



Safer Mid Canterbury
Hakatere Haumaru
Together we're safer • Me uru kahikatea

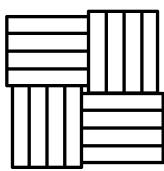
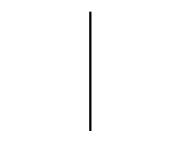
Making our district safer

ANNUAL REPORT 2024/2025



Our kaupapa and our story can be told through this woven diamond pattern.

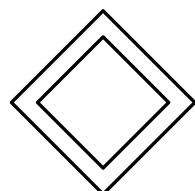
It shows our purpose, our strength and our commitment to working within a bicultural framework. The four colours interwoven in the pattern represent our services and what we are committed to doing within our hapori every day.



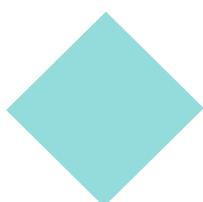
The interlocking strands represent whānau, community, working together, unity, strength and support.



This woven pattern, similar to a kete, represents the passing on of knowledge and the teaching of new skills.



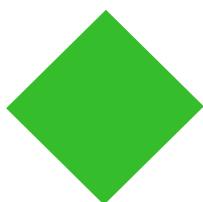
The pātiki shape, which is based on the flounder, symbolises hospitality and the ability to provide for the wider hapori/community.



Working together, unity and whānau.



Passing on knowledge and teaching new skills.



Strengthening and supporting those in need.



Hospitality, providing for a hapori/community.

Me uru kahikatea Together we're safer

Kahikatea grow tall with greater success when they are in groves. Their shallow roots interlock with each other, providing the necessary foundation to stand tall.



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About Safer Mid Canterbury

Safer Mid Canterbury is a non-profit community organisation that has been operating as a charitable trust since 1994. It provides free and confidential community services for the Ashburton district. We prioritise the delivery of early intervention programmes to support and strengthen individuals and whānau. We help people to make good choices, providing positive opportunities and pathways for change.



Our history

Safer Mid Canterbury has progressively grown since its inception 30 years ago and now employs a wide range of staff across many programme areas. We also have volunteers supporting these programmes; extensive community support; and engagement with other agencies and providers throughout the district. Safer Mid Canterbury is the largest locally-driven provider of community services in the Ashburton district.

We deliver programmes and services in response to community need. We support vulnerable families, children, youth justice clients, adult offenders, and new migrants.

Supporting community agencies

Safer Mid Canterbury also employs staff on behalf of small, non-profit organisations including the Hakatere Multicultural Council, Neighbourhood Support, and Ashburton Senior Citizens/Thrive. Staff from these organisations report to their respective Trusts at a governance level, and Safer Mid Canterbury handles their day-to-day management and employment. The structure of this relationship saves small organisations from having to become employers; provides staff with the support and direction of a larger organisation with robust policies and procedures; and saves on administration overheads.

Our supporters





PHOTO/ Experience Mid Canterbury
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Governance and management structure





Safer Mid Canterbury Board Chairperson's report

As I write this report, I am looking at the agenda for our Board's May meeting. Among other things it outlines the General Manager's account of activities being undertaken this month – which is, of course, a fair reflection of what goes on every month. It covers more than 20 different activities and projects that are part of our 'business as usual' in the Ashburton District and beyond.

Among these are the Refugee Settlement Support Service, the Food Rescue Aoraki service, family wellbeing programmes, the Restorative Justice Service, various forms of care for young people, and for Senior Citizens – to name just a sample. So, we are covering all age groups, situations, family backgrounds, and community needs. Our staff are dedicated, experienced and hard-working, and well supported by a wide range of volunteers from all corners of our district. Both paid and volunteer staff are essential agents for care and support of those in need in Mid Canterbury. I thank them, one and all.

I chair a Board of Trustees who are also volunteers, and give their time and expertise willingly and freely. I am constantly aware and appreciative of their work, which complements the mahi 'on the ground' done by General Manager Kevin Clifford and his team. We are fortunate to live in a community that cares, and of course, our District Council leads the way as one of our core funders.

We exist in large measure on the income from various contracts – for example, from a range of Government ministries and other agencies. There have been times this year when funding contracts changed at short notice, and this had an effect on funding, staffing, and staff morale. It is a credit to Kevin and the team that we have maintained our services in large measure, and I recognise and thank the staff whose positions were affected in a number of ways.

One of our long-standing Board members, Jeanette Tarbotton, has indicated her intention to step down in the near future. She is well known in and around Ashburton for a lifetime of service to this community and district. Thank you, Jeanette, for your contribution over many years. Your work exemplifies the spirit that drives this organisation and its population. With the support of people like Jeanette, Safer Mid Canterbury will continue to thrive.



Don McLeod
Chairperson

General Manager's report

Despite a challenging year, the Safer Mid Canterbury team has continued to deliver high-quality, essential services amidst growing community need.

Funding reductions made to Oranga Tamariki unfortunately flowed on to Safer Mid Canterbury, particularly affecting the Youth Support and Family Wellbeing Services, which we lost halfway through 2025. Sadly, as a result, we had to say goodbye to two staff members. Oranga Tamariki funding cuts have affected many frontline services across the country. I would like to personally thank everyone involved in the Youth Support and Family Wellbeing Services for their commitment and hard mahi over the years. Your work made a big difference in our community.

An area that did receive increased funding in the 2024/25 year, was Safer Mid Canterbury's Attendance Services, which work to improve the school attendance of children and rangatahi. This has enabled us to enrol more people in the service and support more whānau facing attendance challenges.

In January 2024, we welcomed the Ashburton Senior Citizens service under the Safer Mid Canterbury umbrella. Senior Citizens approached Safer Mid Canterbury about the transition, and we were thrilled to facilitate the move. For 50 years, Senior Citizens has served the community, and we look forward to what the next chapter in its history will bring. While much will stay the same, the service is now known as Thrive. Safer Mid Canterbury has employed a new coordinator who will reinvigorate the service and we are now providing day-to-day staff and volunteer management. You can read more about this on page 20.

Our work supporting refugees to settle in Mid Canterbury continues to go from strength-to-strength. This service encompasses the Refugee Settlement Support Service (RSSS), Refugee Post Settlement Support Service, and the Refugee Health Navigation Service. In this annual report, we profile one of the families who now calls Ashburton home to hear more about their story and how RSSS has supported them along the way. Safer Mid Canterbury has provided this support since 2020, so it is heartening to see the way families have adjusted and are now thriving in their new community. A big achievement for the service came in March 2025, when we received Te Puna Tahua Lottery Grants Board funding to continue offering psychologist appointments for a two-year period, extending the service to one day a week. This means a clinical psychologist now travels regularly to Ashburton to meet with people who would like to access mental health support.

Safe Communities is another service that has much to report about. One of its key projects during the 2024/25 year was managing district-wide, needs assessment, community research. This was made possible thanks to funding from the Office for Seniors, Te Tari Kaumātua. The work involved surveying residents aged over 65 years about their experience living in the Ashburton District. The valuable feedback will be used to develop an Age Friendly Ashburton Strategy and Action Plan that will help guide the future of Safe Communities' work in this area. You can read more about Safe Communities' work on page 12.

In this annual report, the Safe Communities' team also updates us on progress with the Bike Skills Park; the growth in the number of people using the Mid Canterbury Connector community transport service; and its work raising important scam prevention awareness.

I would like to thank the Safer Mid Canterbury staff and Board for their steadfast support and hard work during a challenging 2024/25 year. As you will see throughout this report, there is much to celebrate, and we look forward to another year of providing essential services that focus on a healthier, stronger and safer community for all.

Ngā mihi nui.



Kevin Clifford
General Manager

Safe Communities Chairperson's report

In the last year, Safe Communities reached the significant milestone of five years in operation. There have been many great outcomes that have come from this initiative, and it has been wonderful seeing so many agencies and people collaborating to help make our community a safer place to live and work.

Over the last year, the number of people using the Mid Canterbury Connector service has significantly increased and it is now averaging about 30 passengers each month. The service aims to reduce isolation by having volunteers drive people from rural parts of the district into town using a community vehicle.

A team of about 10 volunteer drivers do an amazing job and it's wonderful to hear the positive feedback they get from passengers. For a lot of the service's users, being able to access a low-cost transport option gives them independence. They can book a time to come into town, go to appointments or go shopping, and catch up with family and friends. We've been fortunate to have access to the Rakaia Community Association vehicle as well, which enables us to provide transport for Rakaia and Methven passengers.

Looking at public transport options for the district is still on our radar, following our work in the 2023/24 year with Ashburton District Council, where we helped survey the community to determine if there was enough demand. We hope that there will be more movement in this space over the next 12 months.

We again delivered several ski and snowboard safety sessions to schools in the district ahead of their annual trips to Mt Hutt. These ongoing sessions have been highly successful, and the children were this year delighted to meet an avalanche rescue dog as part of the programme. The sessions are also a good opportunity for children to meet the ski patrol staff, so they can ask them questions and get to know the people who help look after them on the mountain.

I'm pleased to report we have made a lot of progress on the off-road bike skills park. The design has been completed, and the working group has been putting together a prospectus to help secure funding for building it. We're hoping that construction can start next year.

A current major focus for Safe Communities is the Age Friendly Ashburton strategy and action plan. More than 500 survey responses were collected from local seniors over the last year and are now being collated. The survey covered issues such as accessible housing, social participation, feeling safe at home, being prepared for emergencies and being able to get around the community. Answers to the survey questions will help us look at what needs there are and how we can plan for the future. As we have a growing elderly population in Mid Canterbury, developing a strategy from this will be an important piece of work.

We have also continued our work on falls prevention and raising awareness of scams.

I would like to thank Safe Communities Coordinator Lesley Symington, who has done a tremendous amount of work ensuring everything continues to run smoothly and that everyone involved with Safe Communities has a point of contact. I also want to thank Kelvyn Savage, who took on the role of Mid Canterbury Connector Coordinator in August 2024, and the wonderful team of volunteers who support him.

We're very grateful as always to Ashburton District Council for including funding for Safe Communities in the Long Term Plan, and to The Ashburton Courier for continuing to support us by publishing a monthly feature that helps spread safety messaging and highlight the agencies involved in Safe Communities.



Liz McMillan
Safe Communities Ashburton
District Chairperson

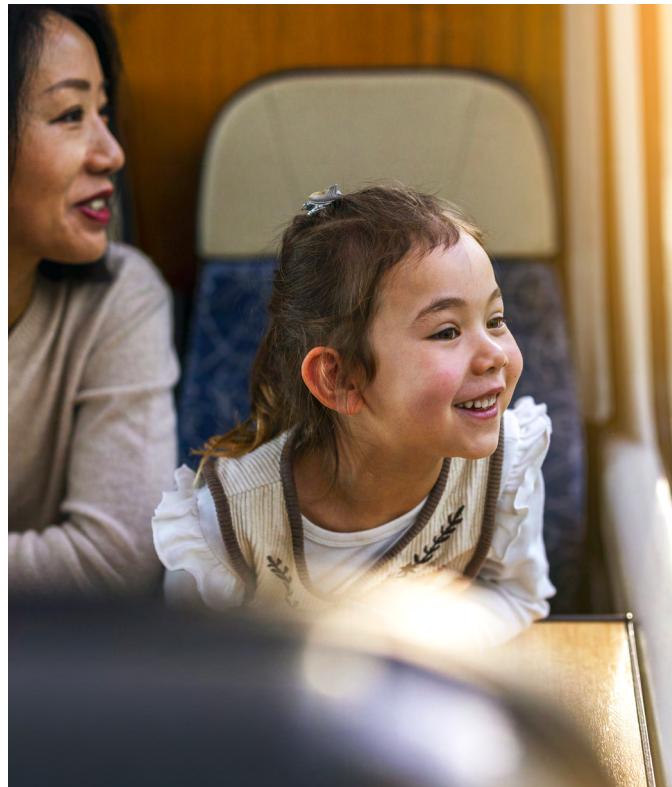
Hapori Haumaru Safe Communities

The 2024/25 year was another busy and productive one for Safe Communities with significant progress being made on key projects.

This included the Bike Skills Park planned for the Ashburton Domain being granted resource consent along with completion of the final design and quantity survey. It is now well on track to attract the funding required for its construction.

Another key Safe Communities' project was bringing together the Age Friendly Ashburton Steering Group to assist with advice and promotion of needs assessment community research. In November 2024, a total of \$15,000 in funding was secured from the Office for Seniors, Te Tari Kaumātua to undertake the district-wide assessment that will be used to develop an Age Friendly Ashburton Strategy and Action Plan. The survey questioned residents aged over 65 years about their experience living in the Ashburton District. A total of 564 responses were received.

Safe Communities Ashburton District Coordinator Lesley Symington said the number of people using the Mid Canterbury Connector community transport service continued to grow. In the 2024/2025 year, 366 people were transported to their destination and 38,026 kilometres were covered. Volunteer drivers contributed a total of 729.2 hours. Since it began in 2021, the service has transported a total of 929 people into Ashburton.



Other activities organised during the year included the annual school ski safety visits by the Mt Hutt Ski Area team; further promotion of scam awareness; and the "Spring into Spring" falls prevention expo for older adults.

The Safe Communities' programme for Ashburton District works to prevent injuries in the community and promote safety through collaboration with local organisations. "Working together provides the opportunity to take a district-wide, strategic overview of community safety issues and enables greater reach and a collective "weight" to respond to them," Lesley says. "The local focus allows for new safety issues and concerns to be addressed as they arise in the community."

Key safety concerns identified for the Ashburton District include falls in older people leading to both fatal and non-fatal injury; road crashes; theft and burglary; scams; and family harm. Key priority areas include rural safety/social isolation; falls in older people; road safety; alcohol, drugs and community safety (early intervention/prevention); harm reduction/prevention (theft/burglary), and social/community wellbeing.

The Safe Communities Steering Group, which is chaired by Deputy Mayor Liz McMillan, works to a business plan to address the key priority areas identified for the District. With the first Safe Communities' five-year strategic plan now complete, a new three-year 2024 to 2027 business plan was adopted and commenced 1 July 2024.

Lesley said the 2025-2026 year will see the continuation of the plan alongside developments from existing programmes and new initiatives. This includes completing and opening the Bike Skills Park in Ashburton Domain. Projects identified through the Ageing Well Ashburton Strategy and Plan will also be rolled out to improve older Ashburton residents' wellbeing and participation in community life.

Safe Communities Ashburton District continued to deliver its key initiatives over the last year to help improve



Ā mātou tutukitanga

Our achievements

safety across Mid Canterbury. Below is a summary of achievements between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025:

Ski Safety Schools' Roadshow

Mt Hutt Ski Area staff visited three local schools in August 2024, ahead of the schools' annual ski day at Mt Hutt. About 320 children took part learning about ski and snowboard safety. Staff from Mt Hutt Ski Area said they were pleased to see that the children who had heard the presentation were able to recite the key safety messages when visiting the ski field.

Mid Canterbury Connector Community Transport Service

The Mid Canterbury Connector project aims to reduce rural and social isolation by providing a low-cost community transport service. Volunteer drivers use the Mid Canterbury Connector vehicle to bring people living in rural areas of the District into the Ashburton township for appointments, and to see whānau and friends.

Between 1 July 2024 and 30 June 2025, there were:

- 366 passengers transported/number of trips
- 38,026 kilometres travelled
- 729.2 volunteer driver hours recorded
- 89 other volunteer hours (such as trustee involvement).

A successful grant from Te Puna Tahua Lottery Grants Board for \$15,600 over two years, was secured and used to fund a part-time (five hours per week) Bookings and Administration Co-Ordinator. This new role will assist the service to take bookings, organise volunteer drivers, and undertake administration and vehicle maintenance.

Following the resignation of Adi Avnit (who was the Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust Treasurer),

and with no volunteer replacement available, a funding application was made to Community Organisation Grants Scheme (COGS) for \$10,000 to help cover operational costs and to add additional hours to the Bookings and Administration role to manage the service's finances.

A replacement community vehicle for Rakaia was purchased by the Rakaia Community Association and has been used by the Mid Canterbury Connector service to transport people from Rakaia and Methven into Ashburton. This has allowed the service to expand and relieves pressure on the existing Ashburton-based vehicle.

Falls Prevention for Older People

In September 2024, about 110 people attended our "Spring into Spring" mini falls prevention expo, which was held at Te Whare Whakatere.

Scam Awareness

Four community talks to help prevent older adults being scammed were held thanks to a collaboration between Neighbourhood Support Ashburton District, ASB Bank, Digital Waitaha Charitable Trust, and Safe Communities. About 50 people attended the sessions in Ashburton, Hinds, Rakaia, and Methven. Feedback from older people attending the talks, who mentioned their lack of knowledge and comfort with technology, led to the development of a new relationship with SeniorNet Ashburton. Requests were received for more presentations by the Neighbourhood Support Ashburton District Manager and ASB Bank Community Banking Officer.

A scam awareness flyer that includes contact information for local agency support, was updated and reprinted.

Neighbourhood Support Ashburton District, Te Whare Whakatere, Citizens Advice Bureau, Digital Waitaha Charitable Trust, and SeniorNet Ashburton all worked together on this project.

Age Friendly Ashburton Strategy and Action Plan

Funding of \$15,000 was secured from the Office for Seniors, Te Tari Kaumātua in November 2024 to undertake a district-wide community needs assessment. A steering group of agencies working with older people promoted the survey and assisted older people to complete a questionnaire where necessary. The community survey attracted 564 responses. Survey data has now been sent to a university in The Netherlands for analysis and the results will be included in international research on older people and what makes a community "age friendly".

The findings will act as the basis for the development of an Age Friendly Ashburton Strategy and Action Plan. The first project for the Age Friendly Ashburton Steering Group will be the compilation of a booklet on services and support available for older people. This will be similar to the Need Help Booklet produced by Safer Mid Canterbury and the Citizens Advice Bureau. Information will be collated by the Citizens Advice Bureau, working with a small group of agencies from the steering group.

Bike Skills Park

The Bike Skills Park project made significant progress

during the year, with the granting of a resource consent for the facility and the detailed design and quantity survey being finalised. A charitable trust was also established to apply for construction funding, a successful funding application was made to the Community Trust of Mid & South Canterbury, and a sponsorship prospectus was developed.

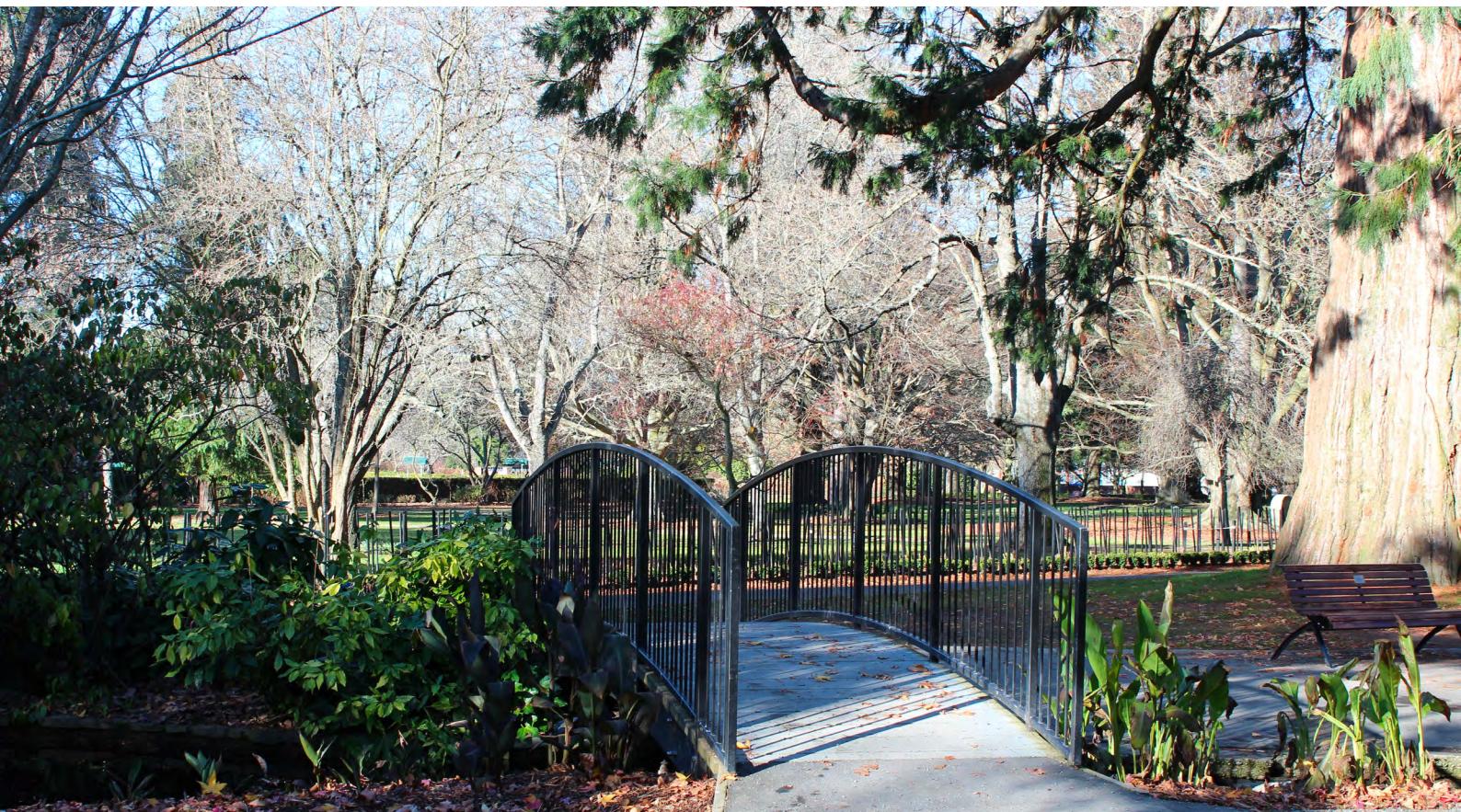
Calendar for Event Organisers

Safe Communities worked with Keep Learning Mid Canterbury to develop a 2025 event planning calendar. This work was in response to feedback from agencies that in 2024 there were several clashes because organisers were not aware of other events taking place at the same time in the region. The calendar can also be used by agencies seeking opportunities to collaborate on events that have similar themes and audiences.

Safety Promotion

The Ashburton Courier newspaper's free, monthly Safe Communities' column continued during the year, with spaces offered to Safe Communities' member agencies. This has been a great way for community agencies to promote their safety messages and services and for the Safe Communities' programme to be profiled in local media. The Facebook page has also been used to promote various activities throughout the year.

Thank you to the Ashburton District Council for funding the Safe Communities' programme.







Attendance service

When 15-year-old Lucy* moved to Ashburton to live with her father, Anthony*, her attendance at school was inconsistent.

While she was very competent in her schoolwork, attendance had also been an issue when she was living with her mother. Lucy's new school tried to support the whānau by negotiating a reduced timetable to see if it would improve her attendance, but it did not change the situation.

Due to Anthony's employment, he had to leave for work very early each day, so was unable to oversee Lucy's attendance in the mornings. As a result, she was either not attending school, arriving late, and/or leaving part way through the day. Communication between Lucy's parents had also become strained. Anthony didn't want to upset Lucy, because she had chosen to live with him in Ashburton.

Safer Mid Canterbury's Attendance Services began working with the whānau to implement simple changes that supported the parents to put appropriate, consistent, and clear consequences in place. Support was provided to Lucy to improve her attendance.

The Attendance Advisor began by holding meetings with Anthony and Lucy, and liaised with the year dean and school junior dean.

A plan was put in place and a hui was held with everyone involved to discuss how it would be implemented. The Attendance Service provided Lucy with early morning home visits and transport to school; sourced a food parcel for the whānau, a winter uniform and new PE and school shoes for Lucy; and assisted her to write a CV and apply for part-time work.

The intervention plan included supporting the parents to be consistent and provide consequences, such as introducing WiFi and phone restrictions.

The result was Lucy achieving full attendance at school. Both parents are now working better at co-parenting and Lucy knows all the adults involved are on the same page and there are clear consequences to any negative behaviours.

Safer Mid Canterbury's Attendance Services aim to improve the school attendance of children and young people by working with whānau, schools, and other groups.

**Names have been changed to protect identities.*



Ā mātou tauanga

Our statistics

In the past 12 months, we have been proud to support...



363
youth



294
children



131,007kg
food distributed



764
adults



696
workshops



48
agencies

working in
partnership

168
seniors



287
refugees and
migrants



Ō mātou taratī

Our trustees



Liz McMillan, Chair of Safe Communities

Liz was made Chair of Safe Communities, following her appointment to the Board as Ashburton District Council's representative in September 2017. Liz is the Deputy Mayor of Ashburton and is currently serving her second term on the Council. Liz is also chair of the Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust and was Chair of the Caring for Communities steering group when it was active during the district's COVID-19 response.



Don McLeod, Chair of Trustees

Don has been a Safer Mid Canterbury Board member since 2013, including several years as Board Chairperson. He is a former secondary school principal and former Ashburton District Councillor, who has a strong interest in people and the community. He served on the board of Ashburton Community Alcohol and Drug Service (ACADS) for 17 years, including 10 as Chairperson. Other offices held have included being a member of the Community House Mid Canterbury and Neighbourhood Support Boards, and he has twice been President of the Rotary Club of Ashburton.



Jeanette Tarbutton

Jeanette has a long history of community involvement and has been with Safer Mid Canterbury since its early days. She is a representative of the local chapter of Age Concern, which works in the interests of elderly residents, and has also been involved with Federated Farmers, Rural Women New Zealand, and the Ashburton Lions Club.



Max Cawte

Max is the managing director of Ashburton Powdercoating and has been contributing his skills and knowledge to Safer Mid Canterbury since he joined us as a trustee in 2011. Max is also a long-term member of the Ashburton Lions Club, and has previously served as their President.



Russell Ellis

Russell first came on board as a representative from Ashburton District Council and served for about six years until he moved away from the district. On his return, we were quick to invite him back as a trustee. Russell brings strong business skills and an enthusiasm for his community, in particular a passion for supporting the wellbeing of young people.



Tony Todd

Tony was appointed to the Board following the 2022 local body elections. He is a first-time councillor and this is his first appointment with Safer Mid Canterbury. Tony is well known in the community and has served on many boards and committees, along with being an Ashburton clothing retailer for many years.

Thrive now part of Safer Mid Canterbury services

We were delighted to welcome Ashburton Senior Citizens to the Safer Mid Canterbury whānau in January 2024. The service has since been rebranded to become known as Thrive.

For about 50 years, Ashburton Senior Citizens operated as a society supporting older people in the Mid Canterbury community. However, following the arrival of COVID-19, changes were made to better assist people in their homes and the way they accessed community amenities.

Under the Safer Mid Canterbury umbrella, Thrive provides one-to-one support and advocacy for seniors. This involves delivering food parcels in collaboration with Food Rescue Aoraki; offering regular visits and telephone calls; organising monthly supporters' lunches; and providing bespoke support for those who need assistance with independent living. It is also a Total Mobility provider for the Ashburton district.

Thrive coordinator Jacqui Paterson has completed research into isolation and cost of living challenges and incorporated her findings into the service. "There are lots of activities on offer for older people in Ashburton but going into people's homes makes the Thrive service a bit different," she says. "If a person's mental and/or physical health isn't good and their family are not close by, it can make life difficult. Thrive is a holistic, relationship-based service. Sometimes the support we offer will be quite straightforward and sometimes it involves forming longer term relationships."

A part time Thrive worker and two supporters work alongside about 50 people in the district. As of 11 June 2025, the main issues clients reported were to do with food (25%); mental health (12.5%); physical health (12.5%); accessing information (10.7%); relationships/grief (9.7%); transport (6.3%); transition/housing (5.4%) and other general issues (17.9%).

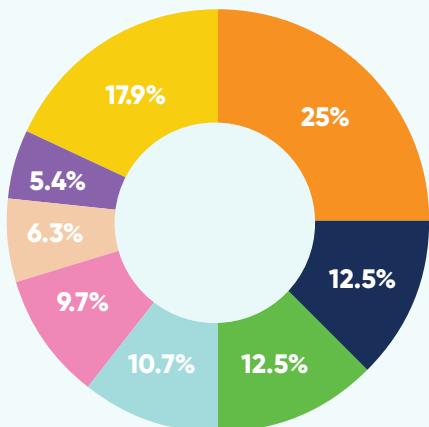
Jacqui says that by visiting people and spending time with them, conversations often reveal the problems they are experiencing. One of these issues has been people without a car or a scooter finding that using a taxi service was limiting because it only took them from point A to point B. While helpful, it meant people couldn't do other errands or enjoy their time in the central business district. Thrive now offers a bespoke driving/shopping experience service where people are picked up from their homes and have an hour and a half to do whatever they need to do.

Another problem was resolved when a support person visited a client who was struggling with the winter temperatures in their home. It was discovered they had very light curtains covering their windows but heavier ones were stored in a cupboard. The volunteer was able to change and re-hang the curtains for them.

"The relationship and trust between our support people and the people we work alongside keeps growing," Jacqui says.

"Our aim is to help people to thrive, not just survive. We treat everyone with respect and do what we can to ensure people have something to look forward to – even if that's as simple as a treat in the kitchen cupboard."

The Thrive team receive regular feedback from clients and their experiences help to shape the future of the service. "Grassroots feedback is vital," Jacqui says. "One of our strengths is being independent, so we can put suggestions in place quickly. Thrive is about walking with people."



Graph showing the main issues clients reported:

 Food	 Physical health
 Mental health	 Transport
 Accessing information	 Transition/housing
 Relationships/grief	 Other general issues





Psychology service supports newest arrivals

People connected to the Refugee Settlement Support Service (RSSS) now have the option of speaking with a clinical psychologist in Ashburton.

In March 2025, Te Puna Tahua Lottery Grants Board funding to cover psychologist appointments was received for a two-year period, this time extending the service from one day a fortnight to one day a week. Clinical psychologist Tim Williams travels to Ashburton to meet with people kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) with the help of an online interpreter.

In previous roles, Tim has worked with refugees and people affected by conflict in the Middle East; in a refugee camp in Thailand after the Southeast Asian wars; with refugees in Christchurch; and spent many years in the West Bank and Gaza. He says the strength and determination of the refugees in Ashburton inspires him.

"My previous experience has given me some insight into what people may be going through, which has been very valuable," Tim says. "But there is an advantage in not being part of the community because they know I don't come with preconceived ideas. It is also good working with an interpreter because you both have time to think, reflect, and interpret what each other is saying."

Tim says many in the refugee community are very resilient, having survived leaving their homes, living in a transit country, and now adapting to life in the Ashburton district. The challenges they face in adapting to their new lives vary, but common themes to work through involve fear, sadness, and navigating moving on with their new life at the same time as dealing with past experiences. Having lived in multigenerational

households, Tim says most adults have never been the only adult in the home before, and even living in a standalone house is a new experience. Understanding a new shopping system; learning to speak, read and write in English; and learning to drive - often for the first time – all take adjustment. An ordinary sound, such as a siren, may mean something different to someone who has grown up in war, he says.

"The people we are working with are just amazing," he says. "They have moved here for safety and opportunities for their children. They are learning English and doing things they have never done before. They are most passionate about making things better for their children, who usually work incredibly hard at school."

RSSS is a collaboration between Safer Mid Canterbury and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). It was set up to welcome families who have had to flee their homes in other countries and seek a safe and welcoming place to resettle. RSSS forms the central hub of a support network that includes health practices, Te Whatu Ora services, and social support agencies. This network includes other groups within Safer Mid Canterbury and a range of community groups. With the support of health navigators and family caseworkers, RSSS provides intensive support for families in their first 24 months living in New Zealand, including sourcing housing, enrolling with schools and a local GP, arranging English lessons, and finding opportunities to socialise with others.

Refugee Health Navigation Service facilitates smooth transition

With the support of the Refugee Health Navigation Service, Mohammad Zahir Ahmadi and Rahel Bakhshi, along with their young daughters, have settled in well to Mid Canterbury life.

Originally from Afghanistan, the family spent nine years in Malaysia, and a further six weeks in Te Āhuru Mōwai o Aotearoa Māngere Refugee Resettlement Centre, before arriving in Ashburton in 2023. They were welcomed into a newly decorated home that had been set up by the Refugee Settlement Support Service (RSSS) team and were matched with a family caseworker through the Refugee Health Navigation Service.

"Safer Mid Canterbury has been very helpful for us," Rahel says. "Ashburton has very kind people."

"When we arrived, Mike (Henderson-Purdom) helped us set up the television and the WiFi and enrolled our kids at school. We went shopping with Haider (Ahmadi) who showed us where we could buy halal food, and Nuria (Abdullah) helped us to register with a GP. Other staff helped us to organise insurance, to get our drivers' licences, and helped with legal and travel needs."

Rahel says there were many similarities between adjusting to life in New Zealand and Malaysia. However, challenges included adapting to using EFTPOS cards in Aotearoa as opposed to using cash and learning to navigate many different websites to access official information. The RSSS was there to support them every step of the way and still offer transport and interpreter services when required.



PHOTO / Mohammad Zahir Ahmadi (left) and Rahel Bakhshi (centre) have settled into Mid Canterbury life well thanks to the support of Refugee Settlement Support Service Health Navigator Nuria Abdullah (right) and the rest of the RSSS team.

When Mohammad Zahir and Rahel arrived in Ashburton, they were joined by three other families and have since formed a strong community with the 39 other refugee families who have resettled in Mid Canterbury.

Drawing on her personal experience, Rahel has spent the past year volunteering with the RSSS team, supporting other families with the settlement process. She also teaches Farsi to children and has been studying to improve her English. She hopes to find a good, paid job in the future. Mohammad Zahir has a background in driving and travels to Christchurch two days a week for work. The two children, aged 12 and eight, have adjusted well to their new home.

"They love school and are very happy here," Rahel says. "We all love Ashburton."

"When we came here, we didn't know how to access a GP, pharmacy, or a dentist. Safer Mid Canterbury has helped us with all this."

RSSS Bilingual Health Navigator Nuria Abdullah said her work involved supporting Afghan community members in Ashburton to access and understand the health system, while navigating language and cultural barriers.

"In the past year (to June 2025), we have helped more than 100 clients with hospital visits, doctors' and specialist appointments, prescriptions, dental and vision care, and emergency support," Nuria says. "We provide interpreting services for (speakers of) Farsi and Dari, organise transport for people, provide education to improve peoples' understanding of the New Zealand health system, and work closely with providers to ensure care is culturally appropriate."

The RSSS team includes Team Leader Jane Wallace; Bilingual Health Navigators Nuria Abdullah and Haider Ahmadi; Family Caseworkers Michael Henderson-Purdom and Hayley Dunlop; Cultural Navigator Navid Bashir; Housing Agent Nicolee Ayton; Refugee Post Settlement Support Service Coordinator Elizabeth Ferguson; Transport Driver Matilda Dellow; and Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Hewitt. Rahel was also thankful to volunteers Sherry Wootton, Carolyn Hollings, and Jasmin Hollings who supported the family as they settled into Ashburton.

Case study: Lives Worth Living provides crucial service

For young Mid Canterbury farmer Dave*, a phone call from Lives Worth Living came just at the right time.

The person on the other end of the line was Lives Worth Living suicide prevention coordinator, Pup Chamberlain, and it provided the turning point and support Dave needed. Now, a few years later, he is an advocate of the Lives Worth Living service, which guided him to seek mental health and wellbeing support.

Dave says it was the breakdown of his marriage that saw him "hit rock bottom".

"I had really good friends who saw what was happening to me and they contacted Pup," Dave says. "I knew of Pup through his work in the Police when he used to come to our primary school with the DARE programme. One day he rang me up and I said, 'How are you, Pup?' He replied with, 'That's the question I need to be asking you'. That call was really timely."

The very next day they met up and Pup supported Dave at an appointment with his General Practitioner. Dave then worked with medical professionals to find the right medication, tools, and coping strategies with Pup's support.

"We clicked right from the get-go," Dave says. "Pup is very approachable and professional, and I could always reach out to him. Pup helped me through a really tough time, got me back on the straight and narrow, and gave me tools to help me."

Dave and Pup still meet up to this day to check in and see how things are going.

"I am very open about what I have been through," Dave says. "Mental health has been a dark subject in the past but now we are talking about it and understanding it. All this was a few years ago. Looking back, I have clarity, and I know what happened and now I won't let myself fall into that hole."

Dave says one of the biggest things he has learned is not to hide yourself away from people but to stay in regular contact with a close circle of friends who have your back.

"It's easy to lock your door and turn the phone off, but it's important to catch up with friends, get outside, and get some exercise," he says. "These things really helped me."

"Everyone will go through some sort of crisis at some point in their life. It's hard making that first step but there's lots of help out there, and the first step can be speaking with a close friend."

Today, Dave uses his own experience to talk about mental health and wellbeing to help others. He can't speak highly enough of the support he received from Lives Worth Living and has put several people in contact with Pup. "Pup is worth his weight in gold," he says.

"Mid Canterbury is very, very lucky to have Lives Worth Living in the community."

Formed by Safer Mid Canterbury, Lives Worth Living is a suicide prevention and post-vention response service for the Mid Canterbury region. The programme is run by highly experienced mental health professionals in collaboration with local and regional agencies.

**Name changed to protect privacy and identity.*

Service statistics from 2023-2025:

One-on-one client meetings:

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
295	379	476

People receiving information on suicide and conversations:

2022/23	2023/24	2024/25*
505 people	379 people	636 people

*1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.



Ā mātou ratonga

Our services

Youth Support

Manaaki Rangatahi

What we did: Safer Mid Canterbury provided one-on-one support to tamariki and their whānau to target issues that were creating obstacles in young people's lives. This service had been operating in the Ashburton district since 2005. Youth Support Workers, together with young people, developed an action plan and a timeline for achieving their goals.

This year: Sadly, we had to end this service due to Oranga Tamariki funding cuts. Before this service ended we received 13 referrals.



Community Youth Programme

Hōtaka Rangatahi

What we do: The Community Youth programme has been providing young offenders and those at risk of offending with positive alternatives since 2010. Young people entering the youth justice system (generally for lower-level offending) are referred to us, so that we can support them to engage in positive activity and ultimately halt their offending.

This year: Staff working in this service have been very busy with 19 referrals. Most young people on this programme have successfully made changes in their lives, which is positive for our community.

Supervision with Activity

Kaitiaki Whakahono

What we do: Supervision with Activity has been operating since 2018. This contract is aimed at higher level youth offenders and is an intervention before a residential sentence, or is a mandated intervention for a youth offender leaving a residential environment and returning to the community. It is an intensive service, where staff may spend up to 20 hours per week with an offender, engaging them in positive activity with a view to stopping their offending.

This year: There were no high level youth justice referrals this year, which is great.

CACTUS (Combined Adolescent Challenge Training Unit and Support)

Toi Rangatahi Toi Ora

What we do: CACTUS supports young people to discover their inner strengths and their abilities to reach their potential. Activities promote self-esteem, confidence and physical fitness. Each course is followed by an overnight camp to introduce participants to new camping and bush skills, and also to celebrate their achievements throughout the course. A five-day advanced course is also run each summer for those who have excelled in the basic courses.

This year: Our CACTUS programme had 31 trainees complete the programme this year.

Refugee Post Settlement Support Service

Ratonga Nohonga Taurewa

What we do: We receive funding from the Ministry of Social Development to support refugee families once they are settled and no longer receive support from the Refugee Settlement Service. This service runs groups, social activities, and a youth group, and provides ongoing education and skills supporting families to settle well in New Zealand.

This year: We worked with 57 adults and 62 young people through our group activities.

Family Wellbeing Service Ratonga Hauora Whānau

What we did: Safer Mid Canterbury had been operating the Family Wellbeing Service for more than 10 years. It was a free programme for families with children aged 10 and under. Whānau needing support were matched with a trained volunteer, who worked in the family's home environment, teaching practical parenting and household skills. Volunteers used techniques that reduced stress and improved the confidence of families.

This year: Sadly, we had to end this service due to Oranga Tamariki funding cuts. Before this service ended we delivered 12 referrals.



Court Contact Service Ratonga Toro Kōti

What we do: We have been providing this service to the Family Court since 2018. This is a similar service to Supervised Access, however this work is carried out under a family court order. Generally, one parent will hold the parenting order with the other parent not able to have contact with their tamariki unless supervised. Our role is to carry out an assessment and make recommendations back to the court around the appropriateness of contact taking place and how it can be done. From there, we assist with the contact sessions.

This year: We have delivered 258 hours of supervised contact. The Family Court in Christchurch often has large waiting lists and approaches us to deliver a service to families in their area, given our court approval to carry out assessments. We make a profit on this work, which we then invest in our local work.

Food Rescue Aoraki

What we do: Food Rescue Aoraki became part of Safer Mid Canterbury at the start of 2024, after its parent organisation, Foodbank Aotearoa, had to close its doors at the end of 2023. Food Rescue Aoraki has four staff and many volunteers who collect food that can't be sold from local supermarkets and food producers. The team then redistributes it to organisations providing food parcels to people in need throughout the Mid and South Canterbury districts.

This year: More than 131,000 kg of food has been rescued and distributed throughout Mid and South Canterbury.

Refugee Health Navigation Service Ratonga Whakatere Hauora Taurewa

What we do: The Refugee Health Navigation Service links refugee families with health care providers in the Ashburton district. It is part of Safer Mid Canterbury's Refugee Settlement Service. When a new family arrives in the district, Health Navigators can enrol them with a local GP, book medical appointments, offer transport to and from their appointments, and provide interpretation services. The Health Navigators liaise with other health providers including dentists, optometrists, community labs, and other specialists to ensure refugee families are well supported.

This year: We have assisted with 784 appointments providing support, navigation and interpretation.

Transition Service Ratonga Whakatangata

What we do: The Transition Service is contracted to community providers across the country, with the aim of supporting young people who are, or have been at any point after the age of 15, in the care of the State. The concept involves assisting these young people into adulthood and everything this entails. The young person can gain a high level of support up to the age of 21 and can come back for assistance up to the age of 25.

This year: We have worked intensively with five young people over the year.

Ā mātou ratonga

Our services

Attendance Services

Ratonga Kuranga

What we do: Safer Mid Canterbury has delivered Attendance Services in the Ashburton district since 2002. They aim to improve the school attendance of children and young people by working with whānau, schools, and other groups.

Non-attendance can be due to a range of factors, and our attendance kaimahi assist young people and families to get the support they need.

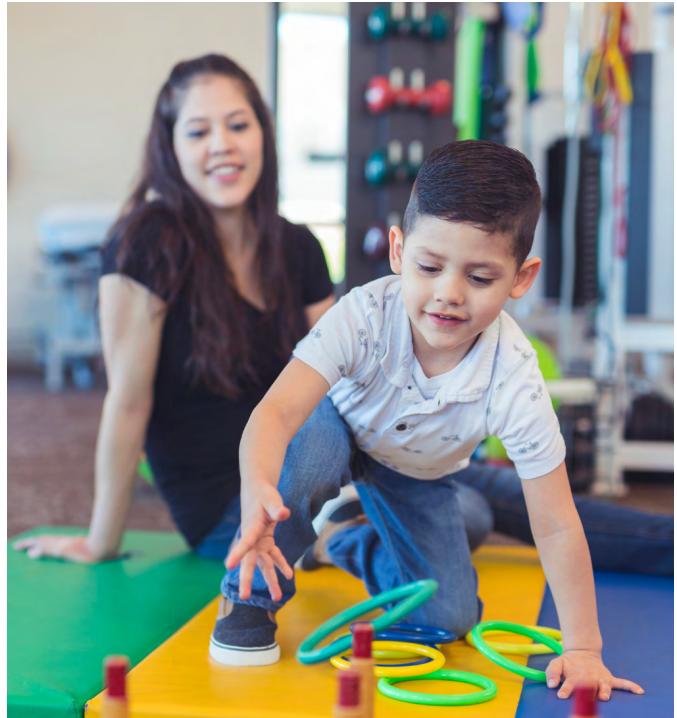
This year: We received additional funding for this service in 2025 which allowed us to increase service provision. This resulted in 118 referrals for unjustified absence and 116 referrals for non-enrolment.

Lives Worth Living

He Oranga Whai Hua

What we do: Lives Worth Living was developed by Safer Mid Canterbury in 2019 to address concerns around suicide and its ongoing impact on the Mid Canterbury community. Lives Worth Living is a community-funded project, employing people to work in suicide prevention and provide support in the event of a death by suicide in the district.

This year: This work has been very busy with the delivery of a range of programmes, support, and educational awareness activities. This year, we had 476 client sessions and 636 people attended group education.



Refugee Settlement Support Service

Ratonga Taurewa

What we do: The Refugee Settlement Support Service provides intensive support to new refugees in their first 24 months of settlement in a new area. It assists them in every aspect of settling in, from housing and enrolling with a local GP, to school enrolments and social engagement.

This year: We have supported 113 Afghan refugees to settle in the Ashburton district.

Safe Families Network

Ngā Whānau Tūkino Kore

What we do: The Safe Families Network was formed in 2008 in response to increasing levels of family violence. The coordinator promotes the prevention and awareness of family violence, runs activities and events, and develops resources to help victims and offenders access information and assistance. The coordinator brings agencies together to work collectively to reduce family violence.

This year: We worked with, and supported, 20 agencies, held 12 collaborative meetings, and six trainings.

Community Service Support

Ratonga Hapori

What we do: Safer Mid Canterbury works in close partnership with several smaller trusts in our district. The support we provide generally involves the employment and day-to-day oversight of coordinators of various projects in our community. We see this as a great way to reduce overheads and workloads for small volunteer trusts.

This year: We have supported a range of organisations including Neighbourhood Support, Hakatere Multicultural Council, and Ashburton Senior Citizens.

Rural Driver Licensing Scheme Te Hōtaka Whai Raihana ki Taiwhenua

What we do: The Rural Driver Licensing Scheme provides free support, tuition and subsidised driving tests to migrant women living in rural parts of the district. It is a partnership between Safer Mid Canterbury and the Mid Canterbury Rural Support Trust. The test fees and tuition are subsidised by the programme. Because many of the women have young children, there are also volunteer child minders available and a volunteer who can drive participants into town if transport is a barrier.

This year: We received 72 referrals. The following licences were achieved: 24 learners, 18 restricted and 44 full.



Safe Communities Haporī Haumaru

What we do: Safe Communities Ashburton District is a collaboration of 27 agencies involved across a range of community safety areas. It aims to reduce injury and crime, and enhance safety over time. By combining agency skills and resources, we can have a bigger impact on identifying and responding to community safety concerns.

This year: This was our sixth year delivering our work plan. We continued to bring together the 27 organisations, and worked on seven key community initiatives over the year.

Ashburton Senior Citizens/Thrive

What we do: Thrive is a home-based service that provides support and advocacy for seniors. This involves delivering food parcels in collaboration with Food Rescue Aoraki; offering regular visits and telephone calls; organising monthly supporters' lunches; and providing bespoke support for those who need assistance with independent living. It is also a Total Mobility provider for the Ashburton district. The service, formerly known as Ashburton Senior Citizens Incorporated, came under Safer Mid Canterbury's umbrella in January 2024.

This year: Over the past 12 months we have distributed 615 food parcels, supported 109 clients with Total Mobility, and have had 44 individual client referrals for one-to-one support.

Restorative Justice Service Houhou Rongo

What we do: Safer Mid Canterbury has delivered Restorative Justice Services in the Ashburton District Court since this initiative was established in 1999. We have also picked up the contracts for the Timaru and Ōamaru courts. When a person appears in court charged with an offence, the Judge may refer them to the Restorative Justice service, if they have pleaded guilty to their offence. The process involves a pre-conference with the offender and victim, before a conference between both parties, where the harm is addressed and various plans and actions are agreed.

This year: We carried out 374 pre-conferences and 53 full conferences for this service, across the Ashburton, Timaru and Ōamaru courts.

Ō mātou tāngata

Our people



Ana Taufa

Ana is the Coordinator for the Hakatere Multi Cultural Council (HMCC). Originally from Tonga, Ana moved to Ashburton in 2009, and says it is now a place she proudly calls home. She oversees three main areas of work, including the HMCC, Mid Canterbury Newcomers' Network, the Mid Canterbury Migrant and Ethnic Leaders' Forum, and supports new residents moving to the district. In her spare time, Ana enjoys camping with her family and supporting her children in their sporting endeavours.

Anna Arrowsmith

Anna is the Safe Families Network Coordinator. Her qualifications and background are in psychology and counselling. Born and raised in Ashburton, Anna likes being part of our close community and all that it has to offer. In her spare time, she enjoys reading and being with her whānau and friends.



Brittany Jordan

As an Attendance Advisor, Brittany takes a future-focused, whānau-centred, and holistic approach to her mahi. She draws on her experience working in Youth Sexual Harm, Mental Health and Addictions, and education to walk alongside whānau in establishing change and growth that sees tamariki engaging in and learning from their educational settings. Originally from the North Island, Brittany moved her whānau of six to South Canterbury in 2021 to enjoy a slower pace of life. She is completing qualifications in Psychology through Massey University, so most of her spare time is divided between studying, whānau, and fitness.

Bronnie McKenna – Team Leader Child and Youth Services, Court Services, Family and Community Services

Bronnie is the Court Services/Restorative Justice Team Leader, and a Restorative Justice Facilitator for both Ashburton and Timaru Courts. She is passionate about her work and helping victims and offenders of crime move forward positively. In her spare time, Bronnie and her family love spending time together, having fun on the water.



Christine Phillips

Christine has been employed by Food Rescue Aoraki for the past three years. She enjoys working with an awesome team and finds her mahi supporting people in Mid and South Canterbury very rewarding. Christine is also passionate about reducing food wastage. When she's not at Food Rescue Aoraki, Christine works with the elderly and enjoys caring for her grandson.

Coby Snowden

Coby is the Minute Secretary for Safer Mid Canterbury and some of its groups. With a background in accounting, she is also treasurer for many organisations. When not spending time with her daughters, Coby's spare time is filled with creative writing and Fullbore Target Shooting.





Connie Quigley

Connie has worked with Safer Mid Canterbury since 2019 as a contractor for Lives Worth Living. She was born in Ireland and moved to New Zealand with her family in 2012. Connie has worked as a mental health clinician for more than 29 years, both in management and clinical roles in primary and secondary services.

Dagmar Rohrbach

Dagmar joined the Ōamaru Restorative Justice team as a facilitator trainee in 2022. She trained as a lawyer in Germany and has a background in corporate law and communications. In her spare time, she enjoys exploring Aotearoa with her family, and playing in and on the water.



Darian Hurst-Long

Darian is a Kāiawhina with the School Attendance Service and is the CACTUS Programme Coordinator. As a registered teacher, she has a background in health, physical and outdoor education, and in health and youth worker roles. She has previously worked in schools throughout the South Island, as well as for He Waka Tapu and The Y. She enjoys taking her two dogs for runs; spending time with her fiancé; training for events such as the Coast to Coast; and Latin dancing. You might also find her poolside at the EA Networks Centre teaching aqua classes or helping out on the gym floor.

Elaine Aldridge

Elaine has recently joined Mid Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, working alongside Sue. Her role involves maintaining and updating the Neighbourhood Support databases. Originally from the UK, Elaine moved here 15 years ago to be with her family. She worked for 14 years as a Support Worker for IDEA Services.



Elizabeth (Ferg) Ferguson

Elizabeth is the Refugee Post Settlement Support Service Coordinator. She joined the team after working as a secondary school teacher for 36 years in Australia and New Zealand. Elizabeth loves vegetable gardening, crafts, travelling and trying delicious food with friends and family.

Haider Ahmadi

Haider has been working as a Bilingual Health Navigator with the Refugee Resettlement Support Service since 2021. He helps refugee families navigate through the New Zealand health system. Haider is originally from Afghanistan, and has been living in New Zealand for 20 years. He looks forward to supporting more refugee families to resettle in Ashburton in the future.



Hayley Dunlop

Having previously worked at Allenton School for eight years, and spending two years as a Kaiāwhina on our Attendance Service team, Hayley is now a Family Caseworker for the Refugee Settlement Support Service. She also works as a gymnastics coach. In her spare time, she spends quality time with her children who play a range of different sports, and she enjoys riding dirt bikes and going on adventurous 4WD trips. You can also find her down at the track with her partner, who races in the 2K Cup.

Ō mātou tāngata

Our people



Helen McKeown

Helen is the Operations Manager for Food Rescue Aoraki for both the Ashburton and Timaru warehouses. She is passionate about her work helping people in the community and preventing waste from going to landfill. Helen says her role is very rewarding and she feels privileged to have such wonderful staff and volunteers working together for an amazing cause.

Jacqui Paterson

Jacqui joined Safer Mid Canterbury in 2024 as the Coordinator for Ashburton Senior Citizens Inc. She considers it a privilege to work alongside the Safer Mid Canterbury team, because everyone is working for the good of the community. Jacqui also works as a Front of House Assistant and Researcher at the Ashburton Art Gallery and Museum. In her spare time, she enjoys walking, reading, writing, op shopping, spending time with whānau, and developing her artistic talents.



Jane Wallace – Refugee and Migrant Services Team Leader

Jane took over from Kathy as Refugee and Migrant Services Team Leader in March 2025. Before joining Safer Mid Canterbury, she was the Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children Site Manager for Te Kakahu o Aoraki. Jane enjoys spending time at the beach with whānau and her two-year-old Saint Bernard dog, Abbey. She also loves op-shopping, cooking, gardening, and binge watching a good Netflix series.

Jill Herbert

New to the Mid Canterbury area, Jill is a Kaiāwhina with the Attendance Service. She has previously worked in different social service roles throughout Otago and Southland. Jill spends her spare time on the upkeep of her section, exercising her dogs, and entertaining.



Karen Henderson

Karen works with the team at Food Rescue Aoraki maintaining and operating the work van. Before this role, she spent six years working as a rest home caregiver. Outside of work, Karen enjoys spending time with her three adult children, daughter-in-law, and five grandchildren. She lives with her partner, four small dogs and two cats, and enjoys camping and spending time outdoors.

Keri Kuru

As Safer Mid Canterbury's Transition Kaimahi, Keri works alongside rangatahi to support and guide them as they transition to adulthood. Keri has worked with young people most of her adult life including running outdoor activities, adventure-based programmes, and youth-focused community events. Keri enjoys spending quality time with her whānau; hiking; trail running; going to the gym; travelling, and riding her Indian Scout motorcycle.

Me mahi tahi tātou, mo te oranga o te katoa (we should work together for the wellbeing of everyone).





Kevin Clifford – General Manager

Kevin has been the General Manager of Safer Mid Canterbury since 2006. His favourite parts of the job are working with people who are dedicated to helping others, and the enjoyment of making a difference in people's lives. Kevin is involved with a number of other community boards and trusts, and is an active volunteer in the community. He enjoys the outdoors and spending time with his family.

Kim Hamill

Safer Mid Canterbury contracts bookkeeping and payroll company Nimba to look after our day-to-day finances, payroll and reporting. This provides us with the security of knowing we have Kim and her team looking after our financial comings and goings.



Kirsten Dixon

Based in Ōamaru, Kirsten works for Safer Mid Canterbury as a Restorative Justice Facilitator across Waitaki and South Canterbury. She has a specialist endorsement in facilitating cases involving family harm. Kirsten also works in conflict resolution, communications coaching, and as a professional supervisor for the social services sector.

Lesley Symington

Lesley is the Safe Communities Coordinator. The initiative aims to address safety issues for the district by having agencies pool their skills and resources to devise solutions. Lesley has a background in local government community services and enjoys creating programmes to help people. In her spare time, Lesley enjoys walks with her dog, antiquing, reading, and travel.



Matilda Dellow

Matilda is a driver for the Refugee Resettlement Service. She enjoys getting to know the families she works with, and welcoming them into the district. Matilda enjoys knitting, reading and shopping, and is keen on travel.

Matt Trudgeon

Matt supports the Senior Citizens' Coordinator by delivering food parcels, visiting residents, and taking people to do their shopping. He is passionate about helping seniors in the community to thrive. As well as being a huge Star Wars' fan, his spare time consists of reading, exploring family history, spending quality time with family, working on art projects, and enjoying time with his four-legged fur children.



Michael Henderson-Purdom

Mike works with the Refugee Settlement Support Service team as a Family Caseworker. He has spent the last several years studying towards becoming a social worker. Mike is very family orientated and loves spending time with his kids.

Ō mātou tāngata

Our people



Navid Bashir

Navid has been working as a Cultural Navigator with the Refugee Settlement Support Service since 2021. He assists the team to understand the cultural needs of refugee families settling in Mid Canterbury, as well as helping with communication support. Navid is originally from Afghanistan and speaks Farsi and Dari. He enjoys being part of this service and helping refugee families to settle in well.

Nicolee Ayton

As part of our Refugee Settlement Support Service, Nicolee coordinates the housing for families when they arrive in Ashburton. She has previously worked as a property manager in Christchurch, and as the Mid Canterbury Newcomers' Network Coordinator. Outside of work, Nicolee enjoys spending time with her horses either at the races or competing in jumping competitions.



Nuria Abdullah

Nuria is a bilingual Health Navigator with the Refugee Settlement Support Service. Born in Ghazni, Afghanistan, she moved with her family to Pakistan as a child, growing up in Karachi. Nuria was educated at Karachi University and can speak several languages, including Farsi/Dari, Urdu, Hindi and English. She has lived in New Zealand for the last 13 years. Nuria loves to work alongside people from all cultures and communities, and to learn something new from them.

Pup Chamberlain

Pup has been at Safer Mid Canterbury since 2019 as a Suicide Prevention Coordinator. He has had previous experience in health and education and spent many years as a Police Officer, mostly in the Mid Canterbury region. Pup enjoys working with adults and young people, supporting them to enjoy fulfilled lives. When he's not at work, Pup likes spending time with family, fishing and watching his pacers.



Rachael Price

Rachael is Safer Mid Canterbury's administrator and receptionist. She can generally be found at the front desk welcoming visitors, answering phone calls and emails, overseeing vehicle maintenance, editing the Safer Mid Canterbury website, and doing her best to help things run smoothly for her colleagues. Rachael enjoys following figure skating competitions, listening to music, learning languages, and hosting a weekly quiz night.

Rachel MacIntosh

In her role at Food Rescue Aoraki, Rachel is kept busy collecting food from supermarkets and redistributing the kai to organisations. Previously, Rachel had worked in community mental health roles, so understands the stress that food insecurity can bring to whānau. Now semi-retired, Rachel enjoys spending time with her family and friends, cooking, and gardening.





Rana Kohunui

As Safer Mid Canterbury's Youth Justice kaimahi, Rana supports rangatahi by guiding them towards making positive changes, and accessing new opportunities. In her spare time, Rana is passionate about embracing Te Ao Māori, and enjoys learning, teaching, and creating in this space.

Ruth Swale

Ruth is an accredited Restorative Justice facilitator based in Timaru. Her background is in advocacy, mental health, and disability support roles. Her self-care includes tending to her garden, reading voraciously, walking by the sea, and enjoying cat therapy with her tortoiseshell rascal.



Sarah Clifford

Sarah has supported Safer Mid Canterbury in a variety of ways including acting as the Community Connector Coordinator during COVID-19, supporting the Refugee Settlement Support Service and CACTUS camps, and filling in on reception. Outside of Safer Mid Canterbury, Sarah is the Mid Canterbury Citizens Advice Bureau Coordinator. She also started CanInspire Charitable Trust, and has been the South Island Women's Representative Smallbore Shooter six times. Sarah is passionate about the community and lifelong learning.

Sue Abel

Sue has been with Mid Canterbury Neighbourhood Support, which focuses on community and neighbours looking out for each other, since 2021. Alongside her role with Neighbourhood Support, Sue also runs the Civil Defence Get Ready programme. Outside of work, she enjoys spending time in the outdoors and gardening.



Tania King

Tania is a Supervised Contact Supervisor who helps to reconnect children with their parent or parents in a safe way. Aside from working in a job she loves, she enjoys cooking, reading and spending time with her family.

Wendy Hewitt

Wendy is the Rural Driver Licensing Scheme Coordinator and also the Refugee Settlement Support Service's Volunteer Coordinator. She has a strong background in the dairy industry as a farmer and in the agri-sales sector. She also provides mentoring and support to young agricultural students. In her spare time, Wendy enjoys gardening and spending time with her family.



Farewells

We farewelled several team members from Safer Mid Canterbury in the last year. We wish Brenda Kingsford, Leigh Lawless, Mercedes Walkham, Rachel MacIntosh, Stacey Barnett, Susan Triska, Tania Trusler-Clark, Tayla Wright, and Toni Sowman well on the next stage of their careers. We also wish Kathy Harrington-Watt and Selwyn Price well on their retirements. Thank you all for your contributions to Safer Mid Canterbury.

Whakaahua Photographs



CACTUS visit to the local police station.



One of the fun team activities held during a CACTUS session.



One of the Rural Driver Licensing Scheme learners with her driving mentor in the service's new car.



Refugee Settlement Service (RSS) volunteer Malcolm Dellow, RSS Driver Matilda Dellow, and RSS Volunteer Coordinator Wendy Hewitt with bicycles donated to the service.



CACTUS programme participants on a hike.



Neighbourhood Support Mid Canterbury scam awareness talk at Rakaia Community Centre in collaboration with Digital Waitaha.



CACTUS participants having fun.



Performance Report 2025

Safer Mid Canterbury
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Prepared by Nimba Limited

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Entity Information

Safer Mid Canterbury For the year ended 30 June 2025

Legal Name of Entity

Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board was incorporated as a charitable trust under the Charitable Trusts Act 1957.

Registration Number

Incorporated Charitable Trust No: 606871

Charities Commission No: CC22733

Entity's Purpose or Mission

We provide a variety of free and confidential services for the Ashburton community. The organisation's focus is upon improving the safety of the local community with a diverse range of services available to young people and their families of all ages.

Keeping families safe by enabling them to engage with their community is a priority for The Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board. We endeavour to assist the community in creating healthy, strong and well-supported young people and families.

The organisation's direction is guided by the principle that; "a sustainable safer community will only be achieved through providing services and programmes that support and strengthen individuals and families, enabling them to make good choices and through providing positive opportunities and pathways for them to choose".

Entity Structure

Ashburton Safer Mid Canterbury operates as a single unit.

Entity's Governance Arrangements

The Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board (the Board) governs the organisation. The Board is comprised of approximately 20 representatives at any one time, appointed in accordance with the Trust Deed.

Board members are people in positions of community responsibility, from within the Ashburton District. The Board sets the organisation's strategic direction and ensures agencies share information and work together on partnered solutions. The organisation is governed by a Trust Board appointed from the members.

Further to the Board are five elected Trustees, elected by the main Board. The Trustees meet monthly to handle the approval of Financial reports and oversee the General Manager.

The organisation employs a full-time General Manager, who reports to both the full Board and Trustees.

The Trustees Chair, who is always Chair of the full Board, oversees the General Manager.

Main Sources of Entity's Cash and Resources

Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board retains surplus funds in bank and short term deposit accounts.

Main Methods Used by Entity to Raise Funds

Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board receives most of its funding from local and national government agencies specifically aimed at providing services within the Trust's core object areas.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

The Trust Board relies on volunteered time for its oversight role.

Physical Address

255 Moore Street, Ashburton, 7700

Postal Address

255 Moore Street, Ashburton, 7700

Approval of Financial Report

Safer Mid Canterbury For the year ended 30 June 2025

The Trustees are pleased to present the approved financial report including the historical financial statements of Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board for year ended 30 June 2025.

APPROVED



Trustee

Date 12/12/25



Trustee

Date 16/12/25

Statement of Service Performance

Safer Mid Canterbury For the year ended 30 June 2025

Description of Medium and long term Objectives

The Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board Strategic Plan is centered on four key outcomes - A safer, stronger community; working together; strong and healthy families; and pathways for young people. These outcomes are aligned with our mission to reduce and prevent crime in the community and its impact on the Ashburton District - together we're safer.

Description of Key Activities

Service	2025 Measure	2024 Measure
Attendance Services	Unjustified Absence Referrals: 132 Non-enrolled referrals: 111	Unjustified Absence Referrals: 132 No-enrolled referrals:111
CACTUS Programme	Trainees: 31	Trainees: 30
Court Supervised Contact	Supervised Contact Hours: 258	Supervised Contact Hours: 623
Food Rescue Service	Food Rescued: 131,007kgs	
Family Wellbeing Service	Client Referrals: 12	Client Referrals: 33
Hakatere Multicultural Council	Clients Supported: 102	Clients Supported: 146
Lives Worth Living	Workshop Attendees: 636 Client referrals: 24	Workshop Attendees: 505 Client referrals: 29
Neighbourhood Support	Households on Database: 4,709	Households on Database: 5,049
Post Refugee Settlement Support	Womens Group: 42 Youth Group Attendees: 65 Family Support: 14	Youth Group Attendees: 30 Family Support: 24
Rural Driving Programme	Licenses Achieved: Learners 24, Restricted 18, Full 44	Licenses Achieved: Learners 24, Restricted 12, Full 31
Restorative Justice Service	Pre-conferences held: 374 Full conferences held: 53	Pre-conferences held: 367 Full conferences held: 58
Refugee Counselling Service	Counselling Sessions held: 104	
Refugee Health Service	Appointments: 784	Appointments: 410
Refugee Settlement Service	Refugees Settled: 113	Refugees Settled: 119
Safe Communities	Safety Initiatives worked on: 7	Safety Initiatives worked on: 7
Senior Citizens	Food parcels: 615 Total Mobility: 109 Client referrals: 42	
Safe Families	Agencies Supported:20 Training events: 6	Agencies Supported:20 Training events: 6
Transition Service	Client referrals: 4	Client referrals: 5
Youth Justice Service	Client referrals: 19	Client referrals: 21
Youth Support Service	Client referrals: 13	Client referrals: 36

Statement of Financial Performance

Safer Mid Canterbury For the year ended 30 June 2025

'How was it funded?' and 'What did it cost?'

	NOTES	2025	2024
Revenue			
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activity.	1	712,780	731,126
Revenue from commercial activities	1	2,364,414	2,400,280
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	1	12,853	19,227
Other revenue	1	452,903	578,992
Total Revenue		3,542,950	3,729,624
Expenses			
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	2	1,741,435	1,925,078
Volunteer related expenses		10,132	10,397
Expenses from commercial activities	2	1,460,775	1,525,700
Other expenses	2	171,083	123,217
Total Expenses		3,383,426	3,584,392
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		159,524	145,232

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report and the Independent Auditor's Report.

Statement of Financial Position

Safer Mid Canterbury

As at 30 June 2025

'What the entity owns?' and 'What the entity owes?'

	NOTES	30 JUN 2025	30 JUN 2024
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short term deposits	3	900,604	711,354
Debtors and prepayments	3	118,725	169,790
Other Current Assets	3	91,114	89,124
Total Current Assets		1,110,443	970,269
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	5	1,557,394	1,532,827
Other non-current assets	3	53,595	63,677
Total Non-Current Assets		1,610,988	1,596,504
Total Assets		2,721,431	2,566,772
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	4	682,957	695,829
Employee costs payable	4	203,273	189,242
Current portion of Term Loans	11	54,037	54,108
Other current liabilities	4	9,219	5,691
Total Current Liabilities		949,486	944,869
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loans	11	588,152	597,635
Total Non-Current Liabilities		588,152	597,635
Total Liabilities		1,537,639	1,542,504
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		1,183,792	1,024,268
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses	6	1,162,845	1,003,321
Reserves	6	20,948	20,948
Total Accumulated Funds		1,183,792	1,024,268

This statement is to be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report and the Independent Auditor's Report.

Statement of CashFlows

Safer Mid Canterbury
For the year ended 30 June 2025

Statement of Cashflows		
	2025	2024
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	63,884	71,343
Revenue from commercial activities	3,064,741	3,179,368
Interest Dividends and other investment revenue	13,508	19,193
Cash receipts from other operating activities	6,583	578,992
GST	(26,780)	(1,397)
Employee remuneration and other related expenses	(2,765,263)	(3,562,175)
Total Cash Flows from Operating Activities	356,673	285,324
 Cash Flows from Other Activities		
Receipts from sale of property, plant and equipment		
Receipts from sale of investments		
Proceeds from loans borrowed from other parties	1,180	322,920
Payments to acquire property, plant and equipment	(154,486)	(835,573)
Repayments of loans borrowed from other parties	(9,553)	(6,254)
 Cash Flows from other Investing and Financing Activities		
Westpac Term Deposit 1	(3,143)	(3,013)
Westpac Term Deposit 2	(1,421)	(1,363)
Net Cash Flows from Investing and Financing Activities	(167,743)	(523,283)
Net Increase / (Decrease) in Cash Balances	189,250	(237,959)
 Cash balances		
Cash and Cash equivalents at beginning of period	711,354	949,319
Cash and Cash equivalents at end of period	900,604	711,354
Net changes in cash for period	189,250	(237,960)

Statement of Accounting Policies

Safer Mid Canterbury For the year ended 30 June 2025

Basis of Preparation

This performance report is prepared in accordance with the XRB's Tier 3 (NFP Standard). The entity is eligible to apply these requirements as it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of less than \$5 million. All transactions in the performance report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. This performance report is prepared under the assumption that the entity is a going concern and will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

Presentation Currency

The financial statements are presented in New Zealand currency (\$), rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

Goods and Services Tax (GST)

The entity is registered for GST. All amounts are stated exclusive of goods and services tax (GST) except for accounts payable and accounts receivable which are stated inclusive of GST.

Income Tax

Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board is wholly exempt from New Zealand income tax having fully complied with all statutory conditions for these exemptions.

Changes in Accounting Policies

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

Bank and Cash

Bank accounts and cash in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Fundraising and Grants

Fundraising and Grant income is accounted for depending on whether or not it has a "use or return" condition attached. Where no use or return conditions are attached, the revenue is recorded as income when the cash is received. Where income includes a use or return condition, it is initially recorded as a liability on receipt. The income is then subsequently recognised within the Statement of Financial performance as the performance conditions are met.

Property, Plant & Equipment

Property, plant & equipment are shown at cost or valuation less any accumulated depreciation and impairment losses.

Depreciation

Depreciation is provided on a diminishing value basis on all property, plant and equipment, at rates that will write off the cost of the assets to their estimated residual values over their useful lives. The depreciation rates and useful lives associated with major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Computers & Equipment	5 to 8 yrs 10% to 50% DV	Furniture & Fittings	4 to 15 yrs 9.5% to 48% DV
Buildings	No Depreciation	Motor Vehicles	4 to 15 yrs 25% to 50% DV

Notes to the Performance Report

Safer Mid Canterbury For the year ended 30 June 2025

	2025	2024
1. Analysis of Revenue		
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activity		
Accident Compensation Corporation - Income carried forward	8,535	-
Advance Ashburton	3,000	-
Ashburton District Council - Grants	296,211	257,048
Ashburton College	(490)	2,072
Braided Rivers Community Trust Ashburton	1,955	-
CCS Discretionary Income Fund B - SIQ	(1,532)	24,376
Community Organisation Grants	12,000	-
Community Trust Mid Sth Cnty	12,519	-
DIA Lotteries - Funding for Change Grant	47,851	15,279
Discretionary/Emergency Fund - Income	2,351	16,813
Donations - Food Rescue Aoraki	1,000	49,400
Donations Received - Safe Families	6,029	6,756
Donations Received	26,855	15,047
Fundraising Income - Safer Families	16,652	800
Lions Club of Ashburton Charitable Trust	-	435
Lion Foundation	20,000	50,332
Lottery Board NZ	90,632	73,641
Lottery Board NZ - Income carried forward	575	62,738
Lottery Board - Purchase of Van	70,000	-
Mackenzie Charitable Foundation	33,333	50,012
Perpetual Guardian Funding	3,500	-
MSD - Income carried forward	-	39,504
Rotary Club of Ashburton	2,000	4,735
Rotary Club of Ashburton Plains	-	4,348
Sponsorship (Income)	987	-
Sport Canterbury	5,151	7,791
Trevor Wilson Charitable Trust	23,667	50,000
Woolworths Food for Good	30,000	-
Total Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activity	712,780	731,126
Revenue from commercial activities		
Accident Compensation Corporation	-	6,465
Ashburton Youth Health Trust	9,654	48,753
C/Fwd MOJ Provider Capability Report	-	10,000
Dept of Courts - Supervised Contact	26,485	67,330
Hakatere Multi Cultural Council	60,330	61,560
Home Views - Refugee Support	1,280	840
Mid Canterbury Community Vehicle Trust	5,508	900
Mid Canterbury Rural Driver Licensing Trust	70,047	54,262
Ministry for Ethnic Communities	3,230	-

	2025	2024
MBIE	401,088	477,773
MBIE - Pay Equity	95,193	-
Ministry of Justice - Income carried forward	109,990	108,013
Ministry of Social Development	127,774	165,182
MSD - Carried Forward	15,356	84,705
MSD - Pay Equity	-	36,071
MoE - Attendance Non Enrolled and Cost Pressure Funding	37,981	28,710
MoE - Attendance Officer Contract	55,000	86,600
MoE - Attendance Service Contract	48,846	76,893
MoE - Income carried forward	52,000	35,000
MoE Pay Equity Carried Forward	48,950	-
MoJ - Interpreter Fees Income	1,455	-
MoJ Restorative Justice	395,867	326,398
Neighbourhood Support	58,378	53,467
Oranga Tamariki	227,719	280,973
Oranga Tamariki - Fees for Service	260	1,275
OT - Pay Equity	53,972	35,228
OT Pay Equity - c/fwd	28,216	-
Pegasus Health - Income carried forward	16,660	-
Pegasus Health Charitable Ltd	175,424	183,093
Pegasus Health Charitable Ltd - Discretionary Fund	-	2,000
Recovered Vehicle Mileage Income (Outside sources)	4,411	-
Recovered Vehicle Mileage Income (from Clients)	-	482
Rental Income	13,320	5,089
Rental Income 13 Middle Rd (No GST)	28,560	7,840
Rental Income 31 Galbraith St (No GST)	25,680	25,480
Senior Citizens Income	59,462	22,591
Tenancy Bond Claims	478	-
Transfer of Holiday Pay Accrual	4,345	-
Vehicle Mileage Income Recovered - SMC	87,986	93,798
Youth Institute Ashburton	13,510	13,510
Total Revenue from commercial activities	2,364,414	2,400,280
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		
Interest Received	12,853	19,227
Total Interest, dividends and other investment revenue	12,853	19,227
Other revenue		
Gain on Disposal of Assets	5,205	-
Insurance Claims	1,978	-
Overheads Recovered	444,342	578,992
Sundry Income	1,379	-
Total Other revenue	452,903	578,992

	2025	2024
2. Analysis of Expenses		
Employee remuneration and other related expenses		
Wages Salaries & KiwiSaver	1,741,435	1,925,078
Total Employee remuneration and other related expenses	1,741,435	1,925,078
Volunteer related expenses		
Travel & Conference	10,132	10,397
Total Volunteer related expenses	10,132	10,397
Expenses from commercial activities		
Accounting Services - Monthly	96,215	84,695
Accident Compensation Levies Paid	3,494	3,071
Accountancy Services - Extra to Scope	7,915	6,245
Advertising	9,822	20,666
Annual Reporting	5,555	-
Bank Charges	839	807
CCS Fund B - SIQ Discretionary Expense	877	40,730
Cleaning & Laundry	13,636	15,400
Client Expenses	26,783	-
Client Expenses - ATT	660	587
Client Expenses - CCSLF	-	410
Client Expenses - HNS	-	70
Client Expenses - PMRS	572	-
Client Expenses - RSS	-	18,982
Client Expenses - Transition	-	1,906
Client Expenses - YHC	-	700
Client Expenses - YJ	-	1,057
Client Expenses - YS	422	476
Computer and Website Expenses	7,089	3,739
Consumables	-	1,270
Contractors	125,129	112,380
Discretionary/Emergency Fund Expense - Transition	-	2,965
Donations Made Towards Project Costs	1,043	1,570
GPS Safer MC Vehicle Mileage Expense	88,342	91,872
Health & Safety Expenses	138	518
HR & Recruitment Costs	34,628	24,146
Insurance	37,883	24,231
Interpreting Expenses	14,879	4,034
Lease Vehicle Expense	3,545	4,352
Light Power & Heating	9,546	7,634
MoJ Clawback	62,534	27,074
Motor Vehicle Expenses	74,447	62,246
Office Expenses	1,109	1,073
Office Equipment & Plant < \$1000	1,275	7,867
Office Software Subscriptions	36,947	28,502

	2025	2024
Personal Vehicle Mileage Reimbursed	4,931	7,060
Plant & Equipment Hire	670	1,979
Postage Printing & Stationery	31,260	31,559
Project Costs	49,986	39,041
Rates	4,528	-
Rent Payable	94,792	78,230
Rent and Venue Hire: RJ Ashburton	141	361
Rent and Venue Hire: RJ Timaru	2,377	1,807
Rent and Venue Hire: RJ Waitaki	8,124	7,124
Repairs & Maintenance	14,194	23,074
Rural Driving Programme Driver Training	8,400	-
Rural Driving Programme Licencing	15,353	19,584
Security	12,441	15,388
Share of Overheads	444,242	578,992
SMC Team Benefits	2,501	2,198
Staff Expenses	19,906	22,458
Supervision	24,049	24,222
Telephone & Internet	30,102	32,451
Training & Resources	14,307	22,812
Vehicle Mileage Personal Expense Reimbursed - Employee and Volunteer	405	745
Venue Hire and Meeting Costs	10,434	13,649
Volunteer Expenses	2,307	1,693
Total Expenses from commercial activities	1,460,775	1,525,700
Other expenses		
Auditor	16,300	7,000
Depreciation	98,514	88,392
Mortgage Interest Paid	44,556	27,383
Legal Expenses	1,033	442
Loss on Sale of Fixed Assets	10,681	-
Total Other expenses	171,083	123,217
	2025	2024
3. Analysis of Assets		
Bank accounts and cash		
Heartland Capital Expenditure Replacement Account	-	67
Community Vehicle Cash Fares	-	85
Westpac Debit Card Account	5,734	3,970
Heartland Cheque Account	-	209,761
Main Petty Cash Account	52	260
NBS Operating Account	689,797	235,959
NBS Capex Account	106,631	105,698
Prezzy Card	-	7
Transition-Cactus Petty Cash	61	17
Westpac Restorative Justice	5,302	548

	2025	2024
Westpac Transactional Account	92,990	154,769
Youth Health Centre Petty Cash	-	145
Youth Justice Petty Cash	38	67
Total Bank accounts and cash	900,604	711,354
Debtors and prepayments		
Accounts Receivable	85,242	135,709
Fixed Asset Holding	-	1,739
Prepayments	-	2,750
Prepayments - Insurance	33,483	29,592
Total Debtors and prepayments	118,725	169,790
Other current assets		
Interest Accrued	-	655
Westpac Term Deposit 1	62,272	59,129
Westpac Term Deposit 2	28,162	26,741
Refugee Settlement Loan - Current Portion Mustafa Karimi	680	2,600
Total Other current assets	91,114	89,124
Other non-current assets		
Community House - Carpark Loan	53,943	62,497
Refugee Settlement - Loan to Mustafa Karimi	-	1,180
Sale of Fixed Assets	(349)	-
Total Other non-current assets	53,595	63,677
	2025	2024
4. Analysis of Liabilities		
Creditors and accrued expenses		
Accounts Payable	48,301	81,212
Accruals	9,775	-
GST	(9,783)	17,031
Income In Advance	634,664	527,586
Food Rescue - Funds for Purchase of Van	-	70,000
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	682,957	695,829
Employee costs payable		
PAYE Payable	3,538	3,538
Provision for Annual Leave	164,383	145,268
Wages Accrued	35,995	-
Wages payable - including PAYE KS and Net wages Employment Hero	(642)	40,436
Total Employee costs payable	203,273	189,242
Other current liabilities		
Credit Cards	9,219	5,691
Total Other current liabilities	9,219	5,691

Two of the new vehicles are financed and secured by Heartland bank.

5. Property Plant and Equipment

2025

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Current Year Depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Buildings	964,083				964,082
Furniture Fittings	370,258	1,408	324	23,085	348,257
Motor Vehicles	155,669	142,068	21,218	66,048	210,470
Office Equipment & Plant	35,724	11,008	9,813	8,252	28,665
Solar System	7,092		47	1,127	5,917
TOTAL	1,532,826	154,485	31,404	98,513	1,557,393

2024

Asset Class	Opening Carrying Amount	Purchases	Sales/Disposals	Current Year Depreciation	Closing Carrying Amount
Buildings	487,030	477,052			964,082
Furniture & Fittings	86,454	305,385		21,580	370,258
Motor Vehicles	174,769	32,530		51,630	155,669
Office Equipment & Plant	28,947	20,605		13,829	35,723
Solar System	8,443			1,350	7,092
TOTAL	785,645	835,573		88,391	1,532,826

	2025	2024
6. Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	1,024,268	879,036
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	159,524	145,232
Total Accumulated Funds	1,183,792	1,024,268
Total Accumulated Funds	1,183,792	1,024,268

	2025	2024
6. Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	1,024,268	879,036
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	159,524	145,232
Total Accumulated Funds	1,183,792	1,024,268
Total Accumulated Funds	1,183,792	1,024,268

7. Commitments

Commitments to lease or rent assets	Current	Non Current
Community Trust Charitable Trust - Rental Agreement \$5,693.56 per month - this includes carpark rental. 13 years starting 27th of July 2023	68,322	683,227
Timaru District Council - Rental Agreement Expires 15th of May 2026 \$1,525	1,525	0
E-Road EH2.2. 12 x monthly rentals of \$55 each.	660	1,760
Heartland Technology Photocopier ES5473 & MP301 Expires August 2026 \$95 per month	1,140	190
Heartland Technology Photocopier MPC307 x2 Expires August 2026 \$120 per month	1,440	240
Heartland Technology Photocopier IMC 3000 Expires August 2026 \$400 per month	4,800	800
Heartland Technology Photocopier IMC300 Expires February 2027 \$85 per month	1,020	680
Heartland Technology Photocopier MPC307 Expires January 2027 \$65 per month	780	455
Heartland Technology Photocopier MPC 307 (FRA) Expires 20 February 2029 \$55 per month, 60 Months - S/N C508P60251	660	1,760
Heartland Technology Smart Touch Screen MX275V4 Expires 20 January 2029 \$169 per month. S/N K151PW07P0252	2,028	7,436

8. Related Parties

There were no transactions involving related parties during the financial year ending 30 June 2025. (30 June 2024: Nil).

9. Events After the Balance Date

After the balance date, the Board resolved that Food Rescue Aoraki will operate as an independent entity. The Food Rescue profit and loss for the year ended 2025 reported a surplus of \$99,754. As part of the transition, the van valued at \$70,000 will be gifted to the newly established Food Rescue Aoraki Trust, and the Trust will invoice Safer for \$29,754, being the difference between the surplus and the value of the van. These transactions will be completed in the 2026 financial year.

10. Ability to Continue Operating

The Trust has a strong net asset position. The Trust has sufficient resources in the form of Term Deposits to cover expenses for the period ending 30 June 2026 in the event of a lack of support from funders.

The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

11. Mortgages

31 Galbraith Street, Ashburton: The Mortgage is secured by the Land & Building at 31 Galbraith Street, Allenton, Ashburton. The interest rate is 5.94% and the term of the Mortgage is 25 years. The final repayment date is 7th of October 2047.

13 Middle Road, Ashburton: The Mortgage is secured by the Land & Building at 13 Middle Road, Ashburton. The interest rate is 7.14% per annum. The final repayment date is 8th March 2049.

12. Changes in Accounting Policies

During the financial year ended 30 June 2025, the entity transitioned from reporting under the Public Benefit Entity Simple Format Reporting – Accrual (Not-For-Profit) standard to the new Tier 3 (Not-For-Profit) Standard issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

The transition did not result in significant changes to the recognition or measurement of financial information. However, the main impacts of adopting the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard were:

- **Statement of Financial Performance and Statement of Cash flows:** Certain line items have been reclassified or renamed to align with the revised categories specified under the Tier 3 Standard. These changes are presentational in nature and do not affect the reported financial position of the entity.
- **Statement of Service Performance:** The structure and terminology used have been updated to reflect the new guidance under the Tier 3 Standard. While the underlying performance information remains consistent, the narrative and language have been adapted to ensure clarity and compliance with the revised reporting framework.

These changes have been made to enhance the comparability and understandability of our financial and performance reporting and to ensure continued compliance with applicable reporting standards for registered charities.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Trustees of the Ashburton Safer Community Council Trust Board

Report on the Audit of the Performance Report

Opinion

We have audited the performance report of Ashburton Safer community Council Trust Board (the 'Trust'), which comprises the financial statements, the statement of service performance and the entity information. The complete set of financial statements comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of financial performance, statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the performance report, including a summary of significant accounting policies.

In our opinion, the accompanying performance report presents fairly, in all material respects:

- The entity information as at 30 June 2025;
- The financial position of the Trust as at 30 June 2025, and its financial performance and its cash flows for the year then ended; and
- The service performance for the year ended 30 June 2025 in that the service performance information is appropriate and meaningful and prepared in accordance with the Trust's measurement bases or evaluation methods

in accordance with the Tier 3 Not-For-Profit Standard ('Tier 3 (NFP) Standard') issued by the New Zealand Accounting Standards Board.

This report is made solely to the Trustees, as a body. Our audit work has been undertaken so that we might state to the Trustees those matters which we are required to state to them in the auditor's report and for no other purpose. To the fullest extent permitted by law, we do not accept or assume responsibility to anyone other than the Trustees, as a body, for our audit procedures, for this report, or for the opinion we have formed.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit of the financial statements in accordance with International Standards on Auditing (New Zealand) (ISAs (NZ)), and the audit of the entity information and the audit of the service performance information in accordance with the ISAs (NZ) and New Zealand Auditing Standard ('(NZ AS) 1 (Revised)') *The Audit of Service Performance Information*. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the *Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report* section of our report. We are independent of the Trust in accordance with Professional and Ethical Standard 1 *International Code of Ethics for Assurance Practitioners (including International Independence Standards (New Zealand))* issued by the New Zealand Auditing and Assurance Standards Board and we have fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Other than in our capacity as auditor we have no relationship with, or interests in the Trust.

Trustees' Responsibilities for the Performance Report

The Trustees are responsible on behalf of the Trust for:

- a) The preparation and fair presentation of the performance report in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard;
- b) The selection of elements/aspects of service performance criteria, performance and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods that present service performance information that is appropriate and meaningful in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard;

- c) The preparation and fair presentation of service performance information in accordance with the Trust's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard;
- d) The overall presentation, structure and content of the service performance in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard; and
- e) Such internal control as the Trustees determine is necessary to enable the preparation of a performance report that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the performance report, the Trustees are responsible on behalf of the Trust, for assessing the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the Trustees either intend to liquidate the Trust or cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Performance Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether performance report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 (Revised) will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this performance report.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISAs (NZ) and NZ AS 1 (Revised), we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the performance report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control;
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit of the performance report in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Trust's internal controls;
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management;
- Obtain an understanding of the process applied by the entity to select its elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures and/or descriptions and the measurement bases or evaluation methods;
- Evaluate whether the selection of elements/aspects of service performance, performance measures, and/or descriptions and measurement bases or evaluation methods present an appropriate and meaningful assessment of the Trust's service performance in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard;
- Evaluate whether the service performance information is prepared in accordance with the Trust's measurement bases or evaluation methods, in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard;
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the use of the going concern basis of accounting by the Trustees and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Trust's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our report to the related disclosures in the performance report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Trust to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure, content of the performance report and whether the performance report represents the underlying transactions and events and elements/aspects of service performance in accordance with the Tier 3 (NFP) Standard in a manner that achieves fair presentation.



We communicate with the Trustees regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

PKF Goldsmith Fox Audit.

PKF Goldsmith Fox Audit Limited

Christchurch, New Zealand

16 December 2025



Safer Mid Canterbury Hakatere Haumaru

Together we're safer • Me uru kahikatea

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