The charitable sector's year in numbers 2025/26

This report provides a high-level overview of New Zealand's charitable sector for the 2025/26 period. It draws on data reported by registered charities to reflect the sector's size, areas of activities and financial profile.

Sector overview

As at 30 June 2026:



- There are **29,263 registered charities** in New Zealand.
- **125,985 charity officers** are involved in the governance and running of their charities.
- **679,580 volunteers** contribute approximately **35 million hours** of their time each year.
- The sector employs over **230,000 full-time staff**, representing around **7%** 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		Northland	5%
Auckland	16%	Nelson, Marlborough and Tasman	4%
Canterbury	10%	Hawkes Bay	3%
Wellington and Wairarapa	8%	Southland	3%
Waikato	8%	Taranaki	3%
Bay of Plenty	6%	Gisborne	2%
Otago	6%	West Coast	2%
Manawatu-Whanganui	5%	Chatham Islands	>1%

Main charitable sectors

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

Sector	
Education, training and research	19%
Religious activities	18%
Arts, culture and heritage	10%
Community development	8%
Health	8%
Sports and recreations	7%
Social Services	7%
Other	5%
Environment and conservation	4%
Fundraising	3%
Disabled people	3%

Financial overview

Recent financial reports show that the sector continued to grow and become more active between 2024/25 and 2025/26 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.

2024/25	
Total Income	$29.70 billion
Total Assets	$91.16 billion
Total Expenditure	$27.44 billion

2025/26	
Total Income	$34.74 billion
Total Assets	$101.39 billion
Total Expenditure	$32.21 billion

Breakdown of income by sector for 2025/26

Sector	
Education, training and research	$9.54 billion
Health	$7.63 billion
Other	$6.93 billion
Social Services	$2.95 billion
Religious activities	$2.87 billion
People with disabilities	$1.94 billion
Community development	$1.56 billion

Breakdown of income by source for 2025/26

Income Source	
Services and Trading	$12.94 billion
Donations, Koha and Fundraising	$6.45 billion
Grants from local or central Government	$4.67 billion
Other grants	$1.65 billion
Membership fees and subscriptions	$0.34 billion
Other	$8.69 billion

Charities Services year in numbers 2025/26

This data outlines the key activities Charities Services delivered in 2025/2026 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	3,874
Applications withdrawn	429

Registrations	
Charities registered	1,531
Charities reregistered (previously registered charities returning to the Charities Register)	70

Deregistrations	
Voluntarily deregistered	887
Deregistered for failing to file	241
Removed for failing to reregister their Incorporated Society with the Companies Office	269
Total number of Deregistrations	**1,387**



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 remove from the Register	
Formal notices issued to charities at risk of deregistration	723

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)	17

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	15,733
Official information Act requests (OIAs) responded to	70

Community engagement	
Webinars and community sessions	13
Number of attendees	1,786

Digital reach	
Website visits	808,539
Newsletter views	128,610
Video views	5,989

