



**Blind
Low Vision NZ**

Pūrongo
Whakaaweawe
Hāporia

**Community
Impact Report
2024**





Community Impact Report 2024

Annual Report FY23/24

Charities Commission Registration number: CC21361

Written and edited by Michaela Futter, Communications Advisor, with contributions from People Leaders, key staff members and the RNZFB Board.

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This book is set in Centra No2, 18pt, chosen for its clarity and readability. Centra No2's modern, clean lines make for a comfortable reading experience, especially at 18pt, where the text remains accessible for a wide audience without sacrificing style or professionalism.

Disclaimer

This report was produced with the most accurate information available at the time of publication.





Mā te whakarongo, ka mōhio,
mā te mōhio, ka mārama, mā te mārama,
ka matau, mā te matau, ka ora.

**Through listening, comes knowledge,
through knowledge, comes understanding,
through understanding, comes wisdom,
through wisdom, comes wellbeing.**



Nga kai oroto

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Pūrongo Arotake i Tēnei Tau

The Year in Review

Tēnā koe,

Blind Low Vision NZ continues to support Kiwis who are blind, deafblind or have low vision to live the life they choose. We owe much of our success to our generous donors, enthusiastic volunteers, and dedicated staff and leadership. **We also recognise the vital role of our clients and consumer organisations, whose commitment, consultation, and insights shape our services.**

We are delighted to share our new Strategic Plan for 2024-2028, crafted with our communities' valuable insights and feedback. See our Strategic Plan in the following section.

The full strategic plan is available on the Blind Low Vision NZ website, and is available in a range of accessible formats. This plan

lays a foundational blueprint for our continued commitment to empowering independence and fostering an inclusive community through enhanced support services and strategic partnerships.

This year has been full of activity, and we're pleased to announce our client base has expanded to **15,652** 🔍.

It's genuinely reassuring to observe how our awareness campaign and recent partnerships have impacted the community at large.

Particularly noteworthy was our work with NZ Herald to produce the first hi-vis front page cover of the national newspaper. This collaboration resulted in a high influx of self-referrals as people realised that Blind Low Vision NZ could be a solution for them, early in their vision loss journey.

Audit key: 🔍 A small magnification glass with a tick inside. This image denotes an audited number.

Notably, our awareness increased from 25% to 39% from August 2023 to July 2024.

Our organisation has launched several key projects recently, which will be crucial in supporting our community. The Vision Store has received very positive feedback from clients and the client services team, indicating the success of strategic initiatives to enhance customer satisfaction.

Clients have praised the extensive variety of products, the high standards and reliability of these products, and the accessible product information. They also appreciate the ease of access and user-friendly interface of the website, which makes shopping seamless. Additionally, the promptness and reliability

of the delivery services have consistently met and exceeded client expectations. The inaugural Blind Low Vision NZ Internship Programme, completed in July 2024, was a pioneering professional development initiative for clients who recently received a tertiary university qualification. It provided a 12-month industry placement tailored to each individual's field of study.

The first nine months were spent in-house, supported by our Adaptive Communications and Adaptive Technology Services (ACATS), Orientation and Mobility, and Work Ready staff, ensuring graduates had the necessary support to succeed. The final three months involved a mainstream employment placement relevant to their

study. The programme was a success for both staff and graduates, leading to plans for a second cohort of interns. This year, we optimised our registration processes to improve access to our services for new clients. Our enhanced client contact process has significantly reduced unsuccessful referrals, ensuring that new clients are reached within a week and referrers are promptly informed if the referral cannot be completed.

We are reigniting our strategy to build stronger relationships with referrers, achieving a 15% increase in the number of health professionals making referrals to us. Engagement highlights included hosting an educational open day for final-year optometry students and launching a pilot referral programme with a major New Zealand eye care provider.

We’ve been busy updating our facilities to better serve our community. A state-of-the-art kennels facility is well under construction, with stage one opening in mid-August 2024 and two additional buildings set to follow later in the year. In August 2023, we opened a new, fully accessible office at Smales Farm, conveniently located near public transport, shops, and North Shore Hospital.

Thanks to a generous local donor and extensive community engagement, our Dunedin facility is getting a major facelift, with improvements expected to be completed later in 2024. Additionally, in October 2023, the first residents moved into the new apartments above our Parnell building, marking a key step in securing Blind Low Vision NZ’s financial future. Building Two is now

under construction, with funding secured and sales progressing well.

In December 2023, we announced a new partnership with Macpac. This ensures our Guide Dog Services team has the highest quality outdoor gear to train our dogs in the great outdoors. Like our graduated dog guides, our team will be out there, rain, hail, or shine.

The team at Blind Low Vision NZ is steadfast in their

commitment to advocating for people who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision. Our purpose is driven by seeing our clients thrive independently. Each year, we work to push past limitations, understanding that our progress is a collective effort. The invaluable support of our volunteers, donors, and the New Zealand public makes our achievements possible. Together, we aim to build an inclusive and accessible Aotearoa for all.



Clive Lansink
Royal New Zealand
Foundation of the Blind (RNZFB)
Board Chair



Andrea Midgeen
Blind Low Vision NZ
Chief Executive

Mahere Rautaki 2024-2028

Strategic Plan 2024-2028

Our Mission:

Empower New Zealanders who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision to live the life they choose.

Our Vision future:

We aspire to create an Aotearoa New Zealand that is inclusive for all those with blindness, deafblindness, or sight loss.

Our organisational priorities:

Empower Independence:

Supporting our clients in their communities.

Educate and train:

Training clients with practical and essential skills for daily life.

Social inclusion:

Raise awareness and advocate for an inclusive Aotearoa New Zealand.

Supported by our for-purpose team:

We will foster a diverse team that supports our strategy through a culture of strong communication, financial sustainability, and specialist expertise.

Delivered through our values:

This strategy will be delivered through our values:
Person-centred, Collaborative, Adaptable, and Accountable.

How our priorities will be delivered:

Empowering Independence

We are committed to empowering our clients to live independent lives in their communities. Independence is individual, often relying on support from the community. We will offer and facilitate services that meet our clients’ diverse needs. To achieve this, we will:

1. Support clients to access key services in the community like employment, transport, education, and recreation.
2. Offer counselling and refer to other mental wellness services, focusing on adjusting to sight loss for an integrated community life.
3. Facilitate community connection, ensuring holistic support to encourage our clients to be confident, autonomous members of the community.
4. Work collaboratively with external partners and our clients to create an environment and network of inclusive support.



Education and training

Teaching self-reliance and practical skills enables people who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision to confidently live the life they choose. Learning the skills of blindness, deaf blindness or sight loss gives our clients the confidence to be autonomous citizens in their communities. To achieve this, we will:

- 1. Provide specialised training and adaptive technologies to foster clients’ skills for independent living, either directly or through their families or support networks.
- 2. Provide training in daily living, mobility, and communication, promoting self-reliance.
- 3. Provide access to empowering tools, technologies, peer support and other resources.



Social inclusion

We know that those who are blind, deafblind or have low vision are at a higher risk of isolation or exclusion. We will work towards an inclusive and safe Aotearoa for all. To achieve this, we will:

- 1. Advocate nationally and locally to eliminate barriers that hinder our clients’ independence.
- 2. Launch awareness campaigns to promote societal understanding, knowledge, and acceptance of blindness, deaf blindness, and sight loss.
- 3. Offer expert advice on environment, information, and technology accessibility for those with vision impairments and deaf blindness.

Supported by our for-purpose team

- 1. Uphold high-quality, cost-effective services led by well-trained, diverse staff, emphasising growth and recognition.
- 2. Foster a culture attuned to our clients’ needs, valuing knowledge-sharing, and learning.
- 3. Lead practices reflecting our clients’ needs and aspirations.
- 4. Foster a culture of open communication and transparency.
- 5. Grow individual and community support through donations and legacies.

Our objectives: the 2024-2028 focus



Support Services:

Expand and refine our support services to effectively meet the unique needs of individuals who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision.



Education and Training:

Deliver impactful training programs, equipping clients, as well as their families and support networks, with the skills and knowledge for enhanced independence and community inclusion.



Collaboration and Partnerships:

Proactively collaborate with external stakeholders and clients, fostering an inclusive and supportive environment and involving those we serve in decisions that affect them.



Policy advocacy:

Campaign for policies and practices in our communities that foster accessibility and inclusion for individuals who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision, aiming for tangible improvements in their daily lives.



Awareness and future-focus:

Increase awareness about vision health and proactively communicate, ensuring support is within reach for New Zealanders at all stages of their lives.



Te Waiata o Blind Low Vision NZ

E ora i tō koiora
I tohua e koe.
Ō whakaaro,
Tō tuhono
Tō mana
Ō hiahia e
I tū atu i te
Kanoahi kitea
Koiora taparere kore.
Koiora taparere kore
E ora i tō koiora i tohua e koe, hī!

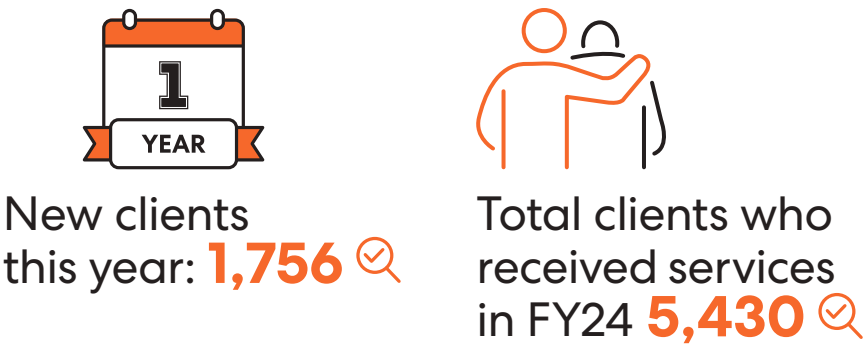
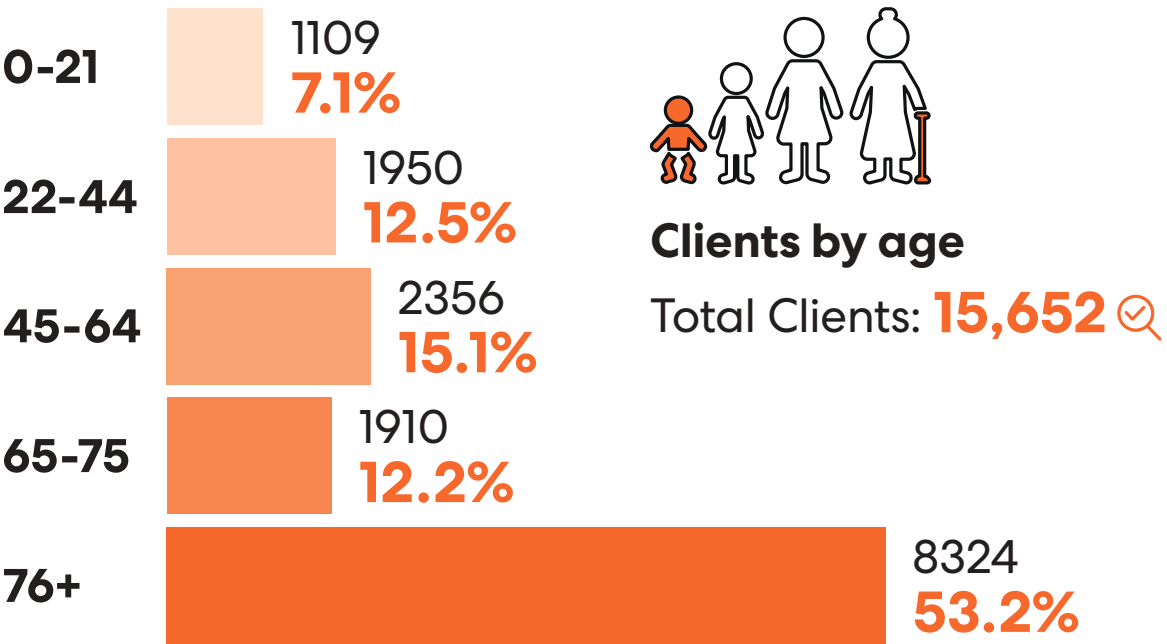
English

Live the life you choose
Optimistic, connecting, empowering, aspiring
Beyond vision loss
Life without limits



Ka āwhina mātou i a wai

Who we help



Clients by region



Total: 15,652

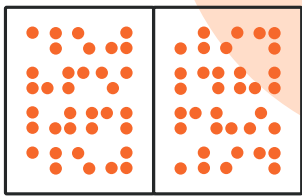


We received an average of **1500 - 2000** calls each month last year.

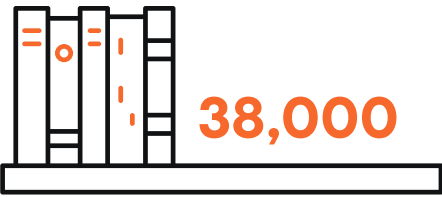
Ethnicity Breakdown

Our services reach a diverse community, supporting people from 82 unique ethnic groups.

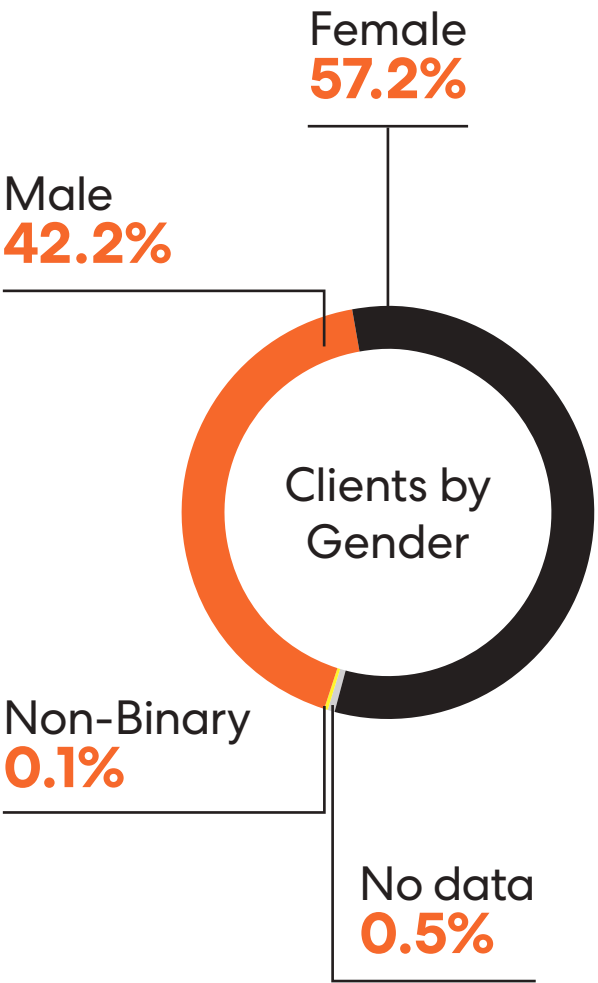
- NZ European / Pakeha: **70.3%**
- Māori: **8.5%**
- Samoan: **2.0%**
- Not Stated: **1.7%**
- Indian: **1.3%**
- Chinese: **1.2%**
- Other Ethnic Groups: **15%**



Total Library loans: **68,932**



Books in our accessible library





He tīpako matapōtanga i Aotearoa

A snapshot of blindness in Aotearoa

Many people believe that blindness, deafblindness, or low vision are rare conditions that only affect a small number of people. However, these conditions are more prevalent than most people imagine. The reality is that anyone can experience vision loss, either personally or through a loved one, at any point in life. It's a reminder that accessibility and support are crucial for all of us.

In New Zealand, the primary eye conditions contributing to blindness and low vision are age-related macular degeneration (AMD), diabetic retinopathy, glaucoma, and cataracts. These conditions significantly impact the quality of life for many, making awareness and early detection crucial.

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD)

Age-related Macular Degeneration (AMD) is the leading cause of blindness and partial sight in New Zealand, affecting 29% of Blind Low Vision NZ clients. It is also the primary cause of vision loss in the developed world. Despite its prevalence, a 2016 poll revealed that only 72% of New Zealanders over 50 had heard of macular degeneration, and just 41% understood it as a serious eye condition.

This highlights the urgent need for increased awareness and education about this common and impactful condition, as understanding AMD is crucial for early detection and management.

Diabetic Retinopathy

Diabetic retinopathy (DR) stands as the leading cause of blindness and low vision among New Zealand's working-age population. Approximately 291,000 New Zealanders over the age of 15 live with diabetes, making up about 7% of the population. Of these, around 20-25% develop diabetic retinopathy, equating to between 68,000 and 72,000 people. Almost everyone with Type I diabetes and 60% of those with Type II diabetes develop some form of DR within 20 years of being diagnosed.

At Blind Low Vision NZ, 3.4% of our clients are affected by diabetic retinopathy. The good news is that most vision loss from DR can be prevented. Effective management of glucose levels, regular exercise, early detection, and treatment are key to preserving vision.

Glaucoma

Glaucoma New Zealand estimates that over 100,000 New Zealanders have glaucoma, yet only about half are aware of it. The Ministry of Health estimates that 2% of New Zealanders over 40 have the condition, which translates to approximately 50,000 people, with half unaware of their diagnosis.

Glaucoma is the second most common cause of blindness and partial sight among New Zealanders over 65, affecting 7.1% of Blind Low Vision NZ clients. Managing glaucoma involves strict adherence to medication, typically prescription eye drops, or surgery to control this condition and protect vision.

Cataracts

Cataracts are the most common correctable eye conditions that cause blindness and partial sight in New Zealand. About 412,000 New Zealanders have some form of cataract. Each year, around 41,000 cataract surgeries are performed in New Zealand, with about 20,000 of these being publicly funded. Remarkably, over 95% of people experience significant improvement in their vision following cataract surgery.

These statistics highlight the importance of regular eye check-ups, early detection, and treatment to maintain eye health and prevent vision loss. We believe our current eye health system can do better, and we have a role to play in shaping the solutions alongside others in the sector.

The future we want

We want a future where New Zealanders value and understand the importance of proactive eye care, and where our health system is resourced and integrated to support equitable eye health services.

This includes investment in awareness and education programmes that promote knowledge and preventative action, so people have the opportunity to access services at the earliest time to support the best outcomes. It also includes all Kiwis having access to regular eye checks and eye treatment if needed, especially for our vulnerable communities. And when people do need to learn new skills through low vision support or vision rehabilitation, the eye health system supports this.

What you can do

Encourage your friends and family to have regular eye health checks with your local optometrist. It is the best way to make sure that any changes are caught early.

Contact us, if you or your loved one needs support in living with blindness or low vision.



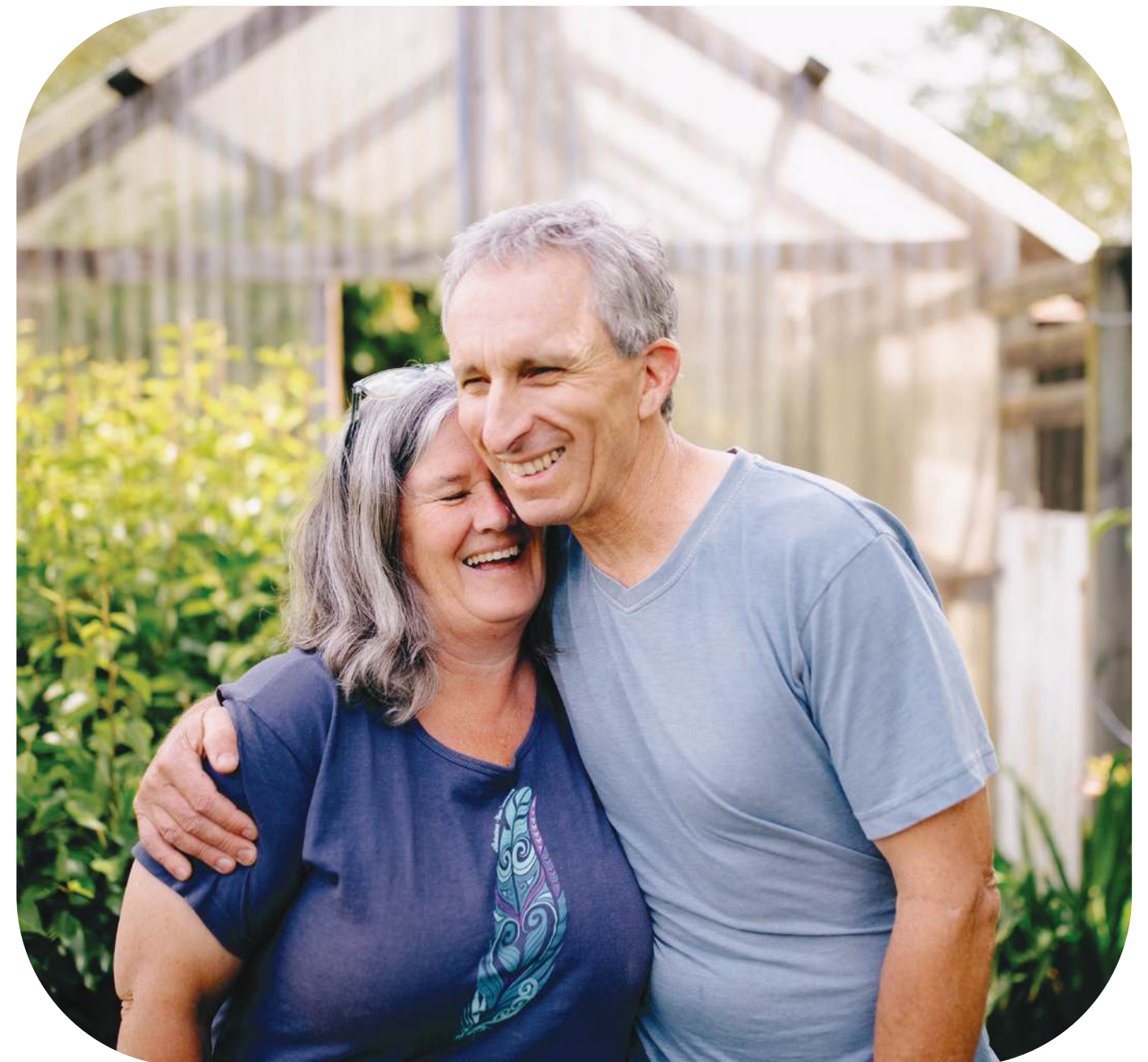
"Encourage your friends and family to have regular eye health checks."

Ā Mātou Ratonga

Our Services

- **Mobility Training:** We offer a wide range of mobility services to help you get around.
- **Skills for Independence:** Our programmes provide skills to retain independence.
- **Physical Activity Support:** Our specialists work alongside partner organisations to enable sustainable physical activity in the communities where our clients live.
- **Community Support:** We foster a supportive community, helping people connect with each other through shared interests.
- **Emotional Wellbeing:** Receive emotional support for adjusting to vision loss and ongoing wellbeing.
- **Accessible Library:** Explore our accessible library for knowledge and cultural enrichment.
- **Youth pathways:** We support students moving from high school into the community, tertiary study or employment.
- **Employment:** We support working age clients to get work ready.
- **Specialised Services:** Tailored services are available for Māori, Pasifika, youth, and children.
- **Adaptive Technology Support:** Get support for your technological needs.
- **Guide Dogs:** Our guide dogs are trained to help people move safely and confidently while also being wonderful companions.

- **Online Webstore:** We've partnered with Vision Australia to offer a dedicated online webstore for purchasing equipment.
- **Accessible Formats Service:** For individuals or businesses wanting documents and literature transcribed into Braille, Large Print, Audio and other similar formats.



Ratonga Whakawhiti Mahi me te Rangatahi Employment and Youth Transition Service

Blind Low Vision NZ is committed to providing an employment and youth transition service that helps clients reach their full potential. We focus on understanding individual strengths and recognising their value. Our experienced staff, professional development toolkit, external service providers, and key partner relationships create a platform for clients to confidently plan their career paths and beyond.



Number of youths we have supported via our employment and transition programmes aged 16-21yr

25



Number of members we have supported via our employment and transition programmes aged 22-65yr

141



Work Ready Programme

Our Work Ready programme is designed to support Blind Low Vision NZ clients of working age in preparing for employment. This programme helps clients develop a career plan, provides professional development, hones interview skills, and offers mentoring and networking opportunities.

As part of the ongoing commitment to our client career pathways, we offer a virtual online learning forum in the way of professional development webinars. The webinars cover topics such as CV writing interview skills, goal setting and communication channels. In addition, there are guest presenters from time to time covering areas such as MSD Support funds and Workbridge along with clients who are invited to share their own employment journey with the online cohort.

Participants in our Work Ready programme have found it invaluable for building their confidence and job readiness. One participant shared, “I found it really useful that I now have personal traits and strengths to add to my CV and speak about confidently.” This feedback highlights the positive impact the programme has on empowering people to recognise and articulate their unique qualities.

The one-hour webinar is archived onto our website along with additional resources, this way we ensure that all clients have the opportunity to access the content at a time convenient to their schedule and needs.



**We encourage employers to
start thinking “outside the box”**

Impact on the Next Generation

By participating in our programmes, young people gain the confidence and skills needed to navigate the workforce. They learn to recognise and leverage their unique strengths, preparing them to be bold and ambitious in their career pursuits. Through mentoring and networking, they build valuable connections that support their professional growth. Our services empower the next generation to be resilient and successful, fostering a future where everyone can achieve their personal and professional goals.

“I felt belongingness being a client of Blind Low Vision NZ. Sarah helped me create a CV which was focused and to the point. We had very good communication together and she provided empathetic support. She was very professional and listened to what I was going through at the time.”

Bijay, Eye conditions: Retinitis Pigmentosa, Keratoconus and Nystagmus

In-Sight Workshop

Our In-Sight workshop helps employers rethink how they attract, recruit, and retain disabled people within their workforce. We encourage employers to cast their net wider and start thinking “outside the box” when it comes to building workforce diversity.

To make this process clearer, our team has developed the In-Sight Workshop, designed to unpack the ‘why, what, and how’ of employing disabled talent. This is a **two-hour professional development programme** that simplifies the hiring process through interactive, facilitated conversations.

The workshop focuses on a **blind, low vision, and deafblind perspective**, drawing on the personal and professional experiences of our talented facilitators, who live with vision loss. The goal is to help organisations think differently and **develop a truly diverse workforce** that is authentic, accessible, and inclusive.

Hiranga Ratonga Kurī Arataki

Guide Dog Services Highlights



59 

puppies born



104

dogs with our volunteer puppy raisers



30 

qualified guide dogs from training



113

dogs in training



29

clients waiting to be matched with a dog



143 

active handler teams



377 Days

the average wait time to receive a guide dog

The last financial year for Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dogs has been a period of development, growth, enhancement, and necessary resetting. For the first time, we have produced a four-year strategy aimed at becoming the best we can be and producing high-quality dogs to support and enhance the independence of the clients we serve.



 Audited and verified as part of our FY24 financial statements.

Over the past 12 months, we've achieved many successes, and we'd like to highlight a few key areas:

Structured, Evidence-Based Breeding: We have adopted a new, structured, evidence-based approach to breeding. By leveraging our extensive genetic dataset, we are making the best breeding selections possible.

Early Neurological Stimulation Programme: At our Breeding and Development Centre, we have implemented an early neurological stimulation and development programme. This gives all dogs the best start in life, helping them grow resilient, confident, and adaptable to their environment. These foundations are crucial for their success in our formal Guide Dog Training programme.

Improved Behaviour Scores: Thanks to these new programmes, the average behaviour score of our dogs has improved significantly, rising by 1.5 points from 3.9 out of 9 to 5.5 out of 9. This milestone highlights the success of these initiatives and the dedication of our amazing staff.

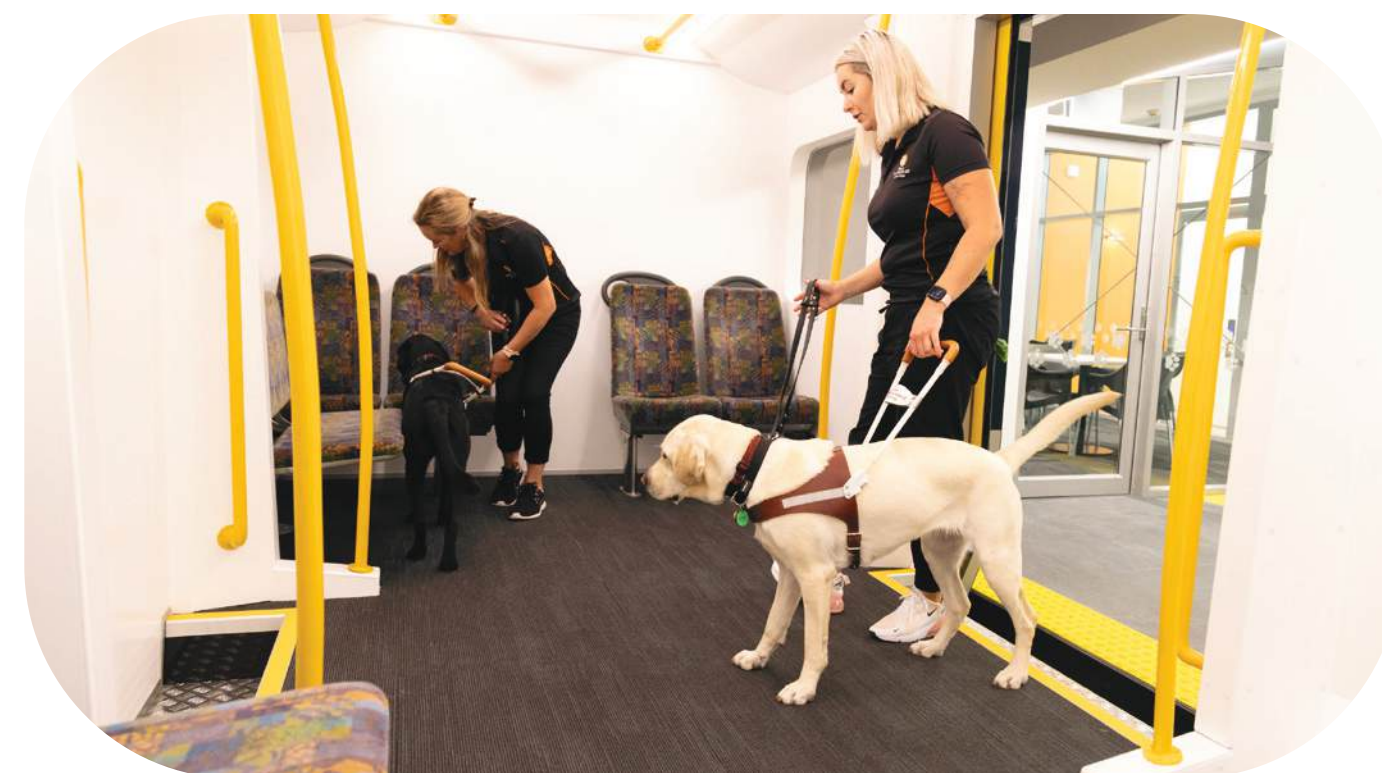
New Training Kennel: We are nearing the completion of stage one of our new training kennel build. Once finished, this state-of-the-art complex will be modern, fit for purpose, and future proofed. It will enhance service delivery quality and efficiency, aligning with our strategy. The build is designed with the welfare of the dogs in mind, reducing stress within the kennel environment.

Mobility Training Centre: The ongoing use of the Mobility Training Centre continues to establish solid foundations for our dogs in a controlled environment before they face the stressors of the wider community.

We are incredibly fortunate to have a dedicated workforce who keep our clients and dogs at the heart of everything we do. Their commitment often goes above and beyond to ensure success, and I thank them all.

We also have a valued, skilled, and diverse team of volunteers who selflessly raise our dogs in their homes, workplaces, and communities, embedding those foundations for success. Without you, our achievements would not be possible. Your contributions are deeply valued and appreciated, beyond what words can express.

Peter Hoskin, Head of Guide Dogs notes “I am humbled and privileged to lead and enable the team to produce high-quality dogs that support and enhance the independence of the clients we serve.”





Guide Dogs Team at the Puppy Development Seminar

We're thrilled to shine a light on an extraordinary event that not only underscores our commitment to enhancing guide dog training but also highlights the remarkable contributions of our own Guide Dogs team. The recent Puppy Development Seminar in Upper Hutt was a milestone gathering of canine staff from various sectors, including Police, the Defence Force, and the Department of Conservation. This was a unique opportunity for organisations to converge, share insights, and learn from a globally celebrated expert in dog training: Dick Staal.

In April 2024, RNZ shared a story about the Puppy Development Seminar. It featured comments from Aimee Hickman, Manager of Training Operations, Guide Dog Services. Aimee's enthusiasm for this event was palpable as she expressed how invaluable the seminar was for our guide dogs.

"This is an amazing opportunity to network with other working dog groups. Some pretty awesome names here and agencies to be collaborating with and learning from," Aimee notes in the RNZ Checkpoint interview.

The focus of the seminar was on the innovative training methodologies introduced by Dutch dog trainer, Dick Staal, who advocates starting training at as young an age as eight weeks. This approach aligns perfectly with our mission, as early training can significantly enhance the developmental phases of guide dogs, imprinting desirable behaviours from the start.

Aimee highlighted the direct benefits of these methodologies for our community. "Our dogs are trained for people with vision loss in the community, so it's really beneficial for us training our pups from a young age and really developing them early on," she explained.

This event was not just a learning experience but a testament to the potential improvements in guide dog training, impacting the lives of our clients and members. The Guide Dogs Services team's participation and insights have undoubtedly set the stage for pushing the boundaries of what we can achieve together for our community.

A special thank you to all our wonderful guide dog volunteers

We couldn't do what we do without your contributions and support. Thank you for letting our dogs into your hearts and homes as part of their important training. We are truly thankful, as are our clients.



Hiranga Pātaka Pukapuka Library Highlights

This year, we've made significant strides in the library's digital transformation. Our services have expanded and evolved. Enhancements to our Alexa Skill and Envoy Connect have greatly enhanced the reading experience for our clients.

Here are some of the standout achievements of the library service this year:

Envoy Connect Project Progress

We've made great progress on the Envoy Connect project. This initiative aims to provide Envoy Connect players to library members who don't have internet access, giving them a way to enjoy audiobooks and other resources.

Alexa Device Distribution

The Alexa skill continues to be our most popular platform, and we are focusing on distributing Alexa Gen 5 devices, mainly to new clients. On average, we're giving out 81 devices per month. Alexa is a voice-activated smart speaker that lets our clients access our library and get the latest updates from the organisation. This is different from the EasyReader platform, which is an app for iOS, Android, and Windows that lets users read books from our library and others.

More recently, our Trusts & Foundations team secured funding for 1200 Alexa devices to be delivered to clients from July 2024 to June 2025. Providing Alexa devices to our clients has greatly increased their access to information and entertainment, offering a convenient way to listen to audiobooks and stay updated with the latest news.

New Book Additions

Over the past 6–12 months, we've focused on adding new books based on client requests. This effort has led to a 100% increase in new titles added from 2023 to 2024. Besides sourcing books from overseas and producing them in-house, our studios have been exploring AI-generated synthesised audio. The initial feedback from library members has been positive.



Alexa Stats FY24

- Total number of books borrowed: **48,633**
- Number of newspapers read: **4,229**
- Total number of magazines borrowed: **2,723**
- Number of unique users: **1,677** 🔍

EasyReader Stats FY24

- Number of books borrowed: **12,455**
- Number of magazines borrowed: **892**
- Number of unique users: **419** 🔍

Zoom Phone Implementation

Blind Low Vision NZ has successfully upgraded to Zoom Phone, replacing the old 3CX system. This change has made communication and accessibility better for staff. The main benefits include:

- **Improved Accessibility:** Zoom Phone has an easy-to-use interface and advanced features that make it easier for people with low or no vision. This helps increase efficiency.
- **Enhanced Reliability:** The cloud-based system offers reliable connectivity with fewer disruptions. This ensures smooth communication within the organisation and with clients.
- **Scalability:** Zoom Phone's flexible options can grow with Blind Low Vision NZ, supporting future expansion and new technologies.

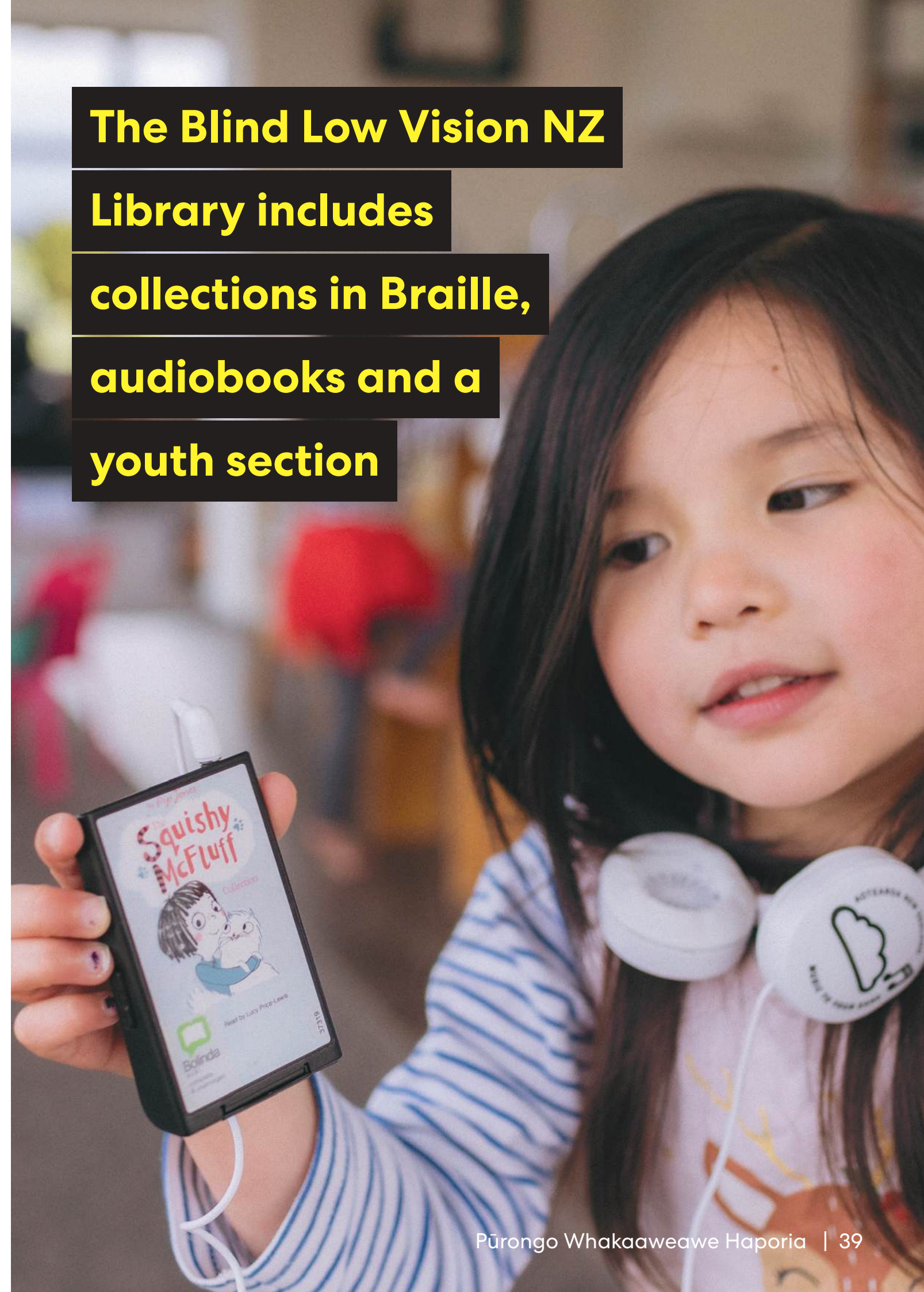
The Blind Low Vision NZ

Library includes

collections in Braille,

audiobooks and a

youth section



Matawhānui hauora me te orange na roto i
te tīma Hākinakina me te Rēhia

Comprehensive health and wellness through the Sport and Leisure team

Guided by the Enabling Good Lives Principles, the Sport and Leisure team scored big this year, helping our members access inclusive and sustainable active opportunities to live independent lives. Over the past year, our team has built connections with over 160 partners to create opportunities for our members to stay active.

FY24 was a winning year for our team. We partnered with **Blue Mountain Adventure Centre** and **Adventure Specialties Trust** to deliver two Kids' Camps. Seventeen young members rose to the challenge with activities like kayaking, river rafting, indoor climbing, camping, and outdoor skills. They developed new skills, made lifelong friends, and enjoyed some less active but equally rewarding opportunities like arts and crafts.

Feedback from our participants was stellar:

- “It’s a really cool experience and heaps of fun.”
- “Camp is a great choice because the Blind Low Vision NZ staff are really nice, and they help you. They take really good care of you. You can do lots of fun activities like kayaking and rafting, and you have lots of free time. It is good to not be the only one who has low vision.”

With some extra funding and an invitation from the **Spirit of Adventure Trust**, we helped five members aged 16–30 join

the Inspiration Voyage. They lived and worked on a tall mast sailing ship, facing challenges like jumping off the side of the ship into open water and climbing up a mast.

These experiences provide lifelong memories and friendships for participants. Importantly, they build confidence and life skills that will support them well into the future.

Ensuring members can participate in accessible and sustainable activities in their own communities is a team effort. Our staff work with members and various activity providers to find the right solutions.

For instance, **one member aimed to complete a triathlon**. We provided a donated tandem bike, worked with a local bike shop to modify it to his needs, and found a pilot. We also connected him with other members who had completed triathlons for tips, especially for the swimming leg. Turn the page for his full story.

Another great win was when a staff member helped a group of keen members start a **ten-pin bowling group**. Beginning with just six members and two volunteers, and supported by local staff, the group has now more than doubled and meet monthly. They now need three lanes and more volunteers to accommodate everyone who turns up.

While we can’t list everything, we have supported hundreds of members to achieve their sport and leisure goals throughout the year. We look forward to continuing this important service over the next 12 months.





Kiritaki Pūrākau

Client Stories

**“I was sent off
for crashing too
many times,”**

Stephen's story

Stephen's story is one of remarkable resilience, determination, and optimism. He was born profoundly deaf. Later, he was diagnosed with Usher syndrome, which affects both hearing and sight. Stephen's journey has been filled with challenges. But he has met them head-on with unbreakable spirit. From a young age, he faced losing his side vision. By age 40, he had to give up his driver's licence as his vision got worse. Now

in his 50s, Stephen navigates life with vision that is limited to two cloudy tunnels, but his outlook on life remains clear and bright.

Despite the significant obstacles, Stephen has never let disability define him. Instead, he has embraced it, finding new ways to communicate and stay active. He is learning tactile New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) from **Laura Morse**, Deafblind Coordinator at

Blind Low Vision NZ. This prepares him for a time when he might lose his sight and can't see sign language. His dedication to tactile communication also helps him stay connected with his wife and two hearing children. Stephen's love for physical activities remains unbridled. Though he can no longer run as much due to the impact on his vision, he enjoys fast-paced walking, cycling, attends events organised by

Blind Sport NZ, and swimming.

“I can swim independently by following the black line along the bottom of the pool. I can see this as there is good contrast,” says Stephen. He also practises swimming with a guide and a tether.

His passion for sports led him to try wheelchair rugby, which he recounts with humour: “I was sent off for crashing too many times,” he says with a laugh.

“Running has been a hard slog at times, but I’m determined to keep active,” says Stephen, referring to the support of his guide from the **Achilles running group**.

The services from Blind Low Vision NZ have been instrumental in Stephen’s journey. From learning Braille to using a white cane and accessing sport and leisure services, Stephen uses every resource available to maintain his independence and quality of life.

“Stephen’s progress with tactile NZSL has been impressive, and his determination is truly inspiring,” notes Laura Morse. Stephen’s newest passion is tandem biking, a sport that offers him a sense of freedom and excitement.



Michelle Mackie, a Community and Volunteer Coordinator, has also been a key part of Stephen’s support network. “Stephen’s new tandem bike has opened up new opportunities for him. It’s lightweight and fast, and he’s thrilled with it,” says Michelle. With the bike, Stephen now plans to enter a triathlon, combining his love for cycling, swimming, and running. Stephen’s optimism, his pursuit of new goals, and his commitment to staying active and connected with his loved ones make him a beacon of inspiration for us all.

Tasal’s story

Tasal lives in Auckland with his parents and two of his four siblings. He enjoys going to the gym, working out, practising mixed martial arts, playing football, and watching anime.

As a Manchester United supporter, he finds joy in avidly following the team. Tasal is studying computer science and will graduate soon. He has secured a graduate role at Xero, starting in February 2025. The application process for this role was facilitated through a disability service at his university, ensuring a smooth experience. Tasal breezed through the process, with no additional provisions or requirements needed from the employer.



Diagnosed with Retinitis Pigmentosa at a young age, Tasal experienced a gradual loss of his peripheral vision. "I didn't really think much about it growing up," he says. "It was just something that was there." However, it became more noticeable during sports and social activities. "It wasn't easy and was a big hurdle to overcome to fit in normally."

At 13, Tasal realised he needed to approach life differently. "It was a major thing and really does affect my life," he reflects. He remembers wanting to play football in primary school but struggled because the game was too fast. "The ball moved too fast, everyone ran too fast, and it was all a blur."

He often sat out during group activities. But with every challenge, Tasal's confidence expanded. "It's difficult, yeah, putting myself out there and

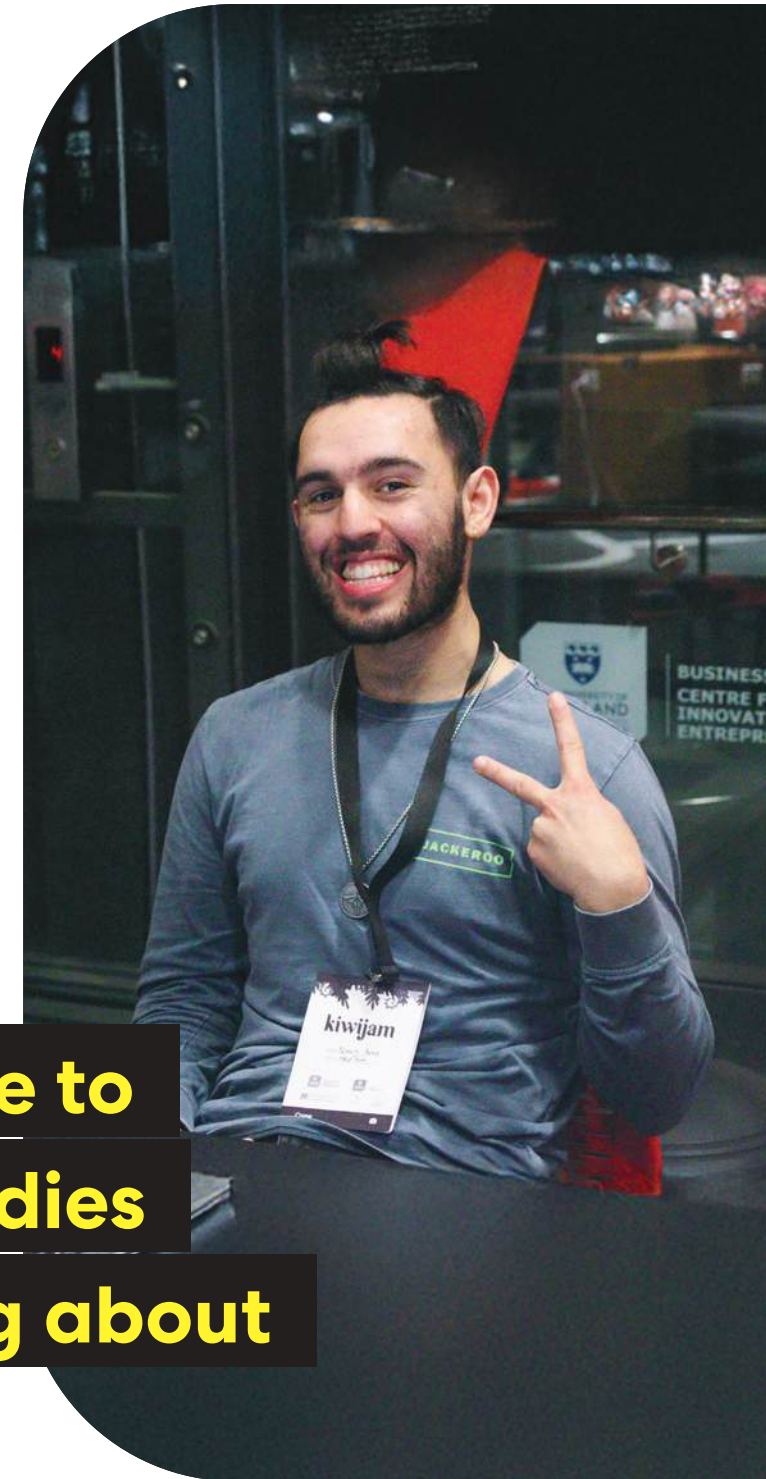
doing it. But then, sometimes, I feel like I didn't because it's so difficult. But I just tell myself it's better to try and not do so great and fail than to not try at all."

Despite these challenges, Tasal has remained independent. He uses a white cane in crowded areas, saying, "It serves as a way of letting people know that if you bump into me or trip over, it's not as if I'm not looking where I'm going."

Tasal first learned about the **Oppenheim Fund** from Katy Webber, a former Blind Low Vision NZ staff member. "When I first heard about it, I thought, 'Wow, this seems too good to be true,'" he says. He applied for the scholarship and has received it for the past three years. "It's taken a lot of stress off me and allowed me to focus on my studies."

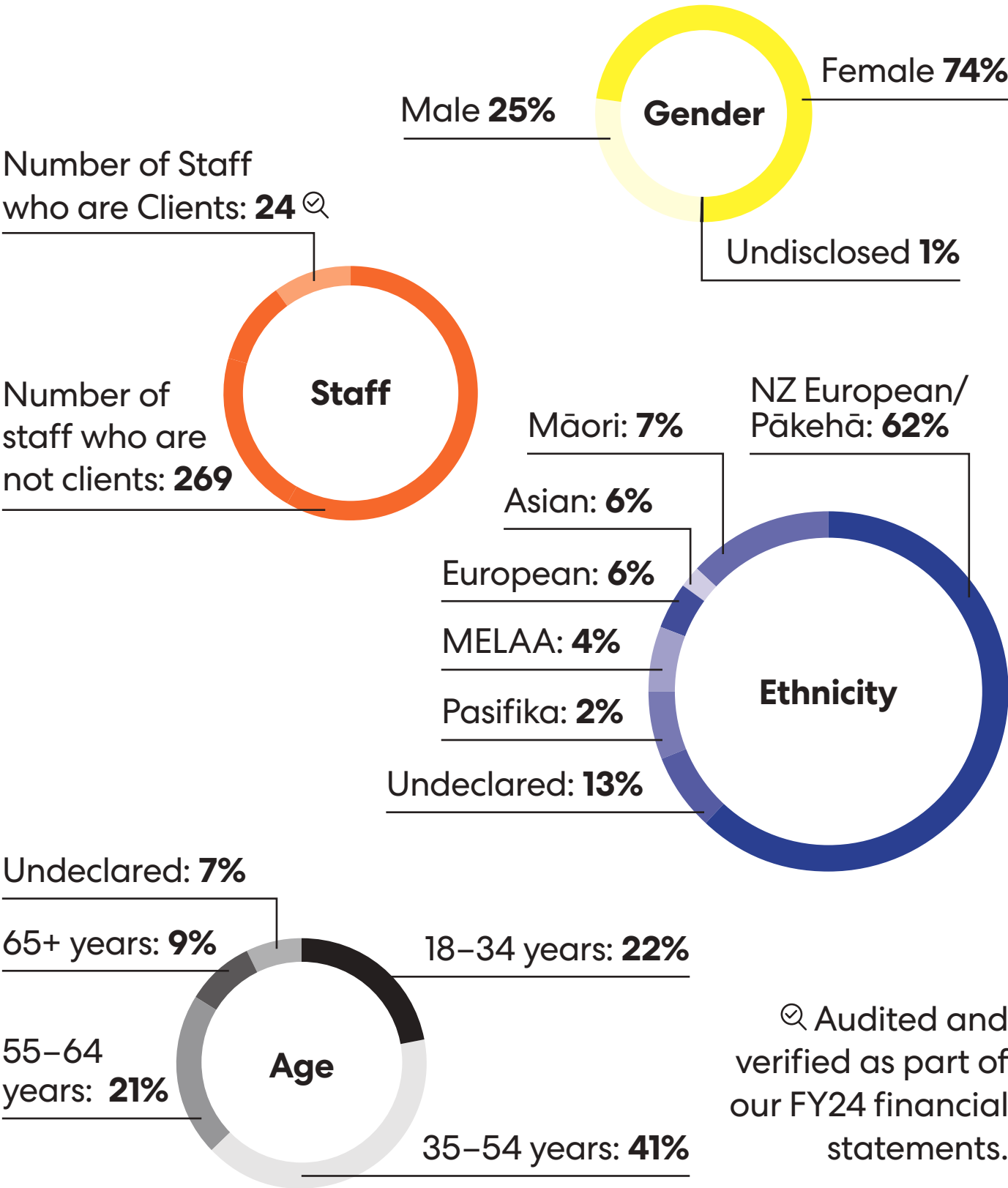
The Oppenheim Fund has been incredibly helpful to Tasal. It has covered essential tertiary fees that he might have struggled to afford. "It has allowed me to complete my studies without worrying about student loans," he adds. He describes the application process as "extremely straightforward" and appreciates the financial relief it has provided. This support has made a significant difference in his academic journey and future plans.

"It has allowed me to complete my studies without worrying about student loans,"



Ō Mātou Tāngata—ngā Kaimahi
 o Kāpō Matarehu Aotearoa

Our People



Person Centred

People are at the heart of everything we do and we are led by their needs. We design services that meet people’s needs now and in the future.



Employee Engagement Survey 2024

This year we conducted our annual Employee Engagement Survey and had a phenomenal participation rate of 91%. Our top scoring questions reflect the commitment from employees to participate in the meaningful mahi that Blind Low Vision NZ does.

- 95% of staff know how their work contributes to the goals of Blind Low Vision NZ.
- 90% know of what they need to do to be successful in their job.
- 87% feel autonomous in their roles to perform effectively.

We wish to thank everyone who participated in the survey and for contributing to the continuous improvement of Blind Low Vision NZ.

Blind Low Vision Graduate Internship Programme 2023 – 2024

In 2023, we launched the Blind Low Vision NZ Graduate Programme. This fully funded 12-month graduate programme helps recent graduates who are blind or have low vision kick-start their careers.

Through our new Graduate Programme, we welcomed three university graduates to work across the organisation. Two of whom also completed a 3-month placement with external employers.

Nitisha Gaundan joined the People and Performance team, contributing to various Learning & Development projects, recruitment activities, and general HR work. She also starred in a fundraising campaign, sharing her story with a wider audience. As part of the 12-month programme, Nitisha spent

three months with Tonkin and Taylor, assisting with HR projects and employment relations.

Kate Downing joined the Fundraising team, working on campaigns, fundraising events, and a podcast. She collaborated with multiple areas of the organisation to support engagement and marketing coordination.

Cain Richardson joined the Policy and Advocacy team, focusing on a Standards Library, policy briefs, and other projects. He completed an external placement with the Ministerial office of Hon Chris Penk in Wellington, handling correspondence, briefings, and daily operations. After the Programme, Cain secured a permanent role at Blind Low Vision NZ as a Policy Analyst.

None of this would have been possible without our incredible team embracing the Programme and the development opportunities that helped our graduates transition into full-time employment.

Congratulations to our Graduates on their outstanding achievements.

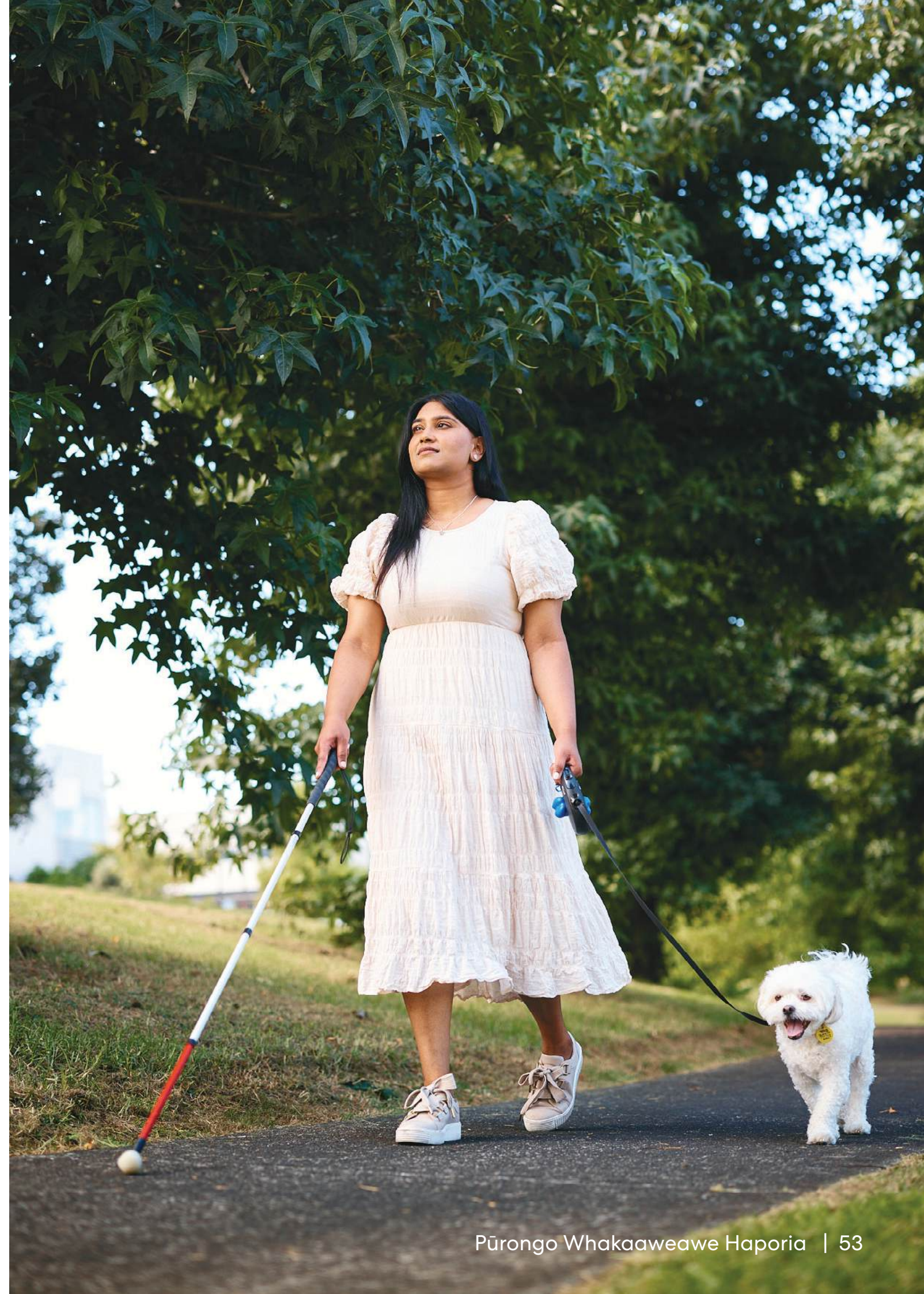


Emerging Leader Programme

In September 2023, the People & Performance and Learning and Development teams launched a 12-week pilot programme for Blind Low Vision NZ employees, nominated by their managers as potential future leaders.

The programme aimed to identify, nurture, and empower the next generation of leaders through diverse topics, discussions, and self-reflections. It provided an opportunity for participants to enhance leadership skills, broaden perspectives, and grow into leadership roles.

As emerging leaders develop, they positively impact team productivity, employee satisfaction, and overall performance. The experience aimed to align with our organisational values by emphasising collaborative thinking, a person-centred approach, adaptability to the environment, and accountability in our actions.



Hiranga Tūao

Volunteer Highlights

Volunteers are vital to delivering support and services to our clients. We've launched a new strategy to redefine the foundations of volunteering at Blind Low Vision NZ. This initiative places us at the **forefront of best practice volunteering**. We've invested in a skilled management team to ensure our volunteer services are sustainable and scalable. This approach will create varied volunteer roles that greatly impact our clients' lives.

Our investment includes **a robust framework** to ensure volunteers can provide the necessary safety and security for our most vulnerable clients. We are also focusing on volunteer recognition, connection, and retention. This strategy will expand our service delivery cost-effectively, honour the time and effort volunteers give, and provide more clients with diverse services that enhance their lives.

Volunteers are valuable team members, and we are committed to **fostering a One Team culture** where insights, ideas, and concerns are shared freely, leading to better problem-solving and innovation. Everyone understands and aligns with our shared goals and vision, uniting us all in our mission. We are at the start of this exciting journey towards excellence in volunteering, so stay tuned for more developments.



Volunteer Story

Lydia, 24, has been one of Blind Low Vision NZ's dedicated youth volunteers for the past two years. Her journey into volunteering began quite naturally, initially helping friends who work for the organisation. From packing boxes and cleaning equipment, Lydia's willingness to help soon evolved into a deeper commitment driven by her passion for sports.

Lydia's volunteer work goes beyond logistical support. She actively assists people in the blind and low vision community to participate in outdoor activities. A typical volunteering day for Lydia starts early at a run meet, where she greets fellow volunteers and participants. Partnered with a blind runner, Lydia describes the scenery and experiences as they jog together. This enriches the runner's experience and fosters a unique bond of trust and camaraderie.

One of Lydia's most memorable moments was running the **Rotorua Half Marathon** with a low vision runner. This adventure was a testament to the incredible achievements possible despite challenges. It allowed Lydia to meet passionate blind athletes and share their inspiring stories.

Volunteering with Blind Low Vision NZ has given Lydia a deeper appreciation for the challenges faced by people in the blind and low vision community. It has also expanded her skillset; she's learned Braille and even picked up a new sport, **Goalball**. Best of all, volunteering has allowed her to combine her love of running with helping others.

A particularly inspiring figure in Lydia's journey is **James**, a blind runner who lost his sight suddenly in his late 30s. Running alongside him, Lydia pushes herself to keep pace, inspired by

James's dedication and the joy that running brings him.

Looking ahead, Lydia aspires to a career in volunteer coordination and event planning in sports. She strongly encourages other young people to give volunteering a go. She highlights how rewarding it is, offering a chance to meet new people, share interests, and grow skills.





Te Whai Wāhi Hapori

Community Engagement

Educating the Next Generation, and Changing Attitudes towards Vision Loss

Our Schools Awareness Workshops educate and introduce children across New Zealand to the experiences of people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision, and the barriers they face daily to participating in their community.

These engaging and interactive workshops help students understand vision loss, fostering empathy and awareness in our communities. This initiative equips young minds with knowledge and empowers them to advocate for inclusion and accessibility.

Programme Structure

The two-session programme raises awareness of vision loss in both school environments and neighbourhoods. An optional staff awareness session supports schools with students who are blind or have low vision, with simple tips on how the school can support their students and be inclusive.

Workshop Highlights

In the first session, students learn about vision loss and actively find answers to questions about what vision loss can look like and how we can help people in our community who are blind or have low vision. This includes an introduction to the white cane and the significance of yellow tactile dots and lines in our neighbourhoods. There's also a call to action to become responsible footpath users, supporting safe access and mobility for everyone.

In the second session, students meet a working guide dog. They learn what it takes for Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dogs to breed, train, and match a guide dog to a person who is blind or has low vision. The session covers the equipment the team uses, service dog etiquette, and some of the special tasks a guide dog performs for their handler.

Impact on our Audience

While raising awareness of vision loss, the workshops are delivered with overarching themes of self-awareness and awareness of others, appreciating our differences, and recognising our unique strengths. This inspires young people to be the change our communities need.



Community Awareness: Opportunities to grow Awareness and Reach More People

We continue to respond to requests from our communities to inform and grow awareness of vision loss, who we are at Blind Low Vision NZ, and what we do.

Requests are connected to the right person locally to deliver the content requested, fostering local connections to local people and our brand, while ensuring our audiences are leaving with the information they are seeking.

Impact on Community

While raising awareness of who we are and how we support people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision, opportunities to inform and educate through people local to the request is connecting community with Blind Low Vision NZ and our cause – fostering relationship in community and reaching more people.

Optometry Students visit

On 22 February, Blind Low Vision NZ welcomed a group of 50 final year optometry students from the University of Auckland to the Mobility Training Centre in South Auckland to learn first-hand about the services and supports Blind Low Vision NZ can offer to people with vision loss.

Staff from the Northern client services team hosted interactive sessions on Adaptive Daily Living (ADL) techniques and Adaptive Community and Adaptive Technology (ACATS). The students were shown through the guide dogs' facility and learnt skills for human guiding in the Mobility Training Centre. **Maddie Martinez - Rehabilitation Instructor** gave a great presentation to teach them about the PSP and vision rehabilitation specialist roles, and **Dan Shepherd - GM Community & Inclusion** spoke about the critical role that optometrists play in supporting any person who has been diagnosed with sight loss.

It was a privilege to host this delightful bunch of future referrers and share with them our team's enthusiasm for and knowledge of vision rehabilitation! A big thank you to all staff who were involved. We look forward to this becoming an annual event.

Hiranga Mahi Moni

Fundraising Highlights

Celebrating the 2024 Guide Dog Puppy Appeal Street Collection

The 2024 Guide Dog Puppy Appeal (GDPA) Street Collection highlighted the ongoing generosity in our communities, but it's clear that sustaining this type of campaign is becoming increasingly difficult. **The post-pandemic landscape has made it harder to gather the support we once relied on**, and the campaign's reach isn't as strong as it used to be. Despite these challenges, the event still showcased the dedication of our volunteers, donors, and coordinators, whose efforts continue to make a difference.

This year, 87 coordinators and 615 collectors united to support Blind Low Vision NZ. Every contribution—whether shaking a bucket or spreading our message—helped raise funds and awareness, but the challenges we faced signal that maintaining this momentum will require even greater community effort in the future. Our presence on the streets not only supported our mission but also served as a reminder of the essential role guide dogs play in enhancing independence for those who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision.



We are grateful for the support of volunteers, who are the heart of our organisation. Despite facing challenges such as coordinator attrition and policy changes, their resilience and dedication have been truly inspiring. The positive feedback from our volunteers underscores their commitment to our cause. As one volunteer shared, “As a pensioner, I have very little money left for charities. This is one way I can support organisations like yours, which offer amazing help and support to those in need.”

As always, our donors remain vital to our mission. Your consistent contributions, especially through our annual appeals, provide the steady, reliable income that is crucial for our continued work. Your generosity enables us to plan confidently, knowing we can deliver the programmes and services that make a real difference in people's lives—from funding guide dog training to providing essential resources for those with low or no vision.

Embracing Digital Transformation

Looking to the future, we are eager to explore innovative strategies to further engage our community. Initiatives such as increased community involvement in schools, the peer-to-peer Pawgust Campaign, and Paws for Purpose, offer exciting opportunities to inspire greater support for our cause. We’ve also seen a remarkable rise in digital engagement, with social media campaigns reaching thousands and boosting digital donations. This shift reflects our community’s readiness to embrace new ways of supporting our work.

Looking Ahead

As we move forward, we are committed to refining our fundraising strategies to ensure sustainability and impact. The challenges we’ve encountered provide valuable insights that will guide our efforts to streamline processes, enhance volunteer support, and explore more financially viable options. We extend our deepest thanks to everyone involved in the Guide Dog Puppy Appeal Street Collection and other fundraising campaigns throughout the past year. Together, we will continue to innovate, inspire, and make a lasting impact. Stay tuned for our upcoming initiatives and join us as we embark on new adventures to support Blind Low Vision NZ. Your continued support and generosity are the driving forces behind our success.



Hiranga Kaupapa Here, Kaupapa Whiri I te Hapori

Community Fundraising Highlights

Walk for Humanity | The Ahmadiyya Muslim Community

Since 2009, the Ahmadiyya Muslim Community has been a steadfast supporter of Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dogs, raising over \$80,000 through their annual Walkathon: Walk for Humanity. This long-standing relationship exemplifies the power of community spirit and dedication.

This year's Walk for Humanity took place in March, perfectly aligning with our Guide Dog Appeal Month. The Ahmadiyya Community reached a new milestone, raising over \$8,000—their **highest annual total to date**.

Four of our staff members, including two from the Community Fundraising team and two from the Guide Dogs services team, attended the walk, accompanied by a guide dog puppy in training. The event was a heartwarming demonstration of community support and collaboration.

Located just across the road from Blind Low Vision NZ in Manurewa, the Ahmadiyya Community has found motivation in supporting their nearest neighbour. Their ongoing efforts and generosity have significantly impacted our Guide Dogs Services.



Good in the Hood | Z Energy Flagship Programme

We are proud to have been part of Z Energy’s annual flagship programme, Good in the Hood, for many years. This initiative allows Z Energy stations across the country to support local charities and community groups. Each Z service station chooses four community groups to support, giving away a total of \$4,000 per station. During the voting period, customers receive an orange token to vote for their favourite local group. The funds are then split based on the number of votes each group receives.

In 2023, Blind Low Vision NZ was chosen by 16 Z Energy stations across Aotearoa. Some of these stations have supported us for years, while others are new partners. During the voting period, our dedicated staff and volunteers visited these stations to engage with staff and customers, raising awareness about our services and encouraging votes.

Thanks to the incredible community support, we raised over \$10,000 across these stations:

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| • Z Henderson Valley (West Auckland) | • Z Kepa Road (Auckland) |
| • Z Eastside (Hamilton) | • Z Kamo (Whangārei) |
| • Z Five Crossroads (Hamilton) | • Z Kaikohe (Northland) |
| • Z Tamatea (Napier) | • Z Glen Park (Auckland’s Northshore) |
| • Z Hutt Road (Lower Hutt) | • Z Greville Rd (Auckland’s Northshore) |
| • Z Trentham (Upper Hutt) | • Z Triangle (Auckland) |
| • Z Johnsonville (Wellington) | |
| • Z Heretaunga St (Hastings) | |





University of Auckland | Volunteers Week

Working with the University of Auckland Volunteers Club has been a wonderful experience. During Volunteers Week, our Community Fundraiser and Volunteer Coordinator participated in a speaker panel at the University, discussing Blind Low Vision NZ's volunteering opportunities and pathways. This engagement inspired and informed students about the various ways they can contribute to our cause.

The students from the University of Auckland also played a vital role in our activities by helping clean Street Collection buckets, ensuring they were ready for our annual Guide Dog Puppy Appeal Street Collection. Additionally, members of the University of Auckland Volunteers Club helped us write Christmas cards for our supporters and volunteers, adding a personal touch that was greatly appreciated by all.

We are grateful for the enthusiasm and commitment of the University of Auckland Volunteers Club and look forward to continuing this meaningful collaboration in the future.



Tautoko Nga karaati

Support Grants

Blind Low Vision NZ administers several funds that provide additional financial help and support to people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision. If you or someone you know need financial assistance meeting the costs of vision rehabilitation, or tertiary education we may be able to help. To know more about the Support Grants listed below, please email pf@blindlowvision.org.nz or call **0800 24 33 33**.

Sir Arthur Pearson Memorial Fund

The Pearson Fund can provide grants for a range of items that support with the additional cost of being blind, deafblind or having low vision. All Blind Low Vision NZ members with a fully eligible membership can apply.

Please note this is a fund of last resort.

Kindred Sharp Children's Trust

This Trust provides grants to children aged 15 or below who are registered with Blind Low Vision NZ. Grants may be approved for the funding of equipment for personal development and developmental programmes.

Henderson Fund

This Trust seeks to support those who are blind, deafblind or have low vision up to the age of 21 years in the Greater Wellington region, from the Otaki River in the north and the summit of the Remutaka range in the east.

The Shirley Owen Trust

The Shirley Owen Trust provides financial support for Blind Low Vision NZ fully eligible clients with tuition fees, Braille music and limited funding of instruments.

Oppenheim Tertiary Education Trust Fund

The Oppenheim Trust Tertiary Education Fund provides assistance to registered members of Blind Low Vision NZ who are entering their second year of tertiary education or beyond.

Forsyth Fund

The Forsyth Fund welcomes applications for financial assistance to clients of Blind Low Vision NZ who live within the boundaries of The Waikato Regional Council, or The Waikato District Health Board.

Successful Conclusion of Equipment Promotion and Recognition of Pearson Fund's Support

We're pleased to share the news of our recent NZ Vision Store Promotion, which saw an astonishing total sales value of **\$346,100**. This achievement wouldn't have been possible without the valuable contributions of each member of our team. Our contact centres dedication to providing exceptional service and meeting client needs has been evident throughout.

We thank our incredible Equipment Solutions team for organising this initiative.

We also want to express our gratitude to the Pearson Fund for their generous support, which played a crucial role in the success of this promotion. Their commitment to making essential tools accessible has made a significant impact, and we are grateful for their partnership.

The Equipment Promotion featured a diverse range of products we haven't previously offered, including talking microwaves and magnifiers.

Here's what **Dan Shepherd, GM Community & Inclusion** had to say about the promotion,

"As a client myself, the \$500 Equipment Reimbursement demonstrates Blind Low Vision NZ's commitment to supporting clients to access the equipment they want and need. Cost can be a barrier to our members accessing equipment that can be life changing. This offer has not just helped clients access equipment that may have previously been unaffordable but has also supported the transition to the new Vision Australia online store and the wider selection of equipment available."

Here's what some of our other clients had to say,

"I was able to get items I otherwise would've never been able to afford."

"This will make such a big difference to Gordon who struggles to read."

"I'm impressed by the variety of products offered."

"The products will greatly enhance my daily living."

The most popular items include liquid level indicators, kitchen scales, and talking watches. These items are incredibly practical and allow our community to do things that others may take for granted. Thank you to the Pearson Fund for supporting our clients.



Hiranga Kaupapa Here, Kaupapa Whiri

Policy and Advocacy Highlights

The Policy and Advocacy team at Blind Low Vision NZ turns ideas into action to create positive change at central and local government levels. Advocacy is about using evidence and people power to encourage public support for a particular cause or policy. We advocate for the change that people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision need and want. We produce **evidence-based solutions and work collaboratively** to achieve results, advocating for an accessible society here in Aotearoa New Zealand.

To do this in 2023/24, we dedicated our time working on multiple projects with various partners, to build their visibility and spread awareness.

Project Highlights

1. The Policy and Advocacy team engaged with key stakeholders regarding improving **accessibility of touch-screen EFTPOS machines**.
2. We elevated our engagement in two campaigns: **Eye Health Aotearoa Trust** and **Access Matters Aotearoa Trust**. Through these initiatives, we actively contributed to enhancing access to eye health services, preventing avoidable blindness, and advocating for robust accessibility legislation that benefits all New Zealanders.
3. Engaged with **Members of Parliament** from across the political spectrum to further the missions of enhancing access to eye health services and enacting robust accessibility legislation in partnership with Eye Health Aotearoa Trust and Access Matters Aotearoa Trust.

4. Worked collaboratively with other disability organisations to increase the impact of Blind Low Vision NZ's advocacy activities.
5. In partnership with Eye Health Aotearoa Trust, we collaborated with various stakeholders and corporate partners to **help advance policy change to prevent avoidable blindness** in Aotearoa New Zealand.
6. Engaged with active members of the community who are passionate about bringing about social change for people with disabilities, to amplify our collective voice.



Policy and Advocacy Achievements

The past year has been marked by significant achievements:

1. The Policy and Advocacy team held four webinars in the **Know Your Rights** series, with the Human Rights Commission, the Ombudsman, Auckland Disability Law, and the Office of the Health and Disability Commissioner. These webinars served to help Blind Low Vision NZ clients learn more about the tools at their disposal when standing up for their rights.
2. Assisted 83 clients to advocate for their rights through the Individual Advocacy Service.
3. Supported the development of resources to support people to have their say on the **Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill**. In response to many Select Committee submissions, the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill was put on pause until further notice. We regard this as a success because the Bill fell short of expectations for many people in the disability sector.
4. A petition for the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill to be redrafted was presented to Parliament during a demonstration by Access Matters Aotearoa on 7 March 2024. Approximately **100 people gathered in support of strong accessibility legislation**. Members of Parliament from all parties attended the event and engaged with the campaign.
5. Eye Health Aotearoa Trust entered into a partnership with **The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Ophthalmologists (RANZCO)**. We are a proud member of the Eye Health Aotearoa Trust.

The Year Ahead

The new financial year brings exciting opportunities to the Policy and Advocacy team's strategy. We will focus on launching new advocacy campaigns to address some of the most pressing access barriers our clients face. This year we will be focussing on attitudinal barriers, barriers to getting around, and barriers to everyday essential services.

Preparations are already underway for the 2024 Eye Health Aotearoa Love Your Eyes Tactile Art Competition – plus a Children's Eye Health Campaign – in continuation of our tradition of harnessing creativity to raise awareness about the importance of eye health.

As we move forward, we remain committed to our mission of transforming policy ideas into tangible actions, ensuring that the voices of those with low or no vision are heard and that their needs are met.

Empowering Independence

We are committed to empowering our clients to live independent lives in their communities.

Nga mahi atawhai

Philanthropy

The Philanthropy team were delighted to host a series of Thank You events for our cherished supporters this year. Events took place in Whangārei, Auckland, Tauranga, New Plymouth, Palmerston North, Wellington, Nelson and Christchurch, with more scheduled for the year ahead. This was a fantastic opportunity to express our deepest gratitude in person, and a chance to share the organisation’s strategy and plan for the future. We were blown away with the incredible attendance, which demonstrated the engagement levels of our supporters, with particular success in the Wellington and Christchurch regions. From the bottom of our hearts, we sincerely thank you once again.



1% for Good Campaign

In 2023, we launched our “1% for Good” campaign, highlighting how even a small portion of one’s estate can make a significant, lasting impact on the lives of people who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision. This campaign aims to engage the wider New Zealand public, raising awareness of the importance of Gifts in Wills as a critical source of funding for Blind Low Vision NZ. **With Gifts in Wills contributing over a third of our income**, the success of this campaign for securing future funds is vital. It has helped us promote the profound impact that such gifts can have and encouraged more people to consider leaving a legacy that will continue to support our mission for generations to come.

Corporate Partnerships

We extend our sincere thanks to our corporate partners for their continued support. Your commitment has played a crucial role in helping us achieve our mission of empowering people who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision to live the life they choose. Together, we’ve made a significant impact, creating a more inclusive and accessible community. Your partnership has been instrumental in driving positive change, and we look forward to continuing this journey together. Thank you for standing with us.



Royal Canin

Royal Canin, a global leader in pet nutrition, proudly announced a groundbreaking partnership with Blind Low Vision NZ this year to enhance the nutrition and wellbeing of Guide Dogs for Kiwis who are blind or have low vision. Understanding that a dog's nutritional needs change throughout its life, Royal Canin provides exclusive, high-quality, science-based nutrition tailored to the unique needs of our Guide Dog puppies and trainees from their earliest days through to graduation.

Zoetis

We are grateful to have Zoetis New Zealand's support for Blind Low Vision NZ Guide Dogs. Their backing helps us continue our mission to provide independence and freedom to those who are blind or have low vision, while also fostering a deep and valuable companionship.

The bond between people and their animals is truly special, but for those who rely on guide dogs, it goes beyond companionship. These dogs provide essential support, independence, and freedom. Zoetis provide comprehensive solutions for our guide dogs—from disease prevention and detection to high-quality treatments—that help maintain the health and well-being of guide dogs. Zoetis are there with our guide dog teams every step of the way.

Park Hyatt

Park Hyatt Auckland has shown tremendous support for Blind Low Vision NZ. Their General Manager, Brett Sweetman, and his family have adopted Beau, a withdrawn Labrador who now serves as the hotel's resident ambassador. Beau's warm greetings to guests, assistance with luggage, and daily rounds in the admin offices have made him a beloved figure within the hotel.

This partnership with Park Hyatt Auckland helps raise awareness and funds for the training and care of our guide dogs.



Hei Whakamoemiti

In Gratitude

We want to extend our heartfelt appreciation to every supporter who has stood by us. Your generosity continues to transform the lives of people in New Zealand facing challenges with blindness, deaf blindness, or low vision. Your compassion empowers them to live the life they choose, and we can't thank you enough for the profound impact you've had.

Major Donors

Alexander McMillan Trust	Eric Parr
Alpheus Capital Ltd	Estate of Ernest Hyam
Anna Buchly	Davis and Ted & Mollie Carr
Bettie Beech	Endowment Trust
Bupa Foundation	Estate of Mr Alan
Central Lakes Trust	Douglas Harvey
Dauntsey Teagle	Frances Allen
Des Hunt	Genera Holdings Ltd
Dorothy Cutts	Glyn Harvard Evans
Dudley Martineau	Charitable Trust
Burrows Trust	Grassroots Trust
Dulcie Taylor	Hilda Bottomley
E J Price Charitable Trust	Charitable Trust
Elaine Hutchinson	Hugh Green Foundation
	Leonie Cameron

Lynne Erceg	The Caiger Charitable Trust
Marriott Trust	The Claire Simpson
Mary Guild	Charitable Trust
N H Taylor Charitable Trust	The Danesmead
N R and J H Thomson	Charitable Trust
Charitable Trust	The Masfen Foundation
One Foundation	The Parnell Hotel & Conference
Owen & John Whitfield	Centre
Charitable Trusts	The Reed Charitable Trust
Park Hyatt Auckland	The Walter & Rana Norwood
Pelorus Trust	Charitable Trust
Perpetual Guardian	Timaru Construction Ltd
Public Trust	Trillian Trust
Ray Watts Charitable Trust	Trust Waikato
Roland Stead Charitable Trust	Una and John Kennedy
Ronald Hermann	Charitable Trust
Charitable Trust	Vivienne Court Trading
Room-Simmonds	W A & E M Anderson
Charitable Trust	Memorial Trust
Royal Canin	Wendy Parr
Royston Health Trust	Zena and Jack Peat
Silk Route Limited	Charitable Trust
Sylvia Burbery	Zoetis
Taumarunui Opportunity Shop	
Tennyson Charitable Trust	

Koha i roto i te Whakapuakitanga Whakamutunga

Gifts in Wills

Gifts in Wills fund one third of all our services at Blind Low Vision NZ. A gift in a Will of as little as 1% makes a tremendous difference. Last year, many of our services would not have been possible without the kind support of the following people who left a gift in their Will.

Legacies

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Estate of A R E Telford | Estate of Ernest Hanke |
| Estate of Alexander Jenkins | Estate of Ethel Waller |
| Estate of Amy Watchorn | Estate of George Farquhar |
| Estate of Ann Sommerville | Estate of Gerald Baker |
| Estate of Ann Webley | Estate of Glenys Ashby |
| Estate of Anne Ames | Estate of Gordon Ducker |
| Estate of Arthur Henry Wall | Estate of Gwen Andrews |
| Estate of B&D Garratt | Estate of Hazel Hensman |
| Estate of Diane Berg | Estate of Hector Gilmour |
| Estate of Diane Davies | Estate of Hilde Otley |
| Estate of Dieter Neuman | Estate of Isobel Simmons |
| Estate of Doreen Brown | Estate of Jack Wynn |
| Estate of Dorothy Goodman | Estate of Jack Younghusband |
| Estate of Edmund Alfred Bonner | Estate of James Short |
| Estate of Elaine Gilmore | Estate of Jennifer Grant |
| | Estate of Jessie Meder |

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Estate of Joan Gardner | Estate of Mary Barton |
| Estate of Joan Lee | Estate of Matthew Turton |
| Estate of Joan Preece | Estate of Mavis Evans |
| Estate of John O’Sullivan | Estate of Max Scoble |
| Estate of Joseph Tait | Estate of Noel Shaskey |
| Estate of Julie Woods | Estate of Noelene Gillies |
| Estate of Laurence Cantwell | Estate of Pamela Whiteley |
| Estate of Lillian McFarlane | Estate of Phyllis Sherrock |
| Estate of Lily Rollings Williamson | Estate of Roger Scherer |
| Estate of Lorna Blackmore | Estate of Rosalie Lucinsky |
| Estate of Malcolm Fletcher | Estate of Rosalie Sterritt |
| Estate of Margaret Anderson | Estate of Roy Milam |
| Estate of Margaret Henwood | Estate of Shirley Dunn |
| Estate of Margaret Sofield | Estate of Yvonne Marcus |
| Estate of Marjorie Rhodes | |



Pūrongo Pūtea

Blind Low Vision NZ Financials

Where our income comes from:

Property and rental income	1%
Government	24%
Gifts in Wills	31%
Charitable Gifts	41%
Other	3%

Where our income goes:

Governance	2%
Grants to client peer support groups	2%
Income Generation	19%
Innovation & adaption for client services	14%
Personalised rehabilitation & support services	51%
Awareness raising & advocacy	12%



Consumer Organisation Impact Highlights

Blind Low Vision NZ provides essential support to consumer organisations through targeted grants, with **\$741,390 allocated in FY24**. This amount equates to 2% of total expenditure for the year.

These grants enable the development of projects and initiatives that support people who are blind, deafblind, or have low vision. The funding helps consumer groups build capacity, foster advocacy, and deliver peer-to-peer support, ensuring a strong network of services across the community.

In the past year, recipients of these grants have focused on improving communications, strengthening leadership, and expanding their reach to engage a wider audience, while staying true to their core missions. On the following pages are some highlights from this year’s consumer organisation reports.

FY24 Grants to Consumer Organisations

Organisation	Amount
Albinism NZ	\$10,000
Blind Citizens New Zealand	\$210,000
Blind Sport NZ	\$70,000
Blindsided NZ	\$15,000
Deafblind Association NZ	\$75,000
Kāpō Māori Aotearoa	\$100,000
Parents of Vision Impaired	\$160,000
NZ View	\$10,000
Retina NZ	\$40,000
SEYFF	\$10,000
The Sight Support Trust	\$10,000



The summaries below are presented in alphabetical order.

Albinism NZ

In lieu of a full report this year, they're sharing an About Us section.

Albinism NZ provide resources for families, promote understanding, and advocate for the rights of persons with Albinism. They collaborate with various organisations to advance the interests of the blind and sight-impaired community.

Blind Citizens NZ

Blind Citizens NZ has expended its \$210K grant, supporting various initiatives, including co-design efforts with Guide Dog Services and advocacy in areas such as public accessibility, education, and employment. Their work continues to positively impact blind people and the wider community, ensuring the voices of blind people remain central to decisions affecting their lives. The organisation produced four issues of their national publication Focus, reaching approximately 1,500 individuals, including MPs.

Blind Sport NZ

Blind Sport NZ facilitated over 2,000 participants in their programmes, reaching nearly 4,000 people through their Accessible Sports Kits. The organisation provided professional development for 852 coaches and teachers and hosted 73 events. Their online reach grew significantly, with a 94% increase in Facebook interactions.

Blindsided NZ

Despite a challenging year, Blindsided NZ made progress in developing a consumer portal and is working towards delivering workshops on vision impairment. While there have been setbacks, they are continuing to build resources and engage their community.

Deafblind Association NZ

This year, Deafblind Association NZ formed five new regional networks, exceeding their goal of two per annum. Their work supports the wellbeing of deafblind New Zealanders through peer support, technology exploration, and advocacy. Key activities include fostering relationships with organisations such as BLENNZ, consulting on the definition of deafblindness in Aotearoa, and planning their 2025 Conference to include professional development and leadership opportunities for the community.

Kāpō Māori Aotearoa

The \$40K grant from Blind Low Vision NZ supported Kāpō Māori Aotearoa's annual work programme and their 40th Anniversary Hui Taumata celebration. Achievements include the launch of a 'members-only' website, peer support initiatives through their K3 Community Wellness Programme, and strong participation in advocacy through the Wai 2575 disability claim phase.

Parents of Vision Impaired (PVI)

PVI has maintained a strong support network for families, organising multiple conferences, delivering newsletters, and connecting parents through peer support workers and local meet-ups. They have also played a significant role in national advocacy, contributing to several policy submissions and collaborating with other organisations to improve outcomes for families.

NZ VIEW (New Zealand Vision Impaired Empowering Women)

NZ VIEW is focused on empowering women with vision impairments across all age groups. The organisation aims to connect with a younger demographic while supporting older members. It recognises the need to balance face-to-face and digital engagement. Although facing challenges in stabilising peer-to-peer support in some regions, NZ VIEW sees an opportunity to shift its focus towards advocacy for women with vision impairments.

Retina NZ Inc

Retina NZ focused on providing accessible information, fostering youth development, and offering peer support. They distributed vision screening toolkits to health professionals, conducted lighting assessments, and continued to engage in international advocacy. Their peer support line has been well utilised, helping to connect individuals with similar lived experiences.

SEYFF (Support and Education for Youth, their Family and Friends)

We used our funding to support a variety of activities that helped bring our community together and promote well-being. With weekly fitness classes at the South Auckland recreation centre and bi-monthly events, we kept our members active and connected. We also expanded our reach to Christchurch, where we held events to engage even more people. This has been an exciting step forward for SEYFF, and we're proud of the progress we've made across the country.

The Sight Support Charitable Trust

The Sight Support Charitable Trust has shown resilience in the face of challenges caused by the ongoing impact of COVID-19, particularly for older individuals. The trust continues to provide peer support, advocate for improved vision health systems, and strengthen eye health literacy through collaboration with scientific and medical experts. Moving forward, the trust will focus on recruiting volunteers, forging partnerships, and working on small-scale initiatives to build momentum in 2024/25. The trust looks forward to discussing opportunities for alignment with Blind Low Vision NZ's strategic goals, particularly around empowering independence, social inclusion, and education.

Te Poari Kaitiaki

The Board



Clive Lansink
(Chair)



Judy Small
(Deputy Chair)



Martine Abel-Williamson



John Billings



Donna McCaskill



Chris Orr



Richard Patete



Ronald (Ron) Scott



Anne-Marie Taggart

Clive Lansink Chair

Blind since birth, Clive has spent much of his personal life working on behalf of people who are blind, deafblind or have low vision and was President of Blind Citizens New Zealand for a total of thirteen years. He has an engineering degree as well as a law degree.

Judy Small Deputy Chair

Judy has been a client of Blind Low Vision NZ since she was four years old. Judy graduated in 1999 with a Master of Social Science (Hons). She worked as a Policy Analyst for 11 ½ years in social policy in the Office for Disability Issues and has also served on the Blind Citizens New Zealand National Executive.

Martine Abel-Williamson

Martine has been living in New Zealand for the past 22 years since emigrating from South Africa. Her qualifications are in the areas of vision rehabilitation, education and social policy and previously worked at Blind Low Vision NZ in the fields of blindness awareness training and service co-ordination. Martine is also the President of the World Blind Union.

John Billings

John has been practising his profession as a Dispensing Optician for 35 years. He has always had a strong interest in providing Low Vision Aids and services to the partially sighted in order to help them continue with as good a quality of life as possible. As well as the Low Vision community, he also has experience with the Deaf community.

Donna McCaskill

Donna joined the Board in 2020 after 20 years of service as a staff member with Blind Low Vision NZ. A member since birth, Donna has two adult sons who are also members, and her family has a close connection to the organisation due to a dominant genetic eye condition.

Originally from Auckland, Donna now lives in Ashburton and works in the agricultural sector as a recruitment consultant. Alongside her career, she is a passionate advocate for disability and inclusion in sport. This led to her involvement with the Māori Advisory Board for Te Kahu Raukura (Sport Integrity Commission). Donna is also a trustee for The D*List, a media group focused on advocacy.

Her key focuses within the RNZFB Board are youth transition, growth, and inclusive community engagement.

Chris Orr

Chris is the newest Board Member elected in November 2023. He lost his sight in 1974 as the result of a traumatic injury. Now retired, Chris has dedicated over 46 years to Blind Low Vision NZ, holding diverse roles such as Braille Teacher, Fundraising Manager, Community Education and Awareness Manager, and Access and Awareness Advisor. His wealth of experience and extensive knowledge of Blind Low Vision NZ services make him a valuable addition to the board.

Beyond his contributions to Blind Low Vision NZ, Chris actively serves on the Auckland Council's Disability Advisory Panel and Universal Design Forum. In these roles, he continues to advocate for inclusivity and accessibility, bringing his expertise to the broader community.

Richard Patete

Richard has been involved with Blind Low Vision NZ for over 20 years. His eldest daughter, Renee, was born blind. Raising Renee has given him a strong understanding of the needs and challenges of the blind and low vision community. He brings with him an extensive range of experience working in the not-for-profit sector.

Ronald (Ron) Scott

Ron lives in Tauranga where he is an elected member of the Bay of Plenty Regional Council. He is also a director of Consumer NZ, the SILC Charitable Trust and Workbridge Holdings. He was previously deputy chair of the Bay of Plenty DHB.

Ron is an economist and the founder of Stellaris Ltd which specialises in strategy and governance training for boards and senior executives.

Ron brings to the board his governance and strategic experience and understanding of finances as well as the ability to make connections, for the benefit of members, across the community, disability and local government sectors.

Anne-Marie Taggart

Anne-Marie is an experienced senior leader within the NZ public sector. She began her career as an HR professional but in recent years has branched out and has led both corporate and operational functions. Recently Anne-Marie has joined Te Kawa Mataaho (Public Service Commission) as the Executive Coach in the Leadership Development Centre.

Te Ranga Manahautū

Executive Leadership Team



Andrea Midgen
(Chief Executive)



Greg Hurn



Liz Ansell



Mark Dickinson
(Outgoing)



Marjorie Hawkings



Stephen Keeling



Catherine Simanu



Gwen Green

Andrea Midgen Chief Executive

Andrea is a proven leader with extensive CEO and senior executive experience, both within and outside the not-for-profit sector. She has consistently demonstrated a clear sense of purpose and vision throughout her career. Andrea served as Chief Executive Officer of the Royal New Zealand Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) for over seven years. Prior to that, she was Group Strategist/CFO for Southern Cross Group and held several senior executive roles at Vodafone, culminating as Director of Customer Operations. During her tenure at Vodafone, Andrea also gained valuable governance experience as Chair of the Vodafone New Zealand Foundation.

An alumna of Unitec Te Pūkenga with a Chartered Accountant (CA) qualification, Andrea Midgen brings a wealth of experience in organisational leadership, financial acumen, and stakeholder management. Andrea’s leadership focus is on being curious, kind, people and client focussed each and every day.

Greg Hurn

Chief Operating Officer

(1 August 2023 to 31 January 2024)

Greg joined Blind Low Vision NZ in 2010 as the Chief Financial Officer. He brings a wealth of experience in financial management, strategic planning, business development initiatives and customer service. He consistently demonstrates a capacity for swift decision-making and effective problem-solving.

Greg also oversees the property division of Blind Low Vision NZ and is a Board Member of Foundation Properties Limited. He was a key player in the development of the Mobility Training Centre, the new Parnell Office and Retirement Village project.

Greg believes in leading by example and fostering an environment of open communication and shared purpose.

Greg's aim is to ensure we are financially sound and sustainable over the long-term horizon.

Greg served as Chief Financial Officer throughout the year, except during his tenure as Acting Chief Executive from 1 August 2023 to 31 January 2024.

Liz Ansell

General Manager Client Services

Liz is a seasoned leader with experience across both public and private sectors including FMCG, banking, media and security. Following extensive experience in HR and managing change, she is thrilled to bring her skills into managing and growing a team of people passionate about providing first-class service in the not-for-profit sector.

Mark Dickinson

General Manager Business Services

Joining Blind Low Vision NZ in 2018, Mark has extensive New Zealand and International operational and senior leadership experience.

Mark's focus in leading the Business Services portfolio is to enable the development and implementation of creative business solutions to support our entire organisation as we strive to achieve best in class performance, delivering superior service outcomes for our members and clients.

Mark left Blind Low Vision NZ on 31 July 2024.

Marjorie Hawkings

Executive Assistant to Chief Executive

Marjorie joined Blind Low Vision NZ in 2010. She has held a number of different positions during her tenure and has been in her current role since 2020. Marjorie is also the Compliments and Complaints Officer; manages the internal Travel Centre Team and is Board Secretary for Foundation Properties Limited and Bledisloe Royston Trust.

Marjorie consistently demonstrates exceptional organisational skills, attention to detail, and a deep understanding of the organisation. Prior to her employment at Blind Low Vision NZ, she spent many years overseas and has extensive experience as an accomplished and dedicated Executive Assistant with a proven track record of providing high-level support to executive management teams.

Stephen Keeling

Chief Financial Officer since August 2024

Stephen joined the Executive Leadership Team as the Acting Chief Financial Officer following a successful career in senior finance roles and as Head of Finance at Blind Low Vision NZ.

Joining Blind Low Vision NZ in 2019, Stephen has brought a successful track record in leadership, governance and delivering financial results on behalf of organisations to their Board and stakeholders.

During 2024 one of the key focuses was continuing to develop the Statement of Service Performance following the first publication in 2023 to provide greater insight into the delivery of services to our clients and members.

Stephen's aim is to continue to ensure we are financially sound and sustainable over the long term horizon.

Stephen is a Chartered Accountant and has been a member of ICAANZ (Institute of Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand) for over 25 years.

Stephen assumed the role of Acting Chief Financial Officer from 8 August 2023 until 31 January 2024.

Catherine Simanu

General Manager People

Catherine is a seasoned human resource professional with extensive experience leading HR teams across the health, banking, technology, and telecommunications sectors. She excels in building relationships based on trust and respect, leveraging her skills and expertise while honouring the mana of others. Catherine thrives in complex, multi-stakeholder environments, demonstrating effectiveness and adaptability in the face of ambiguity.

In her most recent role as GM HR for healthAlliance, Catherine played a key role in a significant Transformation & Change programme to establish and integrate the organisation into Te Whatu Ora (Health NZ). She was instrumental in developing and implementing the integration of healthAlliance into the new National Data & Digital and People & Culture functions. Catherine is keen to champion a workplace and culture that is engaged, connected, and working to its full potential to be a 'great place to work' to deliver the very best to our clients and stakeholders.

Catherine joined Blind Low Vision NZ on 10 June 2024.

Gwen Green

General Manager Engagement and Marketing

Gwen has over 25 years' fundraising, marketing, and communications experience both in New Zealand and the UK.

Gwen has a passion for developing donor-focused fundraising, creating new income opportunities, and re-visioning existing fundraising strategies to maximise income generation in ways that are flexible to our ever-changing world.

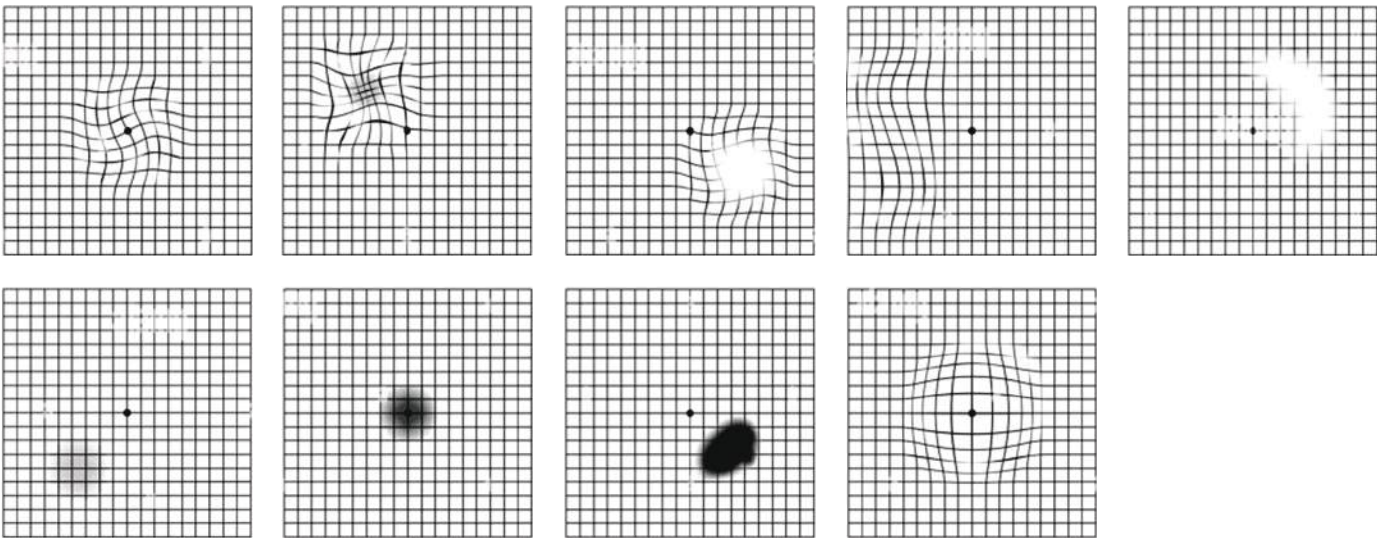
Amsler Grid

How to test your eyes with the Amsler Grid

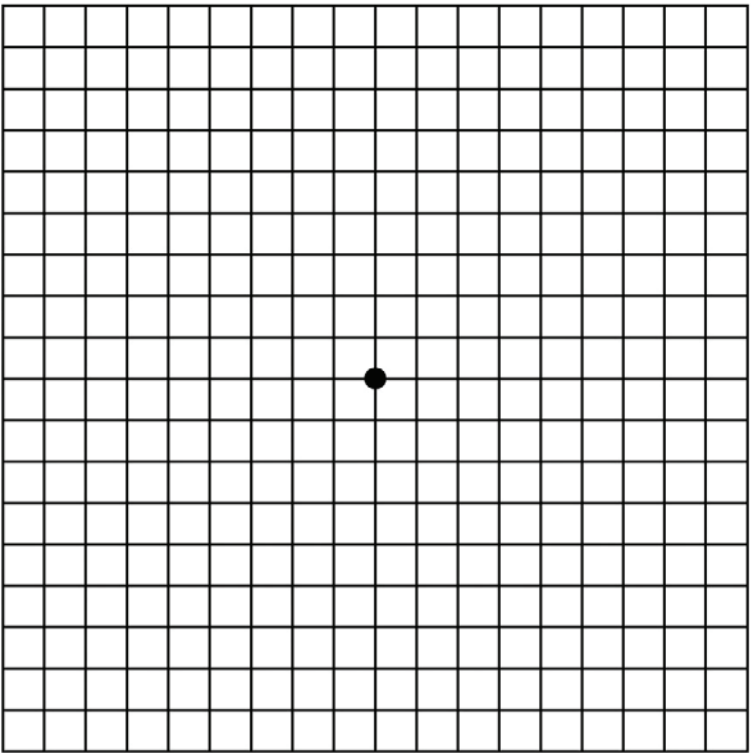
Tear this page out and keep it somewhere you will remember so that you can test your eyes regularly.

- Wear glasses that you normally wear for reading.
- Hold the grid about 35 – 40cm away from your face.
- Cover one eye at a time.
- Stare at the dot in the middle.
- Contact your eye care doctor immediately if any of the straight lines appear wavy or bent, any of the boxes differ in size or shape from the others, or any of the lines are missing, blurry or discoloured.

Here is what an abnormal reaction to the amsler grid might look like. If you start to notice this, please consult your doctor.



Eye Test



Blind Low Vision NZ around the country



For more
information and
opening hours scan
the QR code or visit
our website.

A Whangārei
277 Kamo Road
Kamo, Whangarei 0112

B Smales Farm, North Shore
Shop 1, Ground Floor
Q4 On the Boulevard
Smales Farm 0622

C West Auckland
Unit C (upper level)
197 Universal Drive
Henderson, Auckland 0610

D Parnell, Auckland
539 Parnell Road
Parnell, Auckland 1052

E South Auckland
30 McVilly Road,
Manurewa, Auckland 2102

F Fale Kotuku
20 McVilly Road
Manurewa, Auckland 2102

G Guide Dog Services
30 McVilly Road
Manurewa, Auckland 2102

H Hamilton
15 Liverpool Street
Hamilton 3204

I Tauranga
160 Seventeenth Avenue
Tauranga South, Tauranga 3112

J Gisborne
39 Grey Street
Gisborne 4010

K New Plymouth
131 Vivian Street
New Plymouth 4310

L Napier
65 Thackeray Street
Napier 4110

M Wanganui
102 Peat Street
Wanganui 4500

N Palmerston North
49 Walding Street
Palmerston North 4410

O Kāpiti Coast
6 Tongariro Street
Paraparaumu 5032

P Wellington
121 Adelaide Road
Newtown, Wellington 6021

Q Nelson and Marlborough
530 Main Road, Stoke
Nelson 7011

R Christchurch
96 Bristol Street, St. Albans
Christchurch 8014

S Dunedin
Corner of Hillside Road & Law
Street
Dunedin 9012

T Invercargill
172 Queens Drive, Richmond
Invercargill 9810



Our Mission

Empower New Zealanders who are blind, deafblind, or low vision to live the life they choose.

Our Vision for the future

We aspire to create an Aotearoa New Zealand that is inclusive for all those with blindness, deaf blindness, or sight loss.



Ngā mihi nui for your support!
From the team at Blind Low Vision NZ

blindlowvision.org.nz | 0800 24 33 33

   @BlindLowVisionNZ

PO Box: Private Bag 99910, Newmarket, Auckland 1149

Kāpō Matarehu Aotearoa puta noa i te motu