

# PROGRAMS REPORT

2025 QUARTER 1 JAN - MAR



TE KARANGA  
CREATIVE COMMUNITY

# OVERALL SUMMARY



**Prepared by** TK White

One of the themes we have seen in the past is the continuous growth for our participants and as an organisation. This quarter is no different. We have noticed an ongoing shift in the social and personal development of many of our participants, with an overwhelming increase in their confidence, which is quite an achievement for the first quarter – generally participant confidence begins to shine in the third quarter. New participants have particularly surprised us, as they have quickly stepped out of their comfort zones to engage more actively in our programs. We've seen our young people move from self-doubt to confidently taking on leadership roles in discussions, performances, and even offering support to their peers. It has been inspiring to witness the transformation as participants have developed deeper connections and begun to feel a true sense of belonging in our community.

This quarter, we connected with Shore Junction, a Youth Hub in Takapuna, to deliver our North Navigators program from their venue and this shift has had a positive impact on the program, bringing in new participants from diverse backgrounds, increasing attendance and participation. Shore Junction is a really inviting space for young creatives, and they have all the resources necessary for us to deliver Navigators to this community. This has shown us that there is so much value in providing access to resources that support young people's creative ambitions.

Of course, we have faced some challenges this quarter, like fluctuations in attendance and logistical issues, however, these challenges have really enforced the training and development that our Facilitators have undergone, as they continue to be flexible and adaptable to any situation that arises, ensuring that programs and participants continue to thrive no matter what obstacles are presented.

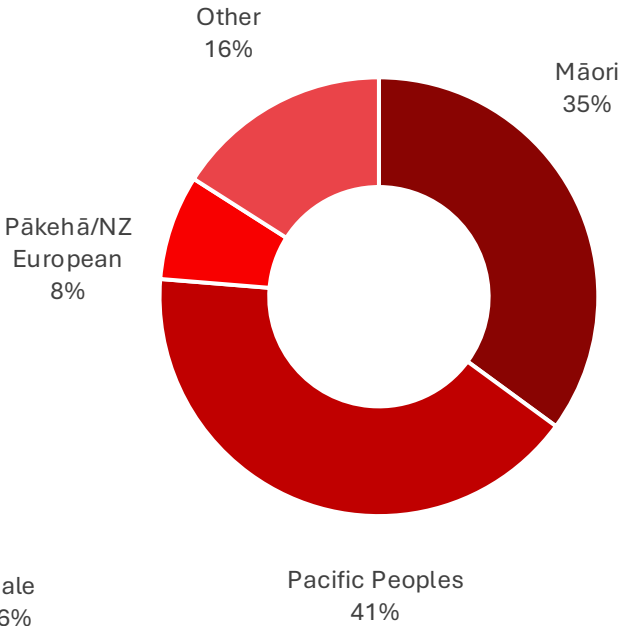
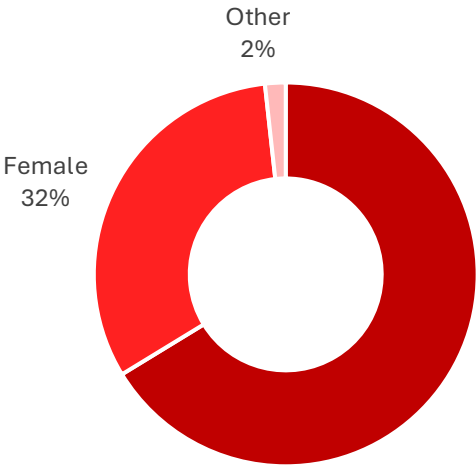
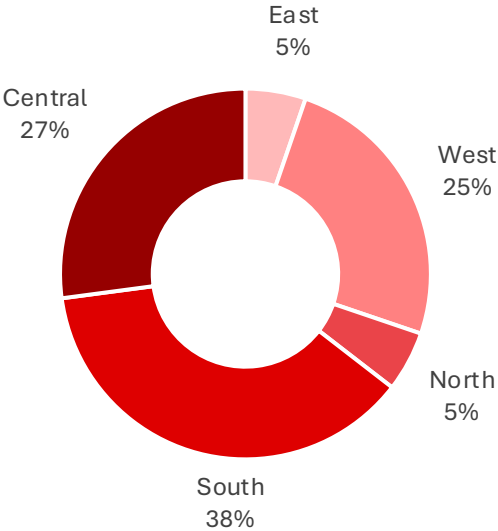
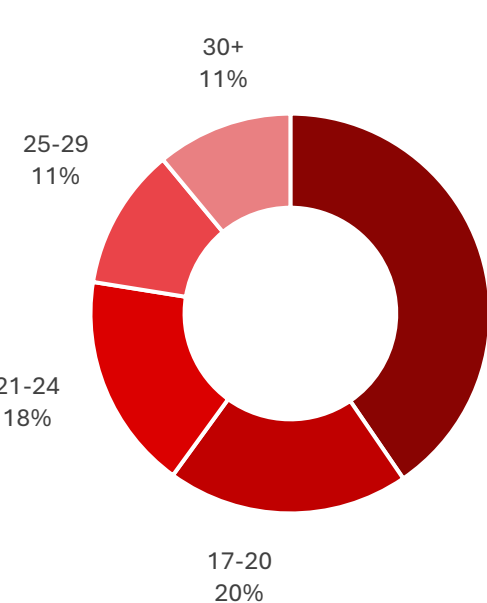
This quarter, we continue to acknowledge that social support and connection are crucial to the overall success of our programmes. We've seen firsthand that the personal and emotional growth of our participants is just as important as their creative development and this is something that will continue to be the core of what we do at Te Karanga. We are feeling incredibly excited about what the year will look like. It's positively surprising to see such significant transformations happening already, especially given that we're only in the first quarter. The growth we've witnessed in our participants, both personally and creatively, has been nothing short of inspiring. To see them step up with confidence and take the lead, just a few months into the journey, is a testament to the impact we're creating together.

We are constantly learning and growing, and we feel more in tune with the needs of the young people we work with. We're excited to keep building on the momentum we've gained and are excited to support our participants in achieving their goals and unlocking their potential.

# DATA TOTALS



Participant stats: **764**



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Empowering youth with local resources, equipment, and guidance. Fostering creativity, connecting like-minded individuals, and nurturing the next generation of artists and musicians.

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Preparing aspiring creatives for future work environments. Supporting rangatahi with business ideas and focusing on artist professional, personal, and business development.

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## RAP N REC

Rap-n-Rec empowers rangatahi in youth justice residency or schools to share stories through music, normalising music as a means of emotional expression.

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Offering personalised support through mentoring sessions, creative guidance, personal and professional development, whānau support, and community connections.





# CREATIVE PATHWAYS



## OVERVIEW

A weekly program for 13-17-year-olds not in education or employment, fostering positive learning experiences, creativity, and career exploration. Delivered to several providers across Tāmaki Makaurau.



# CREATIVE PATHWAYS



**Facilitated by** Hariata Makiha, Albert Purcell, Lincoln Keepa, Shekinah Peneha, Noah Tauti & Ben Tuimaseve.

**Report by** Shekinah Peneha

The Creative Pathways program in Term 1 offered an engaging exploration of graffiti art, centered on the themes of identity, culture, and meaningful places. The program emphasized self-expression, personal identity, and the role of Hip-Hop culture in the evolution of graffiti art into legal and legitimate career pathways in graphic design and mural/street art..

Throughout the term, students worked closely with experienced street artist Smoov, who shared his personal journey and professional expertise in the art form. The program moved from traditional artistic approaches to digital techniques, with students experimenting with digital tools on iPads through the Procreate app to create detailed street art designs. In the later weeks, students focused on transitioning their digital drafts onto traditional surfaces, using spray paint and markers to refine their designs.

## HIGHLIGHTS

A major highlight of the program was seeing students enjoy being outdoors while experimenting with street art, allowing them to express their identities through art. The experience helped them understand that street art is not just about casual scribbling, but a legitimate art form with entrepreneurial potential, as demonstrated by Smoov's journey. As the program progressed, students also experienced a sense of relief, with the pressure of needing to be perfect artists gradually lifting off their shoulders, allowing for more authentic self-expression. Another key highlight of the term was a practical spray painting demonstration, where students learned essential techniques and had the opportunity to practice using spray cans, solidifying their hands-on learning experience. By the end of the term, students had developed a deeper understanding of street art while gaining confidence in both digital and traditional artistic techniques.

## CHALLENGES

One of the challenges we faced was trying to condense seven weeks of material into a single session for new students who had joined the program late or missed more than one session, helping them catch up quickly. Additionally, working with students who showed less interest in the program required finding alternate ways to engage them by incorporating their personal interests into the art process. It was particularly challenging to witness a lack of enthusiasm from some female students across different classes, especially in a time where changing trends and social media distractions often take priority in their interests.

## LEARNINGS

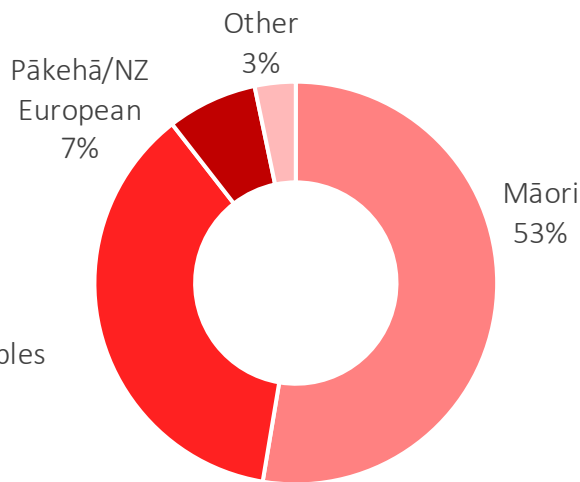
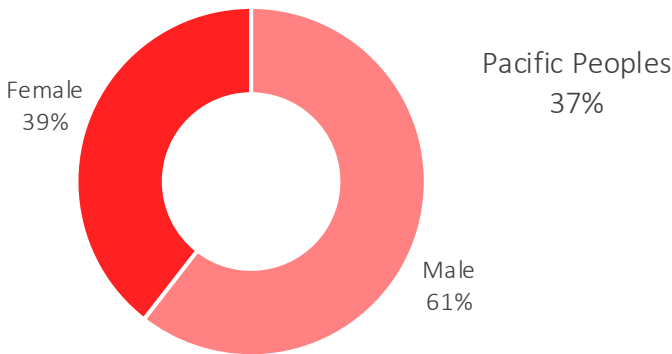
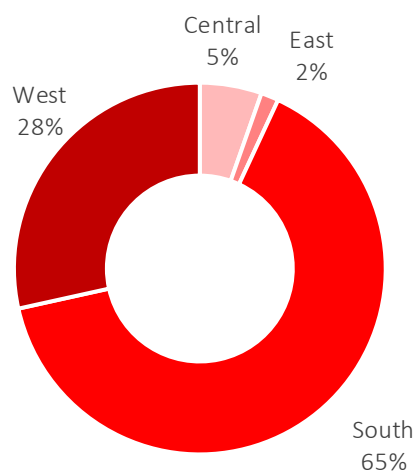
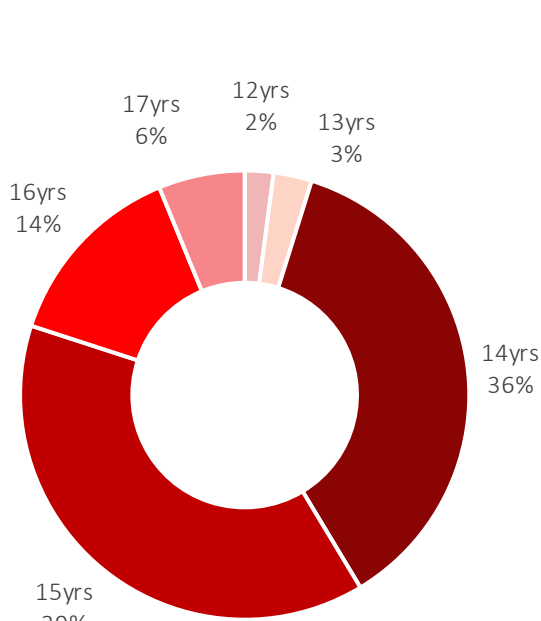
This term, we learned a great deal about the connection between street art and identity. Street art and Hip-Hop culture provide young people with a powerful outlet for self-expression, especially when words fall short. Many students who may struggle with traditional education found a way to share their stories, redefine their identities, and gain confidence through creative means. We also learned that each student is unique—some are initially resistant, while others fully embrace the experience. This has taught us the importance of adjusting our approach based on each student's energy, interests, and level of trust.

# CREATIVE PATHWAYS

## SUMMARY



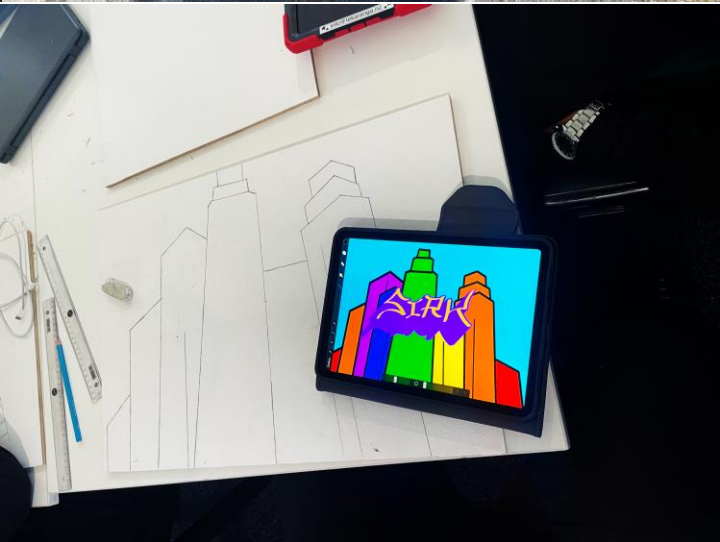
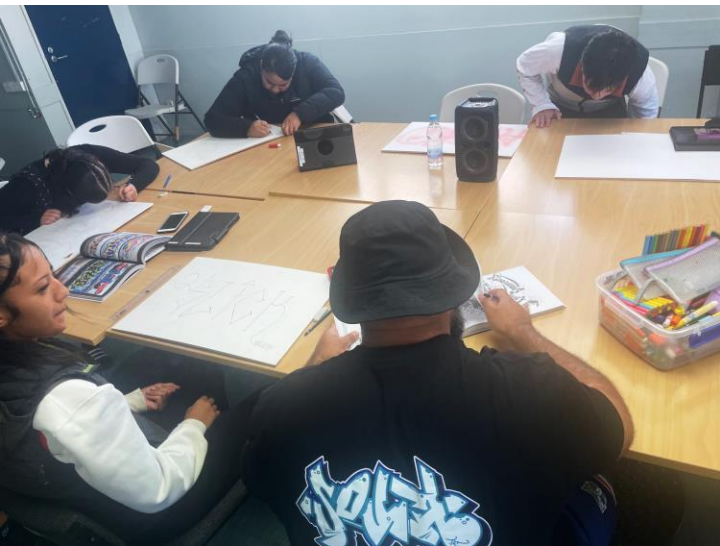
Participant stats: 145





# CREATIVE PATHWAYS

## PHOTOS





# NAVIGATORS

## OVERVIEW



Navigators (Navs) is a free weekly music workshop, delivered across several locations in Tāmaki Makaurau, connecting & engaging young people through shared experiences, stories, and creativity. Open to youth aged 16-24.



# NAVIGATORS / NORTH



**Facilitated by** Rizvan Tu'itahi, Siose Solo & Tamzin Naicker

**Report by** Tamzin Naicker

Monday's, Onepoto Āwhina, Northcote, North Shore

This quarter, we've had the exciting opportunity to move into a brand new space at Shore Junction, a Youth Hub in Albany. It's a spacious, welcoming environment with a fantastic studio, and it really sets the right tone for our program! We started the year with a planning and brainstorming session, asking our participants what they'd like to see in the program this year. We received some great suggestions, including a Cypher, a show, merchandise, recording tutorials, and social media planning. We've also had some incredible Talanoa discussions, touching on topics like authenticity, self-image, cultural pride, religion, motivation, and the impact of social media. One of the highlights was a session where we shared demos and listened to each other's music, which was a wonderful way to connect. On top of that, we've seen positive growth in our group, with new faces joining and some regulars becoming more involved. It's been a great start to the year.

## HIGHS

The energy in the room has been absolutely amazing, welcoming, supportive, and full of positive vibes, not just from the staff, but from the participants as well. We've had some really meaningful moments, where highs and lows were shared deeply, and even a little emotionally at times, but always handled with care, encouragement, and support. This atmosphere has really helped new participants feel comfortable enough to jump into discussions and get involved in the creative process right from the start. It's been great to see these connections form. A standout moment for me was when a new participant, who has Tourette's, came in and was very open about it. The way everyone in the space responded was just incredible – they made them feel welcomed, respected, and allowed them to take the time they needed to feel comfortable being themselves. Starting the year with some planning and brainstorming has really sparked excitement about the possibilities in the space this year. With the new facilities, the energy around creative projects has been fantastic! The Cypher has definitely been a main focus, and we're slowly chipping away at it – one participant even provided the beat, and we've had a few great sessions working on it. We've also started using the new studio, which has added a whole new level of excitement to the space!

## CHALLENGES

We haven't had many if any challenges this quarter. We are seeing a slow but progressive growth in participant attendance and retention which has been our main struggle in the past.

## LEARNINGS

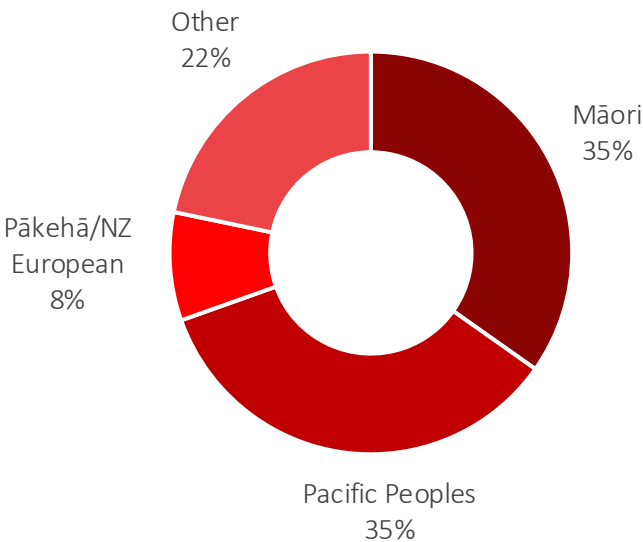
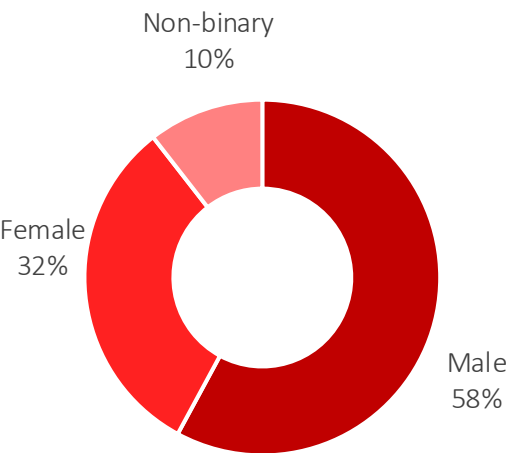
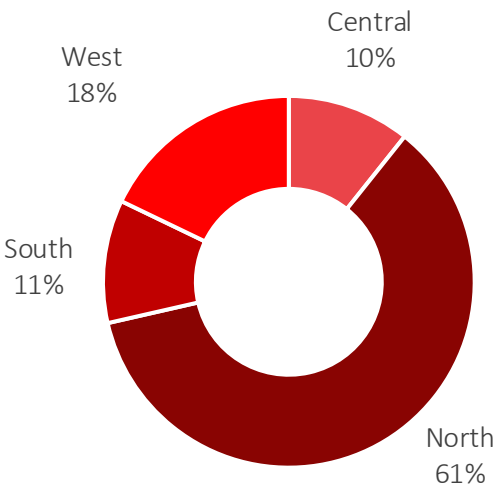
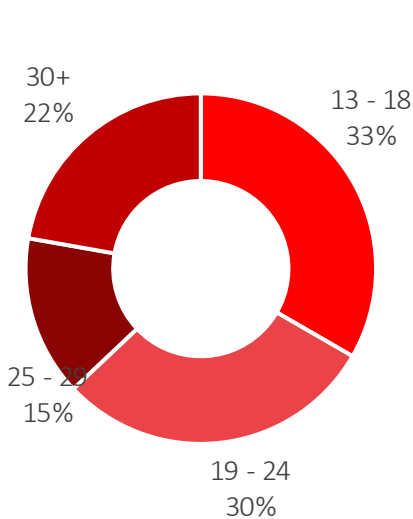
This quarter, we've really tuned into what our participants need, adapting each session to suit – whether that's extending Talanoa or giving more time for creative work. This flexibility has helped everyone feel more comfortable and engaged. We've also learned just how vital it is to create an inclusive environment where participants, like the one who was open about their Tourette's, feel welcomed and supported. Kicking off the year with a plan got everyone excited, but embracing the unexpected moments, like the Cypher and creative challenges, has kept the energy buzzing. The new studio has also brought a fresh vibe to the creative process!

# NAVIGATORS / NORTH

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 27





# NAVIGATORS / NORTH

## IMAGES



# NAVIGATORS / WEST



**Facilitated by** Elijah Manū, Aidan Fine & Bronson Price

**Report by** Aidan Fine

**Tuesday's, Zeal West, Henderson**

This quarter, West Navigators (Navs) truly found its stride in our new home at Zeal West, building strong momentum and welcoming an ever-growing number of participants each week. We have been able to offer new techniques like "punching in" (recording one line at a time) to refine their recording skills. A significant focus this quarter was tailoring the sessions to better meet the needs of our participants, placing a stronger emphasis on hands-on music creation to ensure everyone could engage and grow in their craft. We were also fortunate to have Planet Vegeta (an Australian-Polynesian music group) join us as guest mentors, bringing fresh energy and valuable insights that inspired and energized the group. Our goal has been to cultivate a supportive, dynamic environment where young artists can develop their skills, collaborate with others, and grow in confidence. It's been an exciting and productive quarter, and we're looking forward to continuing this momentum in the next.

## HIGHS

One of the biggest highlights this quarter has been the consistently high attendance at West Navigators, with some weeks possibly reaching record numbers. A committed group of participants returning each session has created a powerful sense of momentum, forming what is now becoming known as the distinct "West Navs culture." It's been exciting to see participants bringing along their friends, leading to steady program growth and a vibrant, welcoming atmosphere that feels like a true community. The diversity within the group—across age, gender, and cultural backgrounds—has been a real strength, creating a space where different perspectives and musical influences naturally blend together. This diversity has inspired deeper collaboration and creativity among participants. A standout moment this quarter was the visit from Planet Vegeta, who not only brought their incredible talent but also deeply engaged with participants, offering guidance, encouragement, and hands-on mentoring. Their energy and insights had a lasting impact, sparking motivation that many participants have carried forward into future sessions. Beyond individual creative growth, we've seen significant social outcomes as well. Participants have formed stronger connections with each other, gained more confidence in sharing their music with the wider group, and embraced the space as one that truly nurtures their artistic expression. It's been a quarter of growth, both creatively and personally, and we're excited to keep building on that foundation.

## CHALLENGES

This quarter has been overwhelmingly positive, but one challenge we've faced is managing space within the studio due to high attendance. While Zeal West has provided a great environment, the number of participants often exceeds the capacity of the main recording studio. As a result, we've had to split groups, with some working in a booth that's designed more for band practice rather than recording. While it's not a huge issue, it has meant that some weeks not everyone has access to the recording setup. While we've done our best to make sure all participants still get valuable time to create, finding a way to better accommodate our growing numbers will be something we look to improve moving forward.

## LEARNINGS

This quarter, we learned that building momentum is key to fostering a strong programme culture, and that culture is what keeps participants engaged and coming back. The consistent attendance and energy at West Navs has shown us how important it is to create an environment where young artists feel a sense of belonging. We also saw firsthand how bringing in the right guest mentors - like Planet Vegeta - can have a long-term impact on participants' motivation and confidence. Additionally, we learned that tailoring the program to participants' needs, such as focusing more on hands-on music creation, is the best way to keep engagement high. Lastly, we've recognised the need to better utilise space at Zeal to ensure that as the programme grows, all participants have the resources they need to make the most of the programme.

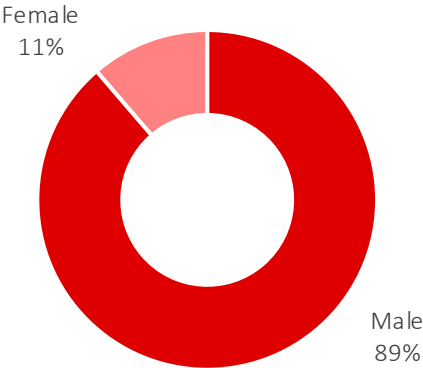
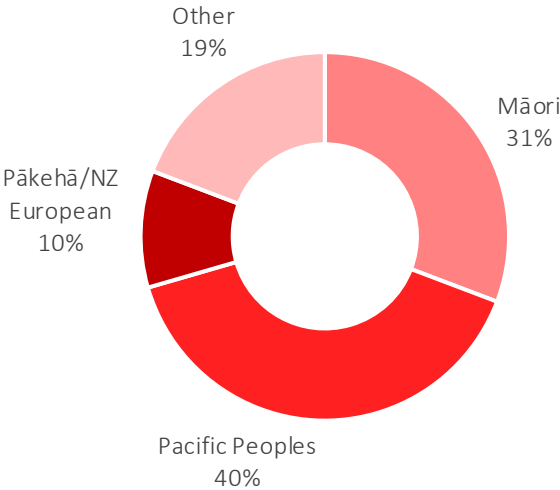
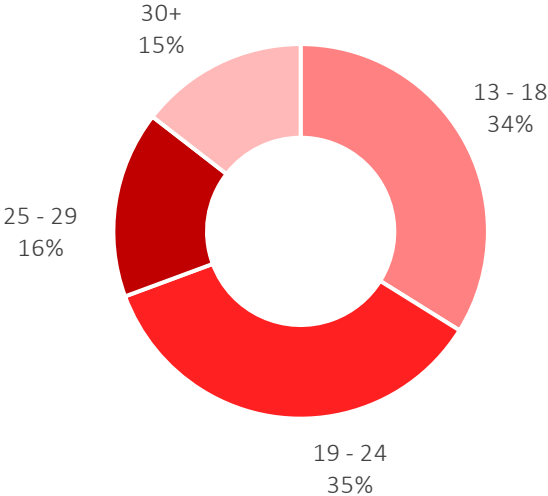
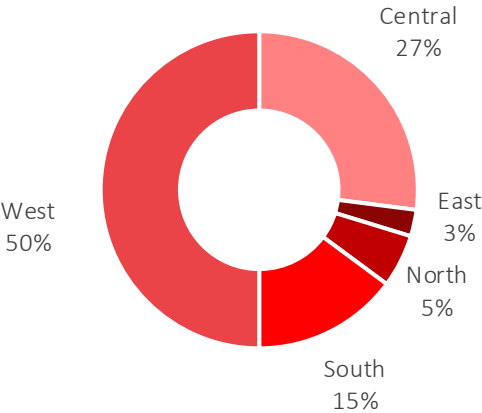


# NAVIGATORS / WEST

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 62





# NAVIGATORS / WEST

## IMAGES



# NAVIGATORS / WAHINE



**Facilitated by** TK White, Hariata Makiha, Jasmine Pene & Tamzin Naicker

**Report by** Hariata Makiha

**Tuesday's, Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

We kicked off the year with the theme of SELF, which focused on exploring who we are, letting go of past versions of ourselves, and making space for our evolving identities. Throughout the quarter, we held Talanoa sessions where participants reflected on relationships, habits, and behaviours they wanted to move on from. In these sessions, they also discussed what they want to bring into their lives moving forward. We went on a field trip to a Funding Wānanga hosted by the Pacific Music Awards Director, where participants interested in advancing their music careers had the opportunity to gather more advice and insights. For International Women's Day on March 08, we dedicated a Navigators session to filming interview-style content with both participants and facilitators, where we asked the question, "When you think of a woman, what is the first thing that comes to mind?"

## HIGHLIGHTS

In true Wāhine Navigators style, this quarter was full of real and honest kōrero during Talanoa. Participants shared deep reflections from last year, navigating changes like breakups, lifestyle shifts, losing family members, landing jobs, and releasing music independently. These discussions brought the group closer than ever, creating a space of support and understanding. We saw some amazing growth this quarter, especially with our regular under-18 participant, who continues to manage her school life while navigating drama and personal challenges. Her growth is inspiring, and she's become a source of support for others, while learning from their experiences as well. First-timers also expressed how comfortable and welcomed they felt, with one participant saying, "I don't even know any of you, but I feel like family here." Beyond Talanoa, there were beautiful moments of connection as participants gathered in smaller groups—whether in the booths, chatting in the room, or outside. These moments really showed how the bonds within the group are flourishing. We've also seen participants confidently ask for one-on-one kōrero with facilitators, showing trust and a desire for support. Creatively, the cypher was a major highlight, with over eight participants already tracking their verses. Participants shared their experiences through their lyrics, opening up about letting go of something or someone, and collaborating in the booths to bring those stories to life. We also celebrated International Women's Day by filming interview-style content where participants shared what it means to be a woman. It was heartwarming to hear stories of the women who've influenced them, from mothers and grandmothers to the empowering lessons learned along the way. Another high was our field trip to the Funding Wānanga hosted by the Pacific Music awards director. It was such a cool opportunity for participants who are serious about their music careers to learn more about how funding works and what's out there for them. For a lot of them, it was their first time really thinking about applying for funding, and the whole session was so empowering. We saw several participants walk away feeling confident and motivated to apply for funding for the first time. It was awesome to see them take that next step in their journey, and it really felt like a game-changer for some of them in terms of where they're heading with their music.

## CHALLENGES

This quarter, one of the challenges we've faced is that sometimes participants turn up a bit late during our intros or highs and lows. It can throw things off a little, especially when people are opening up and being vulnerable. Transport has also been a bit of a struggle for some, with a few needing rides or dealing with car troubles and lack of fuel. We've also had some challenges with food, especially as we've had more participants and, with the rising cost of things, it's been tricky to make sure there's enough to go around. Some of our participants rely on the kai at sessions as their first meal of the day, so it's been important to make sure everyone's catered to. As the group continues to grow stronger, we've noticed more personal stuff coming to the surface. Some participants have been dealing with heavier situations, and there have been times when facilitators have followed up with them outside of sessions to offer a bit more support. It's amazing to see the group get closer, but it's clear that we could really use more support for everyone, like having a counsellor or therapist available. We do have someone on-hand already, but it would be great if we could offer more support for those who need it and help lighten the load on our facilitators.

## LEARNINGS

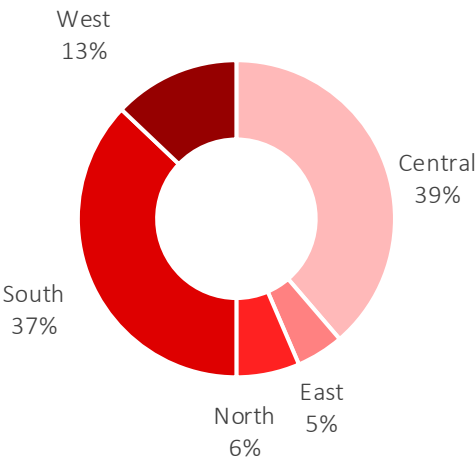
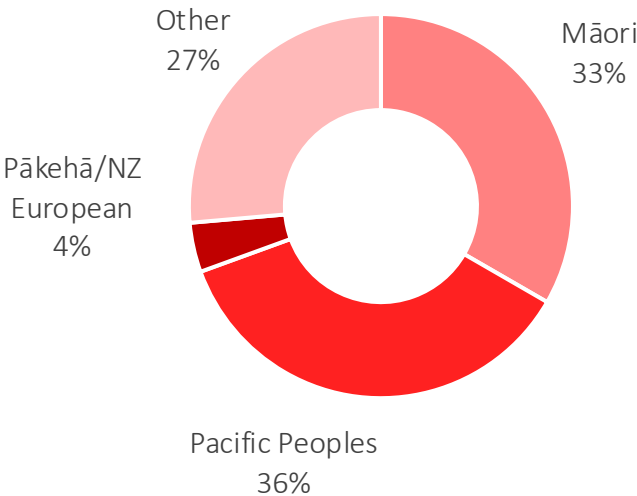
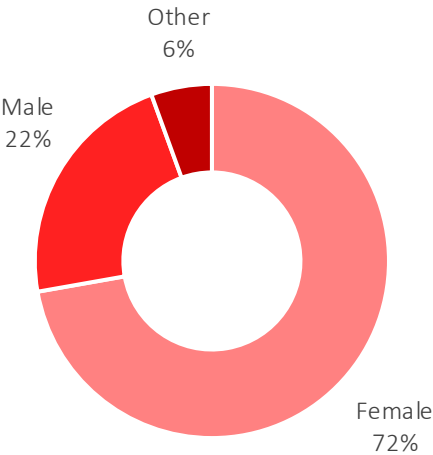
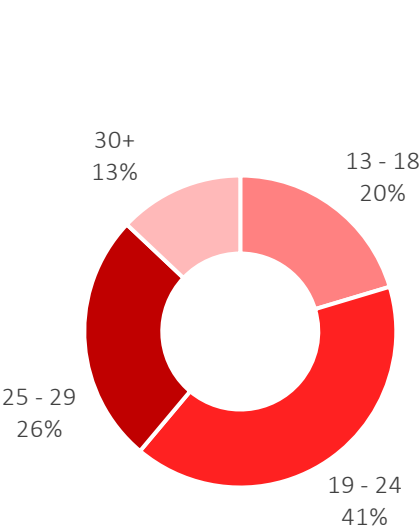
Some participants come along mainly for the Talanoa sessions and aren't as interested in creating music, while others are all about the creative side, keen to write and record tracks. It would be awesome to find a way to balance both aspects a little more, maybe by setting a time limit for Talanoa so that we still have enough time to focus on the creative side too. Most sessions run pretty organically—we adapt to what the participants need rather than sticking strictly to a set plan. Talanoa is really important for building connections, and the creative time gives everyone the space to play and explore through music. The values we started with in Wāhine Naws are still at the heart of everything we do, and you can really see it when new people come in and feel that energy right away.

# NAVIGATORS / WAHINE

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 54





# NAVIGATORS / WAHINE

## IMAGES



# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL



**Facilitated by** Elijah Manū, Aidan Fine, Bronson Price & Dera Meelan

**Report by** Aidan Fine

**Wednesday's, Wesley Community Centre, Mt Roskill**

This quarter, Central Navigators continued to offer a dynamic space for young creatives to connect, collaborate, and develop their music. A new addition this quarter was the introduction of a more structured, industry-style writing process. Drawing inspiration from real-world songwriting camps and record label sessions, participants were assigned specific roles—such as A&R (Artist & Repertoire which plays a crucial role in finding new music talent and guiding them through their career development), song arranger, music producer, or songwriter—encouraging them to collaborate and craft fully developed songs. This approach provided hands-on experience with different aspects of the creative process while strengthening their ability to work effectively in a fast-paced, team-driven environment. The response has been overwhelmingly positive, with many embracing the opportunity to challenge themselves and gain a deeper understanding of teamwork in professional music production. Our experienced facilitators continue to provide guidance and support, empowering participants to push their creative boundaries.

## HIGHS

This quarter, one of the standout highlights was the success of our newly introduced structured writing process, where participants embraced industry-style roles such as A&R, arranger, producer, and songwriter. This approach significantly enhanced engagement, encouraging participants to expand beyond their usual creative practices and collaborate in a way that mirrored professional songwriting sessions. Additionally, we've seen a wave of new participants join us, resulting in a completely fresh cohort this year. These individuals are eager to dive into the music and creative process, with many bringing their own experience, including some who are producers themselves. This has added an exciting new dynamic to the program, as we are now able to facilitate a more self-sufficient environment where participants can produce their own music, shifting the focus from facilitators producing for participants to empowering them to produce for themselves.

## CHALLENGES

One of the challenges this quarter has been a fluctuation in attendance and consistency among participants. While we've had a strong core group, the overall numbers have varied more than usual, leading to some weeks feeling quieter than anticipated, and other busier than usual. While this variation has presented occasional challenges in maintaining group momentum, it has also provided opportunities for a more flexible and adaptive approach to projects and discussions, ensuring that each participant receives personalized attention and support as they engage in the program.

## LEARNINGS

This quarter reinforced the importance of consistency in attendance for maintaining momentum and a strong group dynamic. With fluctuating attendance, we observed how much the energy of each session can be influenced by participant engagement. Looking ahead, we are excited to explore new strategies to encourage more consistent attendance, including outreach efforts, adjusting session structures, and introducing incentives to foster ongoing participation.

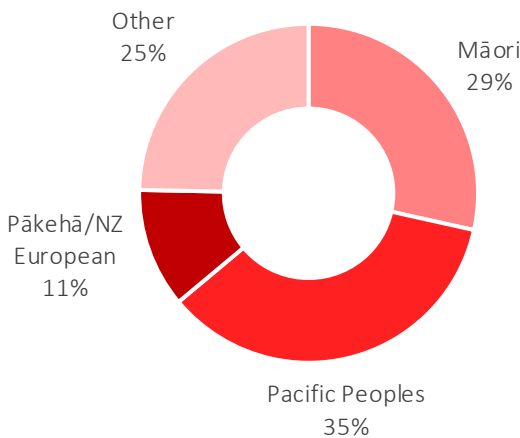
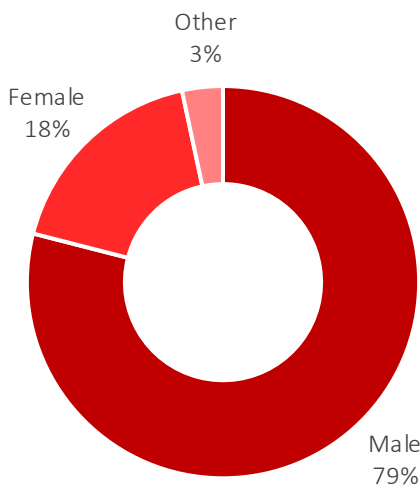
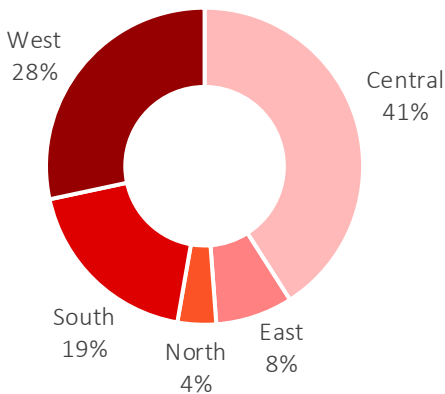
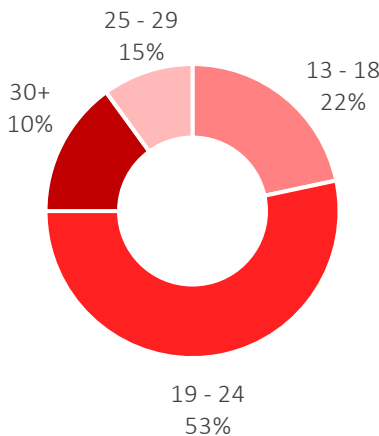


# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 108





# NAVIGATORS / CENTRAL

## IMAGES



# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH



**Facilitated by** Oliva Luki, Ben Tuimaseve, Lincoln Keepa & Noah Tauti

**Report by** Noah Tauti

**Monday's, OMAC, Ōtara**

In this first quarter of South Navigators, we've focused on recalibrating the program. With some of our older participants moving on to new opportunities, we've seen a steady flow of new faces joining the group. This period has been about reestablishing what South Navigators is about and setting the tone for the next phase. We also welcomed a new facilitator to the team, adding valuable experience to our efforts. In terms of creative work, we've offered studio sessions when possible, giving participants the chance to engage with their craft. We've incorporated group activities to foster inclusivity and collaboration, helping participants connect and work together. Additionally, we provided free-writing sessions to encourage creative freedom, especially during the initial stages as participants get to know the program. It's been a productive and focused quarter of laying the groundwork for what's to come.

## HIGHS

Confidence has been steadily growing in our participants this quarter. We've seen them move from uncertainty to confidently taking the lead in talanoa during sessions—like a spark that, once kindled, ignites into a steady flame. This shift in self-assurance has been a powerful change to witness especially because the majority of our participants are new to Te Karanga. As facilitators, adaptability has been our best friend this quarter as members of our team have had other commitments. Our team has kept communication strong, ensuring that the program runs without hiccups. It's been a reminder of how important it is to have a steady foundation to rely on, especially when challenges arise.

## CHALLENGES

The only challenges we've faced this quarter is access to the studio to do substantial creative sessions. Sometimes we can use the studio and sometimes we can't. It's not a huge issue, but our challenge has been how to keep participants engaged and how to keep them paddling the waka even when unexpected setbacks hit. It's been about finding ways to stay on course and not let these obstacles derail the progress we've made.

## LEARNINGS

This quarter has been a much-needed refresh for the program, a reset that's benefitted both participants and facilitators. The new and returning participants are eager, hungry for opportunities to perform and engage in studio sessions, which has been energizing for everyone involved. We're excited about the possibility of showcasing South Navigators in the next quarter, giving everyone a chance to shine. Looking ahead, our goal is to ensure more consistent access to studio sessions, so participants can have the space and time they need to develop their skills without interruption. This will be a priority as we move forward, as we continue to build momentum for the program.

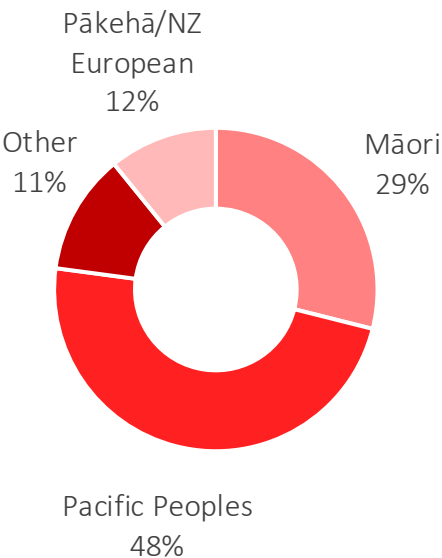
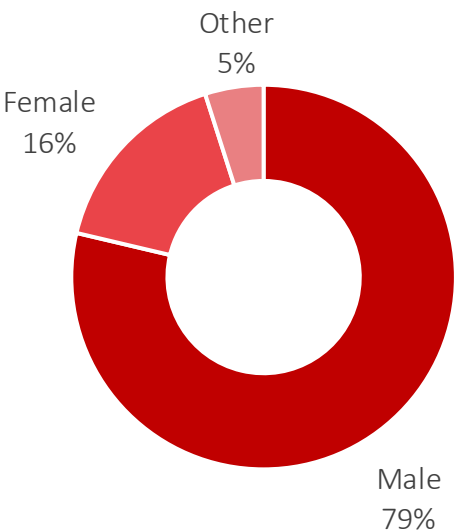
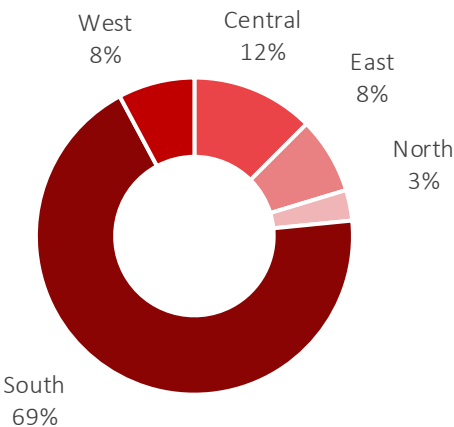
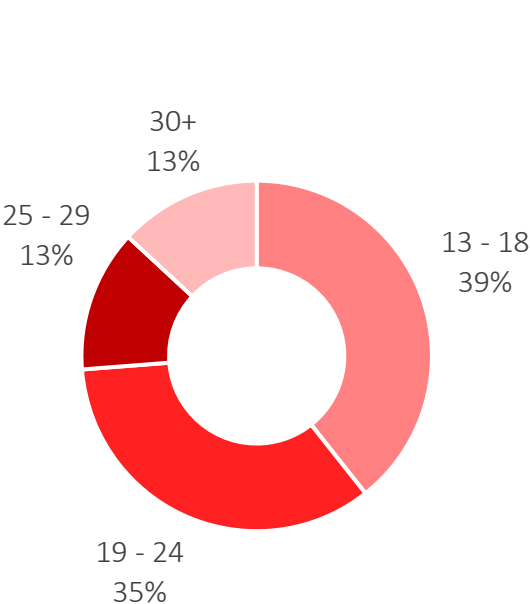


# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 61





# NAVIGATORS / SOUTH

## IMAGES



# NAVIGATORS / SPOKEN WORD



**Facilitated by** Noah Tauti & Luani Nansen

**Report by** Noah Tauti

**Wednesday's, OMAC, Ōtara**

This quarter for Spoken Word Navigators, we had a great offsite experience at an open mic, where we were able to showcase one of our participants/facilitators. In our regular Navigators sessions, we've been using two creative prompts, often tied to the Talanoa topic, giving participants a chance to explore their ideas. There's been a noticeable boost in confidence when it comes to sharing after the creative activities, which really reinforces the safe and supportive space we strive to create.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Building on what we did last year, Spoken Word Navigators has developed a solid group of regular participants. This consistency has helped build confidence, as people are getting more comfortable with one another. With the two creative prompts we offer, we've seen more participants stepping up to take part. If someone's not feeling the first prompt, they'll usually give the second one a try, and vice versa, all thanks to the confidence they've built together over time. The prompt challenges are being embraced more openly, with everyone encouraging and reassuring each other in a truly safe space. A big highlight this quarter was the offsite open mic—participants signed themselves up to perform without needing any extra push, which was a huge win. This also gave a big confidence boost to the open mic feature, who was one of our own participants/facilitators.

## CHALLENGES

This quarter, one challenge we faced was having another program running in the neighbouring room with beliefs and ideas that didn't quite align with ours. Some of our participants have felt uncomfortable, as they are very self-aware and sensitive to how these differing views contradict the values we stand for in Spoken Word Navigators and in our own personal lives. It's been important for us to keep the space supportive, allowing everyone to process and express their thoughts while staying true to our program.

## LEARNINGS

One thing we've learned this quarter is just how much impact Spoken Word Navigators has had. We've seen participants out at spoken word events on their own, which shows how they're carrying what they've learned beyond our sessions. Some have even brought friends along to check out the program, which really speaks to the sense of community we've built. It's a solid reminder of how far we've come and the lasting effect this space has on them.

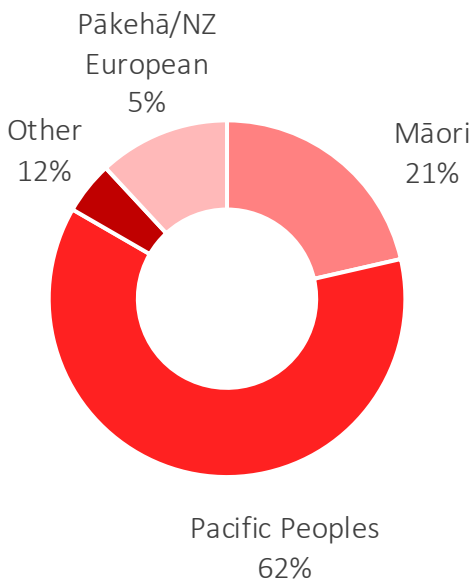
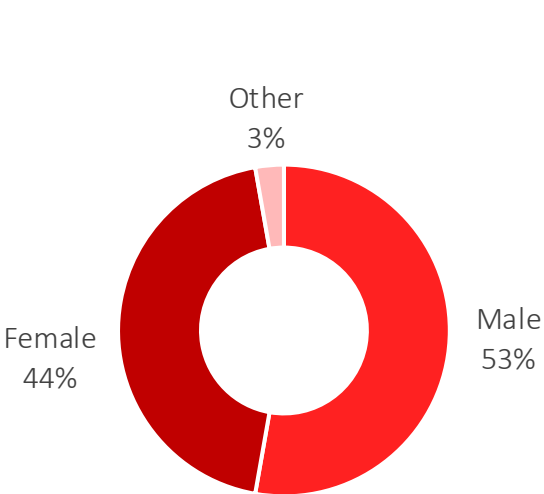
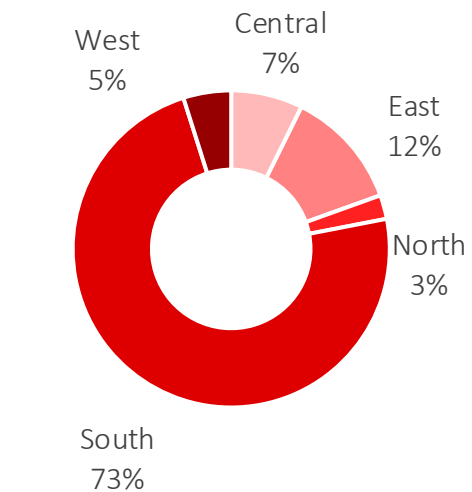
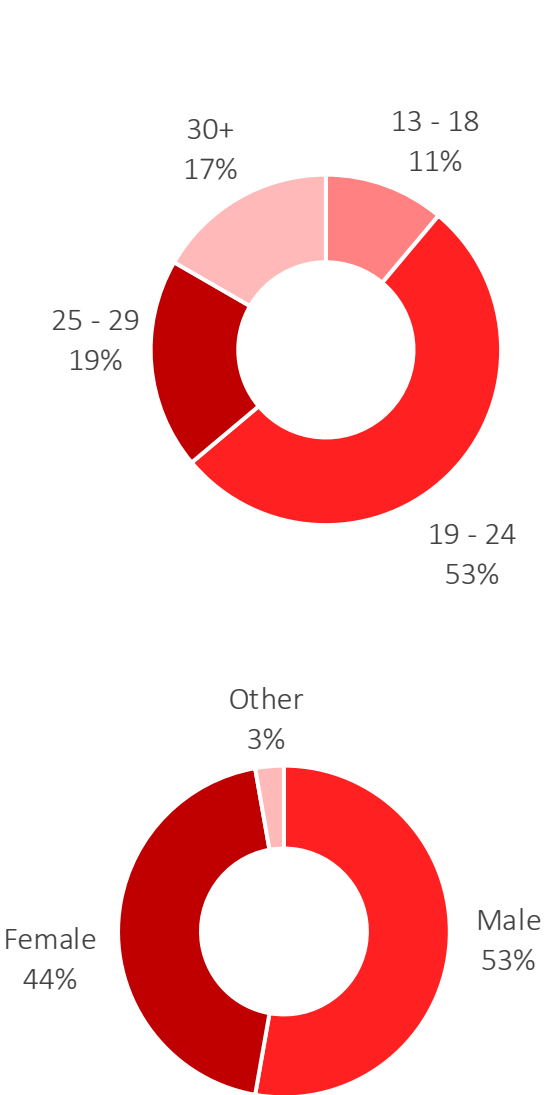


# NAVIGATORS / SPOKEN WORD

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 30





# NAVIGATORS / SPOKEN WORD

## IMAGES



# TALANOA TUESDAY'S



**Facilitated by** Rizvan Tu'itahi & Ben Tuimaseve

**Report by** Ben Tuimaseve

**Tuesday's, Taro Patch Creative, Papatoetoe**

Talanoa Tuesdays has been filled with profound korero exploring cultural identity and addressing issues around mental health and self-awareness. This quarter we reintroduced kava into the circle and it has attracted some more regular participants. There have been some solidifying connections in the last few weeks due to the nature of conversations which has been a beautiful thing to witness.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The highlight this quarter is seeing one of our less vocal participants open up and share about their current home situation and allowing us to help them discover new perspectives with the help of the group. They recently mentioned that navigating their path has been a lot easier lately because they have been introduced to new points of view through attending Talanoa Tuesdays.

## CHALLENGES

The only challenge is having to facilitate solo on a few sessions as my colleague has had other unavoidable commitments this quarter. In some of these sessions it has been a bit difficult holding space when conversations became heavy. I felt like there was a lot of responsibility on me alone. Additionally, being the only facilitator has meant that I have to be present and can't always capture footage or evidence of the sessions. However, I asked one of the participants who had never missed a session since the beginning, if she could help by opening up the space when my co-facilitator was away, and to facilitate the Highs & Lows segment which she did beautifully and was happy to do so.

## LEARNINGS

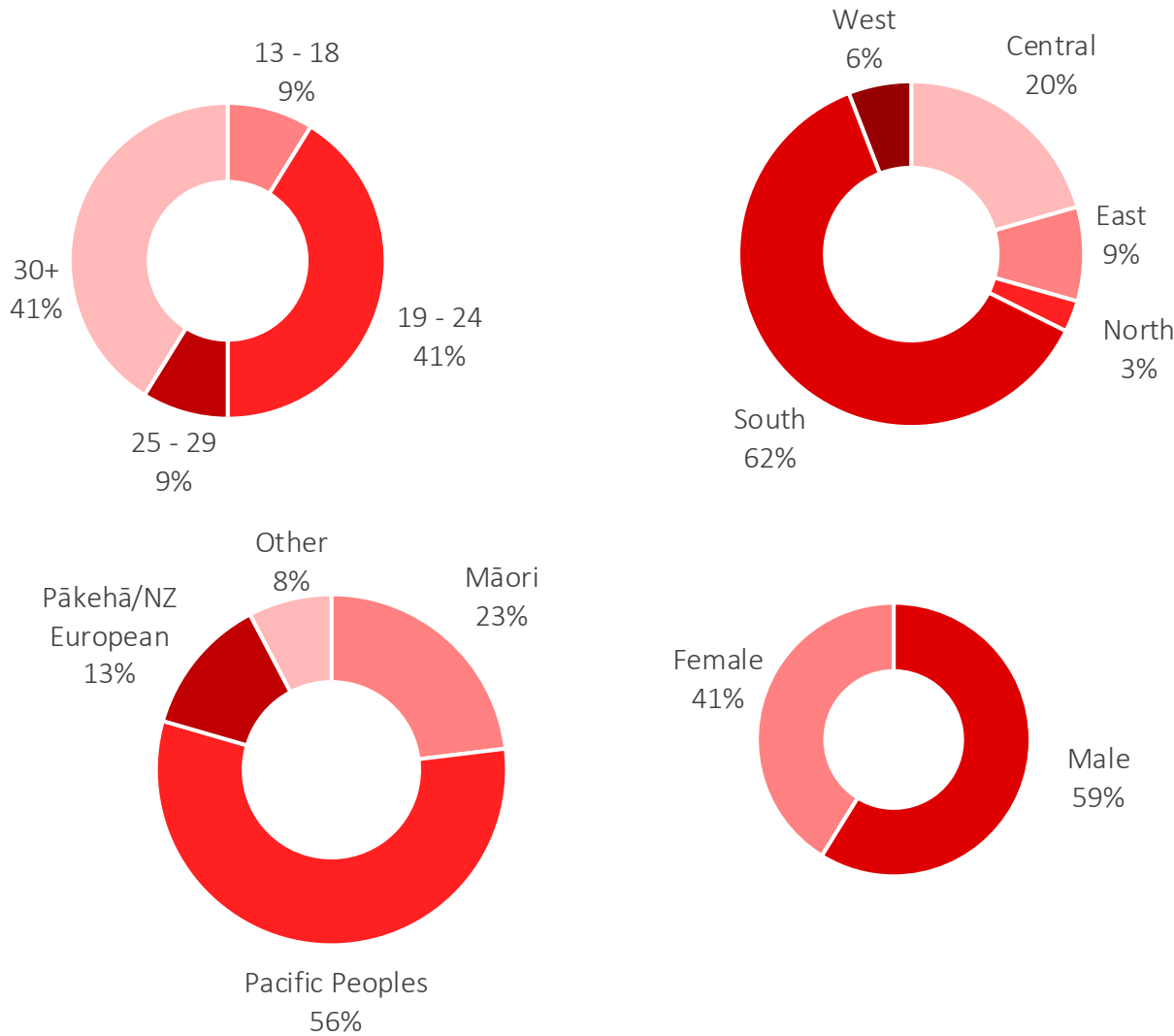
I have realised the value of having more than one facilitator on the team as there are many responsibilities to fulfil on our programs and one facilitator just can't do it all alone. Also, in these moments, participants are really keen to step up and hold the space for us. They do it out of the love they have for the program, especially being someone who has been impacted positively by it.

# TALANOA TUESDAY'S

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 34





# TALANOA TUESDAY'S

## IMAGES





# CREATIVE LABS



## OVERVIEW

Free weekly studio program that empowers youth with local resources, equipment, and guidance. Fostering creativity, connecting like-minded individuals, and nurturing the next generation of artists and musicians.



# CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL



**Facilitated by** Dera Meelan, Aidan Fine & Sean Andersen

**Report by** Dera Meelan

**Mon, Weds, Thurs, Wesley Community Centre, Sandringham**

Since Central Creative Labs (C-Labs) is a self-serve programme, there hasn't been much change this quarter compared to previous ones. At this point, around 90 percent of participants are now fully self-sufficient, confidently working on their projects independently. The remaining 10 percent are newcomers who are still finding their feet and occasionally need a little extra guidance and support as they settle into the programme. It's been great to see everyone continuing to grow and develop in their own creative journeys.

## HIGHLIGHTS

Over the past two years, Central Creative Labs has consistently been one of our strongest programmes in terms of attendance and retention. While 90 percent of participants are now fully self-sufficient, many started with little to no experience in music production or recording. One standout example is a participant who began with no knowledge of music creation software or recording. Recently, they shared that they've produced over 100 demos in the past three months. This kind of growth really showcases the impact of the programme—not just in developing technical skills, but also in nurturing creativity and boosting confidence.

## CHALLENGES

We don't often face major challenges here at C-Labs. The occasional challenge has been reminding participants to take care of the studio spaces and ensuring everyone maintains respectful behaviour. Additionally, some of our equipment has reached the end of its lifespan, and we've had to be creative in finding ways to serve participants' needs in the booth. Despite this, participants have shown great resourcefulness in adapting, and the programme has still run smoothly this quarter.

## LEARNINGS

This quarter, we've learned that the barrier to entry is not as challenging as it might seem. Many participants have started with no prior knowledge and have become self-sufficient within just a few weeks. This reinforces that the programme is structured in a way that allows it to run smoothly and effectively on its own. Moving forward, our main focus will be to stay prepared and ready to address any challenges that may come up along the way.

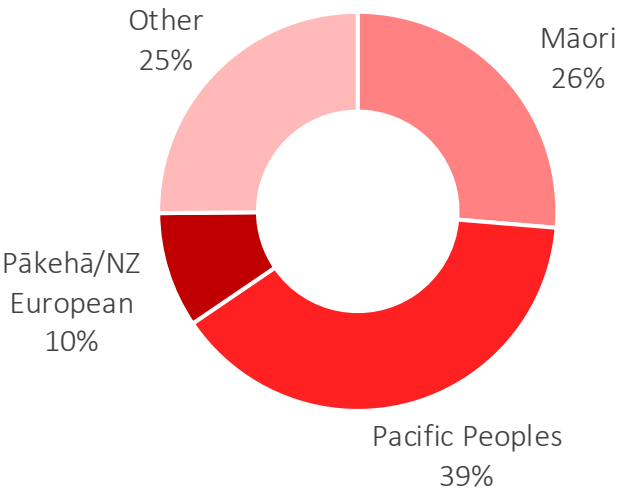
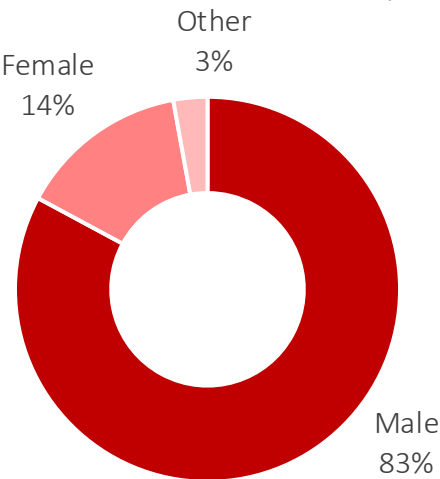
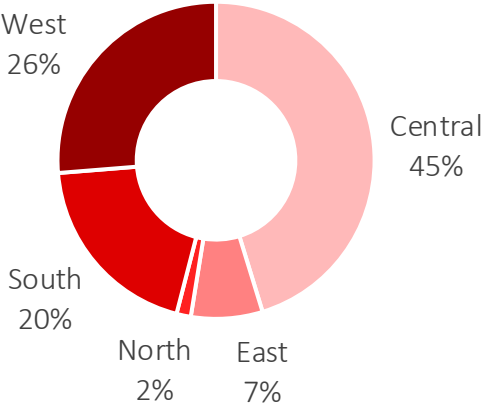
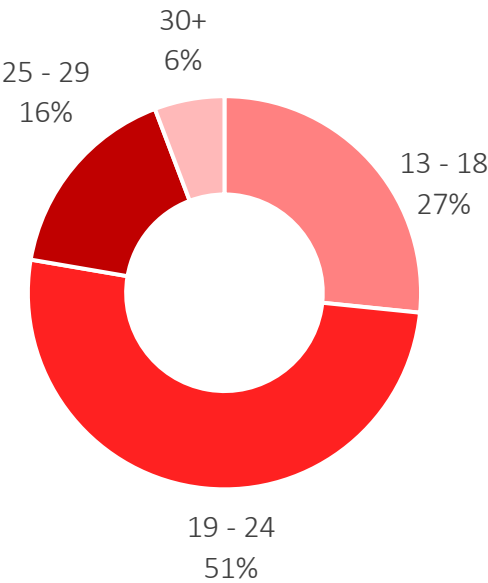


# CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL

## SUMMARY

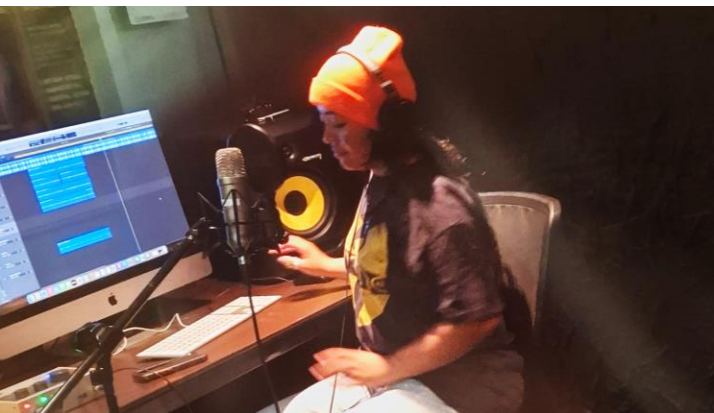


Participant stats: 127



# CREATIVE LABS / CENTRAL

## IMAGES



# CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH



**Facilitated by** Oliva Luki

**Report by** Oliva Luki

**Mon, Tues & Weds, OMAC, Ōtara**

This first quarter of the year has been a great start. Creative Labs (C-Labs) has been really popular with our navigator participants, with the weekly slots getting fully booked almost right away. With new participants at South Navigators joining in, they've naturally been drawn to the studio, making the most of the resources we have available.

## HIGHLIGHTS

One of the biggest highlights this quarter has been seeing new participants come through to record their music. It's been amazing to watch them build the confidence to record their first song. The joy they feel when they hear their tracks is priceless. We've had one participant already drop two singles out of C-Labs, which is brilliant to see. His drive is inspiring—making time after school to come in and make music. A lot of the time, they bring their friends along, which is a great way to connect and help more young people in the community.

## CHALLENGES

Because we are only in our first quarter, there aren't many challenges. The only one so far is that people don't commit to their booked sessions and sometimes it might be moments before the session begins, which makes it difficult to book another person into the session and often becomes a wasted session that someone else could have booked.

## LEARNINGS

Not everyone recording music has the intention of releasing it. Some participants come cause of how it makes them feel and not necessarily wanted to be heard on streaming platforms or social media. It's an accomplishment for them to just be in the studio. So this time round I haven't really pushed participants to put out music unless they are ready to do it.

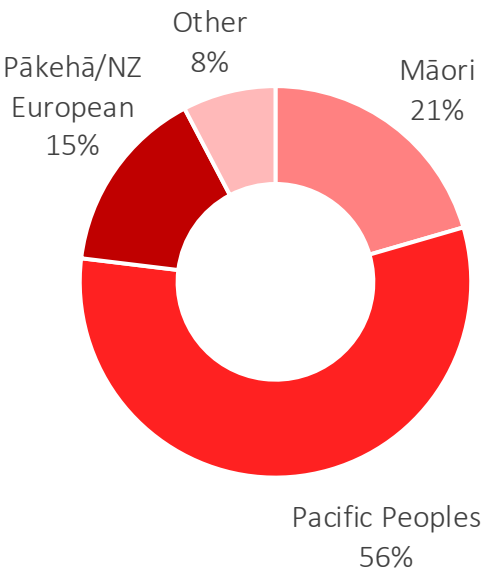
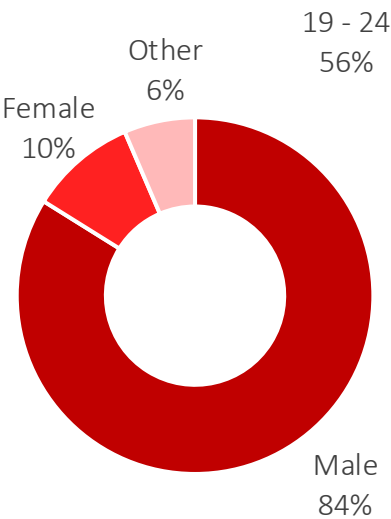
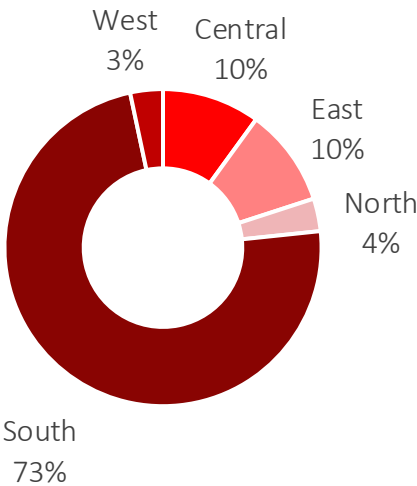
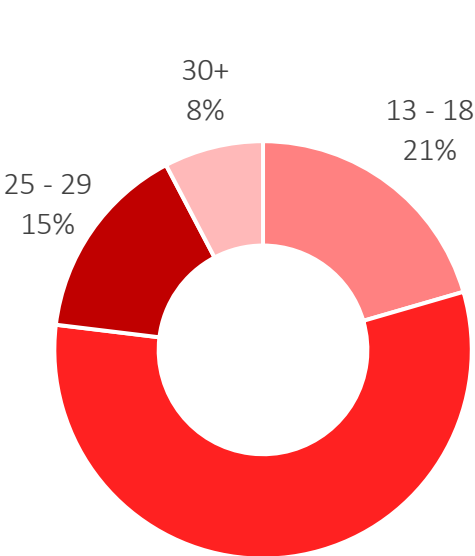


# CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH

## SUMMARY



Participant stats: 34



# CREATIVE LABS / SOUTH

## IMAGES





# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



## OVERVIEW

An internal program preparing aspiring creatives for future work environments. Supporting rangatahi with business ideas and focusing on artist professional, personal, and business development within the arts.





# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP



**Facilitated by** Oliva Luki

**Report by** Oliva Luki

For this most recent Bridge the Gap (BTG) intake, we started our second pilot of our pop-up series, where we work with rangatahi develop their work and put a body of music out into the world as an album or an EP with a solid plan, involving merch, launch events and any other relevant associated revenue stream available to them such as content, placements or performances. This term we've focused on creating a unique plan for each participant and finalised/further developed the relevant content for the plan - something achievable. We're still in the early stages of these projects, but we're moving forward swiftly. The intention of BTG is to use participants passion for music as the foundation of entrepreneurialism in the modern economy, which will translate into them being able to create and sell merchandise, organising and leading personal events, and monetising their music and art through various opportunities.

## HIGHLIGHTS

The participants in this cohort are really driven and want to make something of their art. Working with one of the female participants has been dope. At first, she wasn't saying much and quite reserved, but after a couple of months now, she's really opened up and now has way more confident input on what she wants in her project, being the 'executive producer' of her own work. Working with another participant has been a breeze. They come in every week prepared and ready to work and focus. I love that they're so keen and eager to get their projects launched.

## CHALLENGES

Haven't had many (if any) challenges this quarter. I've had to move some participants to another space on different days to the ones we were originally using (at OMAC), which is further away from where they are used to going, but they have been eager and committed regardless of the move.

## LEARNINGS

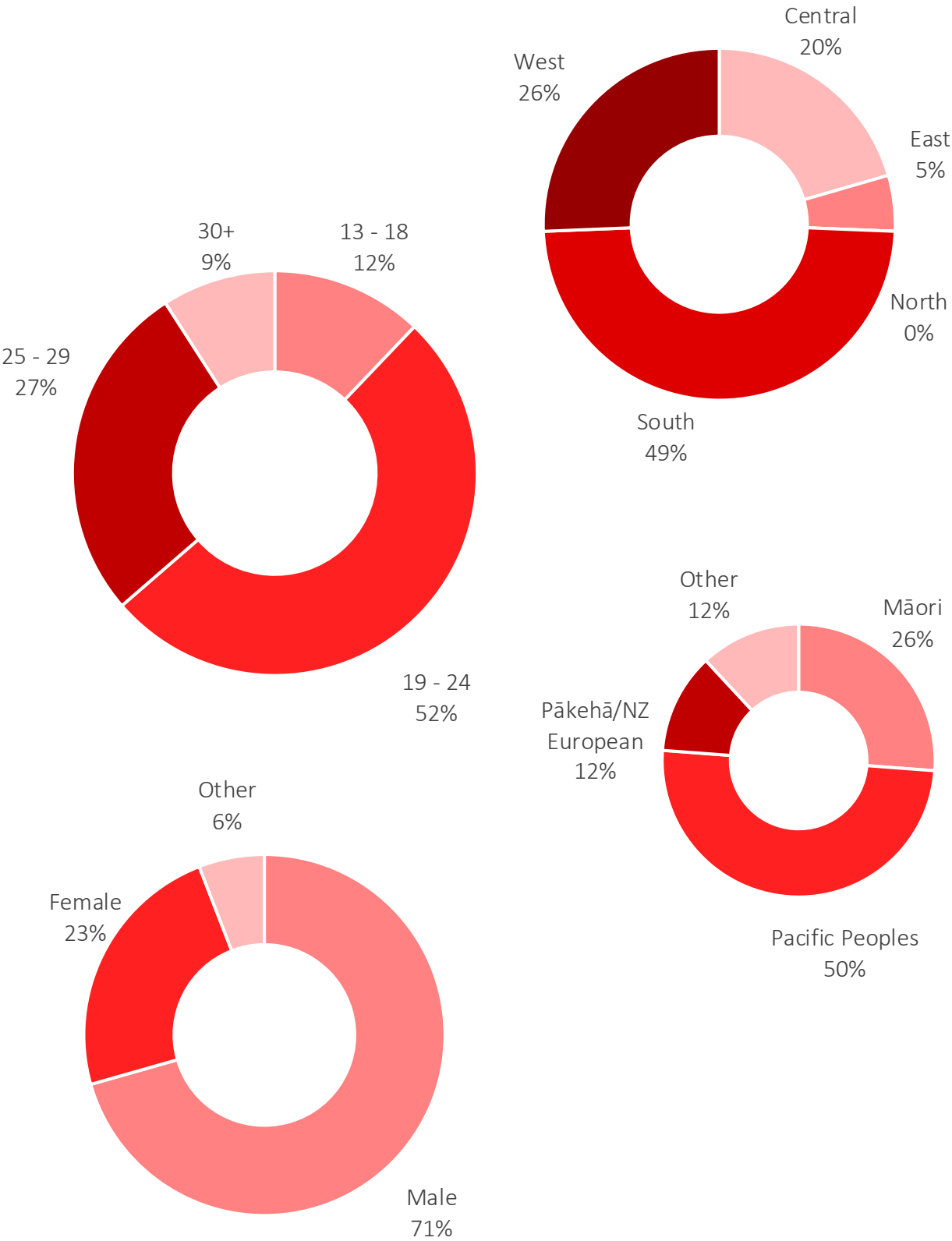
It's always easier to work with participants you've already built a rapport with. It makes it way easier to connect and communicate confidently while working on these projects. I've found myself also stepping in and out of mentoring and supporting them whilst working with them as they open up more about their personal lives. The move to another space has also created a sense of importance, as they treat it like a 'real life' work opportunity outside of our normal programs & space, which has been really good for their productivity during sessions with me.

# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP

## SUMMARY



Total participants this quarter: 34



# PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT & ENTREPRENEURSHIP IMAGES





## OVERVIEW

Rap-n-Rec is a music program delivered to young people in youth justice or schools, empowering them to share stories through music to normalise music as a means of emotional expression.



# RAP N REC YJ



**Facilitated by** Rizvan Tu'itapu

**Report by** Rizvan Tu'itapu

**Tues, Whakatakapokai Youth Residence**

Every Tuesday from 4-6, we meet with young people at Whakatakapokai to help them record their music. We usually work with two boys each hour, and by the end of the session, they have a rough demo ready.

## HIGHLIGHTS

This quarter, the highlights were the interest and eagerness from the participants. The staff always mention how excited the young people get when they know Rap n Rec is coming. It's something they really look forward to.

## CHALLENGES

One challenge right now is not being able to share the work happening inside, like photos or videos. Another challenge is the literacy level of some of the young people. They sometimes struggle with songwriting concepts or even spelling, which can lead to frustration when they can't fully express their thoughts.

## LEARNINGS

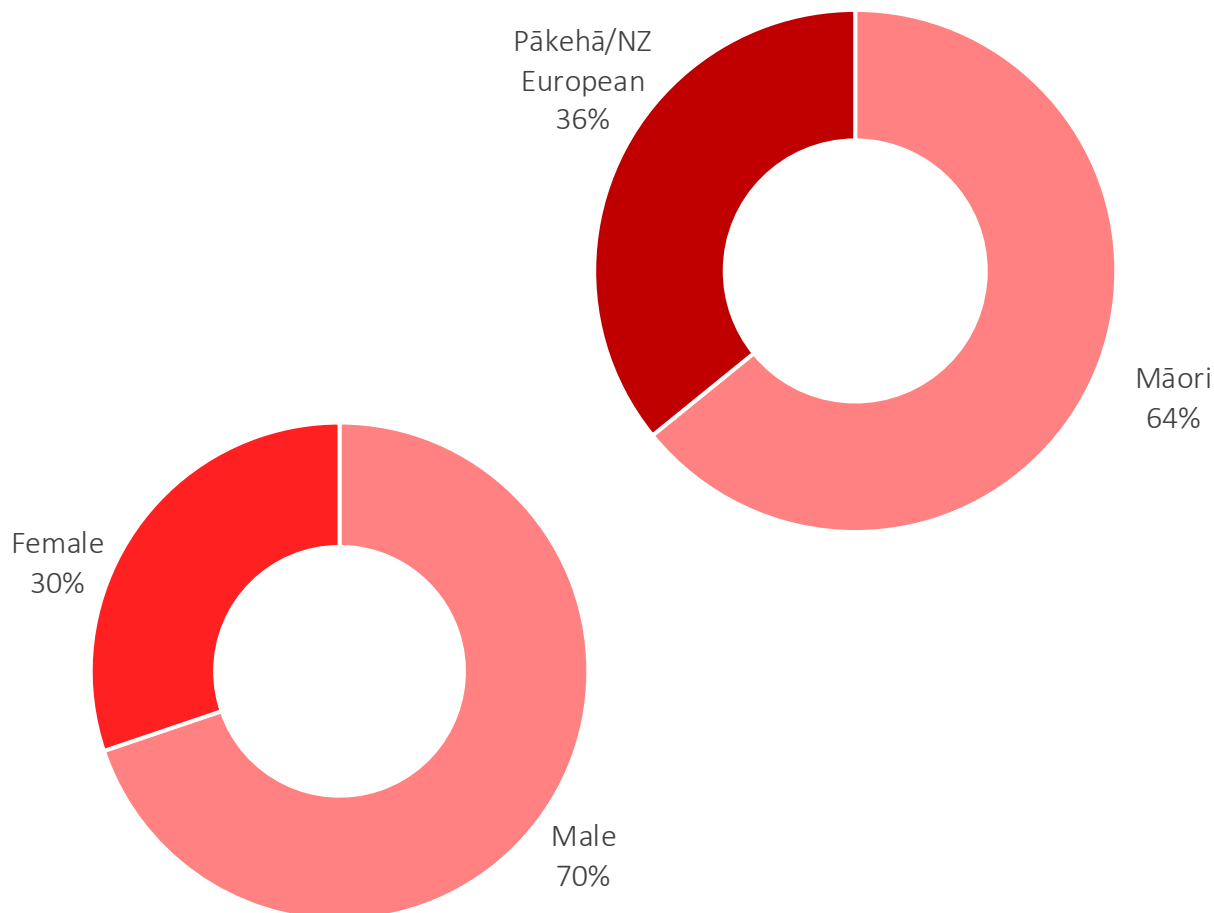
I used to advise a lot on how to write their raps, trying to get the young people to dig deeper into what they were sharing. But I've since realised that we all have surface-level noise we need to address or process first, before we can go any deeper.

# RAP N REC / YJ

## SUMMARY

Total participants this quarter: **14**

All participants between 14 – 17 yrs old





# RANGATAHI HIGHLIGHTS



The programs have helped me so much in pursuing my music and meeting people. I'm so grateful for the opportunities provided.

“

...the programme has strengthened my mental health in ways nothing else has been able to, especially since making beats and writing lyrics is such a healthy way to self express.

”

The opportunities to connect with industry professionals and utilise their guidance, knowledge, and feedback to build a career in music has been invaluable, I can't even put in to words how grateful I am.

This exposure has made it much easier for me to find myself executing on more ideas, building valued relationships and gaining a ton of knowledge about necessary skills that would otherwise be blindsided if I wasn't a part of this space.

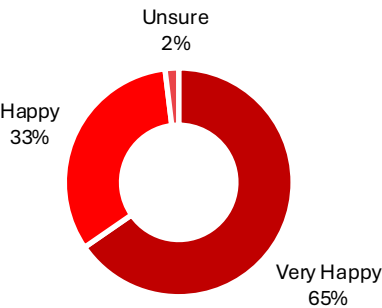
This space is as close as you could get to a creative dojo for artists. So much access to valuable resources like the facilities, the space, and one-on-one's with experienced facilitators checks almost every box of what makes it difficult to pursue a creative passion.

The feeling of accomplishment every time I walked out the door.

Thanks to this program, a year later I'm releasing music as an independent artist and have performed at 2 sold out shows.

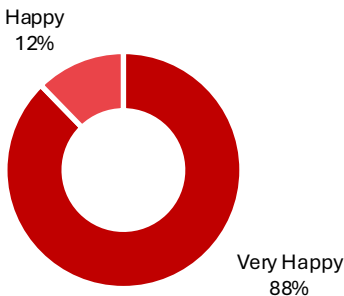
# FEEDBACK ANALYSIS

## HOW OUR RANGATAHI FEEL



### HAPPY WITH THE PROGRAM

*“The best part for me is building strong community in a supportive environment and encouraging each other in life and our creativity.”*



### HAPPY WITH THE FACILITATORS

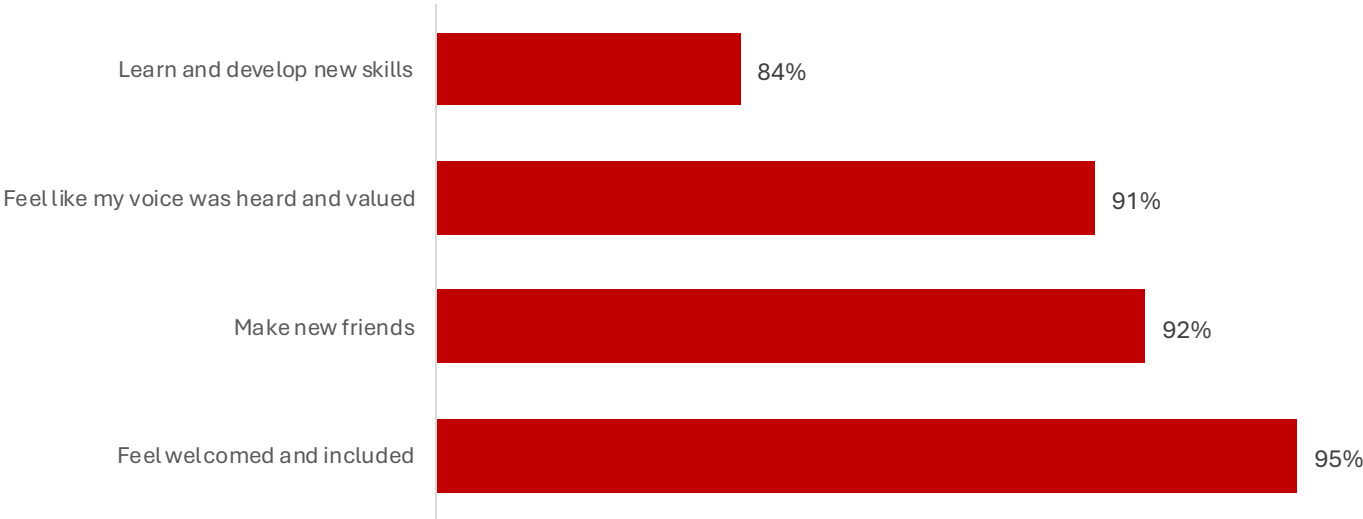
*“The facilitators made me feel welcomed and part of the family. I was nervous going in for the first time but soon as I got inside they gave me an experience I never imagined I would have. It was a great opportunity.”*



### HAPPY WITH THE FACILITIES/VENUE

*“This space is as close as you could get to a creative dojo for artists. So much access to valuable resources like the facilities, the space, and one-on-one’s with experienced facilitators checks almost every box of what makes it difficult to pursue a creative passion.”*

### PARTICIPATING ON THE PROGRAM HELPED ME TO...



MORE IMAGES





MORE IMAGES





MORE IMAGES





MORE IMAGES





# MORE IMAGES

