



Strategic Action Plan 2025 – 27

Nau te rourou, naku te rourou, ka ora ai te iwi

With your food basket and my food basket, the people will thrive

Welcome, nau mai haere mai

Te Tairāwhiti is a special place, ruggedly beautiful, geographically isolated and culturally significant, our region is home to approximately 55,000 people. Our population is special too. We are the only region in Aotearoa New Zealand with a majority Māori population. Most people who live and work here enjoy our stunning beaches, open spaces and our friendly, laid-back way of life.

However, for many of us, the impacts of inequality, poverty, disability, ill health and recent significant weather events have placed a heavy burden, impacting our way of life. It is estimated that 33,000 people within Te Tairāwhiti are living in material hardship and more than 70% of those people identify as Māori. This creates significant challenges for our health and social sectors, to deliver the support and help that so many people need.

Economic challenges hurt our service providers and continue to stretch our health and social sector. Recent government funding cuts to some community organisations mean once more, our community must do more work with less resources.

Tairāwhiti Community Voice (TCV) is an important network that serves a critical role, connecting our member groups and helping them learn, share and build their connections and ability to serve the people of Tairāwhiti. We bring community groups together so they can strengthen one another when bringing help and care to those in need.

With an elected committee who are inspired to drive forward an action plan that involves our network of valued providers, turning good intentions into meaningful, tangible actions that create greater value for all people living in Tairāwhiti.

TCV Executive Committee

Our Aspirations

Tairāwhiti Community Voice strives to have a strong, resilient and connected community of social and health organisations. Our success will be evidenced by people who are seeking support being able to easily connect with the support they need. Through our network of connected, informed and well-coordinated providers who work together for the greater good of all. We will strengthen our network relationships with other key stakeholders, including philanthropic and other funders, government agencies, iwi, health providers, schools and our wider community and voluntary community.

Our Chair, Executive Committee and Coordinator

Karen Whitehead – Chair, Angela Bull – Executive Member, Barbara Clarke - Executive Member

Leslynn Jackson - Executive Member, Michelle Duley - Executive Member, Tracy Bacon - Coordinator

Our Members

Tairāwhiti Community Voice has a strong network of members who regularly attend our network meetings. Our members include Alzheimers Gisborne Tairāwhiti, Anglican Care Waiapu, Brain Injury Association Gisborne, Cancer Society East Coast Gisborne, Barnardos, Care and Craft Gisborne, CCS Disability Action Group, Deaf Aotearoa, Epilepsy NZ, Geneva Healthcare, Moni Ora, Gisborne Citizens Advice Bureau, Gisborne East Coast Multiple Sclerosis Society, Gisborne Presbyterian Parish, Gisborne Volunteer Centre, Hospice Tairāwhiti, Idea Services, Your Way Kia Roha, Women's Institute, St Johns Gisborne, Stand Children Services, Stroke Foundation Tairāwhiti, Sunshine Services, Supergrans Tairāwhiti, Tairāwhiti Age Concern, Tairāwhiti Environment Centre, Tairāwhiti Technology Trust, Te Aka Ora Charitable Trust, Te Kupenga Net Trust, Te Runanaga o Turanganui a Kiwa. With Miriam Swarbrick, Nona Aston and Judy Livingston being our Life Members

Our history

Tairāwhiti Community Voice has a proud history. Established in 1990, our organisation was originally named the Gisborne East Coast Council of Social Services (GISCOSS) and our Certificate of Incorporation was issued by the Ministry of Justice in 6 March 1990. We are grateful to our founding members, including, Margaret Hatton, Margaret Fraser, Stephen Hooper, Kathleen Weatherall, Patricia Hall, Helen Goodman, S.P.Janett, Robin Rouse, Miriam Swarbrick, Leslie Bryon, H. M Ross, Jillian Wallis and Esme Tombleson for their foresight and wisdom. We are grateful for all our previous and current committee chairpersons, committee members, and network members. Apart from our coordinator, all TCV roles are voluntary.

About us - our work in the service of our community

We offer **support and coordination** for the social sector, identifying where our network members can make real progress on collective community wellbeing. Tairāwhiti Community Voice is not a delivery agency, TCV does not deliver services. What we do to help service organisations is to **connect, learn and share**. We bring people together, to share local knowledge and sector research that informs practical actions that make life in Tairāwhiti better for everyone, especially those with disabilities or health conditions, children, families and the elderly.

What we will do to support the health and social sector in Tairāwhiti in 2025 - 2027

One of the initial goals of Tairāwhiti Community Voice was the consolidation of social sector organisations in Te Tairāwhiti – bringing together the people who are making a difference in our community and helping them stay in touch with each other and build each other up.

We exist to serve Tairāwhiti's community groups. We coordinate regular meetings and events and have been working to find resources, including a dedicated meeting room space to that groups can share. Our monthly network meetings are always well attended, and our members get lots of value from the meetings. We continue to work to facilitate local events, sharing resources, learning opportunities, building strategic relationships, advocating for the sector and increasing our reach into the community.

"I really enjoy having the time together to connect with others doing similar work, and finding out how I can connect our clients to the services in the wider community"

Network Member

Our Action Plan

The table below summarises the key actions for the Tairāwhiti Community Voice collective over the next two years 2025 – 2027.

What we will do			How we will do it	We will collaborate with
1.	Strengthening Network	our TCV	Extend the reach of our network and increase membership by up to 10 new groups by the end of 2025	All network members
2.	Strengthening Network	our TCV	Extend our invitation to include all community and voluntary organisations	Faith based groups Sports groups Volunteer organisations
3.	Strengthening Network	our TCV	Regular invites to government agencies to provide updated information on any new entitlements that client groups may be entitled to such as Department of Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue Department, Ministry of Social Development, Education, Whaikaha, Health & Police	Regional Public Services Lead for Tairawhiti
4.	Strengthening Network	our TCV	Ensure new and existing funding opportunities for community groups are shared widely through the network Send updates on opening and closing dates for funders including MSD, Lotteries, COGS, Trust Tairawhiti etc	
5.	Strengthening Network	our TCV	Promote governance training and offer support to local Not for Profit boards. Look for and promote free training opportunities for community organisation's board members to grow their skills and connections through existing groups such as Community Networks Aotearoa Tick for Governance, Ministry of Women Governance Online learning, Community Governance Programme If a need is identified, we will seek funding to make more training opportunities available to local organisations if cost is a barrier.	Tracy Bacon, TCV Coordinator All network members
6.	Strengthening Network	our TCV	Gauge interest in TCV hosting quarterly service manager's forums to share opportunities and challenges	TCV Executive Committee

7. Share physical resources, increase sustainability	Create a register of community owned resources that can be shared between our member groups. Facilitate contact between groups so our network can access shareable resources such as meeting rooms and equipment as and when available	All network members External community
8. Share physical resources	Explore the opportunity to rent facilities including a meeting room at Arohaina for use of all TCV member groups.	Coordinator, TCV Executive Committee
9. Increase collaboration and reduce duplication through 10. TCV working collaboratively with Violence Free Tairawhiti (VFT)	<p>Collaboration with Violence Free Tairawhiti</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Align meetings to encourage cross pollination • Reduce duplication of effort by combining communication functions • Combine efforts to increase access to more frequent and relevant training opportunities for members • Consider opportunities for Co-chairing the networks and developing complimentary strategies • Share physical resources where appropriate 	<p>TCV Executive Committee</p> <p>Chris Semmens, Manager, Barnardos, Wendy Miller, VFTN Coordinator, Gisborne</p> <p>Tracy Bacon, TCV Coordinator</p> <p>All network members</p>
11. Advocate for member groups by connecting with national organisations	Connect with and share key opportunities promoted by the national umbrella organisations like Social Service Providers Aotearoa national organisation, Community Networks Aotearoa and sharing relevant information and opportunities (such as conferences, submissions, pay equity and training) with our network members	Social Service Providers Aotearoa
12. Raise awareness of the issues that matters	We will give a voice to the topical issues that arise from the perspective of the community sector.	Executive Committee
Research	Promote, grow and get involved in opportunities for investment in local research that benefits our community organisations and their purposes. To grow our influence and validity with funders and each other and relevant stakeholders.	Executive Committee

Conclusion

There are so many opportunities for our network to serve our member groups effectively and we are excited to maximise our usefulness. We look forward to more of the good work that we do, continuing to grow in effectiveness and reach.

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