



Annual Report

2021–2022





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Welcome to our Annual Report 2021–2022

This Annual Report tells you about what People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi did from July 2021 to June 2022.

The report tells you about:

- who we are and what we do
- the highlights of the year
- what we have done towards achieving our goals
- what we look forward to next year.

Our mission statement and purpose

We empower and support people with learning disability to be strong and valued individuals in New Zealand.

We are committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Māori are the tāngata whenua of Aotearoa and we support the rights Māori have under the Treaty of Waitangi.





What we do at People First New Zealand



We make sure people with learning disability can speak up and be heard on things that are important to them in services, in communities and in government.



We represent people with learning disability who cannot speak up for themselves.



We promote the rights of people with learning disability.



We make sure people with learning disability are listened to.

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We are run by and for people with learning disability

People First New Zealand is a disabled people's organisation that is run by and for people with learning disability. As an incorporated society, each of our members belongs to a local group. There are 41 local groups across 6 regions. The president of each region is on the National Committee.

The National Committee meets at least 4 times a year to make decisions about money and to report on their work in the regions and nationally. The Committee also hears from member representatives on advisory boards.

The Committee invites guest speakers to meetings to stay connected with what is happening in government and the disability community.

The National Committee members are:

Kris Roguski – Top of the South Region, National Chairperson

Shane McInroe – Mid South Region, Vice Chairperson

Ronnie Sione – Northern Region

Jason Donovan – Central Region

Michael Aldridge – Top of the South Region

Philippa Henderson – Southern Region

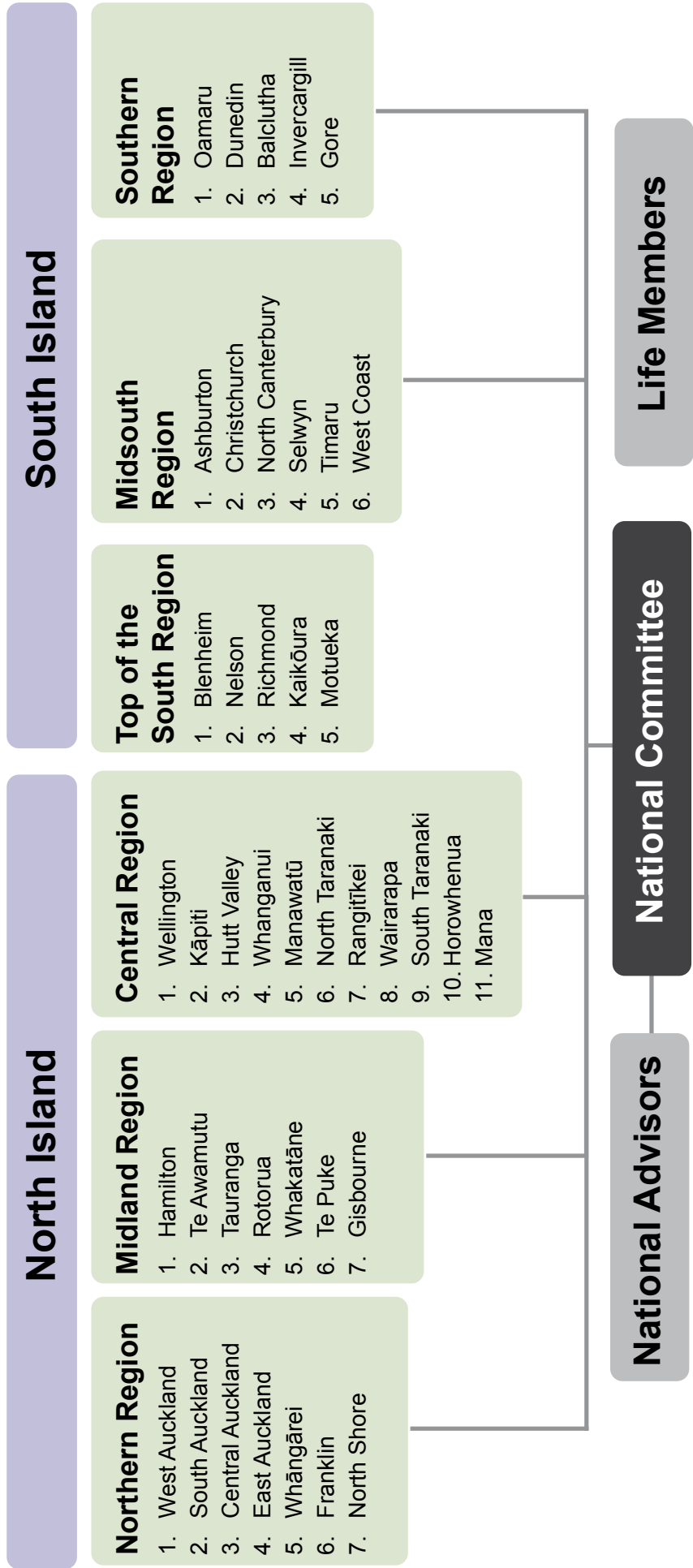
Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and **Gordon Boxall** – non-voting advisors.



Left to right: Ronnie Sione, Michael Aldridge, Jason Donovan, Kris Roguski, Shane McInroe and Philippa Henderson.

Governance chart for People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

Members





National Chairperson's report



Kris Roguski

I have enjoyed my role as National Chairperson this year. I appreciated having a strong National Committee to work with as we led People First New Zealand through another wave of COVID-19.

The Committee met a record 10 times to make decisions about how People First would operate with COVID-19 in the community and to keep up with changes like the traffic light system.

At the beginning of the lockdown in August 2021, we decided to stop having face-to-face meetings for our members and staff. This continued until May 2022. We knew it would be difficult for members who value catching up with their peers at local group meetings.

I would like to thank the members for their support. Making sure you were safe and connected was always in the Committee's thoughts.

This year there has been changes in the disability sector with the new Ministry of Disabled People, the changes to the Ministry of Health, and discussion about the Accessibility for New Zealanders Bill.

These changes were often talked about at the Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition meetings, where I represented People First. The coalition meetings are an opportunity to talk directly with government agencies about their policies and practices and how they can work for all disabled people.

The DPO Coalition prepared for New Zealand's review against the Disability Convention by the United Nations National Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In August 2022, a delegation of the Coalition will travel to Geneva, Switzerland to speak to the Committee before the government is reviewed.

In June I worked with Ronnie Sione, Pip Townsend and Cindy Johns to prepare a statement as part of the opening for the last public hearing for the Abuse in Care Inquiry in early July 2022.

It is important for the voices of people with learning disability to be heard at the hearing. Even though the large institutions are gone, in many ways the attitudes have not changed. At People First we will continue to speak up for inclusive communities for people with learning disability.

I want to thank the National Committee for your work and for being there through the tough times in the pandemic. Thank you also to Shane McInroe, the Vice Chairperson, for your support and to the Independent Advisors, Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and Gordon Boxall, for sharing your time and advice.

I would also like to thank the People First staff, volunteers, and contractors throughout New Zealand for your hard work and assistance and to those organisations who gave us funding so we could achieve our goals.

This will be my last report as Chairperson, as I have now finished my term on the Committee. I would like to wish the new Chairperson and the Committee all the best in leading People First New Zealand.



Northern Region report



Kia ora, my name is Ronnie Sione and I am the Northern Regional President. I have been President for 3 years and I am a member of the Franklin group.

What we achieved in 2021–2022

I am proud of our members staying safe in lockdown. The regional coordinator and local assistants stayed in contact with everyone.

I am proud of the way that we started meetings and put the orange traffic light COVID-19 policy decisions in place for our groups.

Our current work

We are currently:

- relaunching two groups that have been closed for some time
- training new staff
- updating our membership database by contacting each member and working on networking.

Thank you from Northern Region members to:

- Russell Hoban, our Regional Coordinator, for getting us back into full swing again
- our local assistants: Maninder Hooda, Meisha Farmer, Becky Stone, Rashida Hashmi and Dianne Sullivan
- our funders: Auckland City Council and Foundation North.

Midland Region report



Hello, my name is Kris Roguski and I have been the Midland Regional President for the past 5 years and a member of the Rotorua group. In September 2022 I will have completed my 2 terms and I will step down.

What we achieved in 2021–2022

During 2021 to 2022, Midland members were resilient and took any opportunity they could to continue speaking up on local advisory groups, national advisory groups and projects, and international consultations.

I am so proud of our members who learnt how to use devices and were part of many virtual meetings and consultations. I saw you become more confident.

Our members were the first facilitator assistants for the online Speaking Up course. They are the role models and inspiration for all Midland members!

Our current work

Rebuilding the membership in the Midland local groups after the COVID-19 pandemic to be stronger than ever.



I would like to thank the Midland members for trusting me to be their leader for the past 5 years.

Thank you from Midland Region members to:

- Yi Small, our Regional Coordinator, for all your assistance
- our local assistants: Saemmah Hafeez, Janet Spencer, Susanna Robinson, Iain Gallacher and Rachel Johns
- our funders: Bay Trust, Eastern and Central Community Trust, Rotorua Energy Trust, Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust (TECT), WEL Energy Trust, Western Bay of Plenty District Council and Whakatane District Council.



Meeting face-to-face are Midland Region members (from left to right): Glen Terry, Kris Roguski, Sharyn Newton, Holly Thompson, Alex Johnsen.

Central Region report



Hi, I'm Jason Donovan and I am the President of the Central Region and in the Kāpiti local group.

What we achieved in 2021–2022

When getting back to face-to-face meetings our members took the time to understand the new meeting rules so they could meet face to face and support their peers at their local meetings.

Our current work

We are working on recruiting more members as we have seen a decline in members remaining within our local groups because of COVID-19.

Thank you from Central Region members to:

- Catherine Mu, our Regional Coordinator
- our local assistants: Phillip Dickson, Kirsty Linnell, Trish Green, Laura Hume, Elizabeth Bennett, Nerrily Frith, Lucy McDougall, Eleanor Gully, Brenda Sayring, Yvonne Davy and Vonnie Kordell
- our volunteer: Anne Mathieson
- our funders: Eastern and Central Community Trust, IHC Whanganui, Masterton District Council, Masterton Trust Lands Trust, Nikau Foundation, Wellington Community Trust and Whanganui District Council.



Top of the South Region report



Hi, my name is Michael Aldridge and I am President for Top of the South Region. I am in the Nelson local group.

What we achieved in 2021–2022

This year we are proud to have kept our members connected by having our meetings on Zoom during COVID-19.

It was great to start face-to-face meetings again for the first time since August 2021.

Our current work

We are currently working on recruiting new staff in both regional and local roles.

Thank you from Top of the South Region members to:

- Pam Shanks, Southern Team Leader, for supporting the members with getting new local assistants
- Patrick Doherty, Top of the South Regional Coordinator, for all the fantastic work he did with both the members and the local groups in the region
- Lee-ann Wightman for filling in as Regional Coordinator
- our local assistants: Andrea Lee and Karen McCarthy.

Midsouth Region report



Kia ora, my name is Shane McInroe. I am the Midsouth President and the Vice Chairperson of the National Committee and in the Christchurch group. I have enjoyed my time on National Committee and am looking forward to supporting the new Midsouth President when I step down in August 2022.

What we achieved in 2021–2022

This year we were excited to have employed a Local Assistant for the Ashburton Group.

We had our first face-to-face local group meetings in June 2022. These meetings were well attended but we continue to include a Zoom option for members whom distance or health means attending online meetings works better.

We have found our members have got used to Zoom and this is a good outcome from the bad times we have been through with COVID-19.

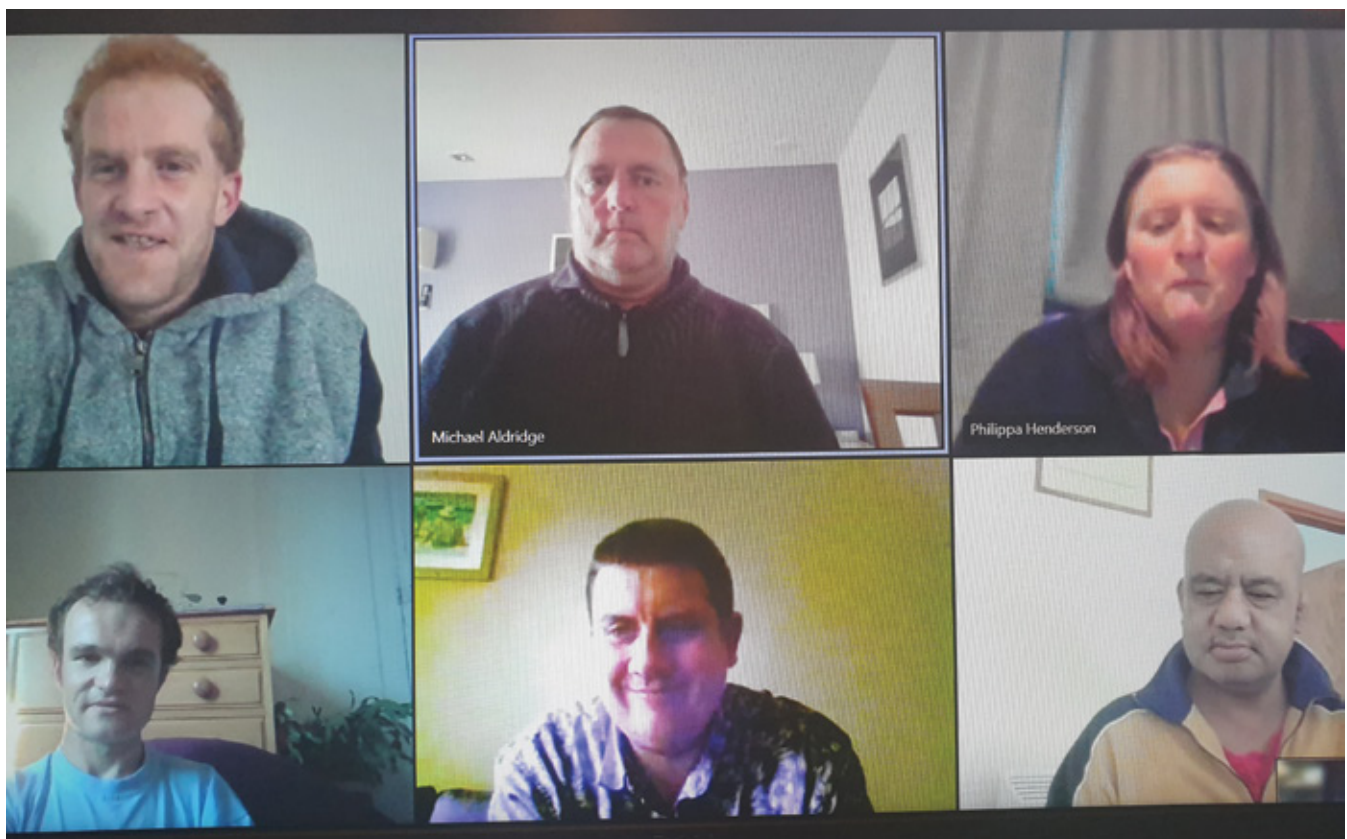
Our current work

We are working on getting the North Canterbury Group relaunched.



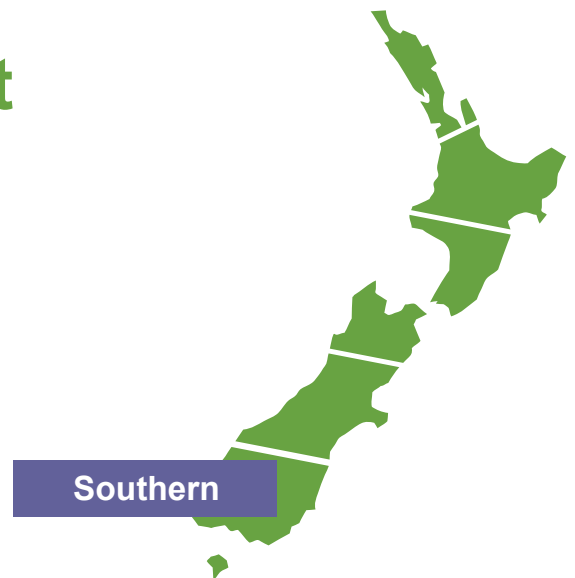
Thank you from Midsouth Region members to:

- Pam Shanks, South Island Team Leader, and Marg Matheson, Midsouth Region Coordinator
- our local assistants: Sharon Glavish, Dan Cresswell, Carole Watson, Wanda Hemmings and Megan Copland
- our funders: Christchurch City Council, COGS, Hohepa, the Rata Foundation / The Canterbury Community Trust and West Coast Community Trust.



The National Committee meeting online.

Southern Region report



Hi, my name is Philippa Henderson, I am the Southern Regional President, and a member of the Balclutha group.

What we achieved in 2021–2022

During the time we could not have face-to-face meetings we were able to set up great ways of staying in touch with our members while we weren't meeting.

We phoned to check on members, had weekly Zoom catch ups and a Facebook messenger page.

Once face-to-face meetings started again we worked on getting our People First group in Gore up and running.

Our current work

We are currently spreading the word about People First and growing our membership in the smaller regions.



Thank you from the Southern Region members to:

- Lee-ann Wightman, our Regional Coordinator
- our local assistants: Aileen Findlater, Anna Morris and Aurora Catu
- our Dunedin volunteers: Felicity Bond, Lisa Ward and Robin Wightman
- Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and the Donald Beasley Institute
- our funders: COGS, Community Trust South, Dunedin City Council, and Invercargill City Council.



The Dunedin groups first face-to-face meeting.

National Advisors' report



Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and Gordon Boxall

As National Advisors to the People First National Committee we see first-hand how the National Committee and staff work together to make sure that people with learning disability are involved in People First's mahi (work) at every level.

This year everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand had to respond to COVID-19 again. All the hard decisions about People First's COVID-19 policies made by the National Committee in 2020 had to be put in place again.

We saw how hard everyone worked to make difficult decisions to keep People First members and staff safe. It was a challenging time. We respect the deep thinking and care that the National Committee put into their decision-making.

We continue to be amazed at the contribution People First makes to the disability sector, and the wider community. Speaking out about important issues is at the heart of People First's work.



Contributing to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care and the development of Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People are just two of the big projects that People First have been part of this year.

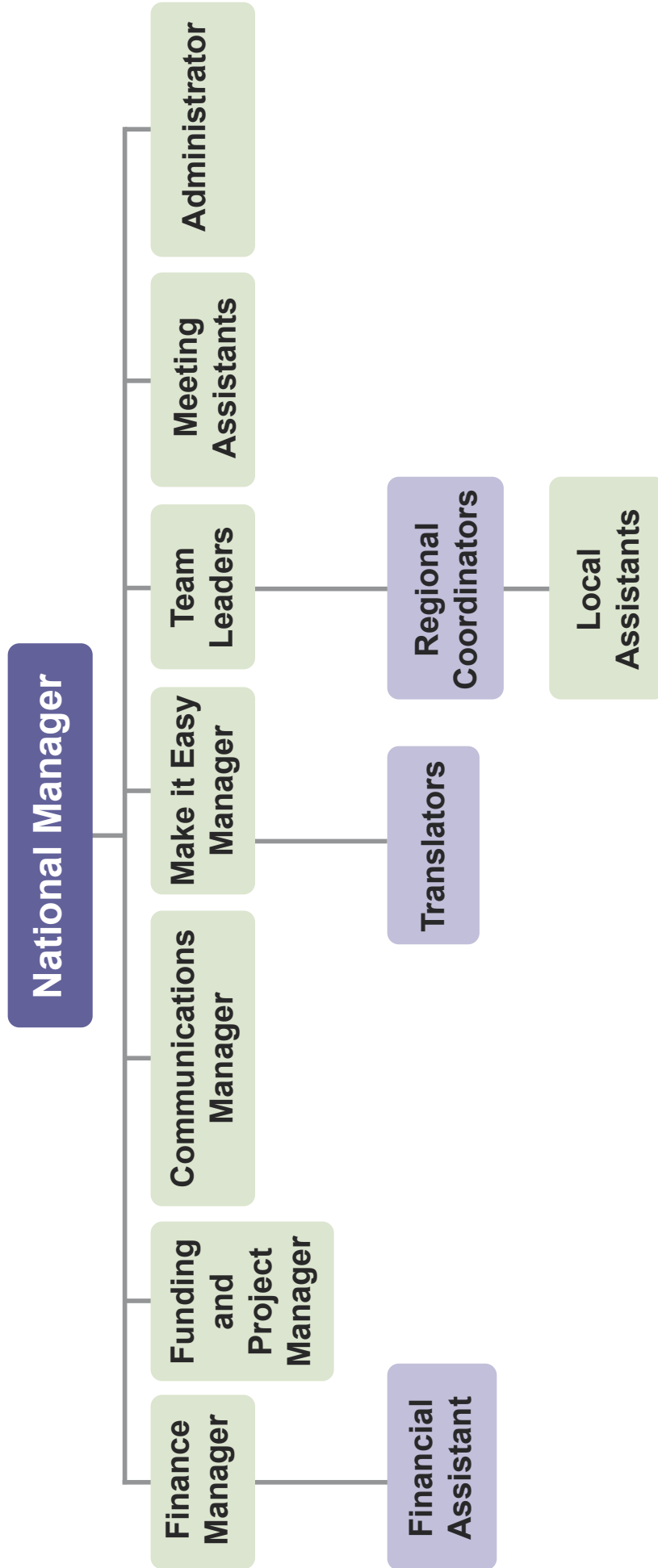
We think the education that People First offers to members and non-members with a learning disability is equally important. Courses that are designed by people with a learning disability for people with a learning disability means that everyone has the chance to understand their rights.

People First Life Member Sir Robert Martin leads the way for people with a learning disability on the world stage. People First National Committee and members follow his example here in Aotearoa. We see the skills and abilities of the National Committee and the many members who contribute to the mahi of People First growing every year. We are proud to support that growth.



National Committee meeting in June 2022.

Management chart for People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi





National Manager's report



Cindy Johns

This past year, COVID-19 has again changed the way we were able to do things.

I want to thank all our members who were great role models, responding to the changing rules, keeping up with contract tracing and assisting each other to stay safe.

It was great to see you staying connected through closed social media groups, regular online catch ups and phone calls. I want to acknowledge that for some members the time of the COVID-19 pandemic felt like re-institutionalisation.

I appreciated the National Committee's strong decision-making process that guided us through this difficult year. Thank you also to the National Advisors, Brigit Mirfin-Veitch and Gordon Boxall, for your continued assistance.

I want to thank my team for their commitment to their work from the vaccine roll out to the translation work about COVID-19 into Easy Read to the distribution of Easy Read information to hard-to-reach communities.

We appreciate our funders and thank you for showing your commitment to people with learning disability.

Your funding gave us flexibility to find other ways to work allowing us to meet COVID-19 requirements and to continue delivering on our commitment to assisting people with learning disability to speak up in their communities, nationally and internationally.

Throughout the year, our members have continued to engage with government – speaking up for themselves and on behalf of people with learning disability.

The Inquiry into Abuse in Care continued to look at how institutionalisation has affected our communities. Even though we no longer have large institutions, we still have practices that are very much based on these former institutions – the legacy of institutionalisation. For People First members it was important we spoke up about this and so we started making plans to speak at the last hearing of the Inquiry in July 2022.

We continue to be very proud of life member Sir Robert Martin as he undertakes his important work on the United Nations committee. This year saw him co-chairing the working group on making global guidelines on deinstitutionalisation. These guidelines will be of great benefit to all countries including New Zealand and will assist us to realise Article 19 of the UN Disability Convention – living independently in the community.

It is with this vision, we are hopeful that changes in the structure of government, with the new Whaikaha Ministry of Disabled People, with its promise of a national rollout of Enabling Good Lives will make a difference to people with learning disability.

For the coming year, we will continue to engage with government and our People First whānau as these changes roll out – and above all continue to ensure the voices of people with learning disability are heard in our communities.



How we did in 2021–2022

The work we do at People First New Zealand is guided by 7 goals we have been working towards for the last 3 years.

Here are our goals and some of the work we have done this year towards each goal.

Our goals



1. People know about People First New Zealand:

- at the local level – in the towns or areas where we live
- at the national level – all over New Zealand
- at the international level – around the world.



2. People First New Zealand has strong leaders.



3. People First New Zealand speaks up for the rights of people with learning disability:

- at the local level – in the towns or areas where we live
- at the national level – all over New Zealand
- at the international level – around the world.



4. People First New Zealand respects and welcomes people from all cultures.



5. People First New Zealand has an Easy Read translation service that is:

- well run
- excellent.



6. People First New Zealand has courses for people with learning disability that are:

- well run
- excellent.



7. People First New Zealand is a strong Disabled People's Organisation.



Goal 1: People know about People First New Zealand



This year we actively promoted People First New Zealand and our work through our website, our Facebook page, and through our members who were engaging with their local communities and nationally.

We continued to see much more information become available in Easy Read and our website has been a go-to place for people with learning disability to get trusted information about COVID-19 and the changes in the wider disability community and government.

Disability information and advisory service

We answer questions that members and others in the community may have about disability like:

- issues people with learning disability have
- rights under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- speaking up for your rights as a person with learning disability
- services for people with learning in New Zealand.

People generally contact us through our 0800 number or our Ask email.

This year there were:

- **1,741** calls to our 0800 number
- **19,678** website visits (sessions)
- **3,429** followers on Facebook.

Mail out of COVID-19 vaccination information

We received a one-off grant from the Ministry of Health to send Easy Read information to hard-to-reach communities about the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

We sent out 7,700 documents with 1,400 People First brochures across New Zealand to members and a range of places including doctors' rooms, community centres, libraries, community art centres, toy libraries, marae, information centres and citizen advice bureaus.

Conferences and expos

Every year People First members and staff attend disability conferences and expos across New Zealand. This year COVID-19 meant some events were online and some were cancelled altogether.

Even with COVID-19 we attended 4 national conferences and held 3 information stalls. Members found them to be a great opportunity to meet and connect with others.

- **I-Lead** – Mana member Kim Pollock attended this online conference.
- **The Federation of Disability Information Centres' National Conference** – Wellington member Ashika Nand attended with Central Regional Coordinator Catherine Mu, Kāpiti member Jason Donovan and Make it Easy Manager Kath Parrish presented on Easy Read information.
- **Disabilities Studies conference** – Northern President Ronnie Sione attended with Northern Regional Coordinator Russell Hoban. The theme was challenging ableism – discrimination against disabled people in favour of able-bodied people.
- **Assistive Technologies Suppliers New Zealand (ATSNZ) expo** – Te Awamutu member Holly Thompson attended with Janet Spencer Local Assistant. Holly said, "I got more confidence about speaking up and engaging with people about People First".



Goal 2: We have strong leaders

This year we could not run the Leadership Forum because of COVID-19 but we made plans to hold it in November 2022.



We held an online Awards ceremony in May 2022 for the 2021 Awards. The Awards were delayed because of COVID-19.

Sir Robert Martin KNZM

People First New Zealand is extremely proud of Life Member Sir Robert Martin, who continues his role as an independent expert on the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The United Nations committee Sir Robert serves on looks at the countries that have signed the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities to see how well they are putting the rights within the Convention in place.

Sir Robert's role usually takes him to Geneva, Switzerland twice a year, but he has not been able to travel due to COVID-19. Instead he attended online meetings at all hours of the day and night.

This year, he also continued his role of Co-Chairperson of the United Nations' working group on guidelines for deinstitutionalisation. In this role he attended 5 regional meetings that took place in different parts of the world and were attended by disabled people and disability organisations.

The guidelines will be a tool to assist countries through closing down institutions and making sure community living is in line with Article 19 of the Disability Convention.

Leona Gitmans Te Aranga Self-Advocacy Award 2021

This year, we were honoured to present Wayne Sircombe from the Rotorua local group the Leona Gitmans Te Aranga Self-Advocacy Award. The Award is for being a leader in self-advocacy – for someone who has spoken up strongly for the rights of people with learning disability in New Zealand.

Along with being a president for 2 terms for the People First Rotorua group, Wayne is a strong advocate in his local community. Wayne is a member of the Rotorua Lake City Council Access Group, which looks at the accessibility of the Rotorua community for disabled people.

Wayne's passion is accessible information and communication for people with learning disability and he strongly promotes Easy Read. Wayne is noted for being a voice, along with People First Rotorua, for free bus fares for disabled people, which started on 1 July 2021.

He is also keen to mentor younger people in self-advocacy and leadership. "I wasn't expecting it", said Wayne on receiving the Award. "I do a lot of work behind the scenes ... I'm going to keep working to get things changed".



Wayne Sircombe (back left) celebrating his award with Midland Region members and staff.



Goal 3: We speak up

At People First New Zealand our members speak up for themselves and on behalf of people with learning disability who do not have a voice.



Members have opportunities to speak up about the things that matter to them on advisory groups, in consultations and submissions. With many meetings online we found new ways of assisting members to have equal participation.

This year our members represented People First or the DPO Coalition

- on 18 national advisory committees
- in 1 international submission, 2 national submissions and 1 joint submission with the Donald Beasley Institute
- in 3 national consultations.

Our members on advisory committees spoke up on behalf of people with learning disability about things like:

- Enabling Good Lives – making disability support better
- setting up Whaikaha the new ministry for disabled people
- having a better education system
- improving the disability workforce.

We made submissions:

- for the Adoption Law Reform Joint Submission with Donald Beasley Institute
- supporting the Plain Language Bill to become law
- supporting the Proposals Against Incitement of Hatred and Discrimination.

Members were part of a consultation with representatives from Australia and New Zealand to inform Inclusion International's work developing the draft guidelines on deinstitutionalisation including in emergencies.

People First then wrote a submission about the draft guidelines that went to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Equal access to wellbeing framework

Te Pou interviewed 19 members about a framework to get better support for people with learning disability and autistic people who have mental health or addictions.

Ministry of Health and Statistics New Zealand

We ran a consultation with 10 members to assist the Ministry of Health and Statistics NZ with what questions to ask in their surveys so that people with learning disability could be identified in the health system.

Disabled People's Organisations (DPO) Coalition

The National Chairperson represents People First at DPO Coalition meetings. The coalition meetings are an opportunity to talk directly with government agencies about their policies and practices and how they can work for all disabled people.

The Independent Monitoring Mechanism

The DPO Coalition is a partner of the Independent Monitoring Mechanism (IMM) along with the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Ombudsman.



The IMM looks at what the government is doing to follow the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In May 2022 the IMM ran a forum to look at how well the New Zealand Government was putting in place the rights in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD).

Kris Roguski, National Chairperson and Midland Region President and Ronnie Sione, President of the Northern Region were part of the forum. They asked questions of the government about Article 19 of the disability convention – living independently and being included in the community.

Ronnie said, “It was a great experience for me to be part of the IMM forum and to ask questions to the government. I hope the government will keep working hard to make sure disabled people have their rights and have a good life”.



Goal 4: We respect and welcome people from all cultures



New Zealand is a diverse country and people with learning disability are equally as diverse.

People First aims to reflect the diversity of Aotearoa New Zealand in our local group membership, our regional and national governance, and our staff throughout the regions.

In all our work we encourage and promote respect of others in the way we engage and work together.

We are equally committed to reflecting Te Tiriti o Waitangi The Treaty of Waitangi in our work.

This year we were unable to deliver our Leadership Programme due to COVID-19 restrictions. The Leadership Programme has a core component about Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

We have started discussing how we can embed te reo Māori and tikanga in our workplace and are committed to developing a strategy and action plan for our members and staff across the country.





Goal 5: We have an Easy Read translation service

Easy Read is a way of making written information accessible for people with learning disability. Easy Read uses everyday words, large print and pictures to make information easier to understand.



Easy Read can also make information accessible for people who have low literacy, use English as a second language, older people and some of the Deaf community.

People First New Zealand's Easy Read translation service is called Make it Easy. In the 2021 to 2022 financial year, the Make it Easy team completed 157 Easy Read translations across 40 different government and community organisations.

The Make it Easy team continued to work closely with the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet and Ministry of Health to create a wide range of Easy Read resources about COVID-19.

These resources included information about the COVID-19 vaccination, supported decision-making tools, and an overview of the support available for disabled people and their whānau / family during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The team also translated many important documents for government departments and other organisations, including:

- the Establishment Unit responsible for setting up Whaikaha – Ministry of Disabled People
- a summary of the Abuse in Care – Royal Commission of Inquiry report called Purapura Ora, he Māra Tipu – From Redress to Puretumu Torowhānui
- the government strategy – Te Aorerekura: National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence

- Creative New Zealand's research about New Zealanders and the Arts – Ko Aotearoa me ōna Toi and the Audience Atlas Aotearoa
- Department of Conservation's information called Caring for Aotearoa New Zealand
- the Electoral Commission's: Get ready and vote in a by-election: The Easy Read guide to voting
- the Health Quality and Safety Commission's resources about planning your next health care visit and planning to leave hospital.

Thank you to all the Make it Easy team – your commitment and professionalism is outstanding. Thank you also to People First New Zealand members and staff who speak up and ask for information to be made available in Easy Read.

Make it Easy Award 2021

Every year, People First New Zealand's National Committee gives out an award to an organisation or person who has made a great commitment to having their information in Easy Read.

The 2021 Make it Easy Award was given to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for their strong leadership in ensuring that information about COVID-19 was available in Easy Read.



The Make it Easy Award 2021 being presented to Dr Rory McKenzie, Principal Advisor, Engagement, COVID-19 Group, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet by Jason Donovan, Central Regional President, People First New Zealand.



Goal 6: We have courses



We were unable to deliver many face-to-face courses due to COVID-19 so took the opportunity to extend and refresh our existing courses.



The Speaking Up course was updated thanks to funding by Frozen Funds Trust.

We delivered 1 face-to-face Works for Us course to 17 people at Ara Institute of Canterbury.

We moved to delivering our Learn with Us courses online with:

- 12 Speaking Up courses to 59 people
- 4 Money Smarts Made Easy courses to 19 people.

Thank you to Midland members Alex Johnsen, Holly Thompson, Susan McDonald and Anatasha Valentine who offered to be our first online Member Facilitator Assistants.

Having members as facilitator assistants is an important part of the courses. Their role is to assist the facilitator to deliver the course and make sure that members are developing and learning leadership skills.

Wellbeing digital tool

This year we started developing the wellbeing digital tool. The tool is being developed by and for people with learning disability. This tool will give people online access to a short version of the Learn with Us courses. It will remind people of the skills they learn in our courses, including things like what is consent, what is friendship, and how we speak up in our lives.

Springload is our digital agency who are designing and building the tool. With Springload we tested the tool with 24 members through 4 online focus groups to make sure the app was user-friendly design and that we knew what to say, and how long each topic should be.

The research and testing we did gave us valuable information into how people with learning disability use and respond to information. It will be useful for many projects in the future.

Thank you to the project team: Alex Snedden, Auckland; Alex Johnsen, Hamilton, Julia Young, Dunedin; Aron Hapi, Christchurch.

Thank you also to those who assisted our members: Dan Cresswell, Lee-ann Wightman, Yi Small, Patrick Doherty, Maninder Hooda, and Sandy Ryan as Project Lead.

Improving access to the digital world

We knew from experience that not having access to a digital device and not knowing how to use one was a problem for many of our members. With a grant from the Elsie Steel Trust we purchased 10 Samsung tablets.

The tablets are available for members to use for online courses and when they are representing People First New Zealand on advisory committees. Each tablet has unlimited data and comes with an Easy Read guide to using the Samsung tablets we developed.

We also received a grant from Masterton Trust Lands Trust to develop a training programme for people with learning disability on using digital devices. This online course included information about how to Zoom and how to use Microsoft Teams. We delivered 3 courses for 5 people.



Goal 7: We are a strong disabled people's organisation

The National Committee that governs and leads People First New Zealand usually meets at least 3 times a year.



During this year, the National Committee have continued to provide strong governance for People First members and staff.

During the year there were ongoing changes in response to COVID-19 including the introduction of the traffic light system.

The Committee met 10 times during the year to make policy decisions about how People First would manage the response and keep members and staff safe during this time.

The Committee decided that face-to-face meetings would stop in August 2021 and that decision remained until May 2022.

As policies changed the Committee made sure members and staff were aware of any changes to how we operated nationally and regionally.

People First staff continued to work hard to keep the organisation strong. Our staff is spread across the regions and work continually to make sure we have good systems, policies and practices that work regardless of where they are based.

Throughout the pandemic staff continued to reach out to members:

- run the 0800 phonenumber and respond to requests through the Ask email
- work alongside the government to distribute information and resolve issues facing people with learning disability
- distribute Easy Read information.

Recognising long-term service

In May 2022 at our Awards ceremony, we acknowledged 3 staff for their long service and thanked them for their commitment to People First New Zealand:

- Crystal Fang, Finance Manager – 15 years' service
- Pam Shanks, Team Leader South – 15 years' service
- Marg Matheson, Midsouth Regional Coordinator – 10 years' service.

Climate Change Statement approved

In March 2022 the National Committee approved a climate change statement about how we will contribute to a carbon neutral New Zealand by 2050.

People First New Zealand is committed to being good kaitiaki / carers of our land, water and air. We will look at how we do things to lower our emissions and to assist people in our networks to do the same.

Annual General Meeting 2021

The Annual General Meeting was again held online in December 2021 with over 100 people joining us.

Reports were presented from the:

- National Chairperson
- Regional Presidents
- National Manager
- Funding Manager.

A report was also presented on People First New Zealand's financial performance for 2020–2021.



Thank you for your support this year

Thank you to the members of People First New Zealand.

Thank you to our staff, advisors, volunteers, and contractors.

Thank you to the people and organisations we have worked with this year:



Access Alliance
Arohanui Art and Education Trust
Australasian Society for
Intellectual Disability
Badminton Oceania
Balance Aotearoa
Blind Citizens NZ
CCS Disability Action Tauranga
CHANGE
Christchurch Community House
Community House Whanganui
Deaf Aotearoa
Department of Prime Minister and
Cabinet – Unite against COVID
team
Disabled Persons Assembly
The Donald Beasley Institute Inc.
Gitmans Family
Health and Disability
Commissioner
Hearing Nelson
IHC New Zealand Inc.
Ministry of Social Development
Alternate Format Group

Moore Markhams
Muscular Dystrophy Association
of New Zealand
The New Zealand Disability
Support Network
The New Zealand Federation of
Disability Information Centres
New Zealand Human Rights
Commission
Office for Disability Issues
Office of the Ombudsman
Ohnyx IT Solutions Ltd
The Personal Advocacy and
Safeguarding Adults Trust Inc.
Photosymbols Ltd
Primeproperty Group Ltd
Promohouse
Red Pepper Print
Springload
Tahi Design
Western Bay of Plenty Disability
Support Trust
Workbridge

Thank you for funding our work

Abuse in Care – Royal Commission of Inquiry

Auckland City Council

Bay Trust

Christchurch City Council

Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS)

Community Trust South

Dunedin City Council

Eastern and Central Community Trust

Elsie Steele Trust

Foundation North

Frozen Funds Trust

Hohepa Canterbury

IHC Whanganui

Invercargill City Council

Mana Whaikaha

Masterton District Council

Masterton Trust Lands Trust

Ministry of Health

Ministry of Justice

Ministry of Social Development

Nikau Foundation

Lottery Grants Board

Office for Disability Issues

Rata Foundation / The Canterbury Community Trust

Rotorua Energy Trust

Te Pou

Tauranga Energy Consumer Trust (TECT)

The Lion Foundation

WEL Energy Trust

Wellington City Council

Wellington Community Trust

West Coast Community Trust

Western Bay of Plenty District Council

Whakatane District Council

Whanganui Community Foundation

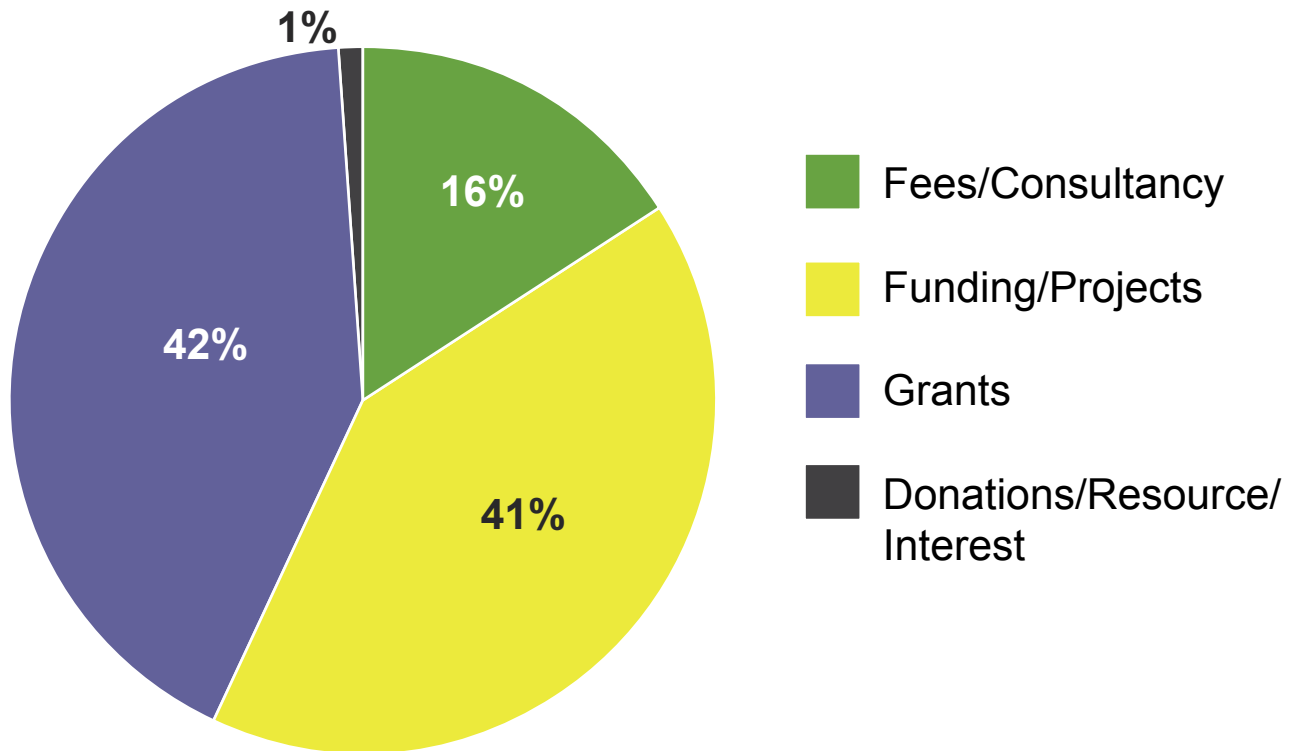


This is a summary of our performance.

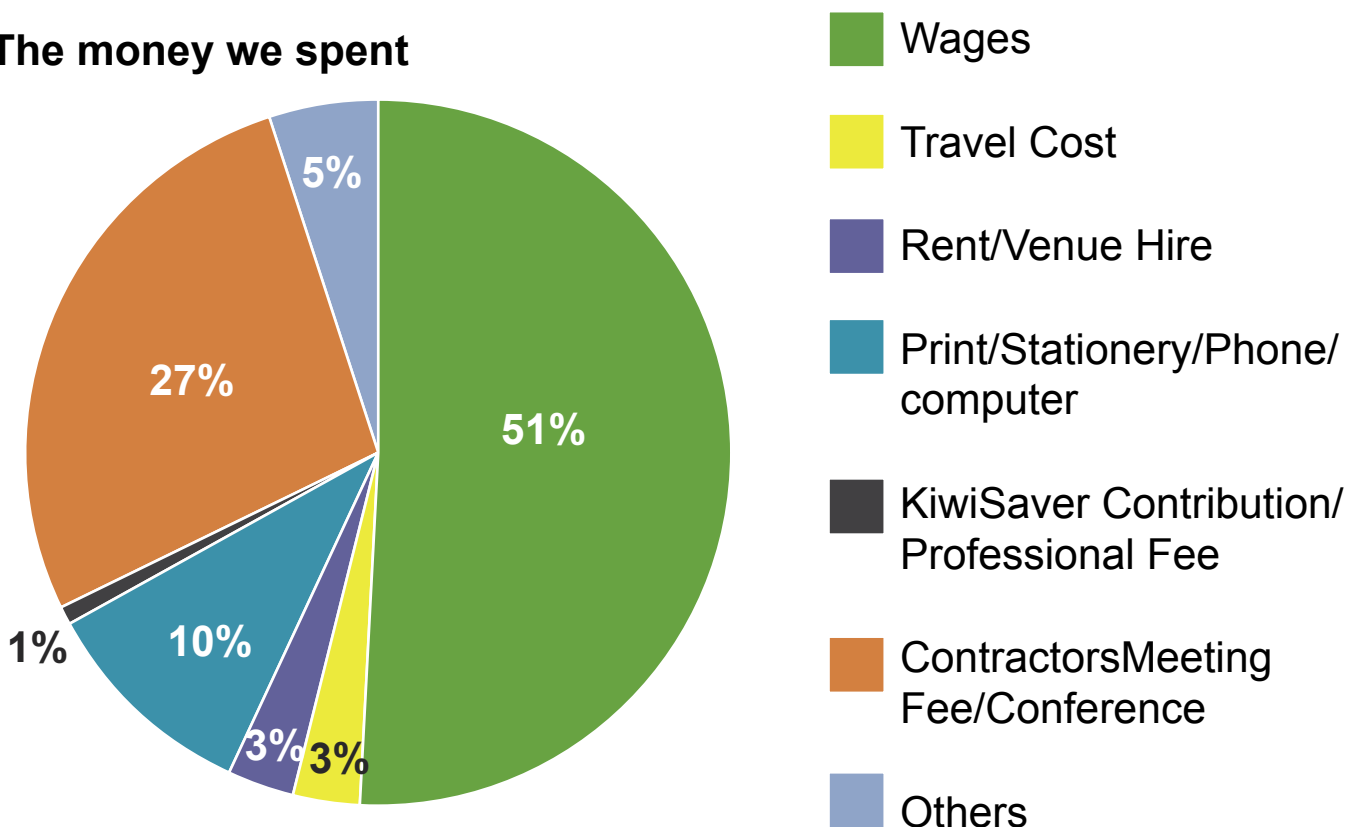
For a full performance report, please email
People First New Zealand at ask@peoplefirst.org.nz

Financial report

The money we got in



The money we spent





Statement of financial position

Current assets	\$2,055,205
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Total assets	\$2,086,523
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Less

Current liabilities	\$1,146,098
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Total liabilities	\$1,146,098
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Net assets	\$940,425
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What the information means

Current assets

These are the things that People First owns, which change over time such as the amount of money we have in the bank.

At the end of this year, the money amount of these things is 2 million and 55 thousand, 2 hundred and 5 dollars.

Fixed assets

These are the things that People First owns, which do not change – such as computers and office furniture.

At the end of this year, the money amount of these things is 31 thousand, 3 hundred and 18 dollars.

Total assets

These are things that People First owns, such as money in the bank, computers and office furniture.

If we add our current assets and fixed assets together, this gives us our total assets.

At the end of this year, the money amount of these things is 2 million and 86 thousand, 5 hundred and 23 dollars.

Current liabilities

These are the things that People First owes to other people or organisations.

At the end of this year, the money amount of our liabilities is 1 million 1 hundred and 46 thousand, and 98 dollars (1,146,098).

Net assets

This is how much money People First can say it has, after taking away the money it owes.

At the end of this year, the money amount People First has is 9 hundred and 40 thousand, 4 hundred and 25 dollars (\$940,425).



Remembering our friends

It is important to remember those who have walked the path before us so that we can honour them in all our future work.

People First New Zealand remembers and says thank you to the members who have passed away this year.

In particular, we remember:

- John Budin, Vice President, Tauranga Group
- Richard Hill, Horowhenua Group.

Haere, haere, haere ngā Rangatira o tātou kaua e titiro whakamuri mai. Haere, haere, haere.

Farewell, our leaders. Don't look back, you can leave us now. Farewell.





