proves that I Have a Dream’s child and family-centred social investment approach is getting exceptional results. Backing us to expand and bring those results and impacts to many more communities in Aotearoa would therefore give both an excellent and consistent investment return on public funds in this crucial social space

- Our I Have a Dream operation in Upper Hutt, partnering with locally based charity 4 A Better City Trust, also commenced operations in January 2023 with a sole initial Navigator being based at Te Kura o Hau Karetu Primary School. One year on, the presence of a Navigator is already making a big positive impact in the kura and in the wider community. “Having a Navigator in School means we can have someone who can focus on the hopes and dreams of a group of children. Someone who can spend time getting to know children in an intimate way. Children don’t know what they don’t know, and they sometimes need someone by their side who can help “unravel” their worlds and what their dreams are. But it’s not just the dreams of the children, it’s also the dreams of their whānau that a Navigator is figuring out along the way too”. (Karen Wellington, Tumuaki (Principal)).

A huge congratulations to everyone involved with this kaupapa (programme) in Upper Hutt! It is off to a fantastic start through your combined efforts. And there are plans now to add a second Navigator into this programme in 2025.

We also continued our engagements with other potential communities and new partnerships in Northland throughout 2023, although no formal partnership agreements were entered into. That work is ongoing in 2024, with the very strong organisational intention to invest significantly more dedicated time and resources into this expansion work going forward.

- Our Whangārei operation Theory of Change refresh project was substantially completed by the end of 2023. This crucial piece of work has involved an in-depth focus on our underlying programme rationale - i.e. what change are we actually seeking to make, how does that change actually occur, how do we adapt our operations and programming to optimise our ability to make change and, over time, how should we measure our success in actually achieving that change. In addition to the teacher surveys across all 4 of our school partners and workshops with over





160 Dreamers at Tikipunga High done in late 2022, in April, May and September 2023 we held a series of 5 whānau wānanga (meetings), inviting small groups of Dreamer whānau to join us at our I Have a Dream HQ base on the grounds of Tikipunga High School (4 wānanga) and Te Kura o Otangarei (1 wānanga). Combined, these areas of work yielded a rich reserve of insights and learnings and those are now being used to help set the Whangārei strategic and operational plan and direction for the next 3 - 5 years.

In a nutshell, the feedback from our key stakeholders (including Dreamers and whānau) throughout this process though was very strongly that we should keep doing what we are doing - that we are a trusted and hold a significantly positive presence in the communities that we serve and that we are making a hugely positive difference in hundreds of people's lives.

- 2023 was also the first year of the Te Wāhi Tūmunako (A place of hope) initiative in partnership with Te Kura o Otangarei. This is a new Transitional Learning initiative involving the delivery of a custom developed curriculum of academic and wellbeing programming and support for a small group (5 in 2023) of tamariki. This "2nd Year 8" programme had the support of two full-time I Have a Dream staff (including a qualified teacher) as well as management and resources support from the school. This group of Dreamers had been identified by the school in 2022 as being highly unlikely to successfully transition to and/or stay in High School for a number of reasons. And so Te Wāhi Tūmunako is focused on preparing and supporting these Dreamers for success in that transition. Both I Have a Dream and the school were delighted by the outcomes and impacts of the first year of this initiative. For instance just the average increase in school attendance in 2023 alone for these Dreamers compared to 2022 was 15% and for two of the Dreamers it was a 30% increase. It has also had a positive impact on the wellbeing of the whānau of these students. As part of the initiative, the parents/caregivers must support their child and work alongside the kaiako (teacher) in their learning. This expectation has increased whānau engagement with the kura and the kaiako immensely.

**“Children don’t know what they don’t know, and they sometimes need someone by their side...”**

All 5 Dreamers have now transitioned to Tikipunga High School where we continue to support them through our Navigator team there. And building on this great success, a new 2024 Te Wāhi Tūmunako cohort (starting with 9 tamariki) commenced in January 2024.

- 2023 was also the first full year of our 3.5 year contract with the Ministry of Education as one of only 6 Northland based providers of its "Enriching Local Curriculum" programme. This funding supports us to stand by all of our values and significantly improve our already strong out-of-school learning capabilities and options. By establishing stronger community networks and third-party provider relationships (with organisations such as the Hundertwasser Art Centre) we can better access new opportunities and experiences for our Dreamers. We often then also use those opportunities to encourage and support students strengths and interests with targeted programmes to add even more positive impact. And many providers are also open to being adaptable and flexible in their delivery to better suit Dreamers.

As this Annual Report goes to print my time as CEO of I Have a Dream has come to an end and we have welcomed our new CEO, Andrew Te Whaiti, into the I Have a Dream kaupapa and whānau. I wish Andrew all the absolute best as he embarks on his own wonderful journey on the I Have a Dream waka (canoe).

It is impossible to fully express or capture my personal deep gratitude for the rich and wonderful experiences that this mahi has given me, including the incredible level of aroha that I have seen and experienced so many times, in so many forms by so many people. In the end, I really cannot do better than to conclude with this taonga (treasure) which, for me, captures the essence of I Have a Dream in Aotearoa perfectly.

*Mehemea ka momoeā ahau, ko ahau anake. Mehemea ka momoeā tātou, ka taea e tātou*

*(If I dream, I dream alone. If we dream as a collective, we can achieve our dream)*

*Tu Pua Herangi*

Ngā mihi nui kia a koutou

**Chris Twiss**  
CEO