



RĀNUI 135

The impacts of
community centred,
relationship based
youth practice for
urban taiohi

Hands for Impact Social Return
on Investment (SROI) Report

March 2026



Hands for
Impact

RĀNUI 135

Hands for Impact and Ara Taiohi Partnership

Hands for Impact and Ara Taiohi are working together to develop a sector-led approach to impact measurement to empower organisations to tell a clear, values-based story about youth work in Aotearoa.



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Rānui 135 is generating transformational social value for taiohi (young people) aged 13–18 in West Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland).

A Social Return on Investment (SROI) report by Hands for Impact (in partnership with Ara Taiohi) found that for every \$1 invested, Rānui 135 generates \$4.86 of social value for taiohi, empowering them to grow in confidence, develop leadership and give back to the community.

Born from a grassroots vision in 2002, Rānui 135 has become a trusted anchor for local taiohi, with their kaupapa guided by Pasifika and Māori values that support young people to truly thrive. The study provides strong evidence that youth development rooted in culture, relationships, and local leadership delivers significant transformational impact for taiohi.

The key outcomes identified are:

- Greater network of support
- Improved mental wellbeing
- Increased sense of belonging to a community
- Greater sense of self
- Greater ability to advance in education, work, or training
- Developed leadership skills

Despite funding systems that prioritise crisis response over prevention, Rānui 135 has shown that youth development rooted in community, culture, relationships, and local leadership delivers transformational impact. The enduring challenge and opportunity is to invest in local leadership so that the cycle of contribution continues. When resourced long-term, organisations like Rānui 135 not only transform individual lives but also strengthen communities for generations.

To read and/or download a full copy of the SROI report, [click HERE](#).

For every **\$1** invested in Rānui 135, they generate **\$4.86** of social value.

Total social value of outcomes = \$13,564,709

INTRODUCING RĀNUI 135

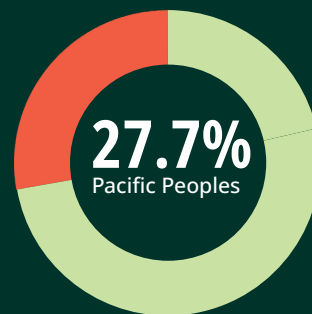
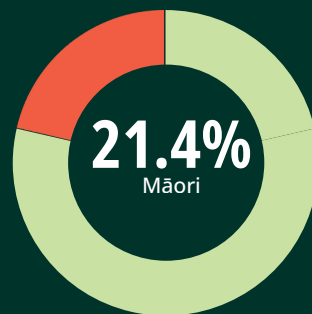
Rānui 135 is an urban youth development organisation based in Rānui, West Tāmaki Makaurau (Auckland).



Community context

Rānui is home to approximately 14,400 people, with higher proportions of Māori (21.4%) and Pacific Peoples (27.7%) compared with national averages. The community is also distinctly youthful: almost half the population is under 30, including large cohorts of tamariki and taiohi across Māori and Pasifika groups.

These demographics shape the local demand for youth development services that are culturally aligned and grounded in long-term relationships. Rānui 135 operates as a community-based response that reflects the identities, aspirations, and everyday realities of the taiohi it serves.



Background

In 2002, Rānui 135 was established by four passionate individuals to shift the statistics and deficit-based narratives surrounding taiohi in relation to education, crime, and unemployment. They wanted to provide a space and support system that provided holistic, culturally grounded support for taiohi and the Rānui community. Over the past two decades, Rānui 135 has grown a reputation as leaders in culturally-led youth work.



HANDS FOR IMPACT

Hands for Impact is a non-profit organisation working to improve access to social impact measurement for the non-profit sector of Aotearoa through cost-effective, collaborative and sector wide approaches.

Our approach to impact measurement is grounded in Mana Manaaki (respecting, building and nurturing others), Mōhiotanga (knowledge), Manawa Māui (transformation) and Puaretanga (transparency).

Why measure social value?

Youth work creates positive, long-lasting change for taiohi, whānau, and communities every day. Yet these changes are not always visible or easily captured in traditional evaluation systems, which tend to measure short-term outputs/easy to quantify outcomes.

Measuring social value helps us tell the real story of change, helping communities, funders, and decision-makers understand why youth work matters from the voices of those who matter, and why it deserves long-term support.



"I am grateful to the team at Rānui 135. Being born and raised in Rānui and knowing they are still here and showing up for the community truly is a testament to just how much they are needed in this space."

– Former taiohi participant, wāhine, 26

WHAT IS SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT?

Social Return on Investment (SROI) is a way of understanding and valuing the impact an organisation creates in people's lives. SROI captures the stories/voices of those who are most affected to identify outcomes (changes experienced). These outcomes are then given a monetary value using financial proxies, resulting in a ratio to show **how much social value is created for every \$1 invested**.

SROI

=

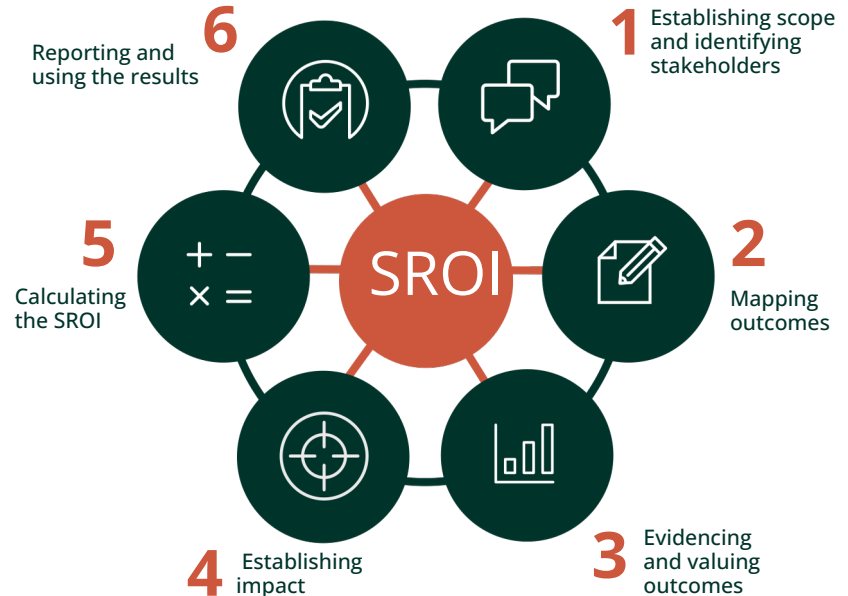
Present value
of outcomes

Value of inputs

HANDS FOR IMPACT'S APPROACH TO SROI

The methodology follows the six stages of SROI.

Six stages in SROI analysis





DELIVERY APPROACH

Rānui 135 approach to delivery is:



Through this approach, Rānui 135 aims to strengthen identity, belonging, and aspiration, enabling taiohi to feel confident taking ownership of their life path and stepping into roles that support and uplift others.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT

Purpose of analysis

This SROI analysis was undertaken to help Rānui 135 understand the social value created for taiohi, through their community-based, relationship-centred, culturally aligned youth development approach. The purpose is not just to measure outcomes, but to better understand why taiohi keep coming back, what sustains their long-term connection, and how this contributes to the organisation's intergenerational vision of growing future leaders from within the community.

Scope of analysis

This analysis focused on taiohi aged 13–18 engaging in mentoring, education and employment, and leadership activities at Rānui 135.

5-year forecast

Year in scope	July 2025 to July 2030
Stakeholders in scope	Taiohi aged 13-18 (i.e., years 9-13)
Rationale	Critical stage in adolescent development where disengagement from education and other risk factors often emerge
Number of stakeholders	120 taiohi
Key activities	Mentoring Education and Work Leadership

HOW WE ENGAGED WITH TAIOHI

To understand their experiences, the Hands for Impact approach to engaging taiohi was centred on whakawhanaungatanga (relationship-building) through time spent at the organisation and kanohi ki te kanohi (face-to-face) engagement through formal interviews or informal kōrero/talanoa (conversations) with taiohi, youth workers, and the leadership team.



Why interviews?

Interviews were chosen as the primary method of data collection as they allowed for whakawhanaungatanga and deep exploration of the changes experienced by taiohi as a result of Rānui 135's activities.

Engagement process

Taiohi recruitment and engagement was led by Rānui 135 to ensure a safe and positive environment, especially for youth experiencing research for the first time. Youth workers invited taiohi to participate based on their existing relationships and the willingness of taiohi to participate.

Interviews were also conducted with youth workers, members of the leadership team, and a community partner to gather a deeper understanding of the context and delivery of Rānui 135's activities, contributing to the outcomes experienced by taiohi.

Key stakeholders



Informant/supporting perspectives

- 8** youth workers
- 3** members of the leadership team/founders
- 1** community partner

THEORY OF CHANGE

What is a Theory of Change?

A Theory of Change is a visual map that shows how an organisation creates impact. It tells the story of how change happens, starting with the need or issue being addressed, outlining what the organisation does, and describing the short-and long-term changes experienced by the people and communities involved.

Why it is important

A Theory of Change helps organisations to:

- Clearly describe the value of their work.
- Show *how* their activities lead to meaningful outcomes.
- Support learning, reflection, and continuous improvement.
- Build a shared understanding across staff, partners, funders, and the community.

How it was developed

We developed the Theory of Change by listening to taiohi and the people who support them. Through interviews, kōrero, and time in the community. The model was then refined with Rānui 135 leadership across several review cycles to ensure it reflects the kaupapa and the lived reality of the mahi.

The Rānui ToC shows the change journey for taiohi aged 13-18 engaged in mentoring, education and work and leadership activities.



RĀNUI 135 THEORY OF CHANGE

For taiohi aged 13-18 engaged in mentorship, education and work, and leadership activities.



Taiohi go to Rānui 135 seeking support, skills, fun, and opportunities to develop

Activities

Mentoring

- Goal setting & pathway planning
- One-on-one & group mentoring
- Cultural identity & learning through a Moana worldview

Education and Work

- Entrepreneurship & business skills (e.g., IndiGenius)
- Career exploration & pathway support (e.g., Tukutaula Punga)
- Advocacy for licenses, accreditations & support services

Leadership

- Leadership development programmes (e.g., Realize, Ta'ahine Toa)
- Sports-based leadership activities (e.g., Sports Camps)

Enabling Outcomes

- Positive whānau-like support
- Feeling seen & heard
- Participation in safe spaces
- Increased social connection
- Reduced feelings of loneliness, isolation, & disconnection

- Increased cultural knowledge
- Strengthened sense of identity
- Increased exposure to role modelling of community values
- Building a sense of unity with others

- Increased access to individually aligned support
- Increased self-confidence
- Increased exposure to opportunities
- Building goals and journey mapping
- Increased readiness for action
- Enabled to progress along aspirational pathways
- Steering Hautū Waka (leading & taking ownership of actions towards goal)
- Accepting opportunities
- Greater sense of autonomy & independence
- Feeling empowered

Material Outcomes

Greater network of support

Improved mental wellbeing

Increased sense of belonging to a community

Greater sense of self

Greater ability to advance in education, work, or training

Developed leadership skills

Long-term impact



Taiohi are confident, culturally grounded, and connected. They take purposeful action to shape their futures, support others and step into leadership roles that strengthen and sustain thriving communities.

KEY OUTCOMES

As a result of Rānui 135's holistic, culturally grounded approach to youth development and delivery of mentoring, education and work and leadership programmes, Taiohi experience:

Greater network of support

What this means in practice: Positive and enduring relationships with youth workers and peers in safe and supportive spaces.

"Rānui 135 has had a massive helping hand in creating safe spaces for me to express myself." - Taiohi wāhine, 17

"I feel like the group made us all closer. To be honest, I would have never thought of being friends with them [all laugh]. Before the group, I didn't even know them, but then when we got together, it made us closer, and we all started hanging out" - Taiohi wāhine, 16

Improved mental wellbeing

What this means in practice: Taiohi expressed mental health improvements occurring as a result of the mentoring, care and social connections formed

"The thing I noticed about here, they care for your mental health as well. So like, not only do they help people with work but they talk to you to see how you are." Taiohi tāne, 18

"I've made many friendships and have learnt a lot of life skills through them. They keep me grounded and I can always count on them." - Taiohi wāhine, 26

“

The bro is fighting for us... that is tough, that goes a long way.”

– Taiohi tāne, 20

Increased sense of belonging to a community

What this means in practice: Community connection developed through engagement in positive safe spaces, sharing of knowledge and positive values.

"This is my first time being connected to my community and really helped on building my confidence and not shying away from things." - Taiohi wāhine, 18

Greater sense of self

What this means in practice: Taiohi develop a strong sense of identity and purpose linked to their values. They have clarity on how they want to show up in the world and impact others.

"The cultural weeks, still like to be a part of it and just give back to the community, which is nice"
- Taiohi tāne, 17

"The more they come to us, the more we see their job [youth work] as, like, a fun thing. I kind of want to be what they are. It's not being a teacher where you just got a lot of kids, you're there to talk with them, help them. Their job [youth work] looks nice."
- Taiohi tāne, 16



"Our focus is on how we provide space for young people. Underlying the whole premise of this programme is "moana worldview"; again, it is about embracing the ancestral connection. We had speakers that connected us in the room through history, such as Dr Sonny Natanielu who spoke about Pacific navigation and what that connection looks like from a historical perspective" - Youth Worker

Developed leadership skills

What this means in practice: Taiohi develop their ability to work well with others, navigate differences, overcome fear, and meaningfully participate.

"Definitely through sports and RAP 135 in how they manage everyone (regardless of background, skills etc.), gave me a visual cue of navigating differences whilst maintaining composure."

- Taiohi tāne, 24

Greater ability to advance in education, work, or training

What this means in practice: Taiohi have the tools, support, confidence and agency to progress along their aspirational pathways.

"Housing, license, job, course. Everything that I've got now, was on the list back then."

- Taiohi tāne, 17

"I'm at uni right now... maybe I'll be in the direction of starting my own business." - Taiohi tāne, 18

ENABLERS BEHIND THESE OUTCOMES

- Cultural identity and belonging are nurtured
- Support feels like whānau, not service delivery
- Manaakitanga is modelled and reciprocated

Long-term impact is cyclical

Many taiohi become leaders, youth workers, and coaches, reinvesting back into Rānui 135 and the wider community.



"They've given us the platform. Now we run with it."
- Taiohi tāne, 22

HOW WE VALUED THE OUTCOMES

Why assign dollar values?

The outcomes people experience are real and meaningful, but they often don't have a price tag in the market. To communicate the scale and significance of these changes to funders and decision-makers, we use financial proxies: credible dollar values that represent what that change would cost to create (or avoid) in the real world.

Expressing the importance of an outcome through valuation

To do this, we used the following valuation techniques:

1. **Revealed Preference:** for equivalent programmes or support relevant to the outcomes experienced by the stakeholder.
2. **Treasury CBAX,** a set of Aotearoa well-being and cost values used to estimate how changes in people's lives translate into real-world value.

What this means in practice

→ refer to the table on facing page

Doing the maths (how we calculated the total value)

Once each outcome had a credible dollar value, we estimated how many taiohi experienced that outcome during the year. These numbers were based on professional judgements informed through stakeholder interviews, existing organisational data, and verification with the Rānui 135 leadership team.

Total value of outcomes
= \$13,564,709

The total value shown is the projected social value Rānui 135 is expected to create over the next 5 years, based on what happened during the 2024/2025 financial year. We have also made careful adjustments to ensure the estimate is realistic, fair, and not overstated.

Material Outcome	SROI Valuation Method	Proxy Value *
Greater network of support	Revealed Preference: Cost of counselling/youth mentoring (2 hours per week x 40 weeks @ \$120 per hour) = \$9,600 P.A (Source: https://teencounselling.co.nz/)	\$9,120
Improved mental wellbeing	Wellbeing Valuation: for improved social connection (Source: CBAX)	\$2,969
Increased sense of belonging to a community	Wellbeing Valuation: volunteership (\$745) and sports club membership (Source: CBAX)	\$1,692
Greater sense of self	Wellbeing Valuation: Cultural expression 0-5 scale - general population (Source: CBAX)	\$3,657
Greater ability to advance in education, work, or training	Revealed Preference: Cost of a comparable employment and leadership programme to provide professional opportunities for Māori and Pasifika (Tupu Toa).	\$6,300
Developed leadership skills	Revealed Preference: Cost of a comparable leadership programme to equip Māori with the skills and confidence to step into leadership and governance roles (Te Ara ki Matangireia).	\$4,680

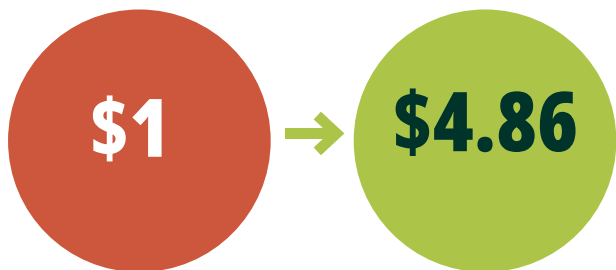
* Proxy value after accounting for depth of change experienced.

CALCULATING THE SROI RATIO

What the ratio shows

The SROI ratio shows how much social value is created for every \$1 invested in the mahi of Rānui 135.

For every \$1 invested, Rānui 135 generates \$4.86 in social value



This reflects the real-life impact of taiohi feeling supported, connected, confident, and empowered to achieve their future aspirations.

How we calculated it

The ratio is calculated by comparing:

Total Social Value Created ÷ Total Investment Total

Present Value of Benefits

(over 5 years, after adjustment) = \$13,564,709

Total Inputs (funding, staffing, resources, community contributions) = \$2,789,430

SROI Ratio = \$4.86 of social value for every \$1 invested

Why you can trust this number

To ensure the results were credible and realistic, we used:

- **NZ-based valuation data, wherever possible**
- **Discount filters** (e.g., deadweight/counterfactual, displacement, attribution, drop-off)
- **Sensitivity testing** to ensure the ratio holds under different scenarios
- **Transparent methodology**
- **Balanced assumptions** tested through sensitivity modelling
- **The number was also internationally assured by Social Value International.**

This means that the value is **not overstated**.



HOW TO INTERPRET THE RATIO

- 1. The ratio is context-specific, not comparative.**
The ratio reflects the specific context, needs, and operating environment of Rānui 135 and should not be compared to other ratios.
- 2. The ratio reflects the stakeholders and outcomes in the scope of this analysis.** This analysis focussed on taiohi aged 13-18, however Rānui 135 works with a wide range of ages and there are likely secondary benefits for other stakeholders such as whānau and community. Future studies with more resource should explore these additional areas of value that have not been captured in this analysis
- 3. The ratio should always be read alongside the Theory of Change and stories of impact** to understand the full picture.

The ratio strengthens the story – it does not replace it

ORGANISATIONAL INSIGHTS

What makes Rānui 135's approach effective?

1

Culturally grounded, relationship-centred youth development

Rānui135's impact begins with trusted, consistent relationships that honour the identities and lived realities of their taiohi. Youth workers create safe, culturally affirming spaces and co-develop activities with taiohi, enabling them to build belonging, identity, confidence, and agency. This relationship-centred approach is the foundation for meaningful and sustained change.

3

Long-term, relationship-based youth work

Relationships at Rānui 135 are not time-bound or programme-limited. Youth workers stay connected with taiohi for years, often beginning in intermediate school and continuing into adulthood.

4

Long-term leadership creates stability

With over 30 years of experience in the community, Rānui 135's leaders provide consistency and strong role-modelling. Their willingness to keep learning and growing alongside taiohi creates an environment where taiohi feel safe, valued, and inspired to lead.

2

Youth workers reflect the community they serve

Youth workers often come from the same neighbourhoods, whakapapa, and cultural worlds as the taiohi, creating immediate rapport, shared understanding and authentic belonging.



There is nothing more powerful than your story being told by people who live in and work in your community, and have grown up being part of an organisation that they now run... We need to invest in our local leaders... we worked for 10 years for free, building credibility, reputation, and achieving the outcomes that funders would pay for but doing it in our own way... if your org is set up with a good foundation of leadership in there, that knows what they're doing, they invest back into the community."

— Zee, co-founder

CLOSING REFLECTION

Rānui135 has shown that youth development rooted in culture, relationships, and local leadership delivers transformational impact. The organisation's unique strength lies in its ability to grow its own leaders. Taiohi who once walked through its doors now return as youth workers, mentors, and role models for the next generation.





Acknowledgements

Hands for Impact are deeply grateful to the youth workers and taiohi of Rānui 135 for their trust and honest kōrero about their experiences and the impacts in their lives. We also thank the Rānui 135 team for their input and walking with us through this journey.

All photos used in this publication are credited to Rānui 135.

Disclaimer

Hands for Impact has agreed to undertake this SROI Evaluation and produce the Report for the Client (non-profit charitable organisation) on the terms and conditions contained in a Pro Bono SROI Report Agreement. Although every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the material and the integrity of the analysis presented herein, Hands For Impact accepts no liability for any actions taken on the basis of the contents of this report.

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