

CHIEF EXECUTIVE DR RUTH GORINSKI'S REPORT TO THE 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF HEART KIDS NZ INCORPORATED

Tēnā koutou katoa te whānau Heart Kids NZ



It is a pleasure to welcome each of you to the 2023 Annual General Meeting of Heart Kids NZ Inc. and to present my report today 20 May 2023. I am so grateful to each of you for your commitment to our organisation in being here. You, our Heart Kids NZ members, volunteers, sponsors and donors, are integral to the success of our charity and I acknowledge each of you for all you do – thank you so very much for your support and commitment to our organisation.

I acknowledge our Board Chair, Donna Jujnovich for her sustained commitment to HKNZ over three decades; and our Board members: Robyn Wickenden, Arna Craig, Katie McCrae, Rachael Lovelock, Ashlee McCormick, Steve Abley and Neven Harland who each generously give of their time to provide governance oversight of our organization. Thank you so much for your selfless commitment to our charity.

I thank the Heart Kids NZ Senior Leadership Team and staff for their unwavering devotion to our mission. Our staff consistently put heart kids and their whānau first; they serve with respect and compassion; they are passionate and professional and committed to Heart Kids NZ success. Our Senior Leadership team members demonstrate integrity, passion and talent as they lead Heart Kids NZ into the strong, united organisation that we are collectively building. It is a joy to work with the committed team we have.

2022 was a year of unrelenting focus on our vision and mission – a Vision-First Mindset

In 2022 Heart Kids NZ membership grew from 10,189 members to 10,951 – that's an increase of 762 members – indicative of the great need for our services. Over the year, every decision we made was driven by our vision:

All people affected by congenital heart disease and heart disease acquired during childhood will feel fully supported, connected, informed and hopeful for the future.

The foremost challenge was of course COVID-19. Our staff rose to the occasion, showing how efficient, agile, and resilient Heart Kids NZ truly is. Hospital staff continued to support our families on the ward via contactless deliveries

of groceries and gifts, while community taituarā pivoted to zoom murmurs, phone calls, text messages etc to maintain important contact when face to face to delivery was not possible.

In the face of the global pandemic, the Heart Kids NZ community of heroes – staff, volunteers, supporters, partners and directors – were tireless, compassionate and generous. In other words, it was business-as-usual for our charity. That is why, despite the restrictions of the pandemic, non-face to face contacts were still made with over 13,000 clients.

We currently have 18 Taituarā - 2 in Starship and the balance in the community, as well as 7 Support Service Coordinators working across Aotearoa NZ supporting whānau. We also have our engagement team working relentlessly to fundraise to support our mahi. Our team are driven by the vision of ensuring all our members feel supported, connected, informed and hopeful for the future.

Our Impact - What have we done?

Heart Kids NZ service provision takes care of practical and emotional things to ease the challenges associated with having a heart difference. The past year, while our income was down on projected budget, we in fact increased our support across all our work streams. The following provides an overview of our impact in 2022.

- ✓ 2,971 family support visits were conducted at home, in hospital or at other meeting places, in addition to the 13,205 non face to face contacts.
- ✓ 182 Murmurs coffee groups were held nationwide.
- ✓ 200 financial assistance grants were made to heart whānau.
- ✓ 268 care packages were delivered to heart whānau.
- ✓ 16 bereavement kits were given to awahi our heart members.
- ✓ 332 birthday cards and gifts were delivered to heart clients.
- ✓ 1402 distributed tickets (variety show) were provided to heart members.
- ✓ 25 Coaguheck machines distributed to members.
- ✓ Over 800 heart members attended a range of family events.
- ✓ Our first on-line Education Forum held over four nights with an average of 60 people each night attending.
- ✓ Appointment of HKNZ first Adult Community Taituarā
- ✓ HKNZ authorship in several research publications
- ✓ HKNZ brochures revamped, and new collateral developed.
- ✓ Virtual HKNZ Bravehearts and Teenbeat camps January 2022
- ✓ Collaboration with the Children and Young People's Collective (seven charities including Starship Foundation, Ronald McDonald House Charity, Kidney Kids, Canteen, Make a Wish, Child Cancer)

Our People

56% of our membership is 16 years or older and 44% is aged 0-16 years. Approximately 92% of our members have a CHD and 8% an acquired heart disease such as rheumatic heart disease (RHD). As we extend our reach in the RHD community, we are seeing a gradual rise in the number of RHD members. Our membership is still predominantly NZ European, and it is encouraging to welcome an increased number of Māori and Pasifika members.

Heart members are located across the motu from Northland to Bluff. We have 16 branches in:

- ✓ Northland
- ✓ Auckland
- ✓ Waikato
- ✓ Bay of Plenty
- ✓ Rotorua/Taupō
- ✓ Taranaki
- ✓ Hawkes Bay/Gisborne
- ✓ Manawatū/Whānganui
- ✓ Wellington

- ✓ Nelson/Marlborough
- ✓ West Coast
- ✓ Canterbury
- ✓ South Canterbury
- ✓ Central Otago
- ✓ Otago and
- ✓ Southland

Heart Kids NZ Partners, Supporters, Sponsors

I am extremely grateful to our donors and sponsors for your continued contribution to, and support of Heart Kids NZ throughout a particularly challenging year. Without your generosity and continued financial contribution, we would not be in the position we are to provide the scope of service delivery that is possible today.

We have a plethora of supporters, as well as community heart heroes and trusts and foundations who support us. The full list is documented in the Annual Report, however, noteworthy here are:

Key Supporters

Supercheap Auto
 360 Logistics
 Wynn Williams
 Momentum Life
 NZ Toy Distributors Assoc.
 Liz & Paul Blackwell
 Uplift in Kind
 Lion Foundation
 Corporate Challenge
 Neilson IQ
 BP

Providers of Significant Grants

Lindsay Foundation, Newman's Own Foundation and Rata Foundation who funded our HKNZ camps
 Lion Foundation
 Lottery Community Board
 Pub Charity
 Procure Foundation
 Aotea Gaming Trust
 Nikau Foundation

Community Heart Heroes

Greg McAllister
 Bunnings

Fundraising Initiatives

Lake Taupo Cycle Challenge
 Giving Tuesday
 Christmas Giving
 Awareness Week

Our 2022 Campaigns

Little Heart Day
 Heart Stopper

We feel immensely grateful for the support of everyday Kiwis who loyally support Heart Kids NZ. We are thankful for our corporate partners and their relentless support during what was another unusual year. While the global pandemic has not been easy to watch, Heart Kids NZ is emerging with increased resilience and energy to address the challenges ahead. With the experience of three plus decades behind us, we look forward to continuing our quest for increased economic growth and sustainability, equitable access and service delivery, strengthened collaborative endeavour and operational excellence.

My sincerest thanks to all our partners, sponsors, supporters, volunteers, Board members, heart kid members and staff – you all work to provide hope for the future of our Heart Kids whānau and I appreciate each of you.

Ahakoā he manawa tipua, he manawa nō Rongo

**Although my heart is different, my ability to love
remains the same.**

Ngā mihi nui



**Dr Ruth Gorinski
Chief Executive
Heart Kids NZ**