



The WAIKATO
RANGATAHI
opportunity

**HE PIKO
HE RANGATAHI**



OUR VISION

The Waikato Wellbeing Project holds a vision where "All of our young people are engaged, thriving and are learning or earning a livelihood, their mana is enhanced, and they are on a positive pathway to have many life options."

We know that in the Waikato we've experienced an increase in the number of youth not in education, study or employment from 8,000 (2019) to 8,300 (2020) with Māori and Pasifika disproportionately represented within those statistics. It is also noted that COVID has potentially had an impact in the increase from 2019 to 2020, yet an upward trend has been observed across the last 3 years.

We can also see, from The Thriving Rangatahi Population Explorer, that 22,716 (28%) of young people in the Waikato are excluded and disadvantaged*, as at 2020, an increase of 933 from 2019.

There is a great deal of energy, initiatives and mahi underway in supporting youth to better navigate and transition through education, training and employment, of which we are certainly seeing positive outcomes from.

A core insight from our mahi is that many of these initiatives are mainly directed at youth 15 years and older and as a result we are unsure if it really addresses all root causes with a collective idea that a broader focus is required, and that energy needs to be invested earlier in age, for our rangatahi to thrive throughout their journey.

There is currently a wealth of data available on youth outcomes yet not necessarily in a format that provides an understanding as to why and how rangatahi experience barriers in transitioning through and from education to employment, further study or training.

OUR JOURNEY

Building on the work of the Waikato Wellbeing Project a number of individuals, and organisations, have come together to understand how we might work collectively to advance towards our target of **"Increase the number of young people* who are actively engaged in meaningful employment, education or training from 87.4% (2019) to no less than 95% by 2030."**

*with a focus on māori and pasifika

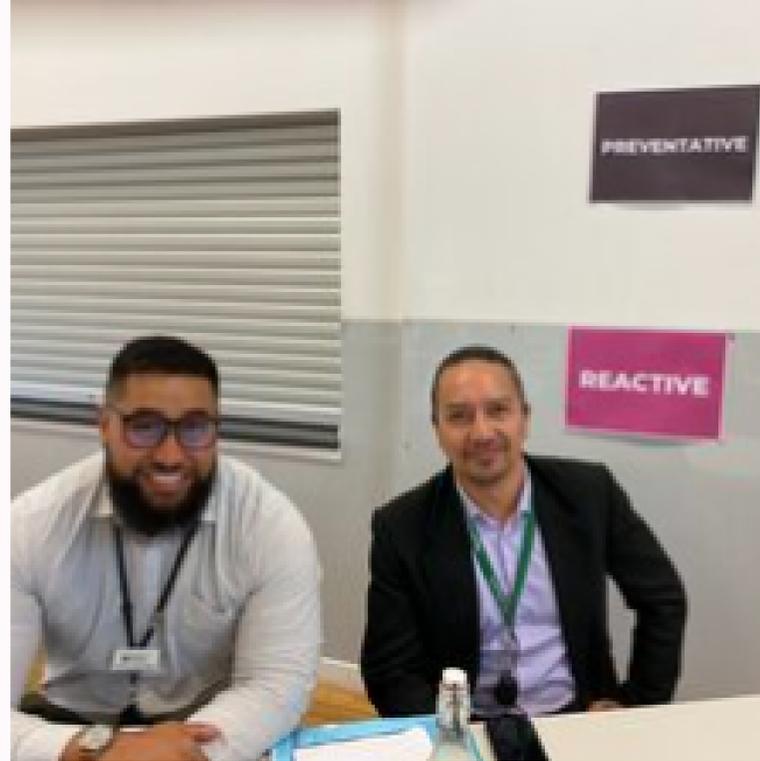
To date we've received input from 60+ representatives from across social agencies, education, iwi, sports, arts, community, council, philanthropy and tourism. At our collective hui we commenced a Youth Journey Map to begin to understand which services exist, their role and impact, across the youth journey (birth - 24)

Together, we identified three key themes with the primary being a lack of access to timely, relevant data - leading to confusion around where the systemic challenges and greatest opportunities for impact exist.

Secondly, a need to involve our rangatahi and their whānau in the process, as our community know what the solutions are and thirdly, to adopt a collaborative approach that includes our young people, whānau, schools, the community and each other.

There is a great deal of momentum and commitment to work collectively in achieving our vision. The Waikato Wellbeing Project aims to accelerate outcome through enabling insight and breakthrough thinking.

Learn more about our mahi to date [here](#)



OUR OPPORTUNITY

The Waikato Rangatahi Opportunity aims to uncover root causes and insights that fundamentally transform the system and deliver greater outcomes for rangatahi, whānau and our wider community, as well as identify existing solutions that support our rangatahi to be engaged, thriving and learning or earning a livelihood.

The basis of our challenge;

"How might we create opportunities for our young people to be engaged, productive, learning or earning a livelihood and be on a positive pathway to have many life options?"

We will look to understand;

- Why and where are our rangatahi experiencing barriers to successfully transition from education to further study, employment and/or training?
- Where should our collective energies be focused to make the greatest impact for our rangatahi?
- What solutions or ideas would make the greatest difference to our rangatahi and their whānau?
- How might we involve whānau, rangatahi and employers to create insight and breakthrough?
- How might we collaborate with young people, whānau, schools, the community and each other to identify which initiatives to scale for impact that lead to our rangatahi being on a positive pathway to have many life options?

COLLABORATORS

The Waikato Rangatahi Opportunity creates the space for cross-sector partners, rangatahi, whānau and our wider community to come together to create a region where our young people thrive.

We have identified the following collaborators, from our mahi to date, and expect to attract more as we launch the Waikato Rangatahi Opportunity as well as align with other regional youth initiatives;

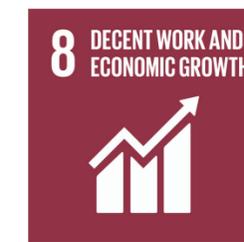
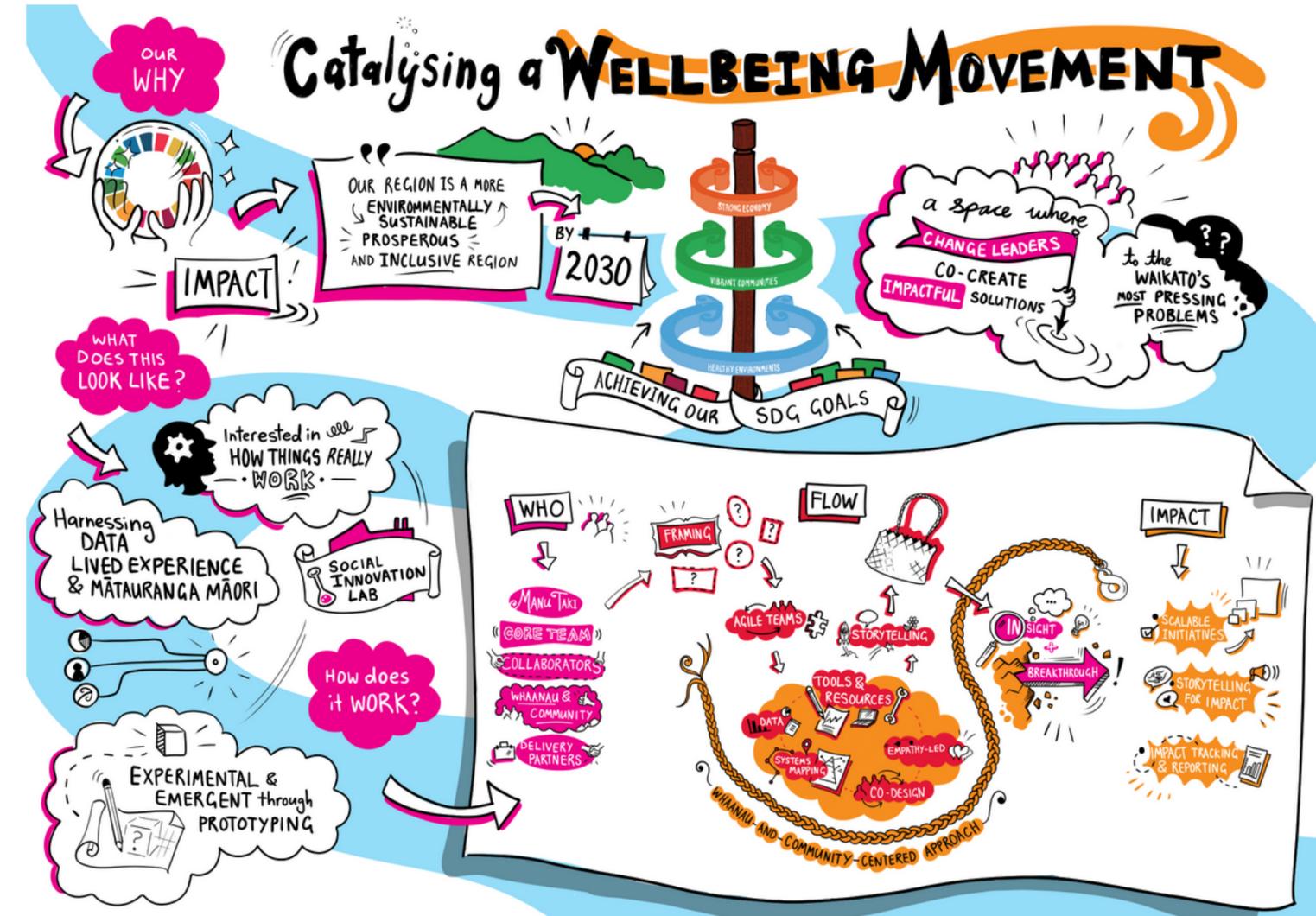
- Our Manu Taki
- Iwi and Māori
- Creative Waikato
- Waikato Plan
- Seed Waikato
- Ministry of Education
- Ministry of Social Development
- Wintec
- Sport Waikato
- Schools
- Non Government Agencies
- University of Waikato
- NZMA
- Waikato Regional Council
- Momentum Waikato
- Trust Waikato
- Impact Hub Waikato
- Hamilton City Council
- ZEAL
- Ministry of Justice
- Youth Development Organisations
- Business

This is a call to action for young people, whānau, schools, tertiary institutions, local government, innovators and anyone working with young people to join us in creating a more equitable outcomes for our rangatahi. Interested organisations and individuals can learn more at www.waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz/youth-opportunity.

OUR APPROACH

Building on the Waikato Wellbeing Project approach, to tackling wicked challenges, we will use design thinking tools to inspire insight and breakthrough thinking by:

- Combining data, existing research and lived experiences to understand the systemic issues and opportunities for impact as. to why some of our rangatahi experience barriers to successfully transition from education to further study, employment and/or training;
- Bringing together cross-sector partners and use these new insights to identify existing initiatives to scale as well as potentially create new solutions (where non exist) ;
- Understanding how we will track and monitor impact outcomes moving forward ;
- Creating a case for change across the system to meet our vision;
- Communicating our journey, learnings and the lived experience of our rangatahi to connect other organisations, individuals and/or groups to our mahi;
- Connecting with other regional and national initiatives, with the same kaupapa, to support collaboration in meeting our vision.



Our Vision.

“All of our young people are engaged, thriving and are learning or earning a livelihood, their mana is enhanced, and they are on a positive pathway to have many life options.”

Our Target.

“Increase the number of young people* who are actively engaged in meaningful employment, education or training from 87.4% (2019) to no less than 95% by 2030.”

***with a focus on Māori and Pasifika**

PROJECT FRAMEWORK



Whānau centric principles



July- December 2021



Rangatahi - led



Place-based
(Propose Hamilton and Tokoroa)



Design Thinking Framework



Understanding system challenges



Working collaboratively across the system



Framing our Project

The first step is for the project team and collaborators to frame our design challenge.

- What are we looking to understand?
- How can we drive toward ultimate impact and allow for a variety of solutions?
- What do we already know that can be built on?

Empathise

During this phase we will be speaking to rangatahi to understand their lived experience in transitioning through life stages, uncovering aspirations and challenges.

The analysis of data is undertaken by our research support partner.

Understand

Combining quantitative data, existing research and the lived experiences of our rangatahi to uncover deep insights as well as learn fresh perspectives.

During this phase we'll uncover core systemic challenges and key insights to present to collaborators.

A case for change is forming.

Explore & Test

The project team and our collaborators will co-design potential solutions based on the insights uncovered during the Empathy - Understand phases.

We will work to understand which initiatives work best in achieving impact, scalability and test how we might work together to refine solutions

Implementation

Case for change is presented.

Seeking pathways for adoption and understanding how to track and monitor impact outcomes.

As part of our approach we will create a Taniwha Den environment where funders, impact investors and other potential stakeholders can hear of the initiatives, impact outcomes and investment required for initiatives to scale.

OUR TIMELINE

OCTOBER



Pause & Reflect -
do we have deep insight?

NOVEMBER



Refine Solutions with Collaborators
for Taniwha Den

DECEMBER



2022

Identified
solutions/models to be
prototyped and tested*

*with support from
identified Partners &
Collaborators

4th - 15th

Advisor Empathy
Interviews

11th - 22nd

Rangatahi Empathy
Interviews & Classroom
hui

Events to Share
Findings with our
Collaborators

1st - 15th

Empathy Theming
Events to share findings
with our Collaborators

16th & 17th

Initial Draft Report from
NIDEA

Review & Consolidate
findings
Share with our
Collaborators

22nd - 27th

Codesign hui with our
collaborators

30th

NIDEA full report

Draft initial Project
Roadmap for 2022

9th

Taniwha Den

Confirm support required
for 2022 (as identified and
agreed by our
Collaborators)

17th

Project Team Celebration

24th

Draft Reflections Document

Let's Collaborate.

- 1 Support us to source rangatahi to speak with.
- 2 Participate in our **Virtual & Physical Story Sharing.** (starting mid October)
- 3 Drop in for **Coffee & Chats, Thursday's 10am-11am.** (starting 7th October)
- 4 Nominate yourself to be a Taniwha for the Taniwha Den.
- 5 Share your space with us.
- 6 Participate in our **co-design hui.** (starting mid November)
- 7 Share your knoweldge with **US.**

Mary Jensen, CEO Smart Waikato

Smart Waikato is a charitable trust formed in 2009 with the purpose to empower youth and employers through real education to employment pathways.



Joe Graham, National Manager, NZ Blue Light Ventures

Blue Light is a charity organisation that delivers and supports a multitude of youth programs nationally and has been doing so for over 30 years.

Our Manu Taki.

Rachel Karalus, CEO K'aute Pasifika Trust

K'aute Pasifika Trust is a charitable trust based in Hamilton where we provide health, education and social services to Pasifika communities and all other ethnicities who wish to access our services.



Learn more about our Manu Taki [here](#)

The Core Project Team.



Kauri Tearaura
Youth Innovator



Charlotte Mitchell
Youth Innovator



Rana Arif
Youth Innovator



Dujon Cullingford
Youth Engagement &
Design Thinking Mentor



Tania Jones
Project Lead



Harvey Brookes
WWP Executive Director

Join us.

This is a call to action for young people, whānau, schools, tertiary institutions, local government, innovators and anyone working with young people to join us in creating a more equitable outcomes for our rangatahi.

www.waikatowellbeingproject.co.nz/youth-opportunity

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 [/waikato-wellbeing-project](https://www.linkedin.com/company/waikato-wellbeing-project)