

## Annual Report 2023–2024

For the year 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024





### Te Hiringa Mahara Annual Report 2023/24.

A report issued by Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission.

Presented to the House of Representatives pursuant to section 150 of the Crown Entities Act 2004.



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Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission was set up in February 2021 and works under the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020. Our purpose is to contribute to better and equitable mental health and wellbeing outcomes for people in Aotearoa New Zealand. For more information, please visit our website:

www.mhwc.govt.nz

Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (2024).

**Te Hiringa Mahara Annual Report 2023/24**. Wellington: New Zealand. Published by Te Hiringa Mahara in November 2024.

## **Foreword**

Over the last year, Te Hiringa Mahara continued to actively provide mental health, addiction and wellbeing system-level oversight and leadership. An overview of our work in 2023/24 is set out in this annual report.

The challenges all parts of the system face show no sign of abating. There are signs that an ongoing cost of living crisis and other pressures are affecting everyone's mental health. Rates of high or very high psychological distress are increasing. In 2022/23, 11.9 per cent of the population aged 15 and over reported high or very high psychological distress in the last four weeks. This is up from 8.3 per cent in 2018/19. Rangatahi and young people experience close to double the rate of high or very high distress when compared with the entire population aged over 15 years old.

Our role monitoring changes across the system continues to be vital for identifying areas where improvements are needed.

The focus of our 2024 mental health and addiction system monitoring report was a deep dive into access and options. This report painted a mixed picture. A positive development in recent years has been the establishment of Access and Choice services to offer support for people experiencing mild to moderate distress. Services were accessed by 185,000 people in 2022/23, well on the way toward the anticipated level of 325,000 annually by June 2024.

However, the number of people accessing specialist mental health and addiction services has decreased over the past five years. In 2022/23, 3.4 per cent of the population accessed a specialist service, a decrease from 3.8 per cent in 2018/19. This equates to an average of 9,000 fewer people per year using these services since 2018/19. The reduction is not due to a lack of demand, but because of the constraints faced by services. Pressure on the workforce is a key driver.

To generate momentum for meaningful change, we included recommendations in our monitoring report for the first time. We will closely monitor to see what steps are taken by the agencies the recommendations are directed at.

We continue to prioritise improvements in wellbeing and access to services by rangatahi and young people. In an infographic published in June 2024 we showed 74 per cent of people aged 15 to 24 reported good mental health, yet negative trends are ongoing. There has been a steady decline in mental wellbeing for young people more recently. At the same time, young people are less likely to get professional help for their mental health needs when they need it. This is something we will continue to focus on.

In the last year, we also issued reports on the role of peer support and cultural workforce, including leadership, and a report on Pacific peoples' wellbeing. We

continue to actively build relationships with iwi ahi kā and with Hauora Māori service and system leaders. Contributions to government policy making and legislation included seven submissions and engagement at all levels across the health and wellbeing systems.

In early 2024, we embarked on a strategic refresh to ensure we focus on the issues that matter most. We received feedback on our work and role from key stakeholders across the system. A refreshed strategy is on track to be in place from 1 July 2025.

In December 2023, we welcomed Aotearoa New Zealand's first dedicated Minister for Mental Health. This new ministerial role sends a signal about the importance the Government is placing on mental health and wellbeing. We look forward to seeing tangible improvements being made.

This has been an active year for us, and we don't expect this to change in the future. We are guided by our commitment to people with lived and living experience, Māori and other priority populations, alongside whānau and those who support tangata whaiora. At the heart of this work sits our core functions of systems oversight, monitoring and advocacy. In the years ahead, we will continue to use our independent voice to contribute to better and equitable mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all people in Aotearoa.

Ngā manaakitanga

Board Chair Hayden Wano

24 October 2024

Chief Executive
Karen Orsborn

24 October 2024



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## Introduction

Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission was established to contribute to better and equitable mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

We are an independent Crown entity established by the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020 (the Act), as part of the Government's response to **He Ara Oranga: Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction.** The Act was passed in June 2020, and we began our work on 9 February 2021.

This report outlines the work we have completed in our third full year of operation and has four sections.

- Section one overviews our objectives, functions, commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and people with lived experience of mental distress, and role in the mental health and wellbeing system (who we are and what we do).
- Section two describes our strategic priorities and our performance story, in terms of our Statement of Performance Expectations 2023/24 deliverables over the year (Statement of Service Performance and our priorities).
- Section three reflects on our aim to be a high-performing agency and having the right people in the right roles (organisational health and capability).
- Section four overviews how we have managed our finances during our year in review and worked within financial constraints (managing our finances).

## Section one | Who we are and what we do

As an independent Crown entity, we provide system-level oversight of mental health and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand, monitoring system performance and advocating for improved mental health and wellbeing of people in Aotearoa.

## Our objective

Our objective is to contribute to better and equitable mental health and wellbeing outcomes for all people in Aotearoa.

### Our functions

Our functions, as outlined in the Act, are:

- To assess and report publicly on:
  - o the mental health and wellbeing of people in Aotearoa
  - o factors that affect people's mental health and wellbeing
  - o the effectiveness, efficiency and adequacy of advocacy approaches to mental health and wellbeing
- To make recommendations to improve the effectiveness, efficiency and adequacy of approaches to mental health and wellbeing
- To monitor mental health services and addiction services and advocate for improvements to those services
- To promote alignment, collaboration and communication between entities involved in mental health and wellbeing
- To advocate for the collective interests of people who experience mental distress or addiction (or both) and the people (including whānau) who support them.

## Our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

We are an organisation committed to being grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi and improving mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori and whānau.

The Act makes it clear we must have the capability and capacity to uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi and its principles, engage with Māori and understand the perspectives of Māori. This supports our objective to achieve better and equitable mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori.

In **Te Tauāki ki Te Tiriti o Waitangi** (Tauāki) our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi helps us form and strengthen relationships that set the platform for enduring partnerships and collaborative future endeavours.

You can find the English and te reo Māori versions of our Te Tiriti o Waitangi position statement on our website at: <u>Our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Te Hiringa Mahara—Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (mhwc.govt.nz)</u>

As a part of our strategic refresh, we are updating this position statement. We have been privileged to have both iwi ahi kā te Āti Awa Taranaki whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira involved in the refresh.

## Our commitment to lived experience

We are committed to being a genuine, courageous and effective advocate for communities with lived experience of mental distress and addiction.

We have developed a Lived Experience Position Statement. We promise that, in all our work, we will prioritise the voices and interests of people who experience mental distress, substance harm, gambling harm or addiction.

You can find our full Lived Experience Position Statement on our website <u>Our</u> commitment to lived experience | Te Hiringa Mahara—Mental Health and Wellbeing <u>Commission (mhwc.govt.nz)</u>

As a part of our strategic refresh, we are reviewing our Lived Experience Position Statement to ensure it is relevant, meaningful and fit for purpose. We met with lived experience advocacy body leads to gain input to this review.

Links to these and other key documents are included at the back of this annual report.

## Annual stakeholder engagement survey

We completed our first annual stakeholder engagement survey in mid-2023.<sup>1</sup> Overall, the feedback was positive and encouraging with most participants (70%) saying Te Hiringa Mahara is being courageous and speaking up about important mental health, addiction and wellbeing issues.

Key themes about what we could improve included strengthening our system advocacy, growing our presence and stakeholder understanding of who we are and what we do, and improving our representation of priority populations.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>Te Hiringa Mahara. No date. **Te Hiringa Mahara Annual Engagement Survey Summary Report**. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara—Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-publications/other-documents">mhwc.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-publications/other-documents</a>

#### Our recommendations and calls to action

Our establishing legislation gives us the ability to make recommendations for improvement, a step we took for this first time in 2023/24 in **Kua Timata Te Haerenga | The Journey Has Begun: Mental Health and Addiction Monitoring Report 2024.** We also advocate for change through our calls to actions. We have developed internal guidance on making good recommendations and calls to action and how we use them. A summary has been published on our website.<sup>3</sup>

We have undertaken a full review of the calls to action we have made. Some have been effective in leading to change and have been progressed. Some are no longer relevant (particularly those relating to our COVID-19 series), and no further action is needed. Many have been followed up through our regular monitoring and advocacy work, and several have been progressed to become recommendations in our 2024 monitoring report. For the remaining few that have remained open, we will continue to advocate for these calls to action to be progressed.

## Our output and funding

We report to the Minister for Mental Health. The Ministry of Health monitors our performance on behalf of the Minister for Mental Health, with advice from the Social Investment Agency (formerly the Social Wellbeing Agency).

We have a statutory mandate and, in 2023/24, had Crown funding of \$5.359 million. We have not received any additional funding for significant new initiatives since our establishment in 2021.

We receive funding through an appropriation in Vote Health.<sup>4</sup> Actual revenue and expenditure against forecast is detailed in the table below.

### Revenue and expenditure for the 2023/24 year

	2023/24 revenue (\$000)		2	2023/24 ex	xpenditure (\$000)	
	Actual	Budget	Variance	Actual	Budget	Variance
Total	5,535	5,384	151	5,622	5,684	62

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Kua Timata Te Haerenga | The Journey Has Begun: Mental health and addiction monitoring report 2024.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction-system/mental-health-and-addiction-service-monitoring/#haa2024">mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction-system/mental-health-and-addiction-service-monitoring/#haa2024</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **Our tools to create system change.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="https://www.mhwc.govt.nz/assets/Other/Calls-to-action-recommendations-note-July-2024.pdf">www.mhwc.govt.nz/assets/Other/Calls-to-action-recommendations-note-July-2024.pdf</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Our funding is through the Monitoring and Protecting Health and Disability Consumer Interests non-department output expense appropriation in <u>Vote Health</u>.

## Monitoring our performance

We provide the Ministry of Health with information to allow it to monitor our performance. This information includes:

- a quarterly statement of financial performance, financial position and contingent liabilities
- a quarterly report on progress against our performance measures
- this annual report, in accordance with the Crown Entities Act 2004.5

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> This report also complies with the Public Finance Act 1989 and its amendments under section 3 of the Public Finance Amendment Act 2004 (2004 No 44).

# Section two | Statement of Service Performance and our priorities

In this section, we report on our progress with the commitments we made in our Statement of Performance Expectations 2023/24 and report the service performance as required by PBE FRS 48 Service Performance Reporting.

### We have four priority areas

Our four priority areas are as follows:

One: Advancing mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori and whānau

Two: Achieving equity for priority populations

Three: Advocating for a mental health and addiction system that has people and

whānau at the centre

Four: Addressing the wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing

## Our roles within each priority area

Within each priority area, we have four key roles.

- System leader: We provide system leadership for mental health and wellbeing. Our
  role involves thought leadership based on sound research and our understanding
  of needs and system performance. We encourage collaboration within the system
  to respond to inequity. We develop positions on emerging issues and take a public
  stance on important issues. We take a system view, bringing deeper
  understanding to each part of the system and how it operates as a collective
  whole.
- Advocacy: The goal of our advocacy is to accelerate improvement, and we
  undertake a variety of actions directed at decision-makers to influence policy,
  legislation, investment and other decisions. We support advocacy by other groups
  by publishing a variety of information. The actions we have taken to progress
  these three areas during 2023/24 are reported in the following sections.
- Monitoring: We independently monitor wellbeing, mental health and addiction systems. In 2023/24, we delivered a broad variety of reports that monitored mental health and addiction services and assessed the wellbeing of people in Aotearoa.
- Relationships: To do our work, we need effective relationships. We have continued to engage with a broad variety of stakeholders and entities, prioritising engagement with people with lived experience across the mental health, addiction and wellbeing systems.

## Priority one: Advancing mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori and whānau

Our work in 2023/24 included deepening our relationships with Iwi Ahī kā, Māori system leaders and Kaupapa Māori providers. This supported our monitoring and advocacy to grow kaupapa Māori services.

Issues that focus specifically on Kaupapa Māori services, rangatahi, tāngata whaiora and/or mātauranga Māori have attracted active interest, particularly from Māori media. Aligning what is important and meaningful to Māori to work that reflects our commitments and responsibilities to Te Tiriti o Waitangi is more likely to contribute to better health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori and whānau.

### Relationships and engagement

Engaging and building authentic relationships with Iwi Ahi kā Te Ātiawa Taranaki Whānui and Ngāti Toa Rangatira remains an important ongoing relationship commitment.

During 2023/24, one of our focus areas was on raising the awareness and visibility of Te Hiringa Mahara in the Māori health sector. We have seen a noticeable increase in interest by the sector, Kaupapa Māori service leaders, public health leaders and Māori media on specific aspects of our work that highlight issues that impact on Māori.

Other key relationships were positively maintained throughout the year with Kaupapa Māori service and system leaders, including the former Chief Executive of Te Aka Whai Ora and the Oranga Hinengaro team, the Deputy Director General of Māori Health at the Ministry of Health, Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori, Te Arawhiti, Statistics New Zealand, the Iwi Chairs Forum, Mana Mokopuna, and representatives from the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on rangatahi mental health and wellbeing.

We responded to Māori media requests relating to Māori health outcomes for whānau, hapū and iwi, including from Te Karere, Radio Wātea, Te Hiku FM and Whakaata Māori on issues of importance to rangatahi, increasing investment for Kaupapa Māori mental health and addiction services, Compulsory Community Treatment Orders, peer support workers in emergency departments, and the release of **Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga**.

### Kaupapa Māori services

We have continued to advocate for the expansion and growth of Kaupapa Māori services, te ao Māori and mātauranga Māori approaches. Our work included:

 discussing the findings from our insights paper on Kaupapa Māori services with the Ministers of Health and Māori Health (August 2023)

- presenting our Kaupapa services report at the Kaupapa Māori Primary Mental Health and Addiction National Provider Network hui<sup>6</sup> (July 2023)
- hosting a webinar to share insights on the Kaupapa Māori services report, with around 60 participants representing tāngata whaiora, funders, Kaupapa Māori providers, academics and students, and non-governmental organisations.
- presenting our publication of Kaupapa Māori responses to the COVID-19 pandemic at the Indigenous Wellbeing Conference<sup>7</sup>.

The **Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga** report focuses on access and options available from mental health and addictions services. The report highlighted findings on Māori and rangatahi describing how social determinants impact differences in access for tangata whenua. It also noted current data limitations and advocacy on the need to grow capacity and capability of Kaupapa Māori services. The accompanying **Voices Report** reiterated the importance of service providers having cultural capability, genuine regard to Māori cultural options, with people receiving services having mana and tino rangatiratanga over their own wellbeing pathways and choices<sup>8</sup>.

## Impact of our work

Our work demonstrates an impact (directly and indirectly) in the following ways:

- Increase in the visibility of our work including awareness and interest from Māori media. The number of interviews with Māori media increased from two to eight from 2022/23 to 2023/24 (direct impact).
- We contributed to an increase in the amount of investment in Kaupapa Māori services through our Kaupapa Māori services report, which showed the value of these services. Investment in Kaupapa Māori services increased from \$151.0 million in 2018/19 to \$235.4 million in 2022/23 (indirect impact).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **Te Huringa 2023 - Kaupapa Māori report.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <u>Kaupapa Māori services report | Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (mhwc.govt.nz)</u>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **COVID-19 Impacts Insights Paper #6 Exercising rangatiratanga during the COVID-19 pandemic** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: Māori responses to COVID-19 are exemplars for crisis health and wellbeing support | Te Hiringa Mahara—Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (mhwc.govt.nz)

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Voices Report: Accompanying report to Kua Timata Te Haerenga.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <u>Voices report: accompanying report to Kua Timata Te Haerenga 2024 | Te Hiringa Mahara—Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (mhwc.govt.nz)</u>

## Our achievements: Advancing mental health and wellbeing outcomes for Māori and whānau

	Output	Measure	Result	Commentary
1	We expand our relationships and engage with Māori system leaders.	Quantity We broaden our relationships and engage with other Māori system leaders by 30 June 2024.	Achieved	The Focused Māori Engagement Plan was implemented.
		Quality  Engagements and contributions are positively evidenced.	Achieved	Internal registers and follow-up correspondence actioned, following engagement
2	We advocate for an increase to Kaupapa Māori services that are informed by Kaupapa Māori insights paper 2023.	Quantity  We undertake at least 3 advocacy activities which may include publishing papers, presentations, making submissions and/or public statements ad intentional engagement with decision-makers.	Achieved	Three advocacy activities completed.
		Quality  Advocacy reflects the voices of people impacted and knowledge gained from engagement, monitoring and research.	Achieved	Internal processes are in place for providing support and feedback

## Priority two: Achieving equity for priority populations

While there have been specific initiatives to address health inequities, which have led to incremental improvements in reducing disparities, avoidable differences in access to and experience of care and mental health and wellbeing outcomes between groups of people remain.

## Māori equity and equity for all

Over the last year, we made an intentional decision to prioritise the voices and experiences of rangatahi in our youth wellbeing insights report and advocacy work.

## Privileging the voices of priority populations

We engaged extensively across all our mandated priority populations. We focused on building strong relationships and trust with communities who experience disadvantage across mental health, addiction and wellbeing systems. We uphold the perspectives of priority populations in all our work.

Māori, Pacific peoples and young people are some of the groups that bear a higher burden of distress and have less access to help than others.

## Pacific peoples

In the first half of 2023/24, we completed talanoa with Pacific community leaders, providers and partners across government and identified emerging areas of focus promoting equity of outcomes for Pacific peoples.

We brought findings together with analysis under our He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework indicators to understand Pacific wellbeing and the inequities faced by Pacific people in Aotearoa.

We published Achieving Equity of Pacific Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and accompanying infographic<sup>9</sup>. We held talanoa with Pacific stakeholders and partners in government and non-governmental organisations and with researchers to share our findings and what we can do next. We also held a webinar to share the findings more widely.

## Young people

In July 2023, we presented at the Whāraurau sector leaders' day on improving wellbeing and services for rangatahi and young people and presented a webinar on understanding rangatahi and young people wellbeing.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>9</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Achieving equity of Pacific wellbeing outcomes report.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/achieving-equity-of-pacific-mental-health-and-wellbeing-outcomes/">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/achieving-equity-of-pacific-mental-health-and-wellbeing-outcomes/</a>

In August 2023, we presented at the Involve Conference on rangatahi youth and wellbeing and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group meeting.

We held two webinars on admissions of young people to adult inpatient mental health services and improving the wellbeing of rangatahi and young people.

We produced a media statement and two media interviews regarding the youth service report from the Office of the Auditor General. We presented at Te Whakarōputanga Katikiaki Kura o Aotearoa conference on youth services and rangatahi and youth wellbeing in partnership with the Office of the Auditor General.

We undertook a variety of media activities related to youth services from **Kua Timata Te Haerenga** and led the distribution of, and media statements relating to, the rangatahi and youth wellbeing and services infographic.

## Impact of our work

Our work demonstrates an impact (directly and indirectly) in the following ways:

- increased awareness within government agencies with an aim to move towards longer-term strategies, and we expect providers and agencies will use our recent findings for effective strategies to address inequities in mental health and wellbeing for Pacific peoples (indirect impact)
- decreased admissions of young people into adult facilities over time following the admissions of young people report in 2022/23, noting annual admissions decreased 41 per cent from 149 in 2021/22 to 88 in 2022/23<sup>10</sup> (direct impact).

## Our achievements: Achieving equity for priority populations

	Outputs	Measures	Results	Commentary
3	We gain an understanding of the factors that contribute to the mental health and wellbeing of Pacific peoples in Aotearoa.	Quantity  We publish insights about the wellbeing of Pacific peoples by 30 June 2024.	Achieved	Achieving Equity of Pacific Mental Health and Wellbeing Outcomes and associated infographic published.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>10</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Youth services focus report.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/youth-services-focus-report/">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/youth-services-focus-report/</a>

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	Outputs	Measures	Results	Commentary
		Quality The published report produces diverse perspectives, information, and analysis to inform public conversation.	Achieved	Four group talanoa, with Pacific community organisations, Pacific service providers, and Pacific teams in government agencies.  Twelve agencies engaged.  Seven Pacific organisations talked to.  We drew on a variety of Pacific and non-Pacific literature and data.
4	We advocate to address the factors that adversely contribute to the wellbeing of rangatahi Māori and young people based on the insights gained through engagement with rangatahi, young people and the agencies that support them.	Quantity  We undertake at least 5 advocacy activities which may include publishing papers, presentations, making submissions and/or public statements, and intentional engagement with decision-makers.	Achieved	Eight advocacy activities were completed.
		Quality  Advocacy reflects the voices of people impacted and knowledge gained from engagement, monitoring and research.	Achieved	Planning for an advocacy agenda for improving wellbeing for rangatahi and young people is on track.

# Priority three: Advocating for a mental health and addiction system that has people and whānau at the centre

We continued our work to advocate for the transformation of the mental health and addiction systems so it is more responsive to those who experience mental distress, substance harm, gambling harm or addiction.

## Monitoring and reporting using He Ara Āwhina monitoring framework

We published **Kua Timata Te Haerenga** | **The Journey Has Begun: Mental Health and Addiction Monitoring Report 2024** in June 2024. The report is a deeper investigation into mental health and addiction service access and options and is informed by both qualitative and quantitative data. The report covered publicly funded mental health and addiction services and emergency responses over the five years from July 2018 to June 2023.

We included recommendations for change for the first time in this report. The recommendations are directed to Health New Zealand and to the Government, and we will follow up on the recommendations to ensure public accountability for delivery.

Public conversations were generated after the publication of **Kua Timata Te Haerenga** through the media coverage, media articles and social media posts.

This monitoring report was supported by the **Voices Report** (a thematic analysis of qualitative data gathered), an update to the online dashboard, and a series of infographics.

### Expanding our engagement with lived experience communities

We also maintained our regular connections with external stakeholders and lived experience communities, including the Health Quality and Safety Commission, Mental Health Foundation and Lived Experience Knowledge Network.

Hui were held with Te Aka Whai Ora (now Hauora Māori) to discuss its **Ki te Whaiao** report and with Judge Ida Malosi as a follow on to our paper on lived experience compulsory community treatment orders. We also engaged with members of the Lived Experience Reference Group, Te Kete Pounamu (national Māori voice of lived experience), and the Māori focus group on Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga.

## Advocating for a system aligned with human rights and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Our paper on lived experience compulsory community treatment orders was published in July 2023<sup>11</sup>. It was presented at a national Health and Disability Law conference. We also presented it at the Mental Health Services conference in

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>11</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **Te Huringa 2023 - Lived experiences of CCTO report.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/lived-experiences-of-cctos-report">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/lived-experiences-of-cctos-report</a>

Adelaide, hosted a symposium on coercive practices, and presented it at a webinar to the New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses. Engagement on the paper occurred with the Office of the Chief District Health Judges and the Ministry of Health. In this engagement we discussed the implications for services and courts of the change needed in cultural and other practices under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992.

We held workshops with communities and government agencies and delivered webinars about increasing service options for Māori, the admissions of young people to adult inpatient mental health services, and improving wellbeing for rangatahi and young people.

### Strengthening relationships with the mental health and addiction sector

Through the development of our monitoring report **Kua Timata Te Haerenga** we engaged with sector experts from start to finish. This engagement included two reference groups (sector and lived experience) that provided expert input throughout the report development, particularly during the data sense-making and development of the monitoring story.

We hosted a webinar to share our findings and continue to engage with key stakeholders in the mental health and addiction sector about the findings of the report and to undertake other engagement.

### Impact of our work

Our work demonstrates an indirect impact in the following way:

raising concerns in our 2021 Access and Choice monitoring report, that there were
delays in implementing Kaupapa Māori, Pacific, and Youth services. In our follow
up monitoring report in 2022, there had been a significant progress made with a
significant increase in funding committed and services available.

## Our achievements: Advocating for a mental health and addiction system that has people and whānau at the centre

	Outputs	Measures	Results	Commentary
5	Apply He Ara Āwhina monitoring framework in the monitoring of mental health and addiction services and system	Quantity  He Ara Āwhina underpins a published report on mental health and addiction services by 30 June 2024. This will include monitoring of the Access and Choice programme, services and investment	Achieved <sup>12</sup>	Published Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga   The Journey Has Begun - Mental Health and Addiction Monitoring Report 2024 alongside the Voices Report and an updated online dashboard.
		Quality  The published report produces diverse perspectives, information, and analysis to inform public conversation.	Achieved	Forty quantitative service performance measures requests from 10 agencies, and contributions from over 300 people, four focus groups, and 52 interviews with the workforce.  Engaged with reference groups on the sector and lived experience to provide expert input. The report also had expert review from a diverse variety of perspectives.  The voices of Māori and whānau across both published reports was consistent with our Tiriti o Waitangi position statement.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Kua Timata Te Haerenga | The Journey Has Begun: Mental health and addiction monitoring report 2024.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara—Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction-system/mental-health-and-addiction-service-monitoring/#haa2024">mnitoring/#haa2024</a>

	Outputs	Measures	Results	Commentary
6	We will advocate for changes in practice and legislation that respects people's rights to make decisions about their care and treatment and supports their capacity to do so.	Quantity  We will undertake at least 5 advocacy activities which may include publishing papers, presentations, making submissions and/or public statements, and intentional engagement with decision-makers.	Achieved <sup>13</sup>	Lived Experiences of Compulsory Community Treatment Orders was published in July 2023.
		Quality  People with lived experience expertise participate in our advocacy actions and provide input into advocacy issues we report on.	Achieved	Our lived experience team has been involved in the development of presentations and reports and in presenting the material.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **Lived Experiences of Compulsory Treatment Orders**. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/lived-experiences-of-cctos-report">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/lived-experiences-of-cctos-report</a>

# Priority four: Addressing the wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing

This year, we published insights and information to understand how some of our communities are faring in terms of the determinants of mental health and wellbeing, including how the system is implementing Kia Manawanui: Long-term pathway to mental wellbeing (Kia Manawanui).

## He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework

We used the indicators from He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework to assess the status of mental health and wellbeing for rangatahi and young people. To prioritise indicators that are meaningful for rangatahi and young people's wellbeing, we established an expert advisory group with representation from rangatahi, young people, academia and people with lived experience. We published an assessment of youth and rangatahi wellbeing and access to services infographic using the He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework.

We have a system leadership role to monitor system enablers, shifts and actions against Kia Manawanui. We produced an insights report on progress toward the implementation of the leadership system enabler as described in Kia Manawanui. This report, Leadership as a Mental Wellbeing System Enabler: Insights on progress towards Kia Manawanui included insights on lived experience leadership, Māori leadership and leadership for collaboration using Housing First as an example of cross-sector leadership<sup>14</sup>.

### **Cross-government initiatives**

We have developed a variety of relationships across government and engaged in cross-government activities aimed at better understanding and supporting wellbeing.

### Advocacy through submissions

In 2023/24, we provided a formal submission to the Health Select Committee on the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (Improving Mental Health Outcomes) Amendment Bill.

We have provided insights and advice on work underway through cross-government collaboration such as the Safe Online Services Media Platforms Proposal from the Department of Internal Affairs and the national research priorities from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. We commented on planned changes to the oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system and provided written feedback on the role and function of district health inspectors to the Ministry of Health.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Leadership as a mental wellbeing system enabler report**. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads</a>

We also provided submissions on modernising the approach to the 2028 census from Statistics New Zealand and the second issues paper in the review of adult decision-making law from Te Aka Matua o te Ture Law Commission.

## Impact of our work

Our work demonstrates an indirect impact in the following ways:

- representing voices of people with lived experience and Māori leaders in a report
  to gain insights on progress toward Kia Manawanui the long-term strategy for
  mental wellbeing, and reflecting these changes in the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures)
  (Improving Mental Health Outcomes) Amendment Bill (direct impact)
- the adoption of our recommendation for the Government to develop a mental health and wellbeing strategy as part of the Pae Ora (Healthy Futures) (Improving Mental Health Outcomes) Bill (direct impact)
- advising the Ministry of Health on the Government Policy Statement on Health 2024-2027, which included the importance of determinants of mental health and wellbeing, noting the new statement acknowledges the determinants to mental health and wellbeing and the role of the system in addressing them (direct impact).

## Our achievements: Addressing the wider determinants of mental health and wellbeing

	Outputs	Measures	Results	Commentary
7	We will use He Ara Oranga wellbeing framework to assess wellbeing, including monitoring progress on the implementation of Kai Manawanui.	Quantity  We will publish information to assess progress on Kia  Manawanui (Long-term pathway).	Achieved <sup>15</sup>	Published Leadership as a Mental Wellbeing System Enabler: Insights on progress toward Kia Manawanui and Assessment of youth and rangatahi wellbeing and access to services infographic using He Ara Oranga wellbeing outcomes framework.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Leadership as a Mental Wellbeing System Enabler: Insights from monitoring progress toward Kia Manawanui.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads</a>

	Outputs	Measures	Results	Commentary
		Quality  The published report represents diverse perspectives and information.	Achieved	Interviewed 33 lived experience leaders for the Kia Manawanui report.  Engaged an expert youth and rangatahi and other expert advisory group to determine which indicators to use for youth and rangatahi assessment.
8	We will provide advice through the submissions process on policies and legislation that will have a meaningful impact on the mental health and	Quantity  We provide advice on at least 5 proposed policies and items of new and changed legislation.	Achieved <sup>16</sup>	Completed seven submissions on policies and legislation.
	wellbeing of people in Aotearoa.	Quality  Our advice reflects the voices of people impacted and knowledge gained from engagement, monitoring and research.	Achieved	Submission to Department of Internal Affairs was informed by research from Rangatahi/ Youth wellbeing reports.  Feedback on the National Research Priorities and advice to other agencies was informed by our monitoring work.
		Quality  We monitor submissions to see if our advice has been considered.	Achieved	We engaged with the Department of Internal Affairs and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment after submissions were made.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>16</sup> ^ Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Ā mātou tāpaetanga. Our submissions** (webpage). URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/advocacy/our-submissions">mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/advocacy/our-submissions</a>

## Standard for service performance reporting

The External Reporting Board (XRB) released **PBE FRS 48 Service Performance Reporting** (the standard) in 2017. The standard applies to reporting periods beginning on or after 1 January 2022 and is part of generally accepted accounting practices (GAAP).

The standard sets new requirements or increased expectations for:

- identifying and selecting appropriate and meaningful performance information
- disclosing judgements made in selecting, aggregating and presenting performance information
- providing comparative performance information
- ensuring consistency of reporting.

The standard establishes requirements for the reporting of service performance information so that it meets the needs of users from an accountability and decision-making perspective. The standard provides high-level principles to recognise that service performance reporting continues to evolve and that flexibility enables entities to report performance in the most appropriate and meaningful way.

## Application of the standard

Te Hiringa Mahara performance measures framework was developed in conjunction with the Statement of Intent 2022 to 2026. The standard has been applied in the development of this annual report.

## Significant judgements

### Selection of measures

Performance measures were selected to cover a variety of quality and quantity measures aligned with the functions of Te Hiringa Mahara set out in the Act.

We reviewed the appropriateness of performance measures as part of developing the Statement of Performance Expectations 2023/24. Each measure was reviewed to confirm it accurately reflected the performance of Te Hiringa Mahara, was meaningful and was able to be measured. We also consider that the overall suite of performance measures selected provides a materially complete picture of Te Hiringa Mahara performance over the reporting period.

Deliverables that were included in 2022/23 that are not included in 2023/24 are as follows:

 Priority two: We gain an understanding of the factors that contribute to the mental health and wellbeing of young people. This was completed with the publication of insights on young peoples' wellbeing in June 2023.

- Priority three: Assess and advocate for the approaches to mental health and addiction that are grounded in Te Tiriti o Waitangi, uphold rights, and maximise autonomy and choice. This was completed with the publication of the report on the Access and Choice programme in June 2023.
- Priority four: We understand the impacts of social change during COVID-19 periods on the mental health and wellbeing of people in priority populations. This was completed with the publication of items of collateral that illustrated the impacts of COVID-19 and priority populations.

Deliverables that are new in 2023/24 are as follows:

- Priority two: We gain an understanding of the factors that contribute to the mental health and wellbeing of Pacific people in Aotearoa. This deliverable was included to further raise the profile of Pacific communities, highlighting the challenges faced to the greater wellbeing of these communities. There are no prior year comparators for this deliverable as this deliverable is new in 2023/24.
- Priority three: We will advocate for changes in practice and legislation that respect people's rights to make decisions about their care and treatment and support their capability to do so. This was included to measure our advocacy activities.
   There are no prior year comparators for this deliverable as this deliverable is new in 2023/24.

# Section three | Organisational health and capability

We will develop the systems, processes, connections and people to deliver our core role and functions and achieve our goals.

#### Governance

The Governor-General appoints Board members of Te Hiringa Mahara following recommendations by the Minister for Mental Health. The Board (made up of seven members) provides guidance and stewardship to Te Hiringa Mahara on its strategy and delivery of its work programme.

The table below outlines Board member annual remuneration in 2023/24 and previous years.

Member	Actual 2023/24 \$000	Actual 2022/23 \$000	Actual 2021/22 \$000
Hayden Wano (Chair)	84	82	82
Kevin Hague (Deputy Chair)	42	30	23
Alex El Amanni	21	23	33
Jemaima Seath (to June 2023)	-	7	16
Sunny Collings*	12	12	13
Taimi Allan (to December 2023)	6	13	33
Tuari Potiki	18	14	7
Barbara Disley (from July 2023)	20	-	-
Total Board member remuneration	205	181	207

<sup>\*</sup> This Board member's remuneration includes membership of the Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

We have professional indemnity and directors' and officers' liability insurance for Board members.

No Board members received compensation or other benefits in relation to cessation.

There have been payments made to independent committee members appointed by the Board during the year.

### Permission to act despite being interested in a matter

Section 68(6) of the Crown Entities Act 2004 requires the Board to disclose any interests to which a permission to act has been granted despite a member being interested in a matter. No such permissions to act were granted for the year ended 30 June 2024.

### Finance, Audit and Risk Committee

The Finance, Audit and Risk Committee provides independent assurance and assistance to the Board on our financial statements and the adequacy of systems of internal controls and legislative compliance. This committee comprises two independent members and one Board member. It met four times in 2023/24.

### **Appointments and Remuneration Committee**

The Appointment and Remuneration Committee provides advice on senior management appointments and remuneration policy and strategy and on the remuneration of the Chief Executive. This committee comprises three board members. It meets on an ad hoc basis as required.

## Our people

Our people are passionate about their work and invest time and energy to make a difference by improving the mental health and wellbeing of the people they engage with and through their work within our organisation. We have focused on ensuring our organisation has the capacity and capability to deliver on our legislative mandate and strategy.

### Supporting and developing our people

We recognise the importance of staff wellbeing and have focused on planning, implementing, and monitoring initiatives that promote the wellbeing of all our staff.

During the year, we continued to implement our competency and performance development frameworks, and all staff now have development plans in place.

We provide equal employment opportunities and ensure our policies, practices and processes are fair and equitable for all job applicants and employees.

#### Team pulse

We refined and ran our annual organisational 'pulse' survey of all staff to understand what is working well, where we can improve, and what our leaders can do to improve and support staff development and career progression.

All staff participated in the survey, with the component "I enjoy working for this organisation" scoring the highest score at 86%.

#### Staff wellness

We are committed to supporting staff, encouraging work-life balance, and offering flexible working arrangements so our people can carry out their work and still have time for their whānau and out-of-work interests as well as being supported to maintain their wellbeing.

## Health, safety and wellbeing

Health, safety and wellbeing are important to us. Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing Committee helps us promote and encourage safe and healthy work practices. Health and safety are standing items and discussed at each Board meeting. Representatives on the Health, Safety and Wellness Committee have management support and are offered training to carry out their health and safety duties.

## Gender, ethnicity and age profile of our people

Our gender profile across the five tier 1 and 2 management level (leadership team) roles is **80 per cent** female, **20 per cent** male as at 30 June 2024.<sup>17</sup> We will continue to drive organisational initiatives that positively impact on gender balance. Our people reflect the communities we serve.

A breakdown of our workforce by ethnicity is New Zealand European - 70 per cent, Māori - 25 per cent, and Pacific people - 5 per cent.

As at 30 June 2024, our employee demographics were as follows.

### Number of our people

Total number of our people	Number
Fixed term	0.0
Permanent	19.2
Total	19.2

#### Age profile

Age group (years)	Headcount
20-29	0
30-39	9
40-49	4
50-59	4
60-69	4
Total	21

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptscriptstyle{17}}$  We do not have a tier 3 management level.

# Remuneration and key management information - employee remuneration

The table below shows the total remuneration, that is or exceeds \$100,000, paid or payable to employees for the year.

No employees received compensation or other benefits in relation to cessation in 2023/24 or since our establishment in 2021.

#### Total remuneration paid or payable that is or exceeds \$100,000

Remuneration range	Actual 2023/24	Actual 2022/23
\$110,000-119,999	1	1
\$120,000-129,999	-	1
\$130,000-139,999	4	3
\$140,000-149,999	2	
\$150,000-159,999	1	_
\$180,000-189,999	-	_
\$210,000-219,999	-	2
\$220,000-229,999	1	-
\$230,000-239,999	1	_
\$240,000-250,999	1	-
\$250,000-260,999	1	-
\$270,000-279,999	-	1
\$310,000-319,999	-	1
\$320,000-330,999	1	-

## Giving effect to our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

We recognise the Crown's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the aspirations of Māori.

## Supporting our Māori staff and ensuring their voices are heard

Māori in the public service often have multiple lines of accountability. Māori are accountable to their whānau, hapū and iwi as well as to their employer. In 2023/24, our internal Māori roopu Ngā Ringa Raupā continued to provide leadership and support to the Director Māori Health.

## Building confidence within Te Hiringa Mahara whānau in te Reo Māori and te ao Māori

In 2023/24, we began implementing our Ka Māia Ka Taea Capability Plan based on Te Arawhiti Whainga Amorangi framework. Promotion of te Reo Māori continued, with staff taking the opportunity to attend Level 1 and Level 2 te Reo Māori lessons.

There were three marae wananga experiences for our staff.

We conducted our third staff Te Tūrama survey, which showed increased confidence in all areas, including areas highlighted for development in the 2022/23 survey. Areas we identified as needing to be further developed include the ability to deliver karakia, waiata, mihi and pepeha and to explain Māori concepts.

### Our system-wide responsibilities

#### Service critical assets

Te Hiringa Mahara has identified no service critical assets in line with the reporting requirements in CO (23) 9: Investment Management and Asset Performance in Departments and Other Entities.

### Environmental sustainability

The Climate Change Response (Zero Carbon) Amendment Act 2019 sets a clear requirement for the public sector to be net carbon neutral by 2025. This is the first time we are reporting on our carbon emissions.

While we are small, we will make our contribution through our all-of-government procurement, reducing our carbon dioxide ( $CO_2$ ) emissions by striving to reduce our travel (our primary driver of emissions), using virtual technology to meet and engage with people as a first option where we can, and promoting energy efficiency throughout our work.

Our total carbon emissions were  $30,455 \text{ kg CO}_2$ -e emissions for in 2023/24. The composition of these emissions is set out in the table following.

Carbon emission category	2023/24 (kgCO <sub>2</sub> )	2022/23 (kgCO <sub>2</sub> )
Air travel	25,600.00	10,273.00
Hotel stays	2,839.00	3,190.00
Taxis	699.28	805.00
Electricity	1,316.00	1,604.00
Total	30,455.00	15,872.00

## Kia Toipoto - Te Hiringa Mahara Pay Gaps Action Plan

We are committed to the goals of **Kia Toipoto - Māhere Mahi Āputa Utu Ratonga Tūmatanui 2021-2024**, the Public Service Pay Gaps Action Plan 2021-2024 (Kia Toipoto). This is a comprehensive set of actions to help close gender, Māori, Pacific peoples and other ethnicity pay gaps in the public service.

Under Kia Toipoto, agencies and entities with at least 20 employees in each comparative group are to publish their pay gaps, while also protecting the privacy of employees.

We are small, so we do not have the staff numbers to publish employees pay gaps based on these groups (women, Māori, or Pacific peoples or other ethnic groups). Instead, we are using the data we do have and employee engagement to enact our first Kia Toipoto Action Plan, which we published in April 2023.

## Code of expectations for health entities' engagement with consumers and whānau

Over the last year, we embedded the principles of the code of expectations for health entities' engagement with consumers and whānau into our mahi. These expectations provide the foundation for us to capture the valuable insights gained from the many lived experience focus groups that were held to inform our monitoring, reporting and advocacy activities. The principles, coupled with our Lived Experience Position Statement, emphasise our ongoing commitment to proactively building mutual relationships to promote transformative change. We do this by working with and for the many people and groups whose lived experiences elevate major issues across our current mental health and wellbeing system.

In 2023/24, we published **Voices Report**<sup>18</sup> to accompany **Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga**. The report provided richness and depth to what we heard from tāngata whaiora, communities and the mental health and addiction workforce across Aotearoa New Zealand about access to services and options available. This included comments on the urgency of system change, which will ensure people get support where and when they need it. We published **Leadership as a Mental Wellbeing System Enabler** in June 2024, <sup>19</sup> assessed progress on the commitment to amplify the voices and leadership of Māori, people with lived experience, whānau and populations with specific cultures and needs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>18</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Voices Report: Accompanying report to Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/voices-report">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/voices-report</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>19</sup> Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Leadership as a Mental Wellbeing System Enabler: Insights from monitoring progress toward Kia Manawanui.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads</a>

## Independent Audit Report

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## TO THE READERS OF THE MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING COMMISSION'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2024

The Auditor-General is the auditor of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission ('Te Hiringa Mahara').

The Auditor-General has appointed me, Chrissie Murray, using the staff and resources of Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Audit Limited, to carry out the audit of the financial statements and the performance information of Te Hiringa Mahara on his behalf.

### Opinion

We have audited:

- the financial statements of Te Hiringa Mahara in section 4 of the annual report, that comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024, the statement of comprehensive revenue and expense, statement of changes in equity and statement of cash flows for the period ended on that date and the notes to the financial statements including the statement of accounting policies; and
- the performance information of Te Hiringa Mahara in section 2 of the annual report.

#### In our opinion:

- the financial statements:
  - present fairly, in all material respects:
    - its financial position as at 30 June 2024; and
    - its financial performance and cash flows for the period then ended;
       and
  - comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand in accordance with the Public Benefit Entity Reporting Standards (Reduced Disclosure Regime); and
- the performance information:
  - presents fairly, in all material respects, Te Hiringa Mahara's performance for the period ended 30 June 2024, including:
    - for each class of reportable outputs:

- its standards of delivery performance achieved as compared with outcomes included in the statement of performance expectations for the financial year; and
- its actual revenue and output expenses as compared with the forecasts included in the statement of performance expectations for the financial year;
- what has been achieved with the appropriations; and
- the actual expenses or capital expenditure incurred compared with the appropriated or forecast expenses or capital expenditure; and
- complies with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand.

Our audit was completed on 31 October 2024. This is the date at which our opinion is expressed.

The basis for our opinion is explained below. In addition, we outline the responsibilities of Te Hiringa Mahara's Board, our responsibilities relating to the financial statements and the performance information, we comment on other information, and we explain our independence.

#### Basis for our opinion

We carried out our audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the Professional and Ethical Standards and the International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Responsibilities of the auditor section of our report.

We have fulfilled our responsibilities in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards.

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

## Responsibilities of Te Hiringa Mahara's Board for the financial statements and the performance information

The Board is responsible on behalf of Te Hiringa Mahara for preparing financial statements and performance information that are fairly presented and comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand. The Board is responsible for such internal control as it determines is necessary to enable it to prepare financial statements and performance information that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements and the performance information, the Board is responsible for assessing Te Hiringa Mahara's ability to continue as a going concern. The Board is also responsible for disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting, unless there is an intention to merge or to terminate the activities of Te Hiringa Mahara, or there is no realistic alternative but to do so.

The Board's responsibilities arise from the Crown Entities Act 2004 and the Public Finance Act 1989.

## Responsibilities of the auditor for the audit of the financial statements and the performance information

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements and the performance information, as a whole, are 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 carried out in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements are differences or omissions of amounts or disclosures and can arise from fraud or error. Misstatements are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the decisions of readers, taken on the basis of these financial statements and the performance information.

For the budget information reported in the financial statements, our procedures were limited to checking that the information agreed to Te Hiringa Mahara's statement of performance expectations.

We did not evaluate the security and controls over the electronic publication of the financial statements and the performance information.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. Also:

We identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements and the performance information, 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.

We 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 Te Hiringa Mahara's internal control.

- We evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by Te Hiringa Mahara's Board.
- We evaluate the appropriateness of the reported performance information within Te Hiringa Mahara's framework for reporting its performance.
- We conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by Te Hiringa Mahara's Board and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions

that may cast significant doubt on Te Hiringa Mahara'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 financial statements and the performance information 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 Te Hiringa Mahara to cease to continue as a going concern.

- We evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements and the performance information, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements and the performance information represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- We obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial statements and the performance information of the entities or business activities within Te Hiringa Mahara to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements and the consolidated performance information. We are responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of Te Hiringa Mahara audit. We remain solely responsible for our audit opinion.
- We communicate with Te Hiringa Mahara's Board 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.

Our responsibilities arise from the Public Audit Act 2001.

### Other information

Te Hiringa Mahara's Board is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report other than the financial statements and the performance information, and our auditor's report thereon.

Our opinion on the financial statements and the performance information 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 financial statements and the performance information, our responsibility is to read the other information. In doing so, we consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the performance information or our knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on our work, 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.

#### Independence

We are independent of Te Hiringa Mahara in accordance with the independence requirements of the Auditor-General's Auditing Standards, which incorporate the independence requirements of Professional and Ethical Standard 1: *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board.

Other than the audit, we have no relationship with or interests in Te Hiringa Mahara.

Chrissie Murray

Baker Tilly Staples Rodway Audit Limited

On behalf of the Auditor-General

Wellington, New Zealand

# Section four | Managing our finances

We maintain sound management of public funding by complying with relevant requirements of the Public Service Act 2020, the Public Finance Act 1989 and the Crown Entities Act 2004. The annual audit review from Audit New Zealand provides useful recommendations on areas for improvement. We will implement these recommendations, with oversight from our Finance, Audit and Risk Committee.

# Compliance

We meet our good employer requirements and obligations under the Public Finance Act 1989, Public Records Act 2005, Crown Entities Act 2004, Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020, and other applicable Crown entity legislation through our governance, operational and business rules.

# Risk management

All our staff are aware of the process for risk identification and management. Our Board, Chief Executive, senior management team and programme leaders identify strategic and operational risks in consultation with their teams, as appropriate.

# Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission 2023/24

#### **Financial Statements**

This section sets out our financial statements, notes to the financial statements and other explanatory information. These financial statements are for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements. Explanations of major variances against budget are provided in Note 17.

# Statement of comprehensive revenue and expenses for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

		Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual 2023
	Note	\$000	\$000	\$000
REVENUE				
Funding from the Crown	2	5,359	5,359	5,156
Interest income	2	158	25	87
Other Income		18	-	
Total revenue		5,535	5,384	5,243
EXPENSES				
Personnel costs	3	3,604	3,602	3,389
Other expenses	4	1,967	1,980	2,366
Depreciation expenses	8	51	102	86
Total expenses		5,622	5,684	5,841
Surplus/(deficit) and total comprehensive revenue and expense		(87)	(300)	(598)

# Statement of financial position as at 30 June 2024

		Actual 2024	Budget 2024	Actual
	Note	\$000	\$000	2023 \$000
ASSETS		*		• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •
Current assets				
Cash and cash equivalents	5	1,819	123	2,733
Investments	6	800	1,750	-
Receivables	7	98	35	95
Total current assets		2,717	1,908	2,828
Non-current assets				
Property, plant and equipment	8	15	300	59
Total non-current assets		15	300	59
Total assets		2,732	2,208	2,887
LIABILITIES				
Current liabilities				
Payables	9	325	358	382
Employee entitlements	10	202	350	214
Total current liabilities		527	708	596
Total liabilities		527	708	596
NET ASSETS		2,205	1,500	2,291
EQUITY				
Contributed capital	13	1,250	1,250	1,250
Accumulated funds	13	955	250	1,041
TOTAL EQUITY		2,205	1,500	2,291
Statement of changes in equity for the period	4.1 July 20	723 to 30	lune 2024	
Statement of changes in equity for the period	a 1 July 2			
		Actual	Budget	Actual
	Note	2024 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
	14006	<b>\$500</b>	<b>4000</b>	<b>\$500</b>
BALANCE AT 1 JULY 2023		2,291	1,800	2,889
Total comprehensive revenue and expense		_,	.,	_,
for the period	13	(87)	(300)	(598)
BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2024		2,205	1,500	2,291

#### Statement of cash flows for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024

		Actual	Budget	Actual
	Note	2024 \$000	2024 \$000	2023 \$000
CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES	3			
Receipts from the Crown		5,377	5,359	5,156
Interest received		158	25	87
Payments to employees and suppliers		(5,637)	(6,161)	(5,736)
Goods and services tax (net)		(5)	333	(1)
Net cash flow from operating activities		(107)	(444)	(494)
CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES				
Net change in investments in term				_
deposits		(800)	450	2,505
Purchase of property, plant and equipment	8	(7)	(80)	(58)
Net cash flows from investing activities		(807)	370	2,447
Net (decrease)/increase in cash and cash equivalents		(914)	197	1,953
CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS AT 30 JUNE 2023		1,819	123	2,733

# Note 1: Statement of accounting policies

# Reporting entity

Te Hiringa Mahara | Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (Te Hiringa Mahara) is an independent Crown entity as defined by the Crown Entities Act 2004. It was established under the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020, and its parent is the Crown. The primary object of Te Hiringa Mahara is to monitor, report and advocate. The organisation does not operate to make a financial return.

Te Hiringa Mahara is a public benefit entity (PBE) for financial reporting purposes. The entity was created when the enabling legislation received Royal assent on 30 June 2020, with a Chair and Board appointed at that time. The 2023/24 financial statements for Te Hiringa Mahara cover the period from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024 and were approved by the Board on 24 October 2024.

#### Basis of preparation

The financial statements have been prepared on a going-concern basis, and the accounting policies have been applied consistently throughout the period.

# Statement of compliance

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which includes the requirements to comply with generally accepted accounting practice in New Zealand (NZ GAAP).

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with and comply with PBE standard Reduced Disclosure Regime (RDR). Te Hiringa Mahara is eligible and has elected to apply the PBE Standards RDR because its expenses are less than \$33 million and it does not have public accountability as defined by XRB A1 application of the accounting standards framework.

#### Presentation currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand dollars and all values are rounded to the nearest thousand dollars (\$000).

#### New or amended standards adopted

The 2022 Omnibus Amendments issued by the External Reporting Board (XRB) include several general updates and amendments to several Tier 1 and Tier 2 PBE accounting standards, effective for reporting periods starting 1 January 2023. Te Hiringa Mahara has adopted the revised PBE standards, and the adoption did not result in any significant impact on Te Hiringa Mahara financial statements.

## Summary of significant accounting policies

Significant accounting policies are included in the notes to which they relate.

Significant accounting policies that do not relate to a specific note are outlined below.

#### Goods and services tax

All items in the financial statements are presented exclusive of goods and services tax (GST), except for receivables and payables, which are presented on a GST-inclusive basis. Where GST is not recoverable as input tax then it is recognised as part of the related asset or expense. The net GST recoverable from, or payable to, Inland Revenue (IR) is included as part of receivables or payables in the Statement of Financial Position.

The net amount of GST paid to, or received from, IR, including the GST relating to investing and financing activities, is classified as a net operating cash flow in the Statement of Cash Flows. Commitments and contingencies are disclosed exclusive of GST.

#### Income tax

Te Hiringa Mahara is a public authority and consequently is exempt from income tax. Accordingly, no provision has been made for income tax.

#### Foreign currency transactions

Foreign currency transactions are translated into New Zealand dollars (the functional currency), using the spot exchange rates at the dates of the transactions. Foreign exchange gains and losses resulting from the settlement of such transactions and from the translation at year end exchange rates of monetary assets and liabilities denominated in foreign currencies are recognised in the surplus or deficit.

#### **Budget figures**

The budget figures are as approved by the Board and published in the Statement of Performance Expectations. The budget figures have been prepared in accordance with NZ GAAP, using the accounting policies that are consistent with those adopted by the Board in preparing these financial statements.

#### Cost allocation

Direct costs are costs directly attributed to an output. Personnel costs are allocated to outputs based on time spent. The indirect costs of support groups and overhead costs are charged to outputs based on the proportion of direct costs of each output.

#### Critical accounting estimates and assumptions

In preparing these financial statements, Te Hiringa Mahara has made estimates and assumptions concerning the future. These estimates and assumptions may differ from subsequent actual results. Estimates and assumptions are continually evaluated and are based on historical experience and other factors, including expectations of future events that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. The estimates and assumptions that have a significant risk of causing a material adjustment to the carrying amounts of assets and liabilities within the next financial year are the useful lives and residual values of property, plant and equipment – refer Note 8.

Management has exercised the critical judgement in applying accounting policies relating to the classification of the rental lease as an operating lease – refer note 4.

#### Note 2: Revenue

#### Accounting policy

#### Funding from the Crown

Te Hiringa Mahara is primarily funded through revenue from the Crown. Revenue receipts from the Crown transactions are non-exchange transactions. The funding is

restricted in its use for the purpose of Te Hiringa Mahara meeting its objectives as specified in its founding legislation and the scope of the relevant government appropriations. Apart from these general restrictions, Te Hiringa Mahara considers there are no conditions attached to the funding. Revenue from the funding is recognised in the financial period to which the appropriation relates. The fair value of the revenue from the Crown has been determined to be equivalent to the amounts due in the funding arrangements.

#### Interest revenue

Interest revenue is recognised by accruing on a time proportion basis the interest due for the investment.

#### Note 3: Personnel costs

# Accounting policy

#### Salaries and wages

Salaries and wages costs are recognised as an expense as employees provide services.

#### Superannuation schemes

#### Defined contribution schemes

Employer contributions to KiwiSaver are accounted for as a defined contribution superannuation scheme and are expensed as they occur.

	Actual	Actual
	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Salaries and wages	3,277	3,102
Increase in employee entitlements	(11)	16
Defined contributions scheme employer contributions	102	91
Recruitment	112	101
Training	119	74
ACC	5	5
Total personnel costs	3,604	3,389

# Note 4: Other expenses

# Accounting policy

	Actual	Actual
	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Audit fees	29	39
Board costs	262	226
Consultants and contractors	519	534
Technology expenses	232	195
Building costs	219	194
Travel and accommodation	43	33
Marketing and communications	49	32
Programme costs	474	923
Other expenses	140	190
Total other expenses	1,967	2,366

#### **Operating Leases**

An operating lease is a lease that does not transfer substantially all the risks and rewards incidental to ownership of an asset to the lessee. Lease payments under an operating lease are recognised as an expense on a straight-line basis over the lease term. Lease incentives received are recognised as a reduction of rental expenses over the lease term.

#### Operating leases as lessee

The future aggregate minimum lease payments to be paid under non-cancellable operating leases are as follows:

	Actual	Actual
	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
No later than one-year	197	197
Later than one year and no later than five years	1	198
Later than five years	-	_
Total non-cancellable operating leases	198	395

The non-cancellable lease expense relates to the lease of Level 5, Civic Chambers, 116 Lambton Quay, Wellington, and the lease of a Canon multi-function printer.

There are no restrictions placed on Te Hiringa Mahara by any of the operating lease arrangements.

In March 2023, a deed of extension was signed for the building lease for the period 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2025 at \$195,703 per annum (net of incentives).

# Note 5: Cash and cash equivalents

# Accounting policy

Cash and cash equivalents include bank balances, deposits held at call with banks, and other short term highly liquid investments with original maturities of 90 days or less, and bank overdrafts. The carrying amount of cash and cash equivalents represent fair value.

	Actual	Actual
	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Current account	1,279	65
Cash at call	540	458
Term deposits with a maturity of < 90 days	-	2,210
Total cash and cash equivalents	1,819	2,733

#### Note 6: Investments

# Accounting policy

Bank term deposits are initially measured at the amount invested. Interest is subsequently accrued and added to sundry debtors.

# Note 7: Debtors and other receivables

	Actual	Actual
	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Accounts receivable	1	-
Prepayments	13	-
Other receivables	12	28
Taxes receivable (GST)	72	67
Total other receivables	98	95

# Accounting policy

Short-term receivables are recorded at the amount due, less an allowance for credit losses. Te Hiringa Mahara applies the simplified expected credit loss model of recognising lifetime expected credit losses for receivables. Short-term receivables are

written off when there is no reasonable expectation of recovery. There were no receivable write-offs in the 2023/24 period.

# Note 8: Property, plant and equipment

# **Accounting policy**

Property, plant, and equipment consists of the following asset classes: information technology equipment, furniture and fixtures, and leasehold improvements. All items are measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment losses. The capitalisation threshold is \$1,000.

#### Additions

An item of property, plant and equipment is recognised as an asset only when it is probable that the future economic benefits or service potential associated with the item will flow to Te Hiringa Mahara beyond one year or more and the cost of the item can be measured reliably. Property, plant and equipment is initially recorded at its cost. Subsequent expenditure that extends the useful life or enhances the service potential of an existing item of property, plant and equipment is capitalised. All other costs incurred in maintaining the useful life or service potential of an existing item of property, plant and equipment are expensed in the surplus or deficit as they are incurred. Work in progress is recognised at cost and is not depreciated.

#### Disposals

Gains and losses on disposals are determined by comparing the proceeds with the carrying amount of the asset. Gains or losses arising from the sale or disposal of an item of property, plant and equipment are recognised in the surplus or deficit in the period in which the item of property, plant and equipment is sold or disposed of.

#### Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a straight-line basis on all asset components at rates that will write off the cost of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful life. Leasehold improvements are depreciated over the unexpired period of the lease. Assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying amount might not be recoverable.

An impairment loss is recognised for the amount by which the asset's carrying amount exceeds its recoverable service amount. The recoverable service amount is the higher of an asset's fair value, less costs to sell, and value in use. Any impairment losses are recognised in the surplus or deficit. At each balance date, the useful lives and residual values of the assets are reviewed.

# The estimated useful lives of major asset classes are:

			Estimated life
			2024 / Years
Information technology equipm	ent		3 years
Leasehold improvements			Lease term
The breakdown of property, plan	t and equipment	is as follows:	
	Information technology	Leasehold Improvements	Total
	equipment	•	
	\$000	\$000	\$000
Cost or valuation			
Balance at 9 February 2021	-	-	-
Additions	77	-	77
Balance at 30 June 2021	77	-	77
Additions	53	-	53
Balance at 30 June 2022	130	-	130
Additions	14	43	57
Balance at 30 June 2023	144	43	187
Additions	7	-	7
Balance at 30 June 2024	151	43	194
Accumulated depreciation			
Balance at 9 February 2021	_	_	_
Depreciation	2		2
Balance at 30 June 2021	2	_	2
Depreciation	40	_	40
Balance at 30 June 2022	42	_	42
Depreciation	46	40	86
Balance at 30 June 2023	88	40	128
Depreciation	48	3	51
Balance at 30 June 2024	136	43	179
Carrying value			
At 30 June 2021	75	_	75
At 30 June 2022	88	_	88
At 30 June 2023	56	3	59
At 30 June 2024	15		15

#### Capital commitments

The amount of contractual commitment for the acquisition of property, plant and equipment at 30 June 2024 is \$49,500 (2023 nil).

# Note 9: Payables

# Accounting policy

Short-term payables are recorded at the amount of the payable.

Breakdown of payables	Actual 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
Payables under exchange transactions		
Accrued expenses	131	185
Creditors	194	197
Total payables	325	382

# Note 10: Employee entitlements

# Accounting policy

#### Short-term employee entitlements

Employee benefits that are due to be settled within 12 months after the end of the year in which the employee provides the related service are measured based on accrued entitlements at current rates of pay. These include salaries and wages accrued up to balance date and annual leave earned but not yet taken at balance date.

#### Long-term employee entitlements

Te Hiringa Mahara does not have long-term employee entitlements.

Breakdown of employee entitlements	Actual 2024 \$000	Actual 2023 \$000
Accrued leave	122	133
Accrued salaries and wages	80	81
Total employee entitlements	202	214

#### Note 11: Provisions

#### Accounting policy

A provision is recognised for future expenditure of an uncertain amount or timing when there is a present obligation (either legal or constructive), as a result of a past event, it is probable that expenditure will be required to settle the obligation, and a reliable estimate can be made of the amount of the obligation. Te Hiringa Mahara has no provisions at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

# Note 12: Contingencies

Te Hiringa Mahara has no contingent liabilities and no contingent assets at 30 June 2024 (2023: nil).

# Note 13: Equity

Equity is measured as the difference between total assets and total liabilities. Equity is disaggregated into the following components:

- contributed capital
- accumulated surplus.

	Actual	Actual
Breakdown of equity	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Contributed capital		
Balance at 1 July	1,250	1,250
Balance at 30 June	1,250	1,250
Accumulated surplus		
Balance at 1 July	1,041	1,639
Surplus/(Deficit) for the period	(87)	(598)
Balance at 30 June	955	1,041

Te Hiringa Mahara is subject to the financial management and accountability provisions of the Crown Entities Act 2004, which impose restrictions in relation to borrowings, acquisition of securities, issuing guarantees and indemnities, and the use of derivatives. Te Hiringa Mahara manages its equity as a by-product of prudently managing revenues, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments and general financial dealings to ensure we effectively achieve our objectives and purpose, while remaining a going concern.

#### Note 14: Financial instruments

# Accounting policy

#### Categories of financial instruments

All financial assets and liabilities held by Te Hiringa Mahara are recognised at amortised cost. The carrying amount of financial assets and liabilities in each category of the financial instruments are:

	Actual	Actual
	2024	2023
	\$000	\$000
Financial assets measured at amortised cost		
Cash and cash equivalents	1,819	2,733
Investments	800	-
Receivables	98	95
Total financial assets measured at amortised cost	2,717	2,828
Financial liabilities measured at amortised cost		
Payables	325	382
Employee benefits	202	214
Total financial liabilities measured at amortised cost	527	596

# Note 15: Related-party transactions

Te Hiringa Mahara is a wholly owned entity of the Crown. Related party disclosures have not been made for transactions with related parties that are within a normal supplier or client/recipient relationship on terms and conditions no more or less favourable than those that are reasonable to expect Te Hiringa Mahara to have adopted in dealing with the party at arm's length in the same circumstances. Further, transactions with other government agencies (for example, government departments and Crown entities) are not disclosed as related party transactions when they are consistent with the normal operating arrangements between government agencies and undertaken on the normal terms and conditions for such transactions.

#### Key management personnel

Board members are appointed by the Governor General and are the Board for the purposes of the Crown Entities Act 2004. In addition to their role with Te Hiringa Mahara, Board members have other interests and may serve in positions with other organisations, including organisations to which Te Hiringa Mahara is related. Interests are declared in the interests register, and they are then assessed as to whether there are any actual or perceived conflicts of interest.

Key management personnel compensation	Actual 2024	Actual 2023
Board members	\$205,000	\$181,000
Full-time equivalents	0.66	0.54
Leadership team	\$1,207,000	\$1,161,000
Full-time equivalents	5.0	4.7
Total key management personnel remuneration	\$1,412,000	\$1,342,000
Total full-time equivalent personnel	5.7	5.3

Full-time equivalent values reflect the period worked in the period covered by these financial statements. No other related party transactions were entered into during the year with key management personnel.

# Note 16: Events after balance date

There were no significant events after the balance date 30 June 2024 that require recognition or disclosure in the financial statements.

# Note 17: Explanation of major variance against budget

The budget used in the financial statements is from the 2023/24 Statement of Performance Expectations.

# Statement of financial performance

The key drivers of the lower than budgeted loss are as follows.

- 1. Interest income. During the financial year the interest rate for Term Deposits increased markedly. This improved the interest income for the Commission. In addition, the budget reflected lower than achieved cash balances across the year.
- 2. Depreciation and amortisation. There was a lower level of Capital Expenditure than budgeted. This translated into a lower Depreciation charge.
- 3. Technology Expenditure. We started a website replacement project in 2022/23. It was scheduled to be completed on 30 June 2023, but due to supplier resource constraints, the work was not finished until mid-August 2023 resulting in higher than budgeted technology costs.
- 4. Contractors and Consultants. During the financial year we started work on refreshing the strategy for the Commission. The external costs for this work were not included within the 2023/24 Budget.
- 5. Outsourced services. We budgeted for a level of organisational development work to be delivered by outsourced providers during the year which we did not undertake.

#### Statement of financial position

#### Cash and term deposits

The higher than budgeted level of cash was created by the lower level of forecasted operating loss in 2022/23 and lower than budgeted level of operating loss in 2023/24. In addition, capital expenditure was lower than forecast and budget in both years.

#### Property, plant, and equipment

The amounts included in the 2022/23 forecast and the 2023/24 Budget for capital expenditure were significantly higher than what was spent. This related to the website upgrade cost not being capitalised and the delay in the replacement of the Commission's laptop fleet.

#### **Current liabilities**

The variance compared to budget relates to the reduction in the employee entitlement liability due to higher amount of leave being taken by staff when compared to budget.

#### Statement of cashflows

#### Net cashflow from operating activities

Interest received was substantially higher than budget, see note above statement of financial performance. The over-budget payment of GST was due to an incorrectly calculated value for this item in the 2023/24 budget.

#### Net cashflows from investing activities

Property, plant, and equipment purchased was lower than budgeted, see note above under statement of financial position. The variance to budget for the net change in term deposits was largely due to the level of cash held in term deposits at the end of the 2022/23 year. The actual position was substantially more than the forecast used for the budget. This resulted in the budgeted net change understating the cash outflow for this item.

# Statement of Responsibility

We are responsible for the preparation of Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission (Te Hiringa Mahara) financial statements and statement of performance, and for the judgements made in them.

We are responsible for any end-of-year performance information provided by Te Hiringa Mahara under section 19A of the Public Finance Act 1989.

We have the responsibility for establishing and maintaining a system of internal control designed to provide reasonable assurance as to the integrity and reliability of financial reporting.

In our opinion, these financial statements and statement of performance fairly reflect the financial position and operations of Te Hiringa Mahara for the period ended 30 June 2024.

Te Hiringa Mahara and these financial statements and statements of performance reflect activity from 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024.

Signed on behalf of the Board:

**Board Chair** 

Hayden Wano

24 October 2024

Deputy Board Chair

Kevin Hague

24 October 2024

# Key documents and reports

# Founding documents and legislation

Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction. 2018. **He Ara Oranga Report of the Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction.** Wellington: Government Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction. URL:

mentalhealth.inquiry.govt.nz/assets/Summary-reports/He-Ara-Oranga.pdf

Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission Act 2020. URL: <a href="legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0032/latest/LMS281163.html?src=qs">legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2020/0032/latest/LMS281163.html?src=qs</a>

#### Position statements

Te Hiringa Mahara. No date. **Te Tauāki ki Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Te Tiriti o Waitangi | Position Statement.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/te-ao-maori/our-commitment-to-te-tiriti-o-waitangi">mhwc.govt.nz/te-ao-maori/our-commitment-to-te-tiriti-o-waitangi</a>

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **Lived Experience Position Statement.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/assets/Who-we-are/Lived-experience-position-statement/Nau-Mai-te-Ao/Final-Nau-Mai-te-Ao-A3-1.pdf">mhwc.govt.nz/assets/Who-we-are/Lived-experience-position-statement/Nau-Mai-te-Ao/Final-Nau-Mai-te-Ao-A3-1.pdf</a>

# Reports and infographics

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. Lived Experiences of Compulsory Treatment Orders. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/lived-experiences-of-cctos-report">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/lived-experiences-of-cctos-report</a>

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. Achieving Equity of Pacific Mental Health and Wellbeing outcomes. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/new-report-highlights-pacific-wellbeing-challenges">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/new-report-highlights-pacific-wellbeing-challenges</a>

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. Assessment of Youth and Rangatahi Wellbeing and Access to Services (infographic). Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/wellbeing/youth-rangatahi-wellbeing-assessment/">mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/wellbeing/youth-rangatahi-wellbeing-assessment/</a>

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. **Kua Timata Te Haerenga | The Journey Has Begun: Mental health and addiction monitoring report 2024.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara - Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction-system/mental-health-and-addiction-service-monitoring/#haa2024">mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/mental-health-and-addiction-service-monitoring/#haa2024</a>

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. Leadership as a Mental Wellbeing System Enabler: Insights from monitoring progress toward Kia Manawanui. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/leadership-as-a-mental-wellbeing-system-enabler-report-downloads</a>

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2024. Voices Report: Accompanying report to Kua Tīmata Te Haerenga. Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/voices-report">mhwc.govt.nz/news-and-resources/voices-report</a>

# Strategies and plans

Te Hiringa Mahara. 2023. **Pay Gap Strategy 2023.** Wellington: Te Hiringa Mahara – Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission. URL: <a href="mailto:mhwc.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-publications/kia-toipoto/">mhwc.govt.nz/about-us/corporate-publications/kia-toipoto/</a>



