

# Impact Report 2021–2022



# Purpose



The purpose of the impact report is an opportunity to demonstrate our members' input into Platform's work, and to show collective impact and action to meet Platform's strategic goals.

The impact report will cover our work from July 2021 – June 2022. It is an opportunity to highlight the significant work undertaken to support tāngata whaiora and whānau, amidst an unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

**Platform's strategic plan for 2019–2022  
includes the following three goals:**



## **Leading change**

Actively contribute to post-Inquiry system transformation



## **We are in this together**

Foster strategic partnerships and alliances



## **A strong and capable sector**

Support community mental health and addictions  
service providers to thrive

### **Our connectedness and why**



# Who are we?



Atamira | Platform Trust (Platform) is a membership organisation and peak body representing the mental health and addiction non-governmental organisations (NGOs) and community sector.

We represent 82 mental health and addiction NGOs and community organisations that provide support to tāngata whaiora (people seeking wellness) and their whānau,

including Māori and Pasifika providers, and whānau and peer-led services.

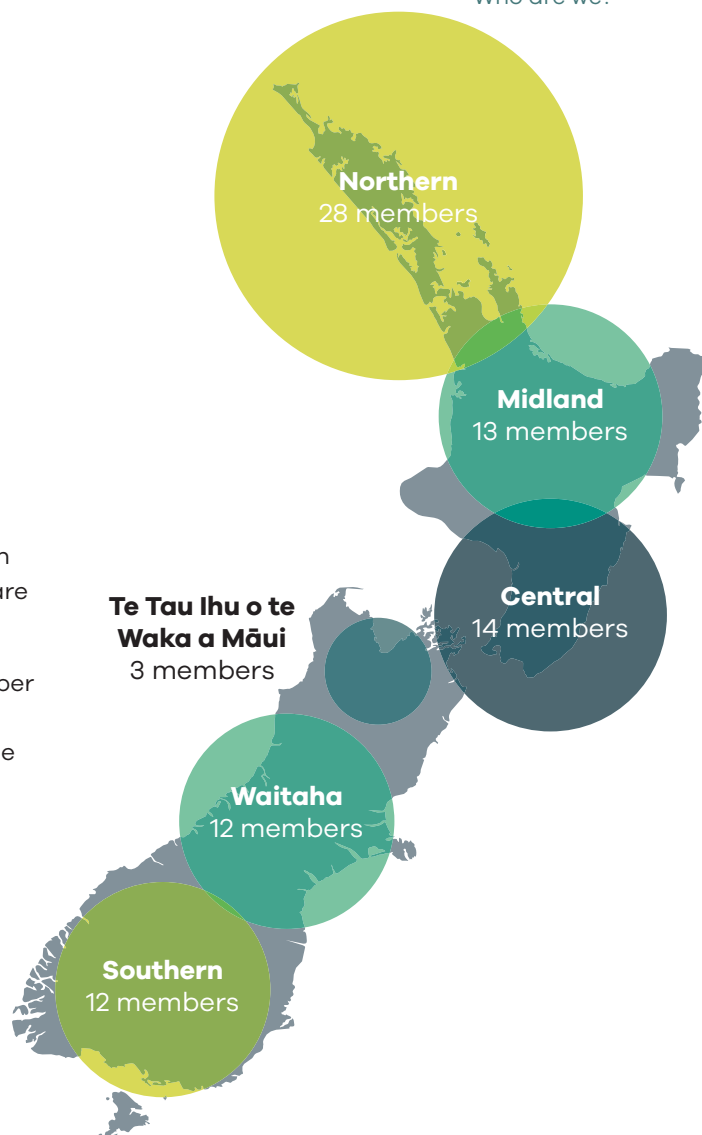
In addition, Platform represents a wider network of mental health and addiction NGOs (approximately 240 total), who share the same aspiration of a mental health, addiction, and wellbeing system and sector, that is driven by the need for better and more equitable outcomes for all.



## Where Platform members are located

This map shows Aotearoa New Zealand by each Navigate Group region. Navigate Groups are networks for NGO and community mental health and addiction providers to get together and share regional incentives, opportunities, and issues.

This map counts each individual Platform member only once, based on where their main base is. However, some members operate across multiple regions, or nationally.



**Collectively across 2020/21<sup>1</sup>, mental health and addiction NGOs and community providers have:**



Supported over **80,000 tāngata whaiora**,  
**36.5%** of which are Māori and 6% Pacific Peoples<sup>1</sup>



These tāngata whaiora supported by mental health and addiction NGO and community providers are approximately  
**42% of all people accessing specialist support**  
for their mental health or addiction needs in Aotearoa<sup>2</sup>



**82 member organisations**  
(up from 68 in the previous year)



## Leading change:

# Actively contributing to mental health and addiction system transformation

Through advocacy, lobbying, and active sharing of information, Platform has increased the collective capability of mental health and addiction NGOs and community providers to influence policy, regulation, and strategy within the wider health reforms<sup>3</sup>, and to support the actions outlined in Kia Manawanui Aotearoa: Long-term pathway to mental wellbeing<sup>4</sup>.

**From July 2021 – June 2022, we have:**

**14**

**submissions**



Engaged with, and informed by Platform members, 14 submissions that supported the mental health and addiction NGO and community sectors' needs and interests were completed, and lodged with Government agencies.

Some of the submissions were on the following topics:

- Mental Health and Addiction Draft System & Services Framework – Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health – an action arising from Kia Manawanui Aotearoa: Long-term pathway to mental wellbeing<sup>4</sup>
- He Ara Āwhina Framework – Te Hiringa Mahara/Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission<sup>5</sup>
- Reducing Pokies Harm - Department of Internal Affairs<sup>6</sup>
- Draft Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm (2022/23 to 2024/25) – Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health<sup>7</sup>
- Transforming our Mental Health Law – Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health<sup>8</sup>
- Terms of reference for the 'A fair chance for all inquiry – breaking the disadvantage cycle' – New Zealand Productivity Commission<sup>9</sup>

**14**

**forums held**



Organised discussion and information forums for members to influence and inform the mental health and addiction system transformation, and wider health system reforms.

14 forums were organised with the:

- Health and Disability Review Transition Unit,
- interim Health New Zealand,
- the interim Māori Health Authority,
- and the Mental Health and Addiction Partnership Group.

**“A strong network of peers to share challenges and ideas together.”<sup>16</sup>**

# 29



## reports, letters, and briefings

Advocated, lobbied, and presented to key stakeholders on the systemic challenges impacting the capacity, capability, and sustainability of the mental health and addiction NGO and community sector.

29 reports, letters, and briefings were written and presented in the last year. Some of these addressed:

- Health reforms, the development and establishment of locality networks and prototypes, the mental health and addiction operating model for Te Whatu Ora-Health NZ and Te Aka Whai Ora-Māori Health Authority, and the interim Health Plan to secure the continuation of mental health, addiction, and wellbeing as a Government priority
- COVID-19 Protection Framework and national response, surrounding urgent access to PPE, N95 masks, and rapid antigen test resources needed to support the mental health and addiction NGO and community sector
- Care and support worker pay equity matters, pay parity and relativity impacts for non-clinical and clinical workforces impacting on recruitment and retention
- National consistency in the application of contract funding uplifts and purchasing contracts
- Reducing the burden and bureaucracy surrounding the conduct of organisational and service audits
- Workforce planning and development

# 21



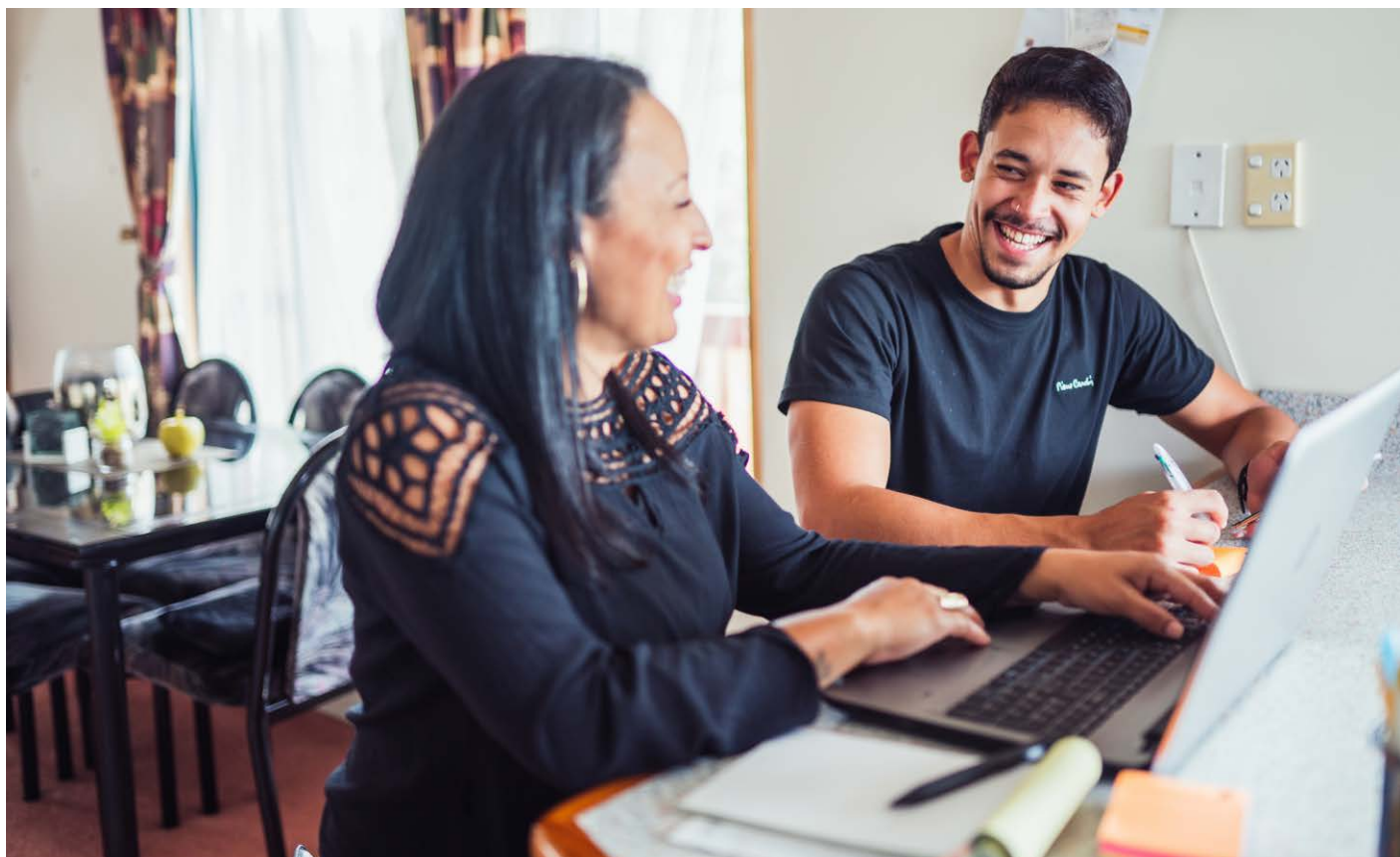
## times convened to share critical information

Instrumental in influencing the Ministry of Health to establish a mental health and addiction NGO forum, convened 21 times, to share information about the national COVID-19 response, and other strategy and policy developments.

This gave the sector a voice and a mechanism to resolve COVID-19 matters impeding the sector's ability to be well equipped to respond, and informed a collective approach to improving vaccination rates for tāngata whaiora and whānau.

**“[Platform is] a  
very successful and  
influential advocate  
for mental health and  
addiction services  
and consumers.”<sup>16</sup>**





## Provided secretarial support to the Cross-party Mental Health and Wellbeing Group

whose purpose is to demonstrate collective and enduring political commitment to mental health and addiction systemic change, and to highlight emerging issues and champion innovation.

Five Cross-party Mental Health and Wellbeing Group meetings have been coordinated, and three briefings events for Parliamentarians about the Zero Suicide Aotearoa report<sup>10</sup>, Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission's Access and Choice report<sup>11</sup>, and Te Ara Oranga - the Path to Wellbeing report<sup>12</sup>.

## Developed



## 42 videos in New Zealand Sign Language

that cover basic health topics, to increase the opportunity for Deaf people to engage in the prevention and self-management of mental distress. This work was awarded the 'NZSL in Health' award by Deaf Aotearoa.



**We are in this together:**

## **Fostering strategic partnerships and alliances**

Platform facilitated a collective and collaborative environment that enables mental health and addiction NGO and community providers to be capable, connected, and sustainable.

By using partnership and alliances to create collective strength and knowledge, we can achieve impact to benefit the whole mental health and addiction sector, the wider health system, and consequently tāngata whaiora, their whānau, and communities.



**From July 2021 – June 2022, we have:**

## **Canvassed & represented the collective sector interests**

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in numerous strategic stakeholder meetings. Engaged in eight meetings with Te Hīringa Mahara/Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, and 11 meetings with the Mental Health and Addiction Directorate at Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health.

**Contributed to**

# **Six**



**Mental Health and Addiction  
Partnership Group forums to  
identify, prioritise,  
and implement  
agreed projects**

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across the mental health and addiction sector, which serve the interests of tāngata whaiora and their whānau, and communities.

## **Gathered sector intelligence on system issues and opportunities through Navigate Groups**

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by being present at 38 meetings for the six nationwide regional Navigate Groups. Supported 10 Navigate Group Chairpersons' forums, and connected this forum with key Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health policy, strategy, funding, and regulatory leads.

## **Developed strategic and purposeful networks and alliances**

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through the International Initiative for Mental Health Leadership.

We have begun planning a co-hosted international virtual match to be held in October 2022 at the Leadership Exchange on 'intermediary organisations and collective impact'.

## **Supported the Mental Health and Addiction KPI Programme**

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through representation on the NGO stream leads group, connecting the Programme team with the sector through Navigate Groups, and advertising for NGO and community engagement with the 'continuity of care' indicator dashboard.

## **Contributed to the Equally Well Backbone Team to**

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**achieve equity  
in supporting the  
physical health  
needs of tāngata  
whaiora**

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## **Continued to participate and be engaged with ComVoices, a collective group of Aotearoa's community sector representative organisations**

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that advocate and promote the value that community organisations bring to Aotearoa's economic and social wellbeing.

Contributed to, and endorsed three ComVoices submissions:

- Incorporated Societies Bill<sup>13</sup>, terms of reference for the 'A fair chance for all inquiry – breaking the disadvantage cycle'
- New Zealand Productivity Commission<sup>9</sup>, and
- the Fair Pay Agreements Bill<sup>14</sup>

**“I see [Platform]  
as the best hope  
for the sector as  
a whole, to gain  
traction with the  
government  
and national  
health bodies.”<sup>16</sup>**







**A strong, capable,  
and thriving**

## **mental health and addiction NGO and community sector**

We have supported Platform members and consequently, the wider mental health and addiction NGOs and community providers, to demonstrate their capability and to have access to organisational development information, resources, and tools to support their growth.

This includes strengthening their ability to demonstrate their collective strength, capability, and innovative approaches to providing support to tāngata whaiora, their whānau, and wider communities.



From July 2021 – June 2022, we have:

**Lobbied, advocated,  
and represented the**

**diversity**  
**of our members**



when liaising with key stakeholders  
and Government agencies.

**Successfully  
advocated**  
**for service**  
**contract funding**  
**uplifts to be applied**  
**nationally and**  
**consistently**



across all mental health and addiction NGOs  
and community providers.

Collaborated with NZDSN, HCHA, NZACA  
(employers group) and health unions to

**advocate  
& lobby**   
**for a fully-funded  
continuation of the  
pay equity deal**

for care and support workers, to continue  
the benefits achieved by the Support  
Workers Pay Equity Settlements Act 2017.  
After five tripartite meetings were held with  
Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health, with no  
agreement on a solution supported by the  
employer group and unions, the Government  
opted for an average 3% wage rate increase.

**Lobbied**  
**for a plan to**  
**address pay parity**



and relativities between the mental health  
and addiction NGO and community sector  
workforce, and other workforces in the  
Government funded health sector. The  
amended support worker Bill<sup>15</sup> allows time for  
the parties to progress toward a sustainable  
longer-term solution to addressing pay  
disparities across the health sector workforce.

Engaged and supported  
44 mental health  
and addiction NGO  
and community providers  
to have



**access to data  
and information  
to inform planning,  
safety, quality  
improvement, and  
decision-making**

about their services and support to tāngata  
whaiora and whānau, through Qlik licenses.

**Platform newsletter  
audience reach up  
significantly from**

**200**

in the first quarter of 2021/22

**to 326**

in the last quarter, with an  
average open rate of 32%.



**Added**

**five  
new policies**

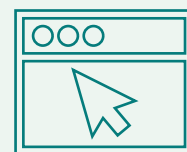


to the Platform policy library which  
increased the total policies accessible to 130,  
which was visited 2829 times over the year.

**Promoted**

**15**

**online resources  
for organisational  
development**



through the Platform newsletter, some of  
these included NZ Navigator, Community  
Net, and Digital Stuff We Love.



## 20 reports generated



from Platform member forums were provided to the Manatū Hauora/Ministry of Health highlighting the mental health and addiction NGO and community provider preparedness

## to support the COVID-19 Protection Framework

and the requirements for this to be successful.

In consultation with the sector through Navigate Groups, we supported Te Pou to identify

## six priority areas to develop micro-credentials,



scoped one priority area on **physical health equity and Equally Well**, and supported a proposal to enable the further **professional development of support workers**. Identified the future support worker workforce needs, to inform workforce development, planning, and networking opportunities.

## Disseminated over

# 113

### COVID-19 and vaccine rollout updates



which supported mental health and addiction NGO and community providers to have access to COVID-19 elimination strategies and vaccine rollout information, to support tāngata whaiora, their whānau, communities, and staff.

**Supported over 88 member queries and requests for guidance** on specific COVID-19, vaccination rollout, and mandate concerns.

**"We could  
never achieve  
on our own  
what Platform  
has for us."**<sup>16</sup>

## **Co-ordinated a workshop series**



(including four live online sessions, online discussions, and video and reading material accessible via an online learning platform),

**to develop the capability of New Zealand Sign Language interpreters working in mental health and addiction situations.**

These were facilitated by experts from the USA and attended by approximately 52% of registered New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) interpreters. Developed guidelines for the use of NZSL interpreters in a mental health and addiction context to be hosted on the Te Pou website.

**Partnered with Te Pou and the Deaf community to**

## **develop an e-learning resource**



to enable and support the mental health and addiction workforce to

**improve access for the Deaf community to mental health and addiction services.**

The e-learning resources will be hosted on Te Pou's website.

**Partnered with Tangata Tiriti to run**



## **six workshops on Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

to improve awareness of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within the Deaf community, and build a sense of identity, connection, and wellbeing for Deaf and Māori Deaf.

Partnered with  
Whakarongorau  
Aotearoa to



increase access  
for Deaf people to

**1737**

Partnered with 'Just a Thought'  
and the Deaf community to

**redesign**  
the 'Mixed Anxiety  
and Depression'  
online course

so it is accessible in NZSL.

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