



## ***Philanthropic Sector Weekly Update 24<sup>th</sup> April 2020***

### **Purpose of this update**

Philanthropy New Zealand is releasing a weekly update to share philanthropic and grantmaking activity and insight as the sector seeks to support communities in the wake of COVID-19. This update is a general public document, provided to Ministers, Government, funders, community groups and media.

### **Note to readers**

This is the fifth weekly update we have provided and we'd love to hear from readers what you're finding useful in it, and what you're like more of, and what may be duplication of information you're reading elsewhere. Please email [sue@philanthropy.org.nz](mailto:sue@philanthropy.org.nz).

### **Key points for Government**

- We are aware that Government is collating significant data and evidence around community needs and the path ahead. We encourage Government to make this information available so that it can be used by other funders and community organisations who also provide services to New Zealanders in need.
- We are heartened that there is rapid and broad Government policy development on the COVID-19 response, as well as thinking well underway in some areas into recovery planning. We acknowledge that Government needed to move immediately in many areas, but we highlight the need for community input into recovery planning. For example, while it was understandable that the wage subsidy package needed to be developed quickly, it is an example of how getting sufficient charitable sector input would have made the process more efficient and effective for all parties.

### **Key points for philanthropic funders**

- A group of philanthropic and grantmaking funders met with Community and Voluntary Sector Minister, the Hon Poto Williams, this week to discuss funder activity, share insights from the community organisations they fund and discuss potential areas of Government and philanthropic collaboration. The importance of data was highlighted, as was the shared desire for a more sustainable not for profit sector to develop as a result of the recovery phase. The importance of ensuring a representative community voice in recovery decision making was highlighted. An action for philanthropic and grantmaking members of Philanthropy New Zealand is now to consider more specific areas where working more closely with Government will support the recovery phase.



- We will email our survey of funder members next week to get a clearer snapshot of how COVID-19 and its economic effects have impacted your funding. Findings are likely to be available by late May.
- Key messages from a weekly meeting for funders on youth include the importance of involving youth in decision making during the recovery phase and that the group of youth needing support is expected to grow.

### Key points for community organisations

- Strategic Grants has collated updates on the status of a range of funds available for [community](#) application:
- We understand the Department of Internal Affairs will be putting out more guidance in its upcoming newsletter on the wage subsidy, including around the use of cash reserves. Ngā Ratonga Kaupapa Atawhai Charities Services and Hāpai Hapori Community Operations will also be running drop in clinics so charities (or prospective charities) can book a 20 minute session to talk through registration, funding, or other issues related to being a registered charity with an analyst or advisor. More information is available on their [event page](#). [Frequently asked questions](#) about charities operation during COVID-19 have also been updated.
- Meanwhile, [JBWere](#) have developed guidance for not for profit sector boards to steer their organisations through this time

### Key points for the public

- Public giving tends to increase sharply after an event, then drop over time. Given the recession that will accompany this pandemic, many generosity schemes are looking at how to support increased giving over time. For example, watch out for the [generosity campaign](#) [Community Foundations of New Zealand](#) is launching next week.
- Volunteering New Zealand [sector research](#) shows that there is a real need to register and engage volunteers who are specifically interested in volunteering during emergencies. Volunteering New Zealand and the volunteer centre network are capturing expressions of interests for those wanting to volunteer. Currently most volunteer centres have more volunteers available than roles. If you are seeking volunteers, you can find your nearest volunteer centre [here](#).



## The philanthropic landscape

### Community needs

Some of the issues highlighted in the news and Philanthropy New Zealand discussions this week are as follows:

#### Disabled People

The Ministry of Education has acknowledged that the current lockdown situation is having a significant impact on disabled children and those with additional learning needs and their families. They have observed that families are likely to be experiencing additional stress and challenges as a result of the loss of their children's normal routines and usual supports. Some children and young people will be finding it hard to understand why these changes are occurring, resulting in increased anxiety, meltdowns or other forms of distressed behaviour. There are also more substantial issues to work through when considering how distance learning can best be supported for young people with learning support needs. More discussion of these issues can be found on the Disability Commissioner Paula Tesoriero's [facebook page](#).

More widely, the Office for Disability Issues is running a weekly survey that examines how life is going for the disability community in the COVID-19 environment and issues and risks emerging. Results are being reported to government agencies, disability organisations and the Minister for Disability Issues.

Looking to the future, there is little analysis yet on the decline of particular industries for disabled workers.

#### Young people

Previous recessions have shown the impact of recessions on young people. Youthline has already seen an increase of young people seeking support around suicide, depression and anxiety. Koi Tū: The Centre for Informed Futures' Discussion Paper: "The Future is Now" observes that "Of those directly affected by income loss, unemployment, or ill health, about 5–10% are likely to have prolonged post-traumatic stress disorder".

In the current situation, New Zealand's youth will find it difficult to find roles in the tourism and hospitality sectors. Overseas travel and associated employment opportunities will be off limits for some time. Even more vulnerable are those who are living in poverty, already not employed or in study, are in the youth justice system, or in care. The **NZ Council of Christian Social Services COVID-19 Survey** also highlighted that social workers from schools, and those working with vulnerable children in the community have a range of concerns about working remotely. The full results can be accessed [here](#).

Youth sector organisations therefore have a very important role to play in supporting better outcomes and protecting mental health in young people. One initiative of note this week is the creation of a digital youth sector hub which shares a range of ideas, stories and resources:

<https://arataiohi.org.nz/home/navigating-the-pandemic-together/>



## **Vulnerable migrants - Migrant welfare crisis in Queenstown**

A range of groups have now called for the Government to allow migrant workers in Queenstown to access the Job Seeker Allowance during the COVID-19. These workers were filling a large proportion of hospitality and tourism jobs in the town and no longer have a job, are unable to travel back home, and aren't able to access benefit support.

The latest report on the Salvation Army's work with some of the poorest and most vulnerable families in New Zealand is here: <https://www.salvationarmy.org.nz/article/sppu-covid19-social-impact-dashboard-report-2>

## **The opportunity in retraining and employment**

Looking forward, consideration of the particular needs of disabled people, young people and potentially migrant workers already within New Zealand should be considered as New Zealanders' work is reinvented. These groups are likely to require additional support to gain access to developing schemes and to have a voice in their design.

Finance Minister Grant Robertson has identified that Government will be developing industry recovery plans and matching skills of those who have lost jobs with new areas of opportunity. New areas are likely to be in construction, horticulture, manufacturing or the primary industries. He has also identified that, "there is a real gender impact of job loss; if you look particularly at a sector like tourism, hospitality, or retail, there is a disproportionate number of women in those industries." Roberson has also signalled that the Government is considering the opportunity to help support people to create their own businesses given the desire for people to buy local more often.

## **Status of Community Organisations**

### **Co-ordinated local response**

A range of community organisations in Hamilton have taken the opportunity to launch a co-ordinated local response to the impacts of COVID-19, creating a provider portal that acts as a one-stop-shop for local people who are suffering hardship or needing help. See more [here](#). Wise Group and Community Waikato are leading the effort which involves a range of providers and funders, including Volunteering Waikato, Kaivolution, The Salvation Army, Trust Waikato, The Department of Internal Affairs, Hamilton City Council and Momentum Waikato, alongside many community groups and organisations.

### **Survey of community organisations**

Hui E! Community Aotearoa, Volunteering New Zealand, the Centre for Social Impact and Philanthropy New Zealand met this morning to progress the development of a survey of the community sector.

The purpose of the survey is to identify the impact of the pandemic on community organisations and highlight their needs over the coming months. We will use this to inform decision making by multiple audiences, including the sector, Government, business, and philanthropy.



The organisations involved are collecting information on other surveys within the charitable sector already underway or planned. We are conscious of the risk of duplication and survey-fatigue, therefore we will continue to produce updates on our activity and speak with other interested stakeholders. We welcome talking to organisations with an interest or other data that can feed into the analysis.

Given the need for the sector to be able to tell its story to influence decision making occurring now around the recovery, we expect to have the survey in the field in mid-May.

### **New guidelines for volunteer management**

Arrangements for volunteering have changed in the current environment. The National Crisis Management Centre, in collaboration with Volunteering New Zealand, has developed guidelines for the volunteering and community sector.

- [COVID-19 Volunteer Guidelines: https://bit.ly/34WsZfh](https://bit.ly/34WsZfh)
- [Community Organisations Working with Volunteers during COVID-19 Alert Levels: https://bit.ly/3au9iMO](https://bit.ly/3au9iMO)

### **Response & Forward Funding**

Many local government agencies and leaders continue to be responsive to the need alongside other philanthropic organisations. **Hutt City Council's newly established Community Resilience Fund is now accepting applications** from community groups and charities to enable them to deliver services and initiatives which support resilience during the COVID-19 lockdown and the ensuing recovery period.

In response to the coronavirus emergency, **a number of city and regional councillors and local government Chief Executives have announced they would be donating around 10% of their salaries to charities**, including across the greater Wellington region and Bay of Plenty.

**J R McKenzie Trust** has offered reassurance and flexibility to the organisations it supports. It **continues to advance equity and aims for transformational change through its funding** and under its new strategy and next funding round that launches in July.

**Wakatipu Greatest Needs Fund was formed around the time of lockdown and with the help of generous donors and residents, has already raised \$430,000** to assist front-line charities in the area and has granted more than \$150,000. In this model donors have offered additional lump sums if the fund reaches certain fundraising targets.

**Twelve community groups have received a total of \$76,869 in funding from the new Rapid Response Fund**, established by TECT, Acorn Foundation, BayTrust and Tauranga City Council. The funding, initially made available to community groups providing essential services as defined by the government, will be opened up to the wider not-for-profit sector this week.



**Philanthropy  
New Zealand**

*Tōpūtanga Tuku Aroha o Aotearoa*

In response to the concern for the burden on not for profit leaders, there are a number of initiatives underway to support them. For example, **Foundation North has supported the Lead Centre for Not for Profit Leadership and Governance to run some free or heavily discounted sessions.**

<https://www.lead.org.nz/covid19-free-support>.

**The Department of Internal Affairs which delivers community funds (including lottery grants) have confirmed that their funding calendar dates are currently the same** but any updates will be posted on their [website](#). Flexibility is being offered to allow for changes of purpose and time extensions and the request form for Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) funding has been simplified.