

The charitable sector's year in numbers

2024/2025

This report provides a high-level overview of New Zealand's charitable sector for the 2024/2025 period. It draws on data reported by registered charities to highlight the sector's size, areas of activities and financial profile.

Sector overview

As at 2024/2025:

- ▶ There are **29,208 registered charities** in New Zealand.
- ▶ **122,608 charity officers** are involved in the governance and running of their charities.
- ▶ **170,000 volunteers** contribute approximately **1.4 million hours** of their time each week.
- ▶ The sector employs over **105,000 full-time staff**, representing around **4%** of the national workforce.

These figures reflect the significant role the charitable sector plays in both community life and the broader economy.

Distribution of charities operating across New Zealand

Charities operate across all regions of New Zealand. The distribution highlights the sector's broad reach and its presence in both urban and regional communities.

The following breakdown shows the proportion of charities operating in regions:

Region			
Auckland		Bay of Plenty	5%
Canterbury		Manawatu-Whanganui	5%
Wellington and Wairapara		Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman	3%
Waikato		Hawkes Bay	3%
		Southland	3%



Main charitable sectors

New Zealand charities operate across a wide range of sectors. The most commonly reported areas of activity include:

Sector			
		Social services	7.74%
Education, training and research	19.77%	Health	7.22%
Religious activities	19.14%	Environment and conservation	4.20%
Arts, culture and heritage	10.80%	Fundraising	3.64%
Community development	9.06%	Disabled people	2.99%
Sports and recreation	7.87%		
Other	7.59%		

Financial overview

Recent financial reports show that the sector continued to grow and become more active between the 2023/2024 and 2024/2025 financial years. Education and health are the top-earning sectors, emphasising their key role in delivering essential services. A large portion of total income comes from service delivery and trading.

2023/2024		2024/2025	
Total income	\$27.34 billion	Total income	\$29.70 billion
Total assets	\$86.98 billion	Total assets	\$91.16 billion
Total expenditure	\$25.28 billion	Total expenditure	\$29.70 billion

Breakdown of income by sector for 2024/2025

Sector	
Education	\$8.80 billion
Other	\$7.80 billion
Health	\$6.55 billion
Religious activities	\$2.85 billion
Social services	\$2.14 billion
Community development	\$1.53 billion

Breakdown of income by source for 2024/2025

Income source	
Service and trading	\$11.88 billion
Other	\$8.36 billion
Donations, koha and fundraising	\$5.16 billion
Grants and other funding	\$4.28 billion

Charities Services year in numbers 2024/2025

This data outlines the key activities Charities Services delivered in 2024/2025 to increase public trust and confidence in the charitable sector through effective regulation. It demonstrates our focus on enabling compliance, protecting the integrity of the Charities Register, and promoting the effective use of charitable resources.

Protecting the integrity of the Charities Register

We work to maintain the integrity of the Charities Register by keeping information accurate and up to date, and by ensuring that only organisations meeting legal requirements are listed.

Applications

Applications received	1,567
Applications withdrawn	224

Registrations

Charities registered	1,162
Charities reregistered (previously registered charities returning to the Charities Register)	126

Deregistrations

Voluntarily deregistered	676
Deregistered for failing to file annual returns	207
Deregistered for other reasons (e.g. group charities with insufficient number of members)	6

Deregistered by the Charities Registration Board	1
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Total number of deregistrations	890
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Encouraging the effective use of charitable resources

We encourage the effective use of charitable resources by monitoring compliance and taking action where necessary to uphold public trust and confidence.

Notices of intention to deregister

Formal notices sent to charities at risk of deregistration	948
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Investigations

Number of investigations completed resulting in a range of actions (e.g. warnings, referral to other agencies, referral to the Charities Registration Board and deregistration due to non-compliance)	16
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Enabling compliance

To enable compliance, we provide accessible guidance, respond to enquiries, and engage with communities to help charities understand and meet their obligations.

Responsiveness

Queries handled	15,877
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Official information Act (OIA) requests responded to	78
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Community engagement

Webinars and community sessions	26
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Number of attendees	6,449
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Digital reach

Website visits	907,523
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Newsletter views	263,557
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Video views	16,464
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