

REPORT TO DIOCESAN SYNOD 2024

OUR IMPACT

BAF continues to implement a narrative form of evaluation by creating changemaker stories to demonstrate our impact as a catalyst for change alongside the great outcomes being achieved by the people and organisations we support.

Our changemaker stories will continue to evolve as a record of our influence over time and can be viewed on our website at <https://www.baf.org.nz/our-impact/>

OUR WORK

A detailed outline of our current research and project work can be found on our website www.baf.org.nz. A few examples of our current work are included below:

Ramaroa | A light in the dark

We are working with a small group of influential thinkers and changemakers to create a new space where we can focus on system level change – Ramaroa | A light in the dark. The vision for this new approach is “an equitable society where systems maintain thriving communities and a vibrant environment”. We intend to achieve this by leading discussions that inspire new thinking, energise new collaborations and develop actions that will replace the broken systems that entrench inequity. We intend to operationalise our mission in the following ways:

- Shine a light on what we know isn't working, but don't yet have the will to acknowledge isn't working
- Undertake the thinking that might answer the hard questions we know we need to ask, but because we don't feel prepared to answer them, aren't asked
- Identify system dynamics that are causing inequity and actively explore alternatives to discover what can reliably deliver equitable outcomes
- Commit to the unique opportunity we have in Aotearoa New Zealand where our systems can reflect a shared future built on Te Tiriti o Waitangi and where matauranga Maori is valued
- Gather together those with energy for deep thinking, courageous conversation and a belief that we can build a better world
- Influence the processes by which Taranaki agencies and institutions address inequities, as a model for building a nation and a world that can truly be a gift for our grandchildren and their children

And while it is important to define what we are, we also felt it was critical to define what we are not. We are not:

- Right or righteous – we are explorers seeking to learn from each other to navigate a new path
- Politicised or ideological – we are open to receiving different perspectives and morphing our own views as ideas are debated and tested
- Angry or stubborn – we are gracefully passionate
- Hurried or interested in sound bites – we will take the time to have expansive conversation and build robust responses

Seasons for Growth

We were very proud to celebrate the 20th year of Seasons for Growth delivery in Taranaki in May 2024. A celebration was held at te Manu Hononga at the Taranaki Cathedral to celebrate the fantastic Seasons for

Growth team, our wonderful volunteer companions and all the children and families they have supported over the years. Seasons for Growth is a peer support programme for young people aged 6-18 who are suffering grief and loss through death or life-threatening illness of a parent or close relative; separation or divorce of parents; long-term imprisonment of a parent or close family member; long-term placement with foster parents; migration or other circumstances.

Support is provided in small, age-appropriate groups of young people who work alongside two volunteer adult companions. Each volunteer is police checked and undertakes a rigorous training programme prior to supporting young people. The programme runs for nine weekly sessions and guides young people along a structured journey to explore feelings and develop sustainable coping strategies for grief and loss.

Our Taranaki programmes operate in New Plymouth, North/Central Taranaki and South Taranaki and support around 200 children each year. We gratefully acknowledge funding from the TOI Foundation, Lottery Community, the Taranaki Electricity Trust, the Tindall Foundation, New Plymouth District Council and South Taranaki District Council.

Food Security and Connected Systems

We are working across this sector in Taranaki to identify opportunities for greater collaboration and to enhance the connection between food security providers like food banks and food resilience initiatives like community gardens and community growing networks. We are also leading a wider project that aims to develop a service hub approach so that the need for food is a seamless gateway through to other services that may be required.

Closely aligned to this connected service project is our work to enhance access to justice and wellbeing with a potential pilot of a court-based Navigator who can assist clients attending court to connect with services they might not otherwise be connected with such as health, housing, counselling, addictions or similar programmes. The goal is to ensure people accessing court systems are able to easily access other services where there has traditionally been low trust in the service or an apathy to access once the person leaves court. The final goal would be to connect with services and ensure the person is lifted out of the circumstances that might be a cause of re-offending therefore saving future costs to the court/police system.

Migrant Connections Taranaki

Migrant Connections Taranaki celebrated its 10-year anniversary in August. BAF led the process that founded Migrant Connections Taranaki and we are really proud of the amazing outcomes the organisation has gone on to achieve under the leadership of Geetha Kutty. As part of the 10-year celebration Geetha commented "Without BAF's help, this wouldn't have happened. I still know that if I need any support or I'm stuck or need any advice I can go to BAF. Thanks for always being there as a support to me and Migrant Connections Taranaki."

Selwyn and Tainui Day Centres

We are excited to support the launch of a new Selwyn Centre in August 2024 at All Saints Community Church, St Andrew's, Hamilton, bringing the number of Selwyn centres up to 6, with 3 other similar centres running in Taranaki. Each year the Waikato centres support 160 older people and in Taranaki around 70-80 older people are being supported.

The centres are an outcome of BAF partnering with the Selwyn Foundation and local Taranaki funders to help prevent social isolation of older people throughout the Waikato and Taranaki regions. The centres offer social activities, gentle exercise, friendship, laughter, outings, help and support to those over 65 who may be living alone or have limited opportunity to get out and about. The programme is community based and is designed to protect older people from social isolation or loneliness. Although based mainly in the Anglican Church premises, the centres serve older people from across the entire community.