



COLLABORATIVE
AOTEAROA

NGĀ HONONGA ORA

Conference 2025 Report

Executive Summary

Ngā Hononga Ora – The Collaborative Aotearoa Conference 2025 was a powerful gathering of hearts, minds, and purpose. Held across two inspiring days at Tākina Event Centre in Wellington, and grounded by the warmth of noho marae at Pipitea, the conference brought together thought leaders and changemakers from across the motu to uplift whānau wellbeing and strengthen our collective impact in primary and community healthcare.

The event welcomed 208 attendees, including 39 noho marae manuhiri, who embraced the opportunity to connect deeply through shared kai, waiata, kōrero, and Te ao Māori. Across the two days, 55 speakers delivered engaging main stage talks, interactive workshops, and wānanga sessions that reflected the conference's three kaupapa: **whanaungatanga, model of care innovation, and digital enablement**. We were proud to be supported by 17 sponsors, whose generosity enabled a high-quality, mana-enhancing experience for all.

From the opening pōwhiri to the closing waiata, the conference was a celebration of innovation, equity, and the transformative potential of collaboration.

Ngā Hononga Ora wasn't just an event – it was a movement. One that reaffirmed our shared commitment to system enhancement, manaakitanga, and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi in every aspect of our mahi. It left us inspired, energised, and more connected than ever.





208

Attendees



39

Noho marae
maunhiri



55

Speakers



17

Sponsors

Presenters



The speakers and presenters at Ngā Hononga Ora brought a wealth of expertise and insight from across the primary and community care sector. With backgrounds spanning frontline practice, policy, research, and community leadership, each speaker contributed valuable perspectives grounded in real-world experience. What stood out was the diversity in how knowledge was shared – from data-driven presentations and breakout workshops to thought-provoking innovations and case studies. This mix allowed attendees to engage with a broad spectrum of ideas and examples, all directly relevant to the challenges and opportunities facing our mahi. This was a conference shaped by those doing the work, and their contributions made it both highly relevant and deeply impactful.

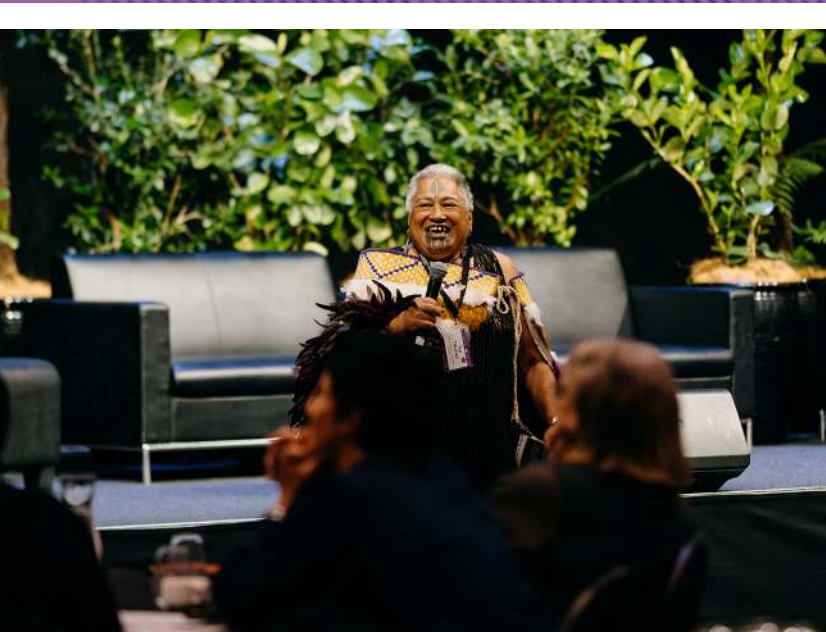


Panel Sessions

The panel sessions provided a valuable platform for robust, thought-provoking kōrero across a wide range of topics. These dynamic discussions brought together diverse voices and perspectives, encouraging honest reflection, challenging assumptions, and sparking new ideas. They created space for dialogue that was both strategic and grounded in lived realities, allowing attendees to engage with complex issues in a collective and open-hearted way.

The panels were a powerful reminder that progress happens through conversation — and that our strength lies in our ability to listen, question, and learn together.





Honouring the mana of lived experience was at the heart of Ngā Hononga Ora, bringing a depth of wairua that could be felt throughout the entire conference.

The voices and presence of those with lived experience reminded us why we do this mahi and grounded our conversations in authenticity, compassion, and real-world impact. Their leadership didn't just inform the kaupapa — it infused it with meaning, connection, and courage.

Collaborative Aotearoa is incredibly proud to be guided by CLEAR, the Collaborative Lived Experience Advisor Rōpū, whose insights and strength continue to shape our direction and hold us accountable to the communities we serve.





The noho marae experience at Pipitea Marae was a standout highlight of the conference, creating a deeply connected and inclusive space grounded in te ao Māori. Gathering under one roof to sleep, waiata, share kai, and engage in kōrero fostered a strong sense of whanaungatanga and collective purpose.

Feedback consistently reflected how much attendees valued the opportunity to build authentic relationships in a setting that honoured tikanga Māori. The noho marae brought people together not just as professionals, but as whānau – reinforcing that the way we come together is as important as the content we share.



Ngā Hononga Ora Conference
4-5 April 2025

Sponsors and Stall Holders



We were so proud to partner with an incredible array of sponsors who helped bring Ngā Hononga Ora to life. Their support was instrumental in making this conference possible – we quite simply could not have done it without them. From funding key elements of Ngā Hononga Ora, to supporting the kaupapa behind it, their contribution was felt in every aspect of the experience.

We would like to give a huge shoutout to our amazing stall holders! The energy and openness they brought to the space was unforgettable. Their presence added so much vibrancy and warmth to the conference, turning Tākina into a hub of connection, creativity, and inspiration.

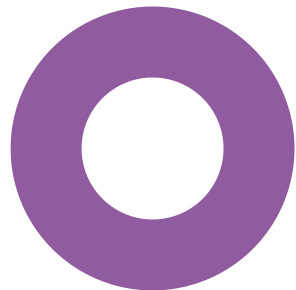
We are incredibly grateful for their tautoko and for helping to make Ngā Hononga Ora such a special and memorable event.

Ngā mihi nui – thank you for collaborating with us!

Survey Results

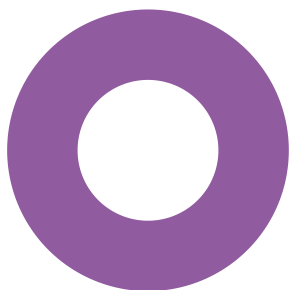


The event ran smoothly



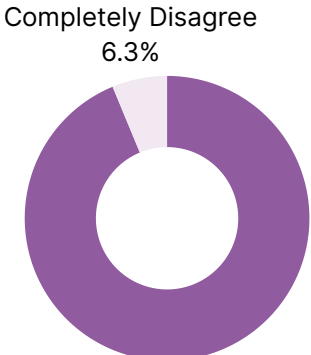
Completely Agree
100%

The event was well organised



Completely Agree
100%

I would recommend this Conference

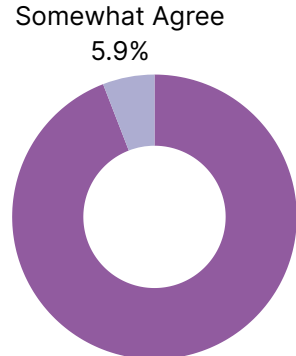


Completely Agree
93.8%

What was the best thing about the Conference?

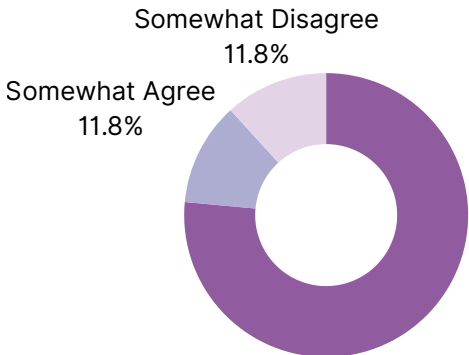
- Innovation and connections
- Good presentations and panels
- Networking
- Noho Marae at Pipitea (x6)
- Hononga!
- Expert views
- Connection with like minded people
- Great mix of speakers
- Kaupapa Māori
- A wide range of attendees
- Excellent organising
- Range of stands
- Improving my te reo Māori vocabulary
- MC Crystal
- Comms leading up to the event - kept well informed
- Whakawhanaungatanga
- Loved the whānau feeling

The event was successful



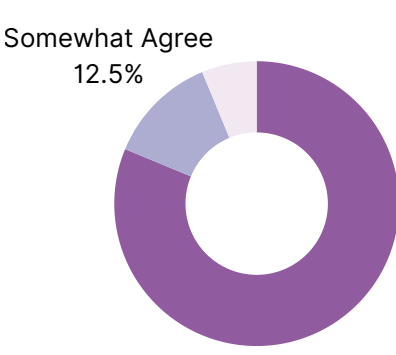
Completely Agree
94.1%

There was a wide selection
of topics covered



Completely Agree
76.5%

I plan on attending the next
Collaborative Aotearoa Conference

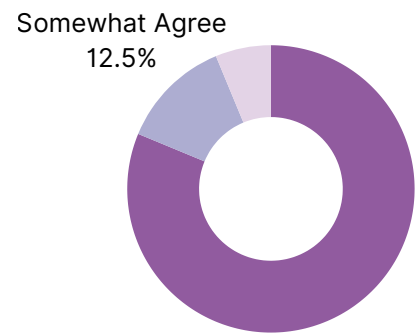


Completely Agree
81.3%

If you have any other feedback, ideas, inspiration
for future speakers and/or topics, fire away.

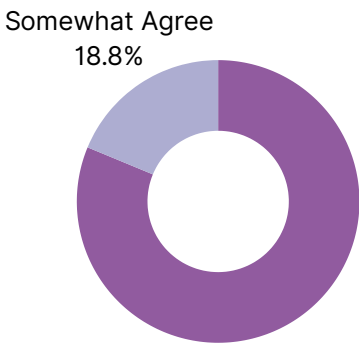
- Future ideas - Workforce wellbeing and development
- Pacific Health
- Difficult conversations - scenario sessions: Reflecting on the great questions the Diversity Panel were asked, so be great to be able to provide some tools, phrases, gems to be able to respond in real life situations
- Loved the lived experience korero & alternative care korero (rokoa) etc
- The right balance of clinical learnings and patient outs and lived experience

I felt inspired by what was shared



Completely Agree
81.3%

I feel inspired to take reflections
back to embed in my mahi



Completely Agree
81.3%

What about the Conference could
have been better?

- A map to find the breakout rooms
- More table chat opportunities
- The temperature
- Have Wifi password on tables
- If on Saturday, end at 1pm
- Less breakouts and have them repeated

Venue & Logistics

Reflections:

- Humanitix was an excellent ticketing solution – smooth and user-friendly
- AV logistics ran extremely well; the Tākina AV team said this was the best-organised event they've worked on
- Some stallholders received low foot traffic
- Parking, accommodation, and catering in the area were expensive and inconvenient

Recommendations:

- Seek venues that are affordable, flexible, and better aligned with our kaupapa (e.g., Te Pae, TSB Arena, marae, town halls)
- Cluster stallholders in high-traffic zones to increase interactions
- Use Humanitix for future events



Programme Design & Structure

Reflections:

- Smaller attendance numbers allowed for a more connected, high-quality experience
- Too many breakout options for the number of attendees
- Impact noted of attendees leaving after lunch

Recommendations:

- Limit to two breakout kaupapa to maintain high energy and strong attendance
- Structure sessions with shorter, sharper presentations
- Place high-impact sessions earlier in the day to capture attention while engagement is strongest
- Integrate tools like Slido or live polls to enhance real-time interaction

Sponsorship & Communication

Reflections:

- Communication was highlighted as a success
- Privacy prevented us from sharing attendee contact info with sponsors
- Koha bottles were well received — more impactful than arrival gift bags
- Our Collaborative Aotearoa stand, 1-pager, and rotating slides were clear and effective

Recommendations:

- Develop a clear and transparent sponsorship package showing benefits
- Use registration opt-ins to allow attendees to consent to sponsor contact



Future Planning & Strategy

Reflections:

- Planning earlier and differently could increase financial sustainability
- Autonomy over venue and logistics is important
- April is a good time for the event
- Noho marae was a success and will be included in future events

Recommendations:

- Begin promotion by Labour Weekend
- Invite abstract submissions.
- Consider hybrid/online access models to increase accessibility
- Select venues where we have more control over cost and logistics
- Refine our audience targeting and messaging for greater clarity

We are thrilled to announce that planning for a 2026
Collaborative Aotearoa event has already started!
Keep up to date by keeping in touch!

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE

<https://collab.org.nz/>

FOLLOW US ON OUR SOCIALS



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