

# Making a Difference

An Evaluation of Otago Community Trust's  
Rangatahi-Led Fund

February 2024

*“I couldn't believe it was real... it's rare for kids  
to have control of money, funding.”*

Mātāwai



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## SUMMARY

We're delighted to present this report on the Rangatahi-Led Fund to the Otago Community Trust. Throughout the evaluation process, we gained a strong sense of how meaningful people found their experiences with the fund (from rōpū members to staff and trustees to grant recipients). This fund is making a difference across Otago, particularly for young people, through a process of genuinely handing over power and supporting rōpū to make considered, values-driven funding decisions for their local communities.

For many of the young people we spoke with, the experience was more than the sum of its parts. They held responsibility for a significant amount of money, learnt first-hand how the funding system works, built strong connections, and developed the confidence to give other things a try and explore new pathways. OCT invested considerable time, care and expertise in forming diverse groups of emerging leaders and in facilitating the group experience to make it as empowering and supportive as possible. Brought together, these elements gave rangatahi a transformative experience of connection with their communities that wouldn't have happened with a more directive or restricted approach.

What struck us most in the evaluation is the way that the effort to give young people autonomy sits in relationship to the wisdom and experience that OCT can offer – thoughtfulness is needed to know when to lean in and when to lean out. There is some tension in this process of reciprocity (ako), which young people, staff and trustees explore through reflective practice. As was sometimes found, we don't always get it totally right when working in these dynamic, reflective ways. However, it is precisely this tension and ability to reflect on what is happening that we would encourage OCT to embrace. As soon as a set of rules is locked in place that each group has to apply in a certain way, the magic will be lost. We acknowledge that this is hard work that requires trust and a commitment to work with those we have with us at the table. The reward is seeing rangatahi grow and feel validated as young people who can support other young people and make a difference in their communities.

Anna Parker and Mary McLaughlin

**Mātāwai**

# INTRODUCTION

## About the Rangatahi-Led Fund

In April 2021, Otago Community Trust (OCT) launched its Tamariki and Rangatahi Strategy, ring-fencing up to \$10 million over five years to support initiatives aligned with the strategy.

The strategy was based on the 2019 report [Impact for Youth Otago](#) (Mātāwai, Gemma Griffin Consulting), which highlighted the importance of supporting youth-led initiatives. Alongside a desire from OCT trustees to trial new funding approaches, this led to the Rangatahi-Led Fund being included in a suite of new funds offered under the Tamariki and Rangatahi Strategy.

The Rangatahi-Led Fund takes a participatory philanthropy approach to grant-making. In this model, funding decisions are owned by the communities that receive the funds. Decisions for this fund are made by rōpū of young people set up in four areas across the region.

## Fund intent

The intent of the fund is to support projects for rangatahi, led by rangatahi, with virtually everything about the fund being determined by rangatahi.

Trustees were determined to empower the young people leading the fund to set the direction of the fund for their area and to lead the funding decisions.

## Fund objectives

- **Invest in and develop rangatahi** – both rōpū members and applicants. The focus is less about the outcomes of the funded projects and more about giving rangatahi new opportunities and elevating their voice.
- **Test a new approach to granting.**
- **Step into the world of rangatahi.** The fund helps OCT to understand what is important to young people, how they communicate, and what they want to see in their community. These insights will inform the trust's wider granting activity.

## Purpose of this evaluation

This report was commissioned after the first year of operation for the Rangatahi-Led Fund. The Trust asked us to review and evaluate the fund to guide its future actions and share its story with others in philanthropy.

The evaluation brief is below:

- Understand the experience of the rangatahi members of the rōpū.
- Reflect on the experience of staff and trustees and how the fund has or hasn't shaped views or future funding behaviours.
- Guide our future activity in this space. Is the fund worthwhile and should it continue? What might we do differently in the future?
- Provide other funders with practical understanding of what needs to be done to run a fund of this kind.

## Who we are

[Mātāwai](#) is a Dunedin-based consultancy that has the privilege of working with a diverse range of community groups in Otago.

Our focus at Mātāwai is to unleash the potential of people, groups and communities to create a better city and region. Our work covers capability building, strategy, evaluation, research and project management.

# RESEARCH PROCESS

## Development of evaluation framework

The first part of this project focused on developing an evaluation framework for the Rangatahi-Led Fund.

We interviewed staff to gain an understanding of the values that drove the fund and what those look like in action. We also reviewed reports, fund collateral, internal documentation and data. From this research, we developed an evaluation framework, setting out the fund's values, describing what those values look like in action, and offering questions to help OCT review and develop the fund.

The draft evaluation framework was workshopped with key staff and refined in response to their feedback.

## Data gathering

### Focus groups and interviews

We ran focus groups with members of each rōpū (four focus groups in total).

OCT provided contact details for active rōpū members (with their permission), and we engaged with them directly to seek their participation. All focus groups were conducted online, and we sent participants a koha pack of snacks as manaaki for their participation.

Using the evaluation framework, we developed open-ended interview questions as a starting point for the focus groups. These questions were shared with participants before we met. At the start of each focus group, we checked how they liked to open their meetings – each focus group was then opened with karakia and we spent some time on introductions. The conversations were supported by an active listening approach where we sense-checked by reflecting participants' responses back to them.

In addition to the staff interviews, we interviewed the chair of the Tamariki and Rangatahi Subcommittee, which supported staff in developing and designing the fund.

We took verbatim notes during the focus group conversations and interviews, which were later analysed using a narrative approach to draw out themes.

## **Survey**

To understand the fund's impact in communities, we conducted an online survey of grant recipients. We developed the survey to be as accessible as possible, with opportunities for both short and long answers.

The survey data is presented under the heading "What did grant recipients say" (p. 21), and the questions themselves are in Appendix 6.

## **Analysis and report writing**

We conducted a narrative analysis of the themes that emerged from the data-gathering phase. We systematically used the evaluative framework as a guide for this analysis.

To share the voices and direct perspectives of rangatahi, we use anonymised quotes from the focus groups, survey and interviews throughout the report. The quotes have been lightly edited for clarity.

We also conducted a light analysis of the funding data provided by staff. See "Funding data".

This report incorporates background information about the fund and the story of the process, which was provided by staff. It supports one of the aims of the evaluation, which is to share with other funders a practical understanding of what needs to be done to run a fund of this kind. We have used this content where appropriate in the report, editing and refining it as needed.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

### Value and celebrate what you achieved here!

Being involved in this fund was a profound experience for rangatahi. It has significant ripple effects both in local communities and in the lives of the young people involved. OCT can truly celebrate the work achieved by the rōpū and staff, the projects enabled by this funding, and the Board's commitment to the rangatahi and tamariki of Otago.

*"I'm super passionate about the fund and how amazing it is."*

### Embed the fund and review it regularly

We recommend that OCT embed the Rangatahi-Led Fund into its funding structure. The fund should be regularly reviewed to ensure it is fit for purpose and resourced sufficiently to meet its aspirations.

We note that youth development and participatory grant-making principles are deliberately built into all aspects of the fund. This requires a reflective, dynamic approach from staff, trustees and participants, with an open willingness to learn from each other and adapt. We recommend OCT continue this approach and build opportunities for reflection and adaptation into its ongoing development.

*"Yes, absolutely. There's a need for it."*

### Continue to honour Te Tiriti o Waitangi and strengthen relationships with mana whenua

We acknowledge that OCT is committed to honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi and building strong, authentic relationships with mana whenua. We recommend that the Board and staff continue to invest time and resources in this work.

We recommend that OCT work to engage and maintain the participation of mana whenua rangatahi. We heard from young people that this would strengthen the integrity of rōpū. We also recommend that a partnership approach be taken for any substantive review of the Tamariki and Rangatahi Strategy.

*"Our values may have looked really different if mana whenua had been involved."*



## **Keep the values of power sharing and ako alive**

The power to make decisions that create change in their communities was the most rewarding aspect of being involved in the fund for the young people we spoke with. It is clear that the Board and staff share this commitment to giving young people power and genuinely learning from each other. Sustaining these values will protect the integrity of the fund and ensure it evolves in positive ways.

## **Continue to resource groups in each area**

Rangatahi we spoke with were adamant that having four regional groups is critical to the success of the fund. Young people know their local communities and what is needed there – and rōpū members deeply valued the experience of being able to contribute to their communities.

The point was also made that a region-wide approach might see a disproportionate amount of funding going to Dunedin where there are more opportunities for young people. We recommend that OCT continue to resource the four regional groups rather than moving to a region-wide model.

*“It would have failed miserably if it was one whole thing. Being connected to your community is where the benefit was.”*

*“Having an Otago-wide group could work but you wouldn’t be able to get such detailed understanding of our own communities. You wouldn’t get those amazing results.”*

## **Continue staffing commitments**

The success of the fund rests in large part on the intentional careful relationships that staff built with rangatahi and on the background work staff did to ensure rangatahi could focus on the most meaningful parts of managing the funds. This work, which is grounded in positive youth development practices, takes time and expertise.

We recommend that the staffing commitment be maintained to ensure the quality of the fund endures, and that OCT continues to recruit staff who have high levels of cultural competency and are versed in te ao Māori. We note the value of having a small staffing team that can facilitate together and check in with each other as part of the iterative process of developing the fund.

*“If it hadn’t been people I trust and felt comfortable with, I probably wouldn’t have done it.”*

## **Build diversity to strengthen outcomes**

The young people we spoke with felt strongly that the diversity around the table ensured their groups made good decisions and were rewarding experiences. We understand that the Board and staff prioritised diversity in the selection of rōpū members, and we encourage you to continue this commitment. Connecting and working with the communities that diverse young people are part of is an important part of ensuring this is a safe and well-supported process.

## **Support young people to develop their cultural capability**

The opportunity for personal and professional development was an important part of being involved in the fund for rangatahi. Based on our conversations, we recommend that OCT provide Te Tiriti o Waitangi training for rōpū members, both as an investment in the future for young people and as a way of developing a shared knowledge base for rōpū.

## **Share the success stories**

Some of the feedback we had suggested that more could be done to share the stories of what OCT has achieved with this fund. We recommend that OCT consider investing in quality storytelling and photography/videography so that profiles of rangatahi, project stories and insights about participatory grant-making can be shared more widely and have greater impact.

## **Take a tuakana-teina approach to succession planning**

One of the issues discussed in our interviews and focus groups was succession planning for the rōpū – how to find the right balance of new and ongoing members of the group in the coming year. We recommend that succession and transition processes be developed with each rōpū, recognising that the approach might be different for each group and from year to year.

We recommend that OCT work with rangatahi to develop tuakana-teina relationships, an opportunity that many of last year's rōpū members are enthusiastic about and keen to support. We also recommend that OCT explore possibilities for expanding the roles of current members or bringing them into new roles. Examples might be rōpū facilitation, marketing and promotion.

*“If we're available, we could send them an email, have a visit and a kōrero. We're now the tuakana for our teina.”*

*“If I was new, I would really appreciate people who have been there before me to guide but not sway opinions.”*

*“As long as the thought to help people is still there... People will be connected and it will go from there.”*

## **Reflect on how the fund could shape OCT views and practices**

This evaluation process provides an opportunity to reflect on the processes and approaches involved with the Rangatahi-Led Fund and to see how they might be applied to other aspects of OCT’s funding system.

We encourage OCT to take some time to collectively reflect on the key elements of the Rangatahi-Led Fund and the value that working in this way added to the overall outcomes. What could be taken from this approach and applied to other aspects of OCT’s work? We recommend that this reflection be done collectively in a structured, facilitated way.

## FEEDBACK ON OPERATIONAL PROCESSES

Rangatahi offered their thoughts on some of the more operational aspects of the fund. Staff may wish to consider some of these suggestions as they refine the fund's operation in 2024 and beyond:

- Where possible, have a consistent day and venue for the rōpū meetings. Rangatahi noted the effect that the environment can have on the dynamics of the meeting, so this is something to reflect on with rōpū members early in the process.
- Keep valuing manaakitanga – offering kai and supporting young people's wellbeing is an important part of the process.
- Keep providing opportunities for fun and activity as part of rōpū meetings – these are critical for building relationships, giving young people the confidence to voice their opinions, and strengthening the cohesion and momentum of the groups.
- Create and encourage opportunities for rangatahi to connect socially, particularly in the early stages of establishing rōpū.
- Encourage rōpū to think creatively about their promotion of the fund. Look for opportunities to connect in person with communities as part of fund promotion (eg. information evenings).
- Consider further opportunities to develop young people's professional skills and resources. For example, you could offer rōpū members training, mentoring, headshots and CV advice.
- Broaden the relationships and contact that OCT trustees and staff have with rōpū to strengthen young people's sense that they are an integral part of OCT's operation. Trustees have a strong understanding of their local communities and networks – these could also be of value to rōpū members as they navigate fund processes and decision-making.

*“We're young – sometimes we get fidgety.”*

*“We promoted it, but it was the first time – we were slow to get people to know about it. We might need more time to explore things we can use to promote it.”*

## EVALUATION

In this section, we reflect on the first year of the Rangatahi-Led Fund and assess it against the evaluation framework.

### Community change

*The Rangatahi-Led Fund resources young people to create the change they want to see in their communities.*

*Initiatives supported by the fund make their communities more fulfilling places for young people.*

*Young people value the decisions they make together and see them as meaningful contributions.*

It became very clear through the process of this evaluation that the Rangatahi-Led Fund makes a significant difference in communities. In our analysis, it is the process that is the game-changer more than the specific outcomes of individual projects. This aligns strongly with the stated intent of the fund.

The focus of the fund is not necessarily to resource large-scale community projects that will have a significant or lasting impact on the quality of young people's lives – although this may well happen. Rather, the fund creates community change through culture change. It seeds the idea that young people can be decision-makers and agents of change in their communities – that their voices matter and there is a pathway that values and resources their ideas and aspirations. Participatory grant-making led by young people for young people is growing confidence among young people as active citizens in our region. We would like to pose a question for the Board and staff – having seen this impact in the first year of the fund, what might be meaningful indicators of culture change over time?

Rōpū members all felt very confident about the value of the projects they invested in, while our survey of grant recipients indicated they also saw their projects as making a difference in their communities. Rōpū thought deeply about the applications and used their collective values and criteria to guide their decisions. They also acknowledged that it's the young people doing projects that are the "mastermind behind it all".

While the amounts being offered through this fund may not seem huge to those embedded in the funding system, young people see the amounts as being of great value (both the totals for each community and the amounts granted to individual projects). They know what young people can achieve with a few hundred or a few thousand dollars, and understand the real difference it

makes to young people when they can afford the resources they need to run a project. For a relatively small investment in relation to its overall budget, OCT is making a significant difference in the lives of the region's young people and their communities.

To safeguard the quality of the fund and ensure it continues to make the real difference the OCT board and staff are looking for, it is critical to maintain its integrity as youth-led – both in its organisation and in the projects it funds. If it became a fund for adult-led organisations that work with young people, its impact and value would be diminished.

The Rangatahi-Led Fund also has the potential to reshape the relationship the wider community has with OCT. As a new generation of young people comes to expect to act as partners in community change, it may encourage more dynamic and less transactional relationships with OCT across the community sector.

*“[OCT] chose people from the community they were going to fund. They knew we knew our community best and what would be of most benefit.”*

*“It was remarkable that OCT was letting young people handle a large amount of money – it was bold to give us that trust.”*

*“I struggle with being the ones to give the money because it makes me feel like we're 'above', but I don't think we were – we waited for the right projects to come to us, the right people for the right reasons. We're just the guardians of the money, making sure it goes to the right people for the right reasons.”*

*“What was most impactful was hearing why she wanted to do it – she came from Tauranga and it was a bit of a culture shock coming down here. She felt like children were missing out if they wanted to learn te reo or tikanga and she wanted to help out.”*

*“In Wānaka, there hasn't been that opportunity for young people to go out there and do their thing, be who they want to be.”*

*“Young people often get overlooked by bigger organisations and businesses – rangatahi can make a big difference.”*

## Ako | Reflective learning

*Ako represents the reciprocal relationship between teacher and learner.*

*The fund is an opportunity for OCT to enter into participatory grant-making through learning by doing.*

*Te Tiriti o Waitangi is honoured in the development and practice of the fund.*

*The fund challenges and extends mainstream funding models, values and assumptions.*

*Curiosity, experimentation, evidence building and reflective practice are encouraged for both rangatahi and OCT staff/trustees.*

*The fund provides opportunities to learn from and contribute to local communities and national networks.*

The strength of the Rangatahi-Led Fund is grounded in the concept of ako, a more complex understanding of the relationship between teacher and learner, adults and young people. A key theme that came through our conversations was that this concept was consistently apparent in the way the fund operated.

Staff and rōpū members spoke warmly of a developmental, adaptable approach in which young people taught as much as they learnt and there was enough flexibility and freedom to shape processes to fit the strengths of rōpū and their communities rather than operating with a fixed set of criteria. We strongly recommend keeping this value alive in the fund.

Young people were surprised, in a good way, that they were given the power to make decisions about a significant pūtea. This redistribution of power and decision-making authority had a profound effect on the young people involved. They consciously stepped up into roles of responsibility, discovered new things about themselves as leaders, and grew an appreciation for their communities. They also learnt new things about the places and young people they lived alongside.

Rōpū members all spoke very highly of the support they were given by OCT staff, which made this experience possible. They described how staff built their confidence with encouragement and support when they were uncertain and also pulled back to create the space for autonomy, agency and independent decision-making. All views were encouraged, and young people found it most helpful that they weren't judged or criticised for putting divergent views on the table. This encouraged a culture of speaking up – and speaking their mind. Young people said they would take this confidence into other aspects of their lives and leadership.

We also heard that OCT learnt a lot in the process and staff were given the freedom to innovate, iterate and experiment. Staff embodied the roles of navigator, facilitator and learner – while

working from best practice models such as positive youth development to guide their engagement with young people. They also harnessed learning from other participatory grant-making funds as they worked with young people to build a new process, founded on strong principles and strategic intent. One of the strengths of having two staff involved with the fund is that they were able to reflect on their experiences together and talk through issues as they arose. It was also clear that rōpū members appreciated the broader skill set two people bring to an operation.

This experience appears to have been deeply satisfying and meaningful for those involved while also making a difference in communities. OCT can now offer reflections and contributions to this emerging sector.

We understand that Te Tiriti relationships were prioritised in the development of the fund, and note that OCT needs to continue to strengthen these relationships. As the fund develops over the coming year, it will be critical to maintain the engagement of mana whenua and tāngata whenua in the rōpū.

It's also worth noting that young people picked up important professional knowledge and skills through their experiences with the fund – how to participate in meetings, how the funding system works, practical skills like emailing, the importance of effective communication and promotion, relationship-building and connections, how to deal with people from big organisations, and how to apply for funding!

*“I didn't realise how little I knew about leadership and about how to work better in a group.”*

*“I couldn't believe it was real. In Wānaka, it's rare for kids to have control of money, funding.”*

*“At the first meeting, we were blown away by how much we had to give away to the community. We could see that we could make impactful change in our community.”*

*“It's nice how trusted we were as kids to manage such a big amount of money.”*

*“It was cool to learn how funds really work. I never knew the system. In future if I need to fundraise, I'll know how it works and who to turn to.”*

*“It was an in-depth look at how finances work at a local scale.”*

*“It was impressive to see behind the doors of how to run a fund, what work it takes. Going into economics, I will go in with knowledge and understanding. How to get out of the sticky bits before we get into them.”*



## Whakamana | Growing rangatahi leadership

*Being on a fund rōpū gives young people a supported experience of power and responsibility as decision-makers.*

*It provides rich opportunities for young people to experience themselves as community leaders and builds their confidence, courage, bravery and resilience.*

*The fund rōpū determine their own values, pou and outcomes – and can see how these frame and guide their decision-making.*

*The fund gives rangatahi (rōpū members and grantees) new opportunities and elevates their voices.*

Whakamana, growing rangatahi leadership is one of the strengths of the fund. The young people who joined rōpū didn't necessarily view themselves as leaders going in – and OCT deliberately recruited for potential rather than people who were already thriving in leadership roles. However, through being involved with the fund, many young people discovered their own leadership qualities and preferred ways of working. Meanwhile, young people who were already on a leadership trajectory had this experience strengthened and broadened. They came into contact with other young people outside their usual social circles and took on new levels of responsibility.

Rangatahi reported that other leadership opportunities and responsibilities developed out of what they learned as part of the fund and through the connections that were made. Some of these opportunities emerged organically as young people grew in confidence and built relationships. OCT staff also actively supported young people to connect with other organisations and leaders, opening up opportunities that will lay a strong foundation for their careers, service to community and personal growth. Several young people said the experience actively shaped their choices about what to study at university/in tertiary education.

OCT staff and trustees worked hard to navigate the legal requirements of their trust deed to hand over as much decision-making power as possible to the rangatahi involved. This level of authority gave real meaning to the funding decisions that young people grappled with. It was identified that in a couple of cases, rōpū made a funding decision that didn't fully align with trustee values. It would be worth exploring this tension and how to navigate funding decisions that trustees have concerns about. Is there a way to honour the authority of rōpū while also embracing the idea of ako – that young people and OCT will always need to learn from each other?

Another area that could be studied further is the experience of the young people who didn't stay engaged with local rōpū. Their fellow rōpū members theorised that this was mostly to do with the time available and the many demands in young people's lives. However, this is conjecture, and it wasn't possible for this evaluation to engage or make contact with the rangatahi who left rōpū. One challenging situation shared in a focus group was that a young mana whenua representative

reportedly reflected dissatisfaction with the values a rōpū had developed as the values did not reflect their worldview, and they hadn't been present at the values session. Maintaining, fostering and supporting engagement by rangatahi will be ongoing work for staff.

It would also be worth learning more about the experience of those turned down for funding. Those who received funding for their projects had a very positive, uplifting experience. It would also be useful to think about the impact on those who are turned down for funding. OCT could consider how it supports these young people by having strengths-based conversations and offering different pathways or next steps for applicants who are declined.

*“I was always very confident. But through this, I developed even more confidence and developed connections that are very dear to me.”*

*“I always knew I was good at these things at school, but expanding beyond that and taking it into the community really pushed me. I always knew I had a drive for community, but this showed me how deep this is for me.”*

*“We need young people that really want to be involved in the community to be on the committee... We need a team of people who care about the community and want to help.”*

*“It's a great bounty to be able to do this – we were chosen and people had the confidence in us to be able to do this.”*

*“Lots of us had been on committees, but this was a whole other world. It tilted the path I'm on, really amazing.”*

*“At our local school, there isn't that much opportunity to be professional on that sort of scale. It was really quite a cool professional manner we were able to operate in.”*

*“We do this in our personal time – it proves we are all really enthusiastic about it.”*

*“Us all being passionate about it was good. You know you're not the only kid in Central who likes this stuff.”*

*“I've reflected a lot on how we have this money and we have to be responsible with how we use it to fit with the kaupapa of our values.”*

**What did you learn about yourself as a leader that you didn't already know?**

*“How important it is to work with people in a group for a collective goal – how that is more inspiring than working on your own. How inspiring it is to have a goal and work towards it together.”*

*“I found it valuable because everyone in the room was equal and had something to say. We all felt like we were friends even though we are very different. I think that’s what leadership should be – being a team player and making sure you communicate, making sure the quiet ones in the room have their say and contribute.”*

## **Whakawhanaungatanga | Building connections**

*The fund helps rangatahi connect with each other and their communities and environments.*

*The networks and connections developed through the fund have lasting impact.*

*OCT ensures that meeting processes are safe and empowering.*

*The fund prioritises exciting ideas, creativity and fun – both for rōpū members and grantees.*

*OCT values and acknowledges youth contributions, recognising this in practical real-life ways.*

Young people’s experiences of the group process were very positive. They described a supportive process, where their opinions were valued and they felt safe to speak up. Each rōpū experienced this positive and supportive group culture and attributed it to the facilitation and coordination by OCT staff.

Strong connections developed between rōpū members. For some groups these connections became particularly meaningful, and one participant described this as becoming “whānau”. Participants put the strength of some of the connections they made with each other down to the quality of the process they were engaged in and the diversity of the rōpū. Several participants suggested that their diversity was a strength, that they might never have come into contact with the other young people in their rōpū in daily life.

While fostering whanaungatanga was a strength of the fund’s process, some young people asked for even more opportunities to connect with each other. They felt this would be especially helpful in the early stages of building the group process, and that they could manage it more themselves as time went on. Social connection was seen as being as important as connection while doing the mahi.

The value of connections built through the fund extended to the wider community. Grant applications gave young people opportunities to learn more about their local communities and the activities and initiatives happening in them. The experience of being a part of the fund also opened up wider community connections, further voluntary and service opportunities, and career

pathways. All the young people we spoke to could name a particular opportunity that had emerged due to their participation in the fund. Those young people who live in regional towns and rural communities felt that being part of the rōpū helped make their place in the world seem “bigger”. The lasting impact of some of these connections and career pathways could be measured over time by tracking where rōpū members end up in subsequent years.

Young people did express a desire for more contact with recipients both during and after the funding cycle. Some participants suggested they would have liked to know more about how events and activities they funded had gone, and they would have liked to interact more with grant applicants during the process of decision-making. They talked about how having a connection to the applicants really made a difference to their understanding of the applicants’ aspirations and what they were trying to achieve.

Greater connection could also be part of marketing/promoting the fund – an example given was holding an evening event to talk about the fund with the local community. Many young people suggested that they could have told the story of the fund more effectively, and now that their confidence has grown they would know how to approach that better.

A strength of the fund is the strong and intentional group process that OCT staff developed. Staff might want to leave a very clear pathway of what they did in the set-up for each meeting – how they designed those meetings to ensure the connections worked, and what youth development practices informed the process. Having the right staffing team to inspire and facilitate youth engagement appears key.

*“In the beginning I was nervous – we had to start with criteria, businessy things. Once we got the hard stuff out of the way and got to look at ideas, that felt meaningful – that was where we got to connect with others and see what they’ve done.”*

*“When we had applicants we knew – we could give some insight about the person and why they were applying for the fund.”*

*“People from different communities coming together – it was a chance to connect with other kids from different schools, see their perspectives on things.”*

*“Locally it opened up the opportunities available. When friends and other kids found out about the fund, they’d ask me about it – lots of groups talked to me that I wouldn’t have heard about otherwise. Luckily, I’ve been able to be part of this.”*

*“A good thing about having students involved is that we can tell people about it. We could spread the word about other things OCT has going on already.”*

*“In a few years when this has come off the ground and people know about it – the year 9s who know a little bit about it now will know more when they are year 11.”*

*“Once, we had the girl who applied on the call. It was calmer because we were all youth from the same area and we all liked the idea too.”*

*“It was cool to meet in person. The longer days were really quite productive, putting in the mahi. Bonding over food, getting to know each other on that personal level. Zooms were short and sweet but productive too. Lots of fun.”*

**What kept you coming to the group?**

*“My team. I got excited – there are other people out there who want to make a difference, we’re all in this waka together, we’re whānau together.”*

## **Diversity and accessibility**

*The fund provides opportunities and a sense of connection and belonging for rangatahi of all cultures, ethnicities and abilities.*

*The fund actively connects with diverse and priority communities to identify young people with potential and skills to offer.*

*The fund provides the opportunity for OCT to have meaningful relationships with diverse youth communities who may not otherwise connect with OCT.*

Having a diverse, representative rōpū was a key part of the project. Young people reported that this is where the magic happened. Bringing together diverse rōpū not only enriched the group experience, it also meant that funding decisions were robust and the decision makers were representative of their communities.

OCT staff actively recruited for rōpū – the process was not just an application form. They activated local networks and organisations in the search for rangatahi who might be interested. Staff were clear that they were not simply looking for the obvious leaders in a community or school, but for young people who might have the potential to contribute. This approach is

time-intensive and bespoke to each community and will need to remain this way to ensure diversity in future rōpu.

OCT needs to continue the staff resourcing to do this well and to fully value the depth of community knowledge and relationship that is needed to do this recruitment well, particularly in regional communities.

The main barrier young people reported experiencing was finding the time to participate. The spaces that they met in also often shaped the group experience so this remains something to be mindful of. OCT needs to continue to learn from the experience of the young people who don't remain engaged with rōpū – to examine what adaptations are needed to build accessibility and remove barriers to participation. These will also be lessons that are of value to the participatory funding sector more broadly.

Successful grant applicants reported that the application process was accessible and easy to navigate. Having someone available to speak to on the phone or in person was important. It is fairly rare that we see such unequivocally positive feedback about a grant application process – well done! As with other aspects of the fund, there are powerful lessons here about what makes the funding system more accessible and friendly.

As a final point, rōpū members commented on the diversity of projects they were able to support – and how this contributes to building communities that are supportive and engaging for all the young people who live in them. The breadth of projects can be seen in Appendix 3 – this list is a meaningful reflection of the rich and varied lives and aspirations of Otago's young people.

*“One of the things that hooked onto me – it wasn't a hand out, it was a hand up. We were the ones in control of the criteria, decision-making. Some of the bigger corporations might forget that because they have so much. Because we had less to work with, we were very mindful about finding the people that needed a hand up.”*

*“Support, knowing you've got someone to back you up, believes in you. A lot of young people won't have that, having a community behind you.”*

*“Wānaka is quite sports-based. It was cool to be able to support more arts, creative stuff that doesn't always get support.”*

*“There's huge power in people making decisions for funds that affect them. It's so important to make sure there's a diverse group of people making decisions.” (Trustee)*

# WHAT DID GRANT RECIPIENTS SAY?

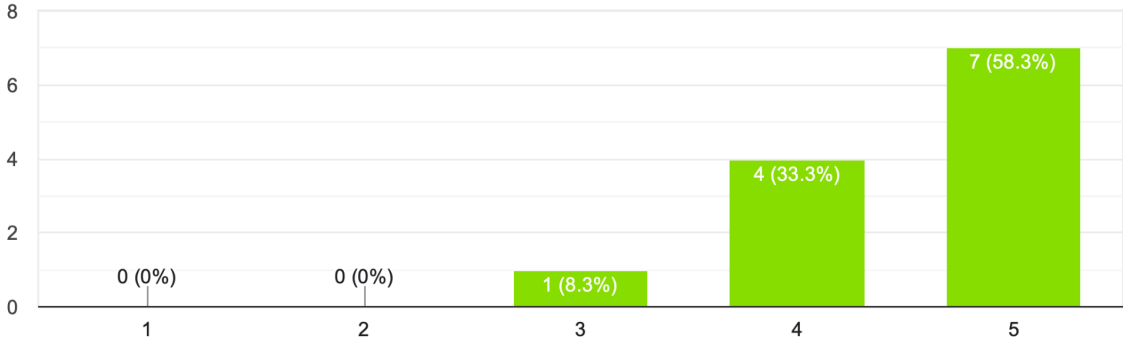
We surveyed grant recipients about the fund. Here’s what our respondents told us.

- This was a great introduction to the funding system! It was the first time applying for funding for all of our respondents. Most people heard about the fund through word of mouth, and respondents found the application process straightforward and easy. The simple language was a big plus.
- The funding took some of the stress out of creating projects and “made it possible”. It meant they could afford resources, access opportunities and do things more professionally. Recipients were able to start new projects or expand a project to reach more young people. Most of the projects are ongoing.
- When asked “Did the fund make a difference to what you were doing”, 92% of respondents gave a score of 4 or 5 (The fund was a total game-changer).
- When asked about the impact of their project in their community, 83% of respondents scored this at 4 or 5 (It’s made a big difference).

**Every respondent said they would “absolutely” recommend the fund to others.**

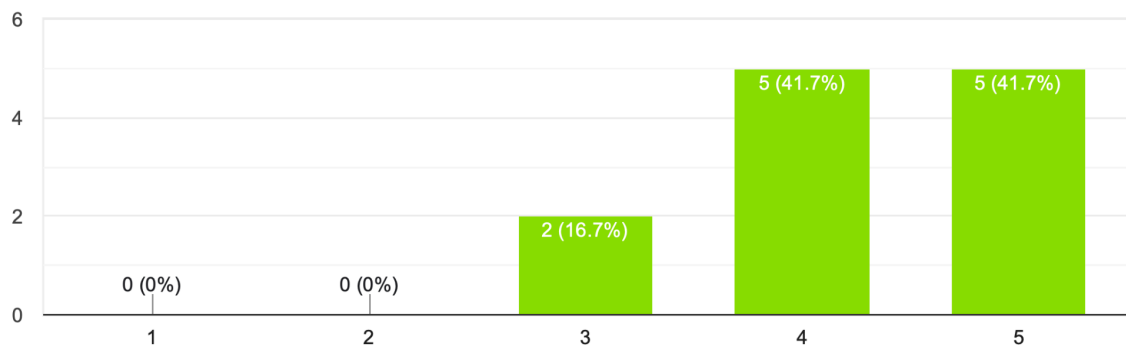
Did the fund make a difference to what you were doing?

12 responses



How do you feel about the impact of your project in your community?

12 responses



*“The funding has allowed us to move ahead and get others inspired and to help give our future leaders the skills they need in their kete.”*

*“It was so much fun - Ngā mihi nui.”*



## FUNDING DATA

Region	Number of applications	Number of grants	Total amount requested	Total amount granted	Grant amounts (range)	Applicant ages (range)
Ōtepoti Dunedin	10	8	\$42,210	\$25,000	\$500-\$4,500	10-24yrs
North Otago	10	5	\$47,490	\$20,420	\$1,240-\$5,000	12-17yrs
South Otago	3	2	\$10,500	\$7,500	\$2,500-\$5,000	12-24yrs
Central Otago	6	4	\$18,500	\$14,400	\$3,000-\$5,000	14-17yrs
<b>Totals</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>\$118,700</b>	<b>\$67,320</b>	<b>\$500-\$5000</b>	<b>10-24yrs</b>

While funding was spread across the region, both demand and the amounts granted were higher in Ōtepoti Dunedin and North Otago than in South Otago and Central Otago.

Ōtepoti Dunedin had the biggest range of grant amounts (from \$500 to \$4,500) and the biggest age range of recipients (10-24 years).

Of the 29 applicants for funding, around two-thirds (19) received funding. The demand for funding was close to double the amount granted.

It will be worth tracking demand to see whether an increase in the funding pool is justified, taking into account the extent to which proposed projects meet the funding criteria. In this funding round, South Otago and Central Otago came closest to meeting the demand in their areas. Demand was highest in North Otago, where 10 groups requested \$47,490 in funding. Of these applicants, five received funding, totalling \$20,420.

Grants were provided to groups from the following priority communities:

- Māori
- New Migrants/Former Refugees
- Rainbow community
- Living rurally or in isolation

## TUAKANA/TEINA ADVICE

We asked rōpū members what advice they would have for young people thinking about joining a rōpū. Here's what they said:

- It's transformative – do it while you are still young.
- Do a lot of personal reflection – be clear about why you want to join.
- Stick with it! It might seem boring at the start but it's worth it.
- You become whānau.
- Connect with each other outside of the fund – get a coffee together!
- Come as yourself. You don't have to feel like a leader to be part of this. Inside, everyone is a leader but in their own ways.
- Voice your opinions and be comfortable sharing your thoughts. It's a safe space and you will be respected.
- Keep an open mind. No group is just what they say on paper. Think about what they're really trying to solve and what the issue is at hand.
- It takes some maturity because it is a lot of money.

*“It gave me confidence to share my mind and to not just agree with others.”*

## TIPS FOR DEVELOPING A YOUTH-LED FUND

As we did this evaluation, it became clear that there are some key elements that made the fund a success, that brought the magic. Here are the top tips we've distilled from our conversations with rangatahi, staff and trustees.

- Invest in the relationships. The relationships are everything and this takes time.
- Give over as much power as possible. Wherever possible, encourage and support rangatahi to lead processes and give them full authority in their decision-making. Make sure rōpū have the tools and resources they need, and maintain the supportive role of staff and the Board in the background.
- Recruit for diversity and potential.
- Not every group has to be the same – let them reflect their community and the rangatahi involved.
- Understand that this isn't just grant-making – it's youth and community development. Be prepared to put in the time it takes to do that well.
- Manaakitanga – be very intentional about your meeting processes to engage and nurture young people.
- Be prepared to learn and adapt along the way – take a developmental approach.
- Trust the process. The impact won't always be seen most in the projects themselves – it's the culture you're creating.
- Create space for young people to put their energy where it's most useful. Building relationships, sharing ideas, making decisions – not admin!
- Understand that young people are part of their community – trust their experience and knowledge, recognise all the connections they hold.

# APPENDIX 1: HOW THE FUND WAS SET UP

## Planning and development

The success of the Rangatahi-Led Fund rests in large part on the meaningful engagement with young people right from the outset.

Before establishing the fund, OCT engaged with rangatahi and organisations in the youth sector. The Community Engagement Advisor met with all youth councils in the region, including Te Pae Māhuri (Dunedin's Māori Youth Council). Pacific youth were engaged through the Mercy Centre of Learning. Staff explained the fund concept and asked rangatahi how they would set up a group to develop the fund.

Most rangatahi recommended establishing four groups across the region rather than having one group responsible for the fund across all of Otago. Given Otago's and regional differences, rangatahi felt this approach would allow them to take ownership of the fund for their local area. They felt that having local groups would make it easier to meet in person, helping them make the connections required to create the fund.

Staff consulted other funders working on similar youth-led funding projects to gain insights from their experiences. In particular, they learnt from the TiraRangatahi group from Eastern and Central Community Trust and Te Rourou One Aotearoa Foundation. TiraRangatahi generously allowed the rōpū to modify and use their application form, which the rangatahi greatly appreciated.

## Recruiting rangatahi

A key message in early engagement was that our communities have many young leaders who may not be the obvious choice for this kind of project – they may not be youth council members or school leaders, they may not consider themselves leaders at all. Staff were urged to find these rangatahi.

Recruiting groups to design and deliver the Rangatahi-Led Fund was not an open process. Instead, community leaders from the Trust's priority communities were asked to identify rangatahi who they felt were natural leaders within their community. Organisations put forward young leaders from within their community and their recommendations were trusted. In some areas, staff also asked high schools to identify young leaders for the group.

Four groups were established across Otago: Ōtepoti Dunedin, North Otago, South Otago and Central Otago. Each group had six to nine members with representation from most of OCT's priority communities.

## Facilitating the process

The Rangatahi-Led Fund groups were facilitated and supported by Jo Taylor and Liz Harburg. Liz is the Community Engagement Advisor for the Trust and leads the Tamariki and Rangatahi Strategy. Jo was contracted to the Trust to work on this project. She brought vital skills and experience in youth development and knowledge of tikanga and Te Ao Māori.

## Running the hui

The groups met regularly to design their funds. North Otago and Ōtepoti met for about six months as these groups were responsible for establishing the foundations of the fund. They created the application form and assessment process and chose the branding and graphic design. With these foundations in place, the South and Central Otago groups only needed to meet over a two-month period.

Each group was responsible for:

- defining their fund criteria (working within OCT grant policies)
- creating content for their promotional materials
- promoting the fund within their communities
- reviewing applications and making funding recommendations.

The hui gave rangatahi a process and time to work through key issues in developing and running the fund:

- Staff talked about the purpose of the Rangatahi-Led Fund and shared the OCT story.
- They gave an overview of philanthropy and the funding process.
- Each group established values to guide their work, decisions and interactions with each other.
- Each group created a process for managing conflicts of interest when assessing applications and making recommendations.
- Each group established their fund criteria.
- Groups refined the [application form](#) and worked with a graphic designer to develop branding and marketing materials.
- Each rōpū reviewed and assessed applications, asking applicants for more information if needed.

- In some cases, the rōpū met applicants in person to find out more about their application.
- The rōpū made funding recommendations on the applications received. These were then considered and ratified by OCT trustees.

## **Allocating and distributing funding**

The Board allocated up to \$100,000 to the fund, and each group was responsible for distributing \$25,000 in their area. Rangatahi could apply for up to \$5,000 for each project.

Each group defined their own fund criteria. Clear themes across all funds were connection, community, culture and diversity.

Rangatahi also wanted to see projects that had potential for ongoing impact, within the constraints of the funding available. They didn't want to fund one-off events that were "just for fun".

Rangatahi were very clear that they wanted the applications to come from rangatahi themselves, not from adults working with them.

All funds used the same application form. It was an online form that asked for minimal information as the groups hoped to meet with the applicants to understand their projects and help them where needed.

## **Rōpū decision-making authority**

OCT put considerable effort into ensuring that rōpū members had as much power as possible when making funding decisions for the Rangatahi-Led Fund.

Legal advice was sought on whether OCT's Trust Deed would allow full delegation of decision-making to the rangatahi, but unfortunately this was not possible within the Deed. Instead, the rōpū made funding recommendations to a subcommittee of five trustees who had delegated authority to ratify, or otherwise, the rōpū recommendations. This subcommittee was able to meet outside of board meeting schedules to consider the Rangatahi-Led Fund applications, ensuring a quick turnaround on decisions.

## Koha

People we spoke to emphasised the importance of remunerating rangatahi for their time and contribution. All members of the Rangatahi-Led group received a \$50 Prezzy card for every hui they attended.

## Reporting and feedback

Grantees are asked to provide a brief report on their event or project, but OCT does not prescribe how this should be provided. To date, grantees have reported back in various forms, including:

- a summary of the event and how it went via email
- photos
- thank you cards
- articles from school newsletters
- social media posts.

As these are received, they are shared with rōpū members and through OCT's social media and newsletters. The host organisation is also asked to provide basic financial reporting on the grant. One rōpū commented that they would like to see project reports even if they come in after the rōpū has wound up for the year.

## APPENDIX 2: RŌPŪ VALUES

### Ōtepoti Dunedin

- We **communicate openly** and **honestly**
- With **bravery** and **creative** open minds, we **support** young people to achieve
- We are committed to **our environment** and our **communities** growth and wellbeing
- We work with our communities to ensure opportunities are **accessible**

### North Otago

- We are driven, motivated, hard working and committed to service
- We are genuine, humble, selfless and kind in all our interactions with all others
- We are committed to developing the infinite potential of our selves and all other rangatahi
- We are brave, courageous and resilient honouring the principle of Manawanui
- We enjoy our endeavours, bringing fun and humour to our mahi

### South Otago

- Aroha – Love
- Manawakaitutae – Bravery
- Whakapono – Honesty, trust, conviction
- Creativity
- Tino rangatiratanga – autonomy
- Whanaungatanga – relationships
- We honour Te Tiriti – Mana Whenua, Mana Tauwiwi

### Central Otago

- Enthusiasm & passion
- Open-mindedness
- Transparency
- Kindness
- Determination and commitment
- Diversity



## APPENDIX 3: GRANTS

### Ōtepoti Dunedin

**8 projects funded, total of \$25,000**

#### **Passion, Pitch, Enrich (Transition to Work Trust) – \$3,000**

Passion, Pitch, Enrich is a one day show for you to showcase your passion in three minutes and receive further support in the form of resources, mentorship or connections. Think Shark Tank meets the Arts. [Pitch Your Passion Youth Event](#)

#### **Hold On To Your Friends – \$4,000**

Creating a “Flat Chat” video series to be released via YouTube and other social media platforms to spark a conversation around student safety in Dunedin. [Hold On To Your Friends](#)

#### **Rangatahi Events at Yours (Blue Oyster Arts Trust) – \$4,100**

A series of three all ages gigs to be held at the venue [“Yours” in Dunedin CBD](#)

#### **Dunedin Pride Youth Ball (Dunedin Pride) – \$4,500**

A ball for under 18 queer and gender diverse rangatahi. [Dunedin Pride](#)

#### **Wheako Fair (Greater Green Island Community Network) – \$500**

A group of nine Concord Primary students who are working with youth GGICN Youth Worker to run a fair for students at their school.

#### **Multicultural Intelligence Development (Otago Girls High School) – \$3,400**

An event to teach/train high school girls to understand and respond to complex, multicultural situations. Including speakers and cultural performances.

#### **Youth Networking and Dialogue Session (Pakistan Association of Otago) – \$2,500**

A networking session between youth, senior civil servants and leaders in the private sector. Aims to foster collaboration and exchange of ideas between youth and experienced professionals.

#### **TANK – Trans and nonbinary kids (Able Minds Southern) – \$3,000**

TANK is a safe space for trans and gender diverse youth to connect, the funding is for games and resources and speakers for their regular TANK meetings.

## North Otago

5 projects funded, total of \$20,420

### [Waitaki Boys Running 72 \(Waitaki Boys High School\)](#) – \$1,420

Organising a community event like Relay for Life to raise awareness for men's mental health. The event will feature a guest speaker, food, and entertainment, with teams walking and running for 24 hours.

### **Flowy Jump Track in Herbert Forest (North Otago Mountain Biking) – \$5,000**

Creating a mountain bike track suitable for children and rangatahi. The rangatahi will also be involved in designing and building the track, allowing them to learn new skills.

### **Friday Night Games Night (Oamaru Youth Centre) – \$4,000**

Providing equipment and resources to facilitate weekly games nights for rangatahi at the Oamaru Youth Centre, promoting social interaction.

### [Te Kura Manaaki \(Te Whare Koa Charitable Trust\)](#) – \$5,000

Organising events to teach tikanga and te reo to other tamariki, fostering whanaungatanga through sports, waiata, kemu, and promoting a deeper understanding of Māori culture.

### **SNCO Jackpots Equipment (Strath Taieri A&P Society) – \$5,000**

Acquiring equipment (bending poles and roping dummy) for youth Jackpots events and training, enhancing skill development opportunities.

## South Otago

2 projects funded, total of \$7,500

### **Creating a space for rangatahi at Te Pou O Mata-Au ([Clutha Community Hub Charitable Trust](#)) – \$5,000**

Creating a place/space for rangatahi to connect and hang out in the new Te Pou O Mata-Au to give opportunities for youth to develop their own groups or use the space for whatever youth-led project they may be a part of that do not have their own allocated space.

### **William Pike Challenge Group ([Rosebank Primary School](#)) – \$2,500**

A program for students to learn more about themselves and to push themselves outside their comfort zone. The challenge is in three parts: Physical Challenge, Passion Project and Community Service.

## Central Otago

**4 projects funded, total of \$14,400**

### **Dunstan Legacy Project (Dunstan High School) – \$2,000**

A student-led initiative to address food inequity through a lunch and breakfast programme called “Whawhai Matekai” which means fighting hunger.

### **Rodeo Youth Camp (NZ Rodeo Cowboys Association) – \$5,000**

The youth committee of the NZRCA are coordinating a three-day youth camp with rangatahi from both Australia and New Zealand, with clinics with carefully selected coaches, aiming to broaden their education, knowledge and social circle.

### **Cromwell Presbyterian Youth Group (Cromwell Presbyterian Church) – \$2,400**

To support weekly activities of the youth group and regular camps and meetings with other youth groups in the region.

### **Upper Clutha Youth Council (Kahu Youth) – \$5,000**

Contribution towards a mural in the new Kahu Youth Centre. Rangatahi will be involved in all aspects of the mural design and painting through weekend art workshops.

## APPENDIX 4: EVALUATIVE FRAMEWORK

CORE VALUES	Community change	Ako   Reflective learning	Whakamana   Growing rangatahi leadership	Whakawhanaungatanga   Building connections	Diversity and accessibility
<p><b>WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?</b></p>	<p>The Rangatahi-Led Fund resources young people to create the change they want to see in their communities. Initiatives supported by the fund make their communities more fulfilling places for young people. Young people value the decisions they make together and see them as meaningful contributions.</p>	<p>Ako represents the reciprocal relationship between teacher and learner. The fund is an opportunity for OCT to enter into participatory grant-making through learning by doing. Te Tiriti o Waitangi is honoured in the development and practice of the fund. The fund challenges and extends mainstream funding models, values and assumptions. Curiosity, experimentation, evidence building and reflective practice are encouraged for both rangatahi and OCT staff/trustees. The fund provides opportunities to learn from and contribute to local communities and national networks.</p>	<p>Being on a fund rōpū gives young people a supported experience of power and responsibility as decision-makers. It provides rich opportunities for young people to experience themselves as community leaders and builds their confidence, courage, bravery and resilience. The fund rōpū determine their own values, pou and outcomes – and can see how these frame and guide their decision-making. The fund gives rangatahi (rōpū members and grantees) new opportunities and elevates their voices.</p>	<p>The fund helps rangatahi connect with each other and their communities and environments. The networks and connections developed through the fund have lasting impact. OCT ensures that meeting processes are safe and empowering. The fund prioritises exciting ideas, creativity and fun – both for rōpū members and grantees. OCT values and acknowledges youth contributions, recognising this in practical real-life ways.</p>	<p>The fund provides opportunities and a sense of connection and belonging for rangatahi of all cultures, ethnicities and abilities. The fund actively connects with diverse and priority communities to identify young people with potential and skills to offer. The fund provides the opportunity for OCT to have meaningful relationships with diverse youth communities who may not otherwise connect with OCT.</p>

<p><b>HOW WILL WE KNOW?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What evidence is there that the fund's work/decisions have the potential to create change in communities?</i></li> <li>• <i>What value do communities and young people see in the fund's decisions and investments?</i></li> <li>• <i>What are the strengths and challenges of this funding model?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How is Te Tiriti o Waitangi reflected in the fund?</i></li> <li>• <i>What evidence is there that learning and sharing were central to the fund?</i></li> <li>• <i>How was the team (trustees, staff and rūpū) supported to learn by doing?</i></li> <li>• <i>What was the experience of working with a participatory model like?</i></li> <li>• <i>What further changes and adaptations can now be identified?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What sort of power did young people have as decision-makers?</i></li> <li>• <i>How were positive youth development models reflected in the set up of the fund?</i></li> <li>• <i>What collective frameworks and shared responsibilities did young people develop?</i></li> <li>• <i>What learning and leadership roles do young people describe from their experience of the fund?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What did young people learn about working together?</i></li> <li>• <i>What connections, networks and opportunities have developed for young people through the fund?</i></li> <li>• <i>How were meetings run and what did young people like the most about being part of the process?</i></li> <li>• <i>How were contributions valued and recognised?</i></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>What mechanisms were in place to ensure accessibility?</i></li> <li>• <i>What did young people learn about others through their involvement with the fund?</i></li> <li>• <i>What networks and relationships were needed to ensure representative rūpū?</i></li> <li>• <i>Are there any ongoing barriers to representation?</i></li> <li>• <i>Who else needs to be included and what relationships are needed for this to be possible?</i></li> </ul>
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## APPENDIX 5: INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

We developed open-ended guiding questions to use as a starting point for our focus groups. The focus groups were conversational and we adapted some questions to the young people in the group.

- What excited you about the decisions you got to make?
- Did you see/participate in any of the activities or initiatives you funded? How do you think these went? Were they valuable to your community?
- In your experience, how is Te Tiriti o Waitangi reflected in the fund?
- What did you most value about being a part of a different kind of funding process?
- Are there any changes you would like to see?
- What did you learn from your involvement with the fund, and what did you have to share?
- What did you learn about yourself as a leader that you didn't already know?
- What advice would you give other young people as they step into a role like this?
- What connections or other opportunities have emerged for you through the fund?
- How were meetings run, and what did you like the most about being part of the process?
- What did you learn about others through your involvement with the fund?
- How easy was it for you to take part in the fund?
- Were there any difficulties or challenges for your involvement?

## APPENDIX 6: SURVEY QUESTIONS

How did you learn about the fund and what inspired you to apply?

Which of these statements are true for your project? (tick all that apply)

- The fund helped support our existing project
- The fund inspired us to start a new project
- Our project could not have happened without this funding
- Our project was a one-off
- Our project is ongoing

Was this the first time you had personally applied for funding?

- Yes
- No

What was the application process like? Is there anything you would change about the process?

How did the funding help your project? Could you share one highlight?

Would you recommend the fund to others?

- 1 = No, not at all
- 5 = Yes, absolutely

Did the fund make a difference to what you were doing?

- 1 = It would have been the same without the fund
- 5 = The fund was a total game-changer

How do you feel about the impact of your project in your community?

- 1 = It hasn't made any difference
- 5 = It's made a big difference

Do you have any other comments or questions? Would you like us to get in touch with you for a further conversation? If so, please leave your email or phone number :-)