



2025
ANNUAL
REPORT

29 OCTOBER 2025

Our Vision

Te Manawa Ora - Whānau living their best lives.

Te Manawa Ora translates Breath of Life. This statement relates to the book of Genesis where God breathed life into man. As a faith-based organisation, similarly as in our faith we equally seek to be instrumental in bringing to life the dreams and aspirations of whānau to live their best lives.

Our Mission

We are committed to making deep and lasting impacts in our community where we will:

- Listen and respond to the needs of the community.
- Facilitate strong, caring connections between ourselves and people in our community.
- Support whānau to achieve their dreams and aspirations as they are the experts in their lives.
- Be bold and courageous in new and innovative ways of meeting community needs.



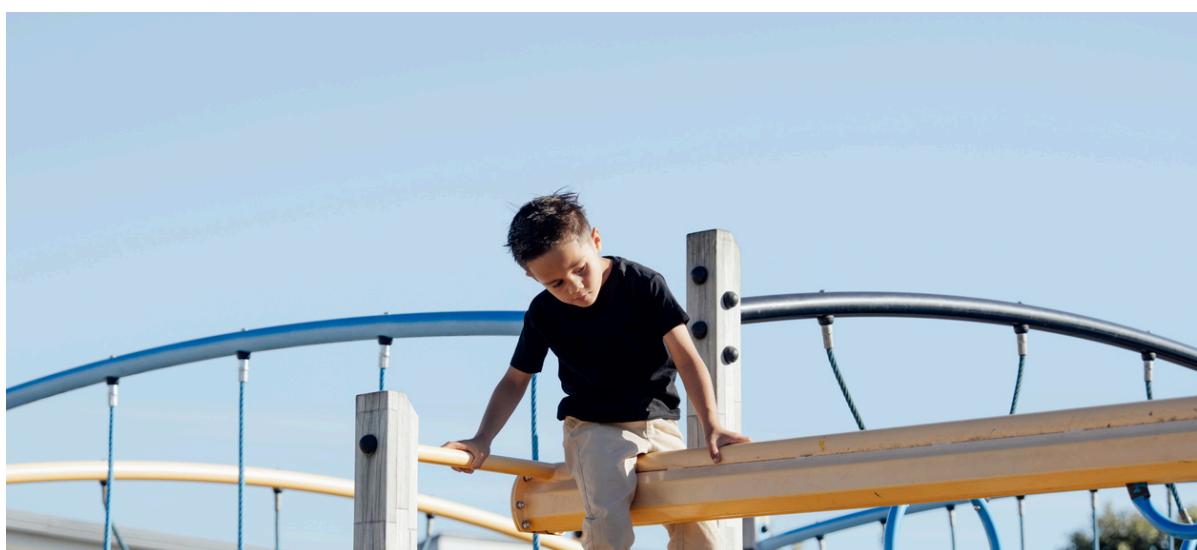


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Chair Report

The ACROSS Te Kotahitanga o te Wairua (ACROSS) Board and I are pleased to present the annual report for the 2024-25 Financial Year.

ACROSS has faced another year of achieving results on our strategic direction within our community, and at the same time, tackling the challenges of funding uncertainty across the Government sector. The uncertainty as to the timing of payments caused concern. While funding from Government contracts and grants eventually remained largely stable in 2025, our expenses decreased, resulting in a small financial surplus. The work of our staff is to be commended in the way they have responded. We continue to strongly advocate for additional funding to progress our core mission. The Roslyn Hub project has remained a work in progress.

This year has seen major changes in staff, with a new director, Shane Casey, being appointed and commencing his role in July 2025. I would like to thank Rowena Gotty for the work she undertook until July as the interim director. We wish her well in her future endeavours.

The ACROSS Board has also seen changes. We welcomed Katarina Gray-Sharpe, Nicholas Chapple, and Reverend Julia Budd to our ranks. We thank the departing ACROSS Board members: Andrew Carsons, Heather Dilks, and Chris Dodds, for their work in contributing to the Board.

Post the restructuring of the previous year, the ACROSS Board would like to acknowledge the tremendous support from our ACROSS staff, who have continued to provide professional services in a wide range of areas to fulfil our core mission. It is their work and commitment, which cannot be overstated, that enables ACROSS to deliver the services for which we have become known in our community.

We will continue to face challenges as we respond to changes in the provision of Government funding, but strongly believe that the strategies that we have developed will guide us through the coming 12 months. In these times of increasing difficulty for so many, I am reminded of the quote from Suzanne Aubert, "A kind heart is the joy of everyone who comes in contact with it". ACROSS, through its mission and staff, is a light in what seems to be a darkening world, carrying out its work in our world. Again, I thank our dedicated staff and Board members for their ongoing contribution and commitment to our community.

We look forward to continuing this work and making a difference to our community in 2025/26.

Mary Sutton

Chair



Directors Report

I am pleased to present the Director's Report for the financial year ending 30 June 2025. This year has been one of both challenge and reflection for ACROSS Social Services as we continued to walk alongside families, tamariki, rangatahi, and communities with compassion, professionalism, and a commitment to kaupapa Māori and Christian values. I note that as the incoming Director, ACROSS has, over the reported year, exceeded contractual measurables while still providing a professional service to our contractual providers and clients.

Reflecting on this achievement, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge my predecessor, Rowena Gotty, the Interim Director, and I recognise her for her efforts over the past year.

The ACROSS kaimahi and I thank our main contract funding providers, Oranga Tamariki and Te Whatu Ora, with whom we not only have a positive working relationship, but have secured renewed contracts until 30th June 2026. These vital contracts have enabled ACROSS to have our doors open for clients and to service the wider Palmerston North and Manawatū region. We have in place experienced and well-qualified kaimahi who are client-focused, professional and committed to the cause.

Our focus has remained on delivering high-quality, wraparound services that respond to the diverse needs of whānau, while strengthening our organisational capacity to meet the increasing demand across the region.

I extend my gratitude to our dedicated staff, volunteers, and Board of Trustees for their unwavering commitment. I also acknowledge our funders, partners, and community supporters who make our work possible. Most importantly, I thank the whānau and individuals who trust ACROSS Social Services to walk alongside them on their journey toward wellbeing.

Nga mihi nui

Shane Casey JP

Director



Counselling and Social Work

This year has been a powerful reminder of the strength and resilience of the rangatahi and whānau connected to ACROSS. The counselling and social work practice in this area has focused on creating safe and supportive spaces where whānau and young people can belong, grow in confidence, and reconnect with their identity. Through a combination of individual and group programmes, ACROSS has continued to walk alongside families experiencing complex challenges such as housing stress, systemic barriers, school disengagement, mental health needs, and family trauma.

Counselling referrals have remained steady across the service, with significant outcomes achieved for clients. One example includes a young woman who initially presented without recognising the signs of an abusive relationship. Through counselling support, she developed self-awareness and confidence, left the relationship, and secured full-time employment. She has since reconnected with her art, family, and friends - demonstrating improved wellbeing and a renewed sense of belonging within her community.

Alongside counselling, social work practice has continued to focus on advocacy and practical support for whānau experiencing complex challenges such as housing stress, systemic barriers, school disengagement, mental health needs, and family trauma. This has included writing housing advocacy letters to Kāinga Ora for whānau living in overcrowded homes, supporting parents and tamariki through court-ordered processes, and walking alongside families as they engage with education, health, and social services.

At the heart of both counselling and social work is a whānau-centred, mana-enhancing approach grounded in the values of manaakitanga, whanaungatanga, and rangatiratanga. Whether through one-on-one therapeutic support, group programmes, or advocacy within complex systems, ACROSS continues to empower individuals and families to build confidence, strengthen relationships, and move toward greater wellbeing and independence.



Counselling and Social Work

Rangatahi Raukura Basketball Programme

A highlight of the year has been the continued success of the Rangatahi Raukura Basketball Programme, which blends sport, culture, and wellbeing. The weekly sessions offer more than just physical activity - they foster connection, discipline, and leadership. Rangatahi are showing up consistently, building trust, and stepping into leadership roles both on and off the court. For many, this has been their first experience of belonging to a structured, positive community, and the impact has extended into wider community wellbeing, friendships, and whānau relationships.

One rangatahi shared:

“Basketball has given me something to look forward to. It's not just about the game; it's about knowing people believe in me and having a place where I can be myself. I feel calmer now, and I've learned to handle my anger better. My whānau notice the difference too.”

This testimonial captures the essence of ACROSS's mahi - that when young people feel seen, supported, and safe, transformation happens. Whether on the court, in the classroom, or within their homes, the rangatahi and whānau who engage with ACROSS continue to demonstrate that with the right opportunities, guidance, and aroha, growth is not only possible but inevitable.



Triple P Positive Parenting Programme

ACROSS holds the contract for delivering Triple P in the MidCentral rohe. This financial year brought significant changes, with the coordinator role being restructured following the departure of the previous coordinator. Responsibilities were divided into Coordination, led by Stacy Vis, and Facilitation, led by Natasha (Tasha) Bell. The first quarter presented challenges as both adapted to the new structure and completed required training, temporarily impacting programme delivery.

Training was successfully held in March 2025, with 10 trainees participating. All trainees achieved accreditation, and 7 are now actively delivering Triple P to whānau across the

community. This expansion strengthens access to evidence-based parenting support throughout the MidCentral rohe.

ACROSS continues to deliver Triple P to diverse whānau in community settings. The programme equips parents and caregivers with practical strategies to manage challenging behaviours, foster positive relationships, and build resilience in their children. Through ongoing collaboration with schools, social services, and local organisations, Triple P provides flexible, accessible support, empowering whānau to feel confident and supported in their parenting journey and contributing to lasting positive outcomes for families across the rohe.

Year	ACROSS	MidCentral Network	Total for the Year
2023 - 2024	254 (Includes 63 Fear-Less Courses)	143	397
2024 - 2025	111	161	272

“Parenting is a long journey. Triple P taught me some useful tips that I didn't know before. I really expect to utilise with my child. It will help to improve our relationship. I really appreciate it!”

Strengthening Families

Through the Strengthening Families programme, coordinated and holistic support is provided to help whānau address multiple needs simultaneously. The service facilitates collaboration between agencies, reduces duplication, and ensures whānau receive timely and appropriate support, alleviating the stress associated with managing day-to-day or complex challenges.

Over the past year, **58 whānau** have been supported through Strengthening Families. Outcomes include strengthened whānau relationships, improved wellbeing, and increased confidence in navigating everyday challenges.

A recent example of the impact of the Strengthening Families programme involved a

pair of grandparents raising their two mokopuna under the age of six. The grandmother is living with stage four cancer, while the grandfather manages her care, household responsibilities, and the daily needs of their mokopuna. Through Strengthening Families, a connection was made with the local church community, resulting in an outpouring of practical support, care, and compassion for the whānau.

Leading this programme in collaboration with committed partner agencies continues to foster meaningful and positive outcomes for whānau across the region. Funded by Oranga Tamariki, Strengthening Families remains a vital part of the community, providing compassionate, timely, and effective support that makes a tangible difference in the lives of children and their whānau throughout the Manawatū.



Supervised Contacts

The following provides an annual summary of supervised contact visits, calculated from July through June for each consecutive year. Currently, we employ two part-time supervisors whose combined hours equate to 1.0 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). This arrangement allows for operational flexibility, ensuring coverage during periods of leave and maintaining consistency in the supervision of all scheduled contact visits.

Year	Ministry of Justice	Oranga Tamariki	Total for the Year
2023 - 2024	91	95	186
2024 - 2025	77	73	150

Court-Ordered Supervised Contact Visits and Key Roles

Court-ordered supervised contact visits are designed to ensure the safe and structured interaction between a child and a parent or significant family member, where unsupervised contact is deemed inappropriate or potentially harmful by the court. These orders are typically made in family law proceedings where there are concerns about the welfare of the child, including risks related to neglect, abuse, substance use, family violence, or mental health issues.

The primary objective of supervised contact is to allow the child to maintain a relationship with their parent or family member in a setting that prioritises their physical and emotional safety. These visits occur in a controlled environment under the supervision of a trained professional and are governed by clear boundaries, guidelines, and reporting requirements as stipulated by the court.

“I realise now it's not about me, it's about (child's name) feeling safe. If they don't feel that, then I have to change how I show up.”

Community Development

It has been a positive year of development and growth within this service area. The role has evolved to place greater emphasis on community development, creating opportunities to design and deliver sustainable programmes that strengthen both clients and the wider community.

During the reporting period, referrals have continued, and programmes such as Seasons for Growth (for adults) and Raising Self-Esteem workshops (for women and girls) have been delivered. These initiatives have provided valuable opportunities to reach more people as demand for support remains high. The workshops have been shaped by the expressed needs of clients, and engagement

has been strong. Funding received enabled the production of purpose-designed journals, which have become a key resource in supporting participants' personal growth. Plans are underway to further develop the self-esteem workshops into a structured four-part programme, similar in design to Seasons for Growth, to encourage sustained participation and connection.

A continued focus has been placed on fostering community connection and peer support, particularly for individuals experiencing isolation. These group programmes have created safe spaces where participants can build confidence, share experiences, and form supportive relationships beyond the sessions.



To our valued donors, funders, and philanthropic supporters,

Thank You

As we reflect on 2025, we are overwhelmed with gratitude for your unwavering commitment to ACROSS Te Kotahitanga O Te Wairua and the communities we serve. Your generosity has been the foundation of our work, enabling us to listen and respond to the needs of the community, support whānau to achieve their dreams and aspirations, and be bold and courageous in new and innovative ways of meeting community needs across the Manawatū region.

Your contributions this year have been nothing short of transformational. Whether through individual donations, grants, or philanthropic partnerships, you have helped us provide hope, security, and opportunity to those in need.

We wish to thank:

- Milverton Trust
- Catholic Opp Shop



St Matthews
Anglican Church



Governance & Team

We extend our gratitude to our Board Members and ACROSS team for their commitment, dedication, and hard work.

Board Chair

Mary Sutton

Board Member

Kathleen Field

Stuart Goodin

Katarina Gray-Sharp

Nicholas Chapple

Rev Julia Budd

Heather Dilks

Chris Dodds

Andrew Carson

Director Shane Casey

Interim Director Rowena Gotty

ACROSS Team

Banele Mkhwanazi -*Social Worker and Counsellor*

Catherine Smith - *Social Worker and Counsellor*

Cathy McNeill - *Supervised Contact Supervisor*

Jenny Mahaganti - *Donor Communications & Administration Specialist*

Lara Pere - *Whanau Support/Service Delivery Support Coordinator*

Stacy Vis - *Programme Coordinator*

Tasha Bell - *Supervised Contact Supervisor/Triple P Facilitator*

Julie Forman - *Triple P Facilitator*

Georgia Feekes - *Supervised Contact Supervisor*

Gail Wood - *Community Development Facilitator*

Prue Savill - *Triple P Coordinator*



294A Church Street

PO Box 1140 Palmerston North 4410

0800 ACROSS (0800 227 677)

reception@across.org.nz

www.across.org.nz

