HE REO RANGATAHI



HE AO HURIHURI

ACTION ED ANNUAL REPORT FY26

Remembering Mr Thomas



This year we lost a giant in our poetry community, someone who exemplified what it means to be a Kaiako (teacher), and a dear friend to Action Ed passed away after a short but intense battle with metastasised cancer.

Isaac Thomas or Mr Thomas as he was better known, was an incredible poet and teacher who championed poetry at McAuley High School as a pillar in their English department. It was the McAuley team he assembled in 2014 that won the inaugural Word the Frontline Poetry Slam 12 years ago, another example of the sort of legacy he leaves behind. Not just a teacher, Mr Thomas was also an active advocate and member of the community, sharing powerful words, a staunch supporter of his Ākonga and writer of the most hysterical facebook posts. He was a huge supporter of the arts and professional development within the English Curriculum. While we are saddened by his passing, we hold joy in knowing we can honour his legacy through poetry.

You will be missed but never forgotten Mr Thomas.

Moe mai rā e te rangatira.

ACTION ED

Contents

Who We Are 1

- Vision, Mission, Values 2
- Action Ed 2

Our Village 3

- Trust Board 3
- Our Team 5
- Extended Whānau 9
- WORD The Front Line 2026 Coaches 10

Chair's Message 15

CEO Message 16

The Year in Numbers 18

Our Programmes 19

- WORD The Front Line Tāmaki Makaurau 19
- Spoken Word Workshops 19
- WORD The Front Line Ōtautahi 20
- He Reo Rangatahi 21
- Ngā Toi o Rongo 21
- Community Open Mic Nights SUP 22
- Road to Waitangi 22
- Say It How You Know It 23
- Rangatahi Leadership 24

Highlights of the Year 25

- Involve Conference - Ōtautahi Christchurch 25
- Mahuru Māori Spoken Word Showcase 25
- Splore Festival - Main Stage 26
- Summer in the Square 26

Participant Voices 27

Alumni Feature: Koromiko 29

Acknowledgements 31

Financials 33

Who We Are

Vision, Mission, Values

Action Education is Aotearoa's leading youth development organisation, using Spoken Word Poetry to facilitate life-changing experiences.

Vision	Enable young people to express their authenticity while growing a vibrant community that supports them.
Mission	Our kaupapa is to strengthen identity and develop self-esteem through creative self-expression, using the medium of spoken word.
Values	This set of values reflects who we are, what we do, how we do it, and where we are going.
Kia Ngākau Toi	We fundamentally believe that creativity is essential for wellbeing. Through professional mentorship, we nurture and hone the innate talent of each individual.
Kia Manaaki Tētahi ki Tētahi	We embody manaakitanga, providing a safe, accessible, supportive, non-judgmental space for everyone we engage with, respecting and meeting the needs of each individual.
Kia Hāngai	Young people feel a sense of ownership and belonging. We bring together a community that listens without judgement and values each voice, so individuals feel truly seen.
Kia Pono, Kia Aroha	We consistently deliver on our word, creating safe and supportive spaces with a transparent, genuine, and open-minded approach.
Kia Ngākau Nui	Our priority is the healthy development of young people. We believe vulnerability has power and strength — when modelled safely and authentically by our mentors, giving others permission to follow.
Kia Angitu	Our foundations are strong, built on by generations of passionate and skilled facilitators. Led by the needs of our community and guided by best practice, we evolve and develop over time while maintaining the highest of standards.
Kia Mauri Ora	We bring passion, positivity, and vitality to everything we do. Our energy is infectious and ignites the spark within.

Action Education

Action Ed is an Incorporated Society registered with the Charity Commission, which holds Level 4 Social Services Accreditation through Te Kāhui Kāhu. As stated in our Constitution, our primary purposes as a Society are:

Education: To enhance education and employment outcomes and opportunities for youth and adults through creative facilities, schools and communities, using spoken word poetry, music, visual and multimedia art, and other creative mediums.

Health and Wellbeing: To strengthen identity, developing self-esteem, confidence, and supporting the mental health and holistic wellbeing of youth and adults through providing opportunities for creative expression and personal development.

Community Benefit: To build a vibrant and thriving community that supports its youth and all people, by providing opportunities for creative expression, social gatherings, and being led by the needs of the communities the Society serves — namely Tangata Whenua, Tangata Moana, rainbow, migrant, and refugee communities, and all communities in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Our Village

Trust Board

Action Ed is governed by eight volunteer members drawn from a range of business and professional backgrounds.



Erin Matariki Carr — Chair

Erin Matariki Carr (Ngāi Tūhoe, Ngāti Awa, Pākehā) is a lawyer, scholar, and community educator based in Tāneatua, Bay of Plenty. Matariki dedicates her work to the intergenerational movement of transforming Aotearoa New Zealand's constitution to one that honours Te Tiriti o Waitangi and uplifts the wellbeing of the land and her living systems. She believes that self-expression is a first step in self-determination — that we must know who we are, so that we can best care for ourselves and each other. Matariki is ready to support the work of Action Education in lifting creativity and imagination for rangatahi and community expression, and sees this will in turn nurture our future of tino rangatiratanga and balance in Aotearoa.



Kaajal Kumar — Treasurer

Kaajal Kumar is a partner at Findex, a boutique dedicated to helping businesses make savvy decisions and pinpoint their priorities. With a mission to boost wealth creation — whether through growth, profit enhancement, cash flow improvements, asset protection, or crafting retirement exit strategies — she's got it covered! With 23 years of industry experience under her belt, Kaajal is a pro at navigating various accounting software to find the perfect fit for each business. Her expertise spans several sectors, including medical, hospitality, advertising, construction, property development, wholesale, and retail.



Alice Heather — Secretary

He uri o Ngāti Raukawa ki te Tonga. Alice was a secondary school teacher in Māori medium for thirty years. She has recently retired and is currently pursuing another degree in Kaitiakitanga. As an English teacher, she became passionate about Spoken Word in 2017 as a way for rangatahi to develop their voices to explore their world, passions, and challenges.



Ezekiel Raui

Ko Mātai te Maunga Tapu, ko Hokianga te Moana Nui, ko Ngātokimatawhaorua me Māmari ōku waka, ko Ruanui rāua ko Nukutāwhiti ōku rangatira, ko Motukaraka te marae, ko Ngāi Tūpoto te hapū, ko Te Rarawa me Ngāpuhi ngā iwi.

From attending the White House Tribal Leaders Gathering in Washington, D.C. in 2015, to receiving a medal from Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II at Buckingham Palace in 2018, and being named on the Forbes 30 Under 30 Social Entrepreneurs Asia/Pacific list in 2019, Ezekiel Raui is no stranger to breaking big and thinking outside the box.

Ezekiel grew up in the far North community of Whatuwhiwhi in Doubtless Bay, after his whānau moved north from Tokoroa. He was named Head Boy of Taipa Area School in 2015 and was the first in his whānau to attend university, in 2016, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Business. After completing his degree in 2018, Ezekiel began working for Te Rau Ora as the Programme Lead for Tū Kotahi, a peer-to-peer support programme he co-designed while still at school.

Ezekiel is currently the Chief Executive of Te Rourou, One Aotearoa Foundation, and works to contribute to an equitable Aotearoa for all rangatahi.



John Minty
John is the current owner of the Splore Music and Arts Festival and has been involved with the event since 2006. He has previously worked as a producer, journalist, magazine publisher, and music venue owner. An activist since the early '70s, John was an original associate of the Polynesian Panthers and later served as the editor of the multilingual Mana Newspaper. He has a long-standing interest in spoken word, having supported the South Auckland Poets Collective with their initial activation at Splore 2010, and featuring Rehekōrero at Splore 2024.



Grace Allen
He mokopuna o Punakiao, ko Hinemanu e tārerere nei, kōkiri, tākiri i a Ngaruroro e utaina ki Ōmahu, tiu ake i ngā pae maunga ki ngā wai tuku kiri o Kauangaroa. Mauri ora ki ngā whenua o ngā tīpuna.

Grace's background spans Māori land, corporate tax, and strategic planning as a Chartered Accountant. She has had the privilege of working with Māori organisations over the last nine years, helping them rise to the challenge of meaningfully operating in a values-driven way within a Western regulatory system. In this role, her focus is on the aspirations of the people they serve, and on growing the capability of young people. Ka pupuri mātou i te whāriki aroha mō ngā rangatahi, kia pakari tō rātou ake tū.



Stevie Davis-Tana
Stevie Davis-Tana is a mama, creator, and spoken word poet living in Tāmaki Makaurau. She has a BA and a Masters, has travelled to Canada for an Indigenous writer's residency, and has produced a spoken word poetry visual album. She is passionate about identity, storytelling, and mana motuhake!



Mark Esekielu
Mark Esekielu, Senior Manager for Mental Health and Addictions at Le Va, brings over 29 years of dedicated experience to his role, encompassing the community, social services, and mental health sectors. A New Zealand Samoan, Mark's journey is marked by a deep commitment to supporting youth and developing others. He holds qualifications in Psychology, Child and Adolescent Mental Health, Social Work, and Business, blending his cultural, clinical, and strategic insight.

Raised in Tāmaki Makaurau amidst a vibrant Pasifika community and a large extended Samoan family, Mark's upbringing has profoundly shaped his commitment to working with Pasifika people. His approach is deeply influenced by his Samoan heritage, where the principle of leadership through service — "O le ala i le pule o le tautua" — guides his professional and personal life. With fifty years of life experience, fifteen years of marriage, four children, and four cats, Mark's commitment to his family and community continues to underscore his dedication to fostering environments where individuals, particularly Pasifika youth, can achieve their full potential.

Our Team

Action Ed is run by a dedicated and passionate core team of creatives.

Ramon Narayan
CEO | Poet
Ramon is the CEO of Action Education. He is a poet, DJ, youth worker, and facilitator who has worked with young people for the last 26 years. In 2016 he was honoured with a Local Hero award for his work in the community. He is the co-founder of the South Auckland Poets Collective and co-founder of Word – The Front Line, New Zealand's biggest poetry slam. Youth work and poetry have taken him around the world multiple times. He is the dad of a Greyhound called Maui, a self-confessed vinyl junkie, beer nerd, and cheese addict.



Julia Rahui
Funding and Projects Manager | Co-Secretary
Julia comes from a large Irish and Māori whānau and is passionate about tikanga, hauora, te taiao, social justice, and community connection. Julia holds whakapapa in Te Tai Tokerau (Te Roroa and Ngāpuhi) and is particularly interested in indigenous knowledge and ways of being, and its positive impact on human development and society. Julia works as Action Ed's Funding and Projects Manager, caring for several key stakeholder relationships. She has more than 25 years' experience in the non-profit sector, spanning project management, youth development work, coordination of a community radio station and art gallery, and experience working in Vanuatu for an indigenous music and arts trust. Outside of Action Education, Julia is currently undertaking an apprenticeship in Romiromi and Māori traditional healing, as well as studying taonga pūoro.



Geoff Lawson
Funding Coordinator | Koro
Geoff has supported Action Ed's funding mahi this year following a long corporate career, and more recently nine years as Funding Coordinator for Youthline. He brings a wealth of business experience, knowledge, wisdom, and humour to the mahi we do. Outside of work, Geoff has a strong commitment to whānau — supporting Debra, his wife of 52 years, their three tamariki and their spouses, and six mokopuna. He's a keen home cook who loves walking on beaches, going to the movies, travel, and hanging out with the moko.



Tua Leupolu
Programme Coordinator
Tua is a NZ-born Samoan hailing from the villages of Vaiala/Satitoa-Aleipata and Vailu'utai/Tafatafa-Faleali-li. Tua brings 10 years of experience in administration and a lifetime of experience across the performing arts, community development, and youth sectors. Her background spans programme and academy coordination, event delivery, and creative projects. She is passionate about serving and creating opportunities for young people to connect, grow, and share their stories through the arts, working alongside artists, educators, young people, and community groups to deliver meaningful initiatives that celebrate faith, culture, creativity, and wellbeing. Outside of work, Tua loves all things siva Samoa and can usually be found immersed in cultural events, music, dance, and creative projects that celebrate cultural heritage.



Talia Stanley
Poet | Youth Worker | Facilitation Lead
Talia is a Samoan youth development worker, writer, and spoken word artist from Tāmaki Makaurau. She is the 2024 New Zealand Poetry Slam Champion and has over 13 years of experience as a spoken word poetry facilitator, currently running workshops across the country for Action Education. She has performed at numerous festivals and theatres in Aotearoa and is a three-time JAFA Poetry Slam Finalist.



Ken Arkind
Youth Development Worker | Poet | Author | Graphic Designer
Ken Arkind is a poet and performer with over 20 years of experience as a spoken word arts educator and youth worker. A United States National Poetry Slam Champion, Ken has performed his work and facilitated workshops across the world. He helps produce the NZ National Poetry Slam and is the author of two collections of poetry, having appeared on multiple TEDx stages, HBO, NBA.com, The Huffington Post, TVNZ, and in numerous anthologies. He is deeply passionate about the power of using creativity as a tool for youth development and social change, and believes that art can be a compass we use to navigate the world. He holds a BCA in Creative Writing from MIT, a Post-Grad Diploma in Communication from AUT, and is currently completing a Masters in Fiction at Victoria University.



Hannah Feenstra
Administrator | Organiser | Good Sort
Hannah supports organisations doing great things to achieve their purpose and vision. Her varied career includes work in both the non-profit and business sectors — from conservation, co-housing, and the coffee industry to mobility support services and running her own café. She enjoys the challenge of finding solutions and strategies that support, enable, and empower people. She holds a Bachelor of Health Science from the University of Auckland and a Masters in Entrepreneurship from the University of Otago. In her spare time you'll find her cooking, eating, or exploring Aotearoa's beautiful outdoors.



Eric Soakai
Poet | Youth Development Worker | Facilitator
Eric Soakai (they/him) is a Samoan (Poutasi/Falealili) and Tongan (Pangai/Ha'apai) poet and performance artist, born and based in South Auckland. They are the 2019 National Poetry Slam (NZ) Champion, recipient of the Indigenous Storytelling Residency in Banff, Canada (2020), and have works published and forthcoming in various journals, including the New Zealand Performance Poetry Anthology (AUP 2022). Eric currently works as a poet and youth worker for Action Ed, where they create and facilitate poetry-based workshops for youth across the motu, as a means to pass on the artistic tools that have helped them stand proudly as the person they are today.



Sheldon Rua
Poet | Youth Development Worker | Facilitator
Sheldon is a proud Māori/Samoan (Waikato/Tainui, Sapapali'i) artist and storyteller, deeply rooted in connection and authenticity. With a background in youth work, spoken word poetry, and street dance, he has thrived in Aotearoa's arts community for well over a decade as a performer, mentor, cultural advocate, and community builder. No stranger to the global stage, he has represented Aotearoa at some of the biggest street dance festivals in the world, while working as a poet and facilitator with Action Education, continuing to elevate his craft in his community. His work is driven by a deep commitment to honour our stories, uplift our people, and strengthen our place across the world.

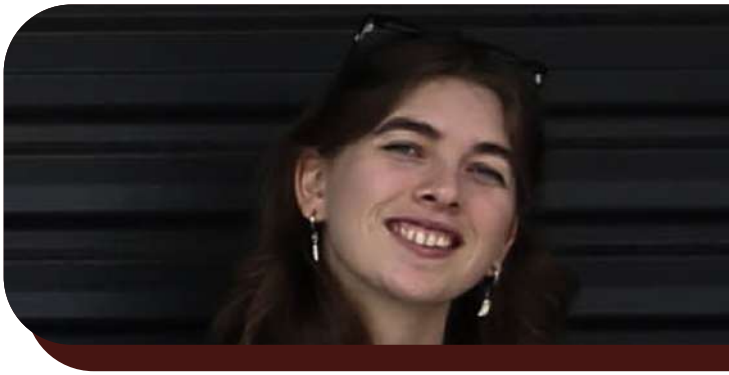


Koromiko Jacob-Williams
Poet | Youth Development Worker | Facilitator
Koromiko Jacob-Williams is a poet, facilitator, aspiring filmmaker, and creative who hails from Tauranga Moana (Ngāiterangi, Ngātiranginui) but currently lives in West Auckland. She is a member of the spoken word poetry group Rehekōrero, who have performed and competed at the New Zealand National Poetry Slam, Laneway Music Festival, Splore Festival, and more. She writes about Te Ao Māori and issues facing her culture, alongside what it's like to be rangatahi and wahine Māori. She's currently studying for a Bachelor of Communications, majoring in film, at AUT, and hopes to write and release a collection of poetry in the future.



Arihia Hall
Poet | Youth Development Worker | Facilitator
Arihia (Ngāti Tukorehe, Ngāti Tūwharetoa) is a kura kid and poet who uses spoken word as a vessel to explore and uplift kaupapa Māori. Her work is deeply rooted in identity and whakapapa, often weaving reo, waiata, and karakia into her writing and performance. Arihia is a member of Ngā Hine Pūkōrero — together, their rōpū have shared their stories across Aotearoa and the globe.

Arihia coached Rehekōrero, the 2023 WORD – The Front Line champions, and her poetry has been published in Pūhia Issues 1 and 2. Beyond the stage, Arihia carries her voice into spaces of advocacy and tikanga. She proudly represented her iwi, Ngāti Tukorehe, at their Treaty of Waitangi claims hearing, speaking to the intergenerational impacts of colonisation and the strength of iwi identity.



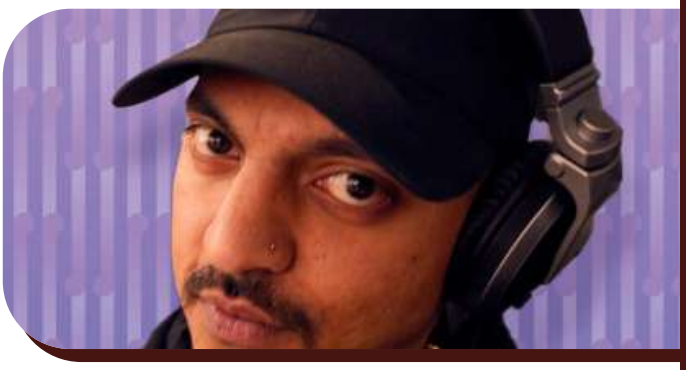
"The point is the poetry, and when we say poetry, we mean the people"



Extended Whānau

Programme & Delivery Support

Kamal Sunker
Social Media Strategy & Delivery



Kamal Sunker has dedicated the past 15 years to creating positive social impact. He spent 10 years working in the not for profit sector before transitioning into public service, where he has spent the past five years designing and delivering programmes that improve outcomes for communities across Tāmaki Makaurau.

He is passionate about equity and believes everyone should have the opportunity to thrive, regardless of their background or circumstances. He enjoys using technology and digital innovation to level the playing field, creating practical solutions that remove barriers and make public programmes more accessible, inclusive and effective for all.

Outside of work, Kamal enjoys photography, music and celebrating the diverse cultures that make Aotearoa unique. Kamal supports Action Ed's social media strategy and delivery.

Luani Nansen
Facilitator & DJ



Luani (aka Nūalan) is a South Auckland DJ and spoken word poet who has been performing since their time at De La Salle College. Blending music and poetry, their work centres on culture, storytelling, and community connection. Alongside their creative practice, Luani works as a youth worker and is passionate about serving and uplifting their community through music, poetry, and mentorship. Outside of Action ed Luani facilitates youth creativity through the Spoken Word Navigators programme with Te Karanga Trust and works both as an artist and part of the arts team for 09 Poetry Slam. They have also been featured for two consecutive years in the Auckland Writers Festival and collaborate with LAKA across community arts spaces.

Koko Telfer
Facilitator & Creative Practitioner



Born and raised in South Auckland, Koko is a proud queer Pasifika poet with whakapapa to Upolu (Samoa), Niue, and Scotland. A Word — The Front Line alumni, Koko has since performed on stages across Tāmaki Makaurau, using poetry as a tool to uplift community while telling stories of being afakasi, diaspora, and grief — and highlighting the joy of their people.

Billy Reynolds McCarthy
Facilitator & Creative Practitioner
Billy is a performing artist born and raised in the heart of Tāmaki. He's found his life passion in the art of storytelling, specifically in the forms of theatre, Haka, screen, and poetry. His poems are always inspired by the need to tell his own stories, both good and bad. He is a member of Rehekōrero. He is a WORD - The Front Line Champion, Trans-Tasman Champion and 09 Poetry Slam Champion!



Jai Selkirk
Facilitator & Creative Practitioner
Jai (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Whātua) is a writer and performer from Māngere, South Auckland by way of Dargaville. He is a WORD - The Front Line Grand Slam Champion, Trans-Tasman Poetry Slam Champion and a NZ Poetry Slam National Finalist. His poem, 'True Story', went viral on social media, receiving over a million views collectively. Known for his unique style of poetry and performance that crosses complex lyricism and visceral storytelling Jai's work covers a wide range of topics. From colonisation, modern land activism, and cultural reclamation to his love for anime and just hanging out with his brothers, his writing is and will continue to be an embodiment of the life that he's living and the people who have lived with him.



Piremina Ngapera
Facilitator & Creative Practitioner
Piremina (Te Rarawa and Ngāpuhi) is an award-winning young Māori spoken word slam poet from Tāmaki Makaurau. A core member of Rehekōrero, a youth slam poetry rōpū formed by students from Ngā Puna o Waiōrea (Western Springs College), Piremina and her group won the 2023 national grand slam championship for WORD — The Front Line (facilitated by Action Education) and secured the trans-Tasman poetry slam title in Melbourne. She has gained national attention for powerful performances addressing identity, cultural heritage, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including features on current affairs shows like The Hui.





WORD - The Front Line 2026 Coaches



Billy McCarthy
Billy Reynolds McCarthy is a performing artist born and raised in the heart of Tāmaki. He's found his life passion in the art of storytelling, specifically in the forms of theatre, Haka, screen, and poetry. His poems are always inspired by the need to tell his own stories, both good and bad. He is a member of Rehekōrero. He is a WORD - The Front Line Champion, Trans-Tasman Champion and our first 09 Poetry Slam Champion!



Abby Irwin-Jones
Abby is a poet, editor and bookseller raised between Tāmaki Makaurau and Hahei. She has been performing spoken word poetry for nine years and is a Trans-Tasman Poetry Slam Champion, Word UP! Slam champion, three-time finalist in Word – The Front Line, and a runner-up in the Going West Slam. Abby currently serves as the Arts Editor at Craccum, is a former member of the JAFA Poetry Slam board & 09 Poetry Slam board.



Gabrielle Togiatama:
With a heart for community and a flair for the performing arts, Vitinia-Gabrielle Togiatama is a passionate youth worker dedicated to empowering rangatahi. Born and raised in Sāmoa, she is a proud descendant of Niue and Fiji. Gabrielle has been a creative force since childhood, expressing herself through singing, art, theatre, poetry and dance. She is both an alumni and a coach of Word - The Front Line.



Jai Selkirk
Jai Selkirk is a National Poetry Slam Finalist, WTFL Slam Champion and Auckland Slam Runner Up. Blending elements of Rap with Spoken Word Poetry, Jai showcases a slick wordplay with raw truth telling. When not on the mic you'll find Jai navigating his forklift with the same precision he would his words.



Jessie Fenton
Jessie Fenton is a poet, a criminal lawyer, and a weapon with a sewing machine. She's a former Word coach, a national slam runner up, and has won slams everywhere from WOMAD to the Nuyorican Poets Café.



Noah Brown
Noah Brown, Artist Name: BRDG3 is a WTFL Alumni and De La Salle Old Boy where he began his poetry journey back in 2019. Now he is a multidisciplinary creative whose art focuses around his community and culture as the backbone of all he does.



Stellar Pritchard
Stellar Aigalefili Makarita Pritchard is a Spoken word poet, author, and actress. She has competed in many slams:
a winner of Jafa Slam 2019, a Word The Frontline finalist, the winner of Word Up 2019 and was a part of an award-winning poetry collection - Pacific Navigators, appeared in Shortland Street as Nova Galaxy and a Coach of WTFL



Sara Afsharpur
Sara Afsharpur is a Muslim poet and visual artist from Iran who grew up in Māngere. Having published multiple pieces on page, Sara is also a former student of Zayed College for Girls.



Lex Shoemark:
Lex (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine) is a South Auckland-based creative with roots in spoken word and acting. His talent has led him to perform across the country. Lex was a finalist at last year's National Poetry Slam and showcases his wordplay like a superpower.



Mafi Tavo
Born and raised in South Auckland, Mafi Tavo is a proud father, poet, teacher and bodybuilder. He is one of the founding members of the South Auckland Poets Collective and currently serves as a dean at Ormiston Junior College.



Kate Laughter
Kate Laughter is a filmmaker, writer, spoken word poet and WTFL alumni born in Amerika, descending from Tokomaru Bay in Tairāwhiti (Ngāti Porou). She is a recent graduate of South Seas: Film & Television School and has a background in the performing arts as well. She writes about reclaiming whakapapa, language and her cultural identity as an urban Māori. She will be attending Te Wānanga Takiura next year, studying Rumaki Reo.



Ngaio Simmons
Ngaio Simmons is a Māori/Pākehā spoken word artist and educator born and raised on the island of O'ahu, on Kānaka Maoli land in the unceded nation of Hawai'i. An Auckland Poetry Slam Champion, he is also a coach with Word - The Front Line and an Action Education facilitator. Ngaio has been published in Contemporary Verse, Hawai'i Review, Literary Hub, Ora Nui, and Bamboo Ridge, among others.



Sherry Zhang
Sherry Zhang 章雪莉 is a writer working across theatre, prose and poetry. She was born and raised in Tāmaki Makaurau. Her family are from Fujian, China. She was the editor of The Pantograph Punch, an arts and culture journal, and co-manager of Te Kāhui Creative writing, a rangatahi-led creative writing programme for underserved communities. Her play Yang/Young/杨, co-written with Nuanzhi Zheng, is published with Playmarket, and was staged at the Basement Theatre with ATC Here & Now festival. Her poetry can be found in The Spinoff, A Clear Dawn: New Asian Voices from Aotearoa New Zealand, and Poetry Aotearoa 2026. And most importantly - word the frontline alumni of 2015 and 2026!



Roimata Prendergast
Roimata Prendergast is a multifaceted artist and educator based in Tāmaki Makaurau, New Zealand. Of Māori, Kuki Airani and Tahitian descent, she has affiliations with Ngāti Kahu and Ngāti Tara, and connections to Mauke, Kimianagatau and Ra'iatea. In her professional capacity, Roimata serves as the Education Manager and Storytelling Coordinator at Howick Historical Village in Pakuranga, Tāmaki Makaurau, where she develops educational programmes and storytelling initiatives that engage visitors with New Zealand's history. Beyond her educational endeavours, Roimata actively participates in the arts community as a member of the South Auckland Poets Collective and BRŌWNALFĀ, a collective dedicated to Pacific art and culture. Roimata has been involved in various artistic projects, including the "Pacific Frequencies: Mahu An Audio Exhibition," which showcases Pacific art and narratives.



Fusi Puleiku
Fusi Puleiku is a proud Tongan woman from Auckland, New Zealand, and a dedicated high school teacher whose warmth and commitment to her students shine through everything she does. As the beloved Dean of Year 11 at De La Salle College, she guides young people through one of the most pivotal years of their schooling, offering support, encouragement, and high expectations in equal measure. Her Tongan heritage is central to who she is, grounding her approach to relationships, community, and service.

Outside the classroom, Fusi is a newly converted K-drama fan, and she'll happily tell you about her latest binge. She also has a well-known weakness for sweet treats: a slice of watermelon or a serving of black forest cake from the Cheesecake Shop is something she simply cannot resist. Whether she's supporting her students or debating the best plot twist with friends, Fusi brings genuine care and good humour to every room she enters.

Our 2025–26 Word – The Front Line coaches, each matched with a competing school:

Coach	School
Billy McCarthy	Ngā Puna o Waiōrea
Gabrielle Togiatama	Wesley College
Jai Selkirk	Dilworth School
Jessie Fenton	Diocesan School For Girls
Kate Laughter	Marcellin College
Lex Shoemark	Waitākere College
Mafi Tavo	Tangaroa College
Noah Brown	De La Salle College
Roimata Prendergast	Alfriston College
Ngaio Simmons	Birkenhead College
Sherry Zhang	Mount Roskill Grammar School
Stellar Pritchard	Kelston Girls' College
Abby Irwin-Jones	Glendowie College
Sara Afsharpur	Zayed College For Girls



Chair's Message

Kei ngā rangatahi, kei ngā whānau, kei ngā kaiako, kei ngā hapori whānui, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa. Mauri ora ki a tātou!

On behalf of our Action Ed Board, I want to begin with a huge mihi aroha to everyone who continues to hold us up in this mahi of Action Education. To the rangatahi, your courage, your kupu and your care for one another are the heartbeat of this kaupapa. To your whānau, thank you for sharing your young people with us and for backing them as they evolve their art, their whakaaro and voices. To the teachers, schools and communities who open their doors to us and meet us at the hundreds of events throughout the year, we are so grateful for your grind and dedication. To our generous funders and supporters who have kept faith with us in a year when every dollar was hard-won, we could not do this without your tautoko. And to our Chief Executive and our epic team of artists, poets, facilitators, coaches and administrative and fundraising wizards, thank you for all that you give to this kaupapa year in and year out, we continue to grow through the thick and thin and meet the moment of today because of your creativity and heart.

E te Whānau, it has been a very tough year for Action Education, as it has for many other arts and youth organisations and schools right across Aotearoa. Funding has all but disappeared, the need for our work has grown, and many of our friends in the sector have had to scale back their work or even close their doors. We stand alongside them all. The pressures on community organisations are heavy, and so are the pressures on the young people, whānau and communities we serve.

Despite this heaviness, these hard years do not define us. How we carry ourselves and each other through them does. As a Board, our focus has been on fundraising to keep our core work flowing, developing our own governance capabilities and planning for more inter-dependence in our succession. We are distinctly proud of our team who have managed to navigate these tough times and still bring forward the new, exciting and necessary kaupapa of the He Reo Rangatahi incubator, the Say It How You Know It project in Samoan and Tongan languages, as well as grounding the Ara Toi employment incubator for young creatives. These visionary projects are inspired by rangatahi, led by rangatahi and feed the wider creative sector we are part of, making us stronger than we were before.



Our vision is "to enable young people to express their authenticity while growing a vibrant community that supports them" and this year has shown us why that vision matters more than ever. The work we do is transformative because it celebrates our identities, our self-expression and self-determination. The two halves of our vision belong together. When rangatahi are free to be fully themselves, community grows around them, and when community stands behind them, they find the courage to be fully themselves. That thriving community is not a distant aspiration. You are here right now, and we are building together one workshop, one wānanga and one young voice at a time.

Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui.

Ngā mihi nui,

Erin Matariki Carr
Chairperson, Action Education

CEO Message

This has been one of the most challenging years I have seen in the community sector. Community organisations are stretched beyond capacity, and the funding environment is incredibly brutal — every grant now a contest for fewer dollars, every service asked to do more with less. But behind those numbers are our whānau and our rangatahi, who feel this year more sharply than any of us. We see it in our workshops and wānanga: young people carrying pressures at home, in their schools, in their communities, that are heavier than they should ever have to carry. I don't say this to dwell on hardship — I say it because we see it, we feel it alongside them, and we want them to know that Action Ed walks beside them with each step.



I am incredibly proud of our village. Our kaimahi have breathed life into our communities every day through 579 workshops this year, reaching 10,446 rangatahi across Tāmaki Makaurau, Ōtautahi, Waikato, the Bay of Plenty and Te Tai Tokerau. We have kept growing, striving, and meeting the needs of our community despite the constraints around us. This year we delivered our first-ever He Reo Rangatahi incubator, brought WORD — The Front Line to Ōtautahi for a third year, we launched Say It How You Know It to help our Samoan and Tongan rangatahi reconnect with their heritage languages, and we laid the groundwork for Ara Toi, our new employment incubator for young creatives.

Our mahi reached rangatahi across more than 50 schools this year, and out into our wider community through open mic nights, wānanga, and events like our Sudanese Fundraiser Poetry night — because the communities we walk alongside are as diverse as Aotearoa itself: Tangata Whenua, Tangata Moana, rainbow, migrant and refugee communities, standing together. None of that happens by accident, and none of it happens alone. We want to acknowledge, too, the teachers in our schools who have gone far above and beyond for their students this year. We simply could not do what we do without you.

But if this year has taught me anything, it's that our greatest hope and inspiration come from our rangatahi. Over this year we have seen young people courageously stand up and advocate for themselves, for their peers, their community, and the Aotearoa they wish to be a part of. I watched it at Waitangi, where our poets stood on the paepae of the Te Tiriti Forum Tent and lifted the roof with their kupu. I've watched it in our Rangatahi Māori Advisors, who now sit alongside us shaping our Theory of Change and our organisational strategy. And I've heard it on the stages that our young people have graced, I have seen it woven into their actions and the way they uplift each other's Mana.

That's why, in a year this challenging, I remain genuinely hopeful. Our young people are not waiting for the world to make space for them — they are standing up and making it themselves. Our job, alongside their whānau and their Kaiako, is simply to keep standing beside them, keep listening, amplify their voices, and keep connecting them with community. He Reo Rangatahi, He Ao Hurihuri — as rangatahi find their voice, the world around them changes. If we continue to walk alongside them and guide them to the finish line, our future remains bright beyond measure!

Ngā mihi nui,

Ramon Narayan
Chief Executive







The Year in Numbers

	Sessions	Participants
workshops	579	7,825
events	23	1,251
performances & presentations	8	1,370
performances, events & presentations combined	31	2,621
TOTAL	*610*	*10,446*

Our Programmes

WORD - The Front Line
Tāmaki Makaurau 2025
WORD – The Front Line continued to reach rangatahi right across Tāmaki Makaurau this year, engaging hundreds of young poets through a year-long, school-connected pathway — in-school workshops, regional heats, wānanga, mentoring, and large-scale public performance. 196 workshops were delivered, and 23 schools competed across the regional heats — meaning genuine regional access to rangatahi who might otherwise miss out.

From over 20 schools competing at regional heats, 14 teams advanced into the programme: Ngā Puna o Waiōrea, Wesley College, Dilworth School, Diocesan School for Girls, Marcellin College, Waitākere College, Tangaroa College, De La Salle College, Alfriston College, Birkenhead College, Mount Roskill Grammar School, Kelston Girls' College, Glendowie College, and Zayed College for Girls.

It all came down to this. After Semi-Final Heats, six teams made it to the Grand Slam at Auckland Live on 25 September: Zayed College for Girls, Dilworth School, Wesley College, Waitākere College, Diocesan School for Girls, and Ngā Puna o Waiōrea. Ngā Puna o Waiōrea's team **Patua te Whakamā** took the title.

None of this happens without our coaches, who gave their time and craft to prepare every team: Billy McCarthy, Gabrielle Togiatama, Jai Selkirk, Jessie Fenton, Kate Laughter, Lex Shoemark, Mafi Tavo, Noah Brown, Roimata Prendergast, Ngaio Simmons, Sherry Zhang, Stellar Pritchard, Abby Irwin-Jones, and Sara Afsharpur.

Through professional mentoring and high-quality performance environments like Auckland Live, rangatahi build real skills in writing, performance, collaboration, and leadership — with paid opportunities for artists, judges, facilitators, and technicians supporting sustainable creative careers across the sector.

We extend a huge thank you to Creative New Zealand and the Auckland Regional Arts and Culture Programme for their continued support in making this all possible.



Spoken Word Workshops
Spoken Word Poetry is a resilient, dynamic, and ancient art form, combining poetry, theatre, and movement. Action Education uses it to create transformative experiences for rangatahi — safe spaces for young people to connect, try poetry for the first time, and build the tools to develop their creative expression and voice: to step outside the box, stretch their comfort zones, and express and celebrate who they are.

Our workshops are designed to reach hapori right across Aotearoa, creating spaces where every young person's voice is heard, valued, and reflected. Facilitated by our experienced team of artists and educators — many of them alumni of our own programmes — our workshops offer young people a platform to reclaim their narratives and explore their identities, sharing their stories in ways that build confidence, creativity, and critical literacy.



This mahi reaches right across the motu. This year, our team delivered **579 workshops**, reaching **7,825 participants** — not just in Tāmaki Makaurau, but across South, Central, West, North, and East Auckland, out to Waikato and the Bay of Plenty, up to Te Tai Tokerau Northland, and down to Ōtautahi Christchurch. Wherever we go, the kaupapa stays the same: enabling young people to access creativity and share their stories the way they want to share them.

Spoken Word is more than an art form — it is a vessel for change. As one student shared,
"It kind of helped me heal from my past and the element was amazing."

For many of the schools we work alongside, the impact goes beyond the workshop itself.
"For many of our students, these workshops are the first time they feel truly heard," says Mafi Tavo, Kaiako at Tangaroa College.

These workshops are a powerful expression of our vision: to enable young people to express their authenticity and grow a strong community that supports them.











WORD – The Front Line Ōtautahi
Christchurch 2025
For the third year running, Action Education brought WORD – The Front Line to Ōtautahi — a spoken word poetry programme that empowers rangatahi to build confidence, identity, community connection, and leadership skills. This year's six-month programme reached 42 rangatahi across five schools: Papanui High School, Hillmorton High School, Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi, Te Aratai College, and Christchurch Girls' High School | Te Kura o Hine Waiora.

These schools reflect a genuinely diverse cross-section of Ōtautahi, with a combined student population of 4,869 and strong representation of Māori and Pacific rangatahi. WORD – The Front Line is designed to meet these hapori where they are: a free, culturally safe space, grounded in the local community, where rangatahi can be heard.

In 2025, we partnered with the WORD Christchurch Festival for the first time, with our Grand Slam Finals held as part of the Festival programme at The Piano on 27 August — following two workshops at TSB Space at Tūranga in May and July.

The impact speaks for itself in the numbers. Of participants in recent years: **88%** said WTFL staff provided a safe, non-judgemental space for self-expression; 91% reported increased confidence in public speaking and self-expression; **72%** said the programme helped them develop leadership skills for the future; and **91%** said their involvement had a positive impact on their overall wellbeing.
Participants describe the impact in their own words:

"I had severe social anxiety and WTFL helped me past it. It pushed me to think bigger and be more confident… I met people I keep connected with today and look back fondly to my time in WTFL."

"Yes WTFL actually helped me start liking myself! It saved me from a lot of mental health issues, it gave me purpose actually."

Teachers see it too. Courtney Joblin, Kaiako Te Reo Pākehā at Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi, wrote in support of the programme:

"This was a first for my students who before this, never considered themselves as writers… It has certainly enhanced their creativity, expanded their self-expression and confidence, as well as their ability to lead by example for their younger peers at school."

We're grateful to our Ōtautahi partners — WORD Christchurch Festival, and the schools, kaiako, and coaches who make this programme possible — and to Natasha Smith at Christchurch Girls' High School, who wrote:

"Action Education has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to making a meaningful difference in the lives of those they serve."





He Reo Rangatahi
2025 marked the first-ever iteration of He Reo Rangatahi, our Spoken Word poetry incubator programme for emerging artists — led by some of Auckland's finest poets, with a focus on amplifying youth voice, exploring identity, building connection, and developing skills that poets can take to the stage, the page, or the classroom.

Sixteen schools from across Tāmaki Makaurau took part, each matched with an experienced artist mentor for five months, from July to November: Alfriston College, Henderson High School, Kelston Girls' College, McAuley High School, Onehunga High School, Papatoetoe High School, Ormiston Junior College, Mount Albert Grammar School, Waitākere College, St Dominic's College, De La Salle College, Tangaroa College, Michael Park School, Ngā Puna o Waiōrea, Marcellin College, and Diocesan School for Girls. Alongside this one-on-one mentoring, participants took part in ten online workshops and four in-person Big Group Workshops, rotating through community venues across Auckland — including Corban Estate Arts Centre, OMAC, Wesley Community Centre, and Onehunga Community Centre — to keep the programme accessible no matter where rangatahi live.

Completely free for all participants, He Reo Rangatahi is designed as a low-pressure, community-driven, multicultural safe space, with two pathways to perform: a solo slam and a team slam.

Eight schools made it through to the culminating slam, held on 5 November 2025 at Youthline Manukau, where Papatoetoe High School took out both first and second place.

Ngā Toi o Rongo
Ngā Toi o Rongo is our kaupapa Māori spoken word strand, offered specifically for rangatahi Māori and grounded in mātauranga Māori throughout. Where our general workshops introduce rangatahi to spoken word as a form of self-expression, Ngā Toi o Rongo goes further — connecting that expression directly back to whakapapa, tikanga, and te reo, so rangatahi Māori can write and perform from a distinctly Māori worldview.

This year's delivery sat alongside a much wider relationship with kura and kaupapa Māori education across our other programmes — through WORD – The Front Line and Spoken Word Standard Workshops, in schools like Ngā Puna o Waiōrea and Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi. Kaiako Rewa Worley describes a relationship going back "numerous years," through which rangatahi groups like Ngā Hine Pūkōrero and Rehekōrero have gone on to win WORD – The Front Line and represent Aotearoa on regional and international stages.

Ngā Toi o Rongo itself is where this commitment goes deepest — a long-standing resource for rangatahi Māori, now entering its next chapter with rangatahi themselves leading the Version 2 co-design.

Community Open Mic Poetry Nights — SUP
Action Ed held 11 Stand Up Poetry (SUP) events over the past year, with an average of 30 people attending each one. Nights were hosted across venues including Grey Lynn Library, Youthline Manukau, Corban Estate Arts Centre, and Studio One Toi Tū — primarily South and Central Auckland — with one held online. Every SUP night featured at least one guest artist, with several nights doubling as joint features to showcase coaches from WORD – The Front Line, including Talia Stanley, Koko Telfer, Koromiko Jacob-Williams, Noah Brown, Vitinia-Gabrielle Togiatama, Jai Selkirk, Kate Laughter, Lex, Stellar, Terisa Siagatonu, Mafi Tavo, and Billy McCarthy.

One night stood out in particular: the Sudanese Fundraiser Stand Up Poetry night, featuring Rahman Bashir and Leena Kheir, who brought attention to the proxy wars and genocide in Sudan. Grey Lynn Library was packed out with 50 people in attendance, and together the community raised $300 to support the Sudanese Society New Zealand.





Road to Waitangi
In February 2026, eleven people — rangatahi poets, youth development staff, and organisational leadership — travelled to Waitangi. Rangatahi performed original spoken word at the Te Tiriti Forum Tent, one of the most politically and culturally significant stages in Aotearoa, and took part in culturally immersive activities alongside the wider festival community.

The group's design was deliberately intergenerational, shaped directly by feedback from the 2025 trip, where rangatahi said they valued being accompanied and guided by older generations. Manaia's grandfather and brother joined the group naturally at Waitangi, alongside knowledge holders at the Forum Tent and youth workers walking alongside rangatahi throughout.

CEO Ramon Narayan watched the crowd respond:

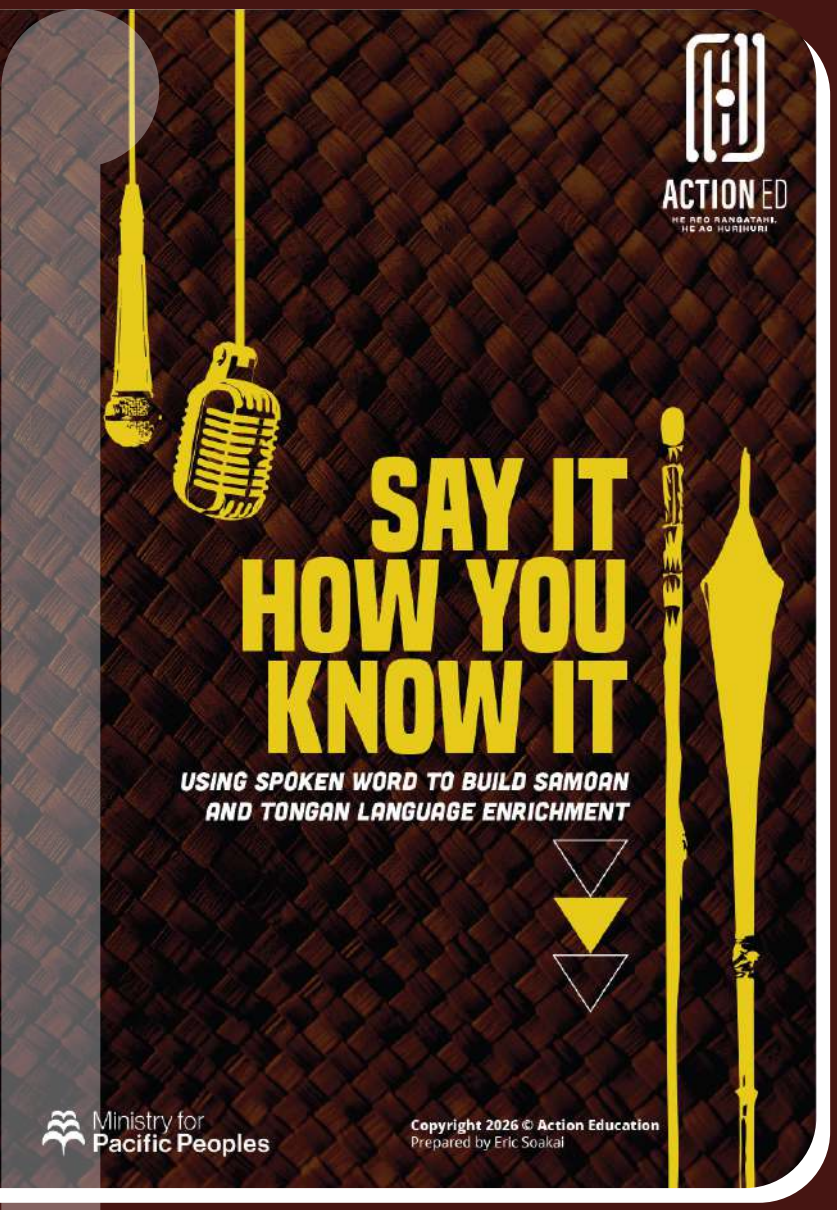
"You guys lifted the mana of Action Education and upheld it."

The trip was built around wellbeing holistically — shared kai, beach time, Kī-o-rahi, and unstructured time together were treated as programme, not logistics. As Funding and Projects Manager Julia Rahui put it:

"As Māori, knowing that food and time with one another is really important — that's just part of who we are and what bonds us and brings us together as a group. It shouldn't be something we just happen to do. It should intentionally always be there."

Julia also observed that spoken word performances at Waitangi functioned like karakia — settling and grounding the audience before the kōrero began.

Koromiko Jacob-Williams expressed a desire to facilitate a workshop at Waitangi in a future year — a rangatahi moving from participant to facilitator on their own terms. For Jai Selkirk, performing at the Forum Tent was both nerve-wracking and an honour — a defining experience among a cohort of rangatahi who left Waitangi with a deeper sense of identity, whanaungatanga, and belief in what their voices can do.



Say It How You Know It
Using Spoken Word to Build Samoan and Tongan Language Enrichment

This year, Action Ed developed Say It How You Know It, a six-module spoken word programme designed specifically to support Samoan and Tongan rangatahi to reconnect with their heritage languages. Project managed by Eric Soakai, with Zech Soakai supporting the review and writing of the final resource, the programme responds to a hard truth: recent data shows only 53% of Samoans and 39% of Tongans in Tāmaki Makaurau can hold a conversation in their heritage language — a marked decline over the last decade.

Rather than treating language loss as failure, Say It How You Know It treats it as something to be gently, joyfully rebuilt. Grounded in the Kakala framework — Toli (gathering), Tui (weaving), Luva (gifting) — the programme moves rangatahi from grounding their identity, through examining expectation and stereotype, to reconnecting with place and whakapapa, and finally toward confident, self-directed use of language in both intimate and public settings. Facilitators are asked not to correct pronunciation or demand fluency, but to create safety for rangatahi to speak imperfectly, take risks, and be met with warmth rather than judgement.

We're so excited to deliver this programme. Its launch was held at Manurewa High School Library in March 2026.

We're deeply grateful to our Steering Group — Reverend Mua Strickson-Pua, Pakilau o Aotearoa Manase Lua, Mark Palepoi Esekielu, Zechariah Soakai, Luani Nansen, Mahalia Salesa, Koko Telfer, Mercy Laufale, Sala'ivao Lastman So'oula, Marina Alefosio, To'asavili Tuputala, Langiola Tonga, Mark Tima, Jesse Tima, Jesse Gibson, and Kaloni Luau — who shaped this resource with us. We'd also like to thank the Ministry for Pacific Peoples for their continued support and commitment to art, culture, and youth.





Rangatahi Leadership
Alongside our programmes, this year saw rangatahi step into genuine leadership roles across the organisation — as advisors, curriculum co-designers, event managers, and mentors — not as token consultants, but as paid partners shaping Action Education's future direction. This mahi sits under a wider kaupapa, Empowering Rangatahi: Leadership and Cultural Expression for Māori, supported by our youth development worker Sheldon Rua, who provides project management and peer-to-peer support across all four strands.

Rangatahi Māori Advisors
From October 2025, a group of Rangatahi Māori Advisors — drawn from Spoken Word groups including Ngā Hine Pūkōrero, Rehekōrero, and Patua Te Whakamā — began contributing to Action Education's new organisational strategy and Theory of Change. They attended governance wānanga, offered critical feedback on organisational direction, and were paid stipends for their time and knowledge, gaining skills in strategic thinking, governance literacy, and confidence in institutional spaces.

Looking Ahead: Ngā Toi o Rongo V2 Co-Design
This year, rangatahi began work on the next version of Ngā Toi o Rongo — leading a curriculum revitalisation wānanga to co-design a three-level framework (Kākano, Tipu, Putiputi/Rākau) and a whakapapa-based writing structure anchored in Atua, Taiao, and Tinana. Version 2 of Ngā Toi o Rongo will be authored by the rangatahi it serves.

Looking Ahead: Māori Spoken Word Showcase
Rangatahi have also begun planning a Māori Spoken Word Showcase, due to take place in October 2026 — a celebration of Te Reo Māori bringing together accomplished and emerging rangatahi Māori poets, elders, and musicians. The rangatahi team will lead the event management alongside the performances, promoting cultural pride and community engagement through an art form deeply rooted in karanga, whaikōrero, waiata, and mōteatea.

Naming Their Own Impact
Rangatahi have also been asked to articulate Action Education's Theory of Change in their own words — naming what each programme gives them in the short and long term. The answers have been more honest and compelling than anything a framework could produce: confidence, mana, self-trust, identity, safety to express yourself, finding your people. One idea that emerged directly from rangatahi has become a guiding principle: Action Ed's core purpose is "not rejection — redirection."

Looking Ahead: Ara Toi — Employment Incubator for Young Creatives
In 2026, Action Ed is launching Ara Toi, a free four-month employment incubator for rangatahi aged 18–24, supported by the Ministry of Youth Development in partnership with Foundation North, through the Partnership and Innovation Fund. Running August to November 2026 with 30 places available, the programme brings together everything Action Ed believes in: creative self-expression, holistic wellbeing, and practical pathways into work.

Every participant is matched with a dedicated youth worker for the full four months, alongside a Te Whare Tapa Whā wellbeing assessment, one-on-one therapy or mentoring, and a full suite of must-have workshops — creative CV and portfolio building, bio writing with Ken Arkind, professional CV development with Julia Rahui, a professional photoshoot, emotional wellbeing with Ramon Narayan, and the Henry Financial Literacy Programme. Participants also choose from optional workshops covering interview skills, funding and project development, Māori holistic health (Romiromi/Mirimiri), and facilitation and youth development training.



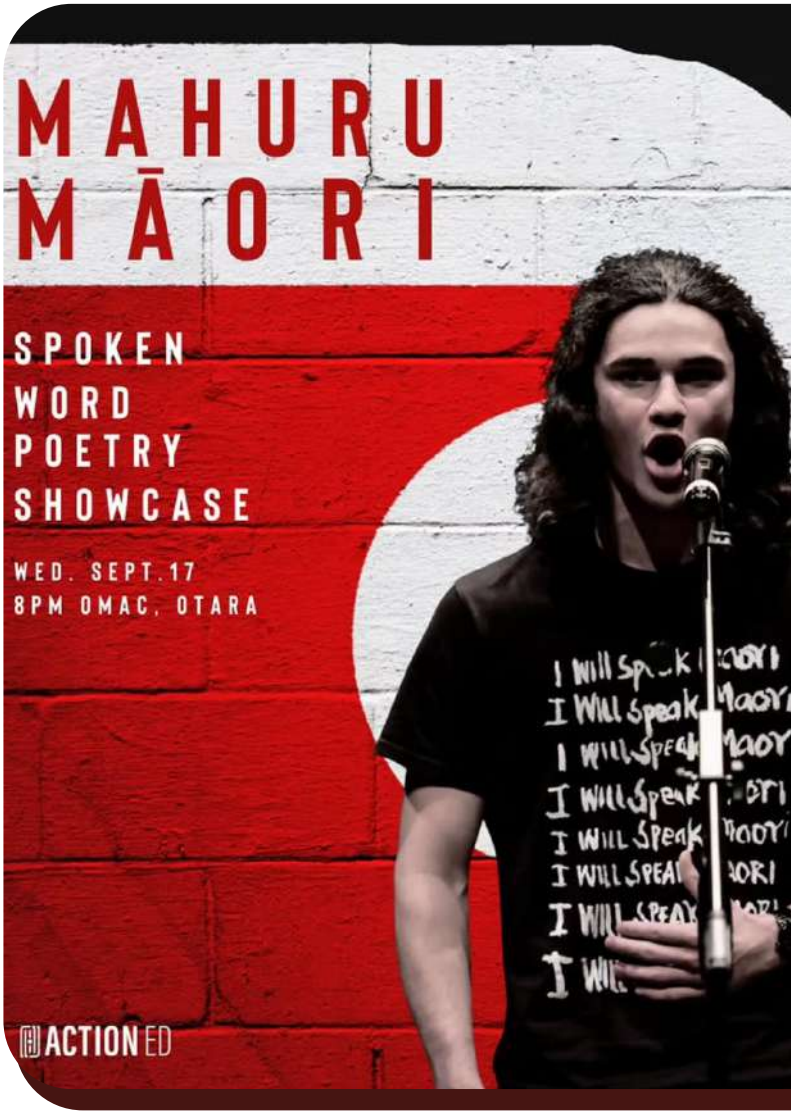
Highlights of the Year

Involve Conference — Ōtautahi Christchurch
In August 2025, three members of our team — Ramon Narayan, Julia Rahui, and Sheldon Rua — travelled to Te Pae Convention Centre in Ōtautahi to attend the INVOLVE 2025 Conference. Alongside taking part in keynotes and workshops on youth health and development, our team delivered our own workshop, Words Weaving, from Writer to Witness: Building Lasting Connections through Spoken Word — with three rangatahi from Christchurch performing their own spoken word pieces to a professional sector audience.



It was a chance for our rangatahi performers to gain real stage experience beyond their local community, and for our team to bring home fresh knowledge and new sector relationships that continue to shape how we deliver our workshops, events, programmes and wider kaupapa.

Mahuru Māori Spoken Word Showcase
On 17 September, we once again celebrated Te Wiki o te Reo Māori with the Mahuru Māori Spoken Word Showcase at Ōtara Music Arts Centre. Like the years before it, the showcase did not disappoint — a night full of community, culture, and true stories, and a time for Māori of all ages to see themselves and their stories on the stage. Back-to-back performances from Tāmaki Makaurau's leading Māori spoken word artists featured the 2025 WORD – The Front Line champions, Patua Te Whakamā.



As the years go on, the idea of the modern Māori artist is ever changing in the eyes of rangatahi. These days it's easy for rangatahi to get caught in the false belief that for brown art to be successful, it must be written in colonial pen or confined to the paepae. But events like this offer the opportunity to merge worlds — blending whaikōrero and theatre, haka and poetry, tangata whenua and tangata tiriti.
Billy Reynolds-McCarthy put it simply:

"My whole life it felt like being a Māori artist had to be through only Kapa Haka or Whakairo, but after today I can say with my full heart that I am a Māori spoken word artist — and I'm not the only one."

The Mahuru Māori Spoken Word Showcase continues to inspire and encourage emerging Māori artists through the celebration of all that is Māori art.

On 19 February 2026, our spoken word groups Rehekōrero and He Patu Whakamā had the privilege of opening Splore Festival's Main Stage — performing to a significant audience immediately following a large and impressive Pōwhiri conducted by Ngāti Paoa and Ngāti Whanaunga, with Patua Te Whakamā's own Kirimaia performing karanga for manuhiri.

Action Ed board member and Splore owner John Minty was confident our rangatahi would rise to the challenge of performing on that scale. As he put it: "Splore is a party with a conscience which largely attracts people with a conscience. As an original activist I have always felt festival goers can be open to social issues delivered through music and spoken word. That's why I have regularly booked artists like Miss Kaninna, Pussy Riot, Te Kura Huia, and run a Listening Lounge curated by Russell Brown. I believe this makes the festival experience more resonant and meaningful.The reason I wanted to add Action Ed artists was because they represent a fresh cultural voice that most Splorers may have little experience of — a new generation of rangatahi who are confident in Te Ao Māori. They represent an exciting future for Aotearoa, to forge a unique identity that is more independent, progressive, and rooted in indigenous values."

Voice of Purpose — Catalyzing Transformation
This year, Action Ed partnered with Voice of Purpose to bring Catalyzing Transformation to Aotearoa for the first time — a six-month professional development programme for teaching artists and arts administrators. Predominantly attended by participants from across North America and Canada, the programme had never before existed in New Zealand, making this partnership a genuinely new opportunity for our creative sector.

Action Ed established two New Zealand hubs — one in Central Auckland at Wesley Community Centre, co-facilitated by CEO Ramon Narayan, and one in South Auckland at Youthline Manukau, co-facilitated by Eric Soakai — alongside hubs in Toronto, Canada, and an online cohort connecting participants across time zones. We invited creative practitioners and facilitators from Te Karanga Trust, Te Kāhui, and other independent practitioners to take part alongside our own team, with close to 50 people taking part across the full international cohort.

Through weekly online live sessions running March to May, participants engaged with a curriculum grounded in curiosity, generosity, respect, mindfulness, integrity, authenticity, honesty, and courage — building skills and community across an international cohort while deepening a shared sense of purpose in the work.

For our facilitators and practitioners here in Tāmaki Makaurau, Catalyzing Transformation offered something genuinely new: professional development built specifically for the kind of arts-based, community-facing mahi our sector does — a rare and valuable opportunity given who it was designed for.





Summer in the Square
This year, Action Ed took part in Auckland Live's Summer in the Square festival at Aotea Square, running from 30 January to 22 February 2026. As part of the festival's Poetry Takeover event on 12 February — an evening of slam, Pasifika, te reo Māori, migrant, and youth voices led by MC Renee Liang — our poets Eric Soakai and Patua Te Whakamā took to the mic alongside performers from Dilworth Scool, bringing spoken word to one of the city's biggest free summer stages.

Alongside this, Action Ed ran our own activation, Presence Poetry, over two components. In the first, passersby were invited to complete the prompt "A summer in Aotearoa is best enjoyed..." on a post-it note, with all responses displayed together on a board for others to draw inspiration from. Towards the end of each session, our team wove the collected answers into a longer collective poem, performed live to close out the activation.

The second component offered a sit-down, long-form writing space where members of the public could craft their own poems about summer. Once finished, poets could choose to keep their work or place it in an envelope to exchange for a mystery poem — either written by another passerby earlier in the day, or prepared in advance by Action Ed staff.

Splore Festival — Main Stage

Participant Voices

Across hundreds of workshops this year, rangatahi told us — in their own words — what this mahi means to them.

"I've always been terrified of speaking in front of groups but this has made me feel really confident in myself. I really enjoyed this workshop!"
— St Peter's School Cambridge

"Thank you for teaching me not just to think but to feel."
— St Kentigern College

"This workshop is going to be the reason I pass English."
— Marcellin College

"It helped me put my emotions into words."
— Mount Albert Grammar School

"I am so blessed and grateful to be a part of this workshop and I've really enjoyed this opportunity."
— St Mary's College

"I really loved how Eric and Talia made it so that we felt safe in our writing, thank you."
— Action Education Spoken Word Workshop

"Thank you for making me feel normal."
— LSV Anger Management Workshop

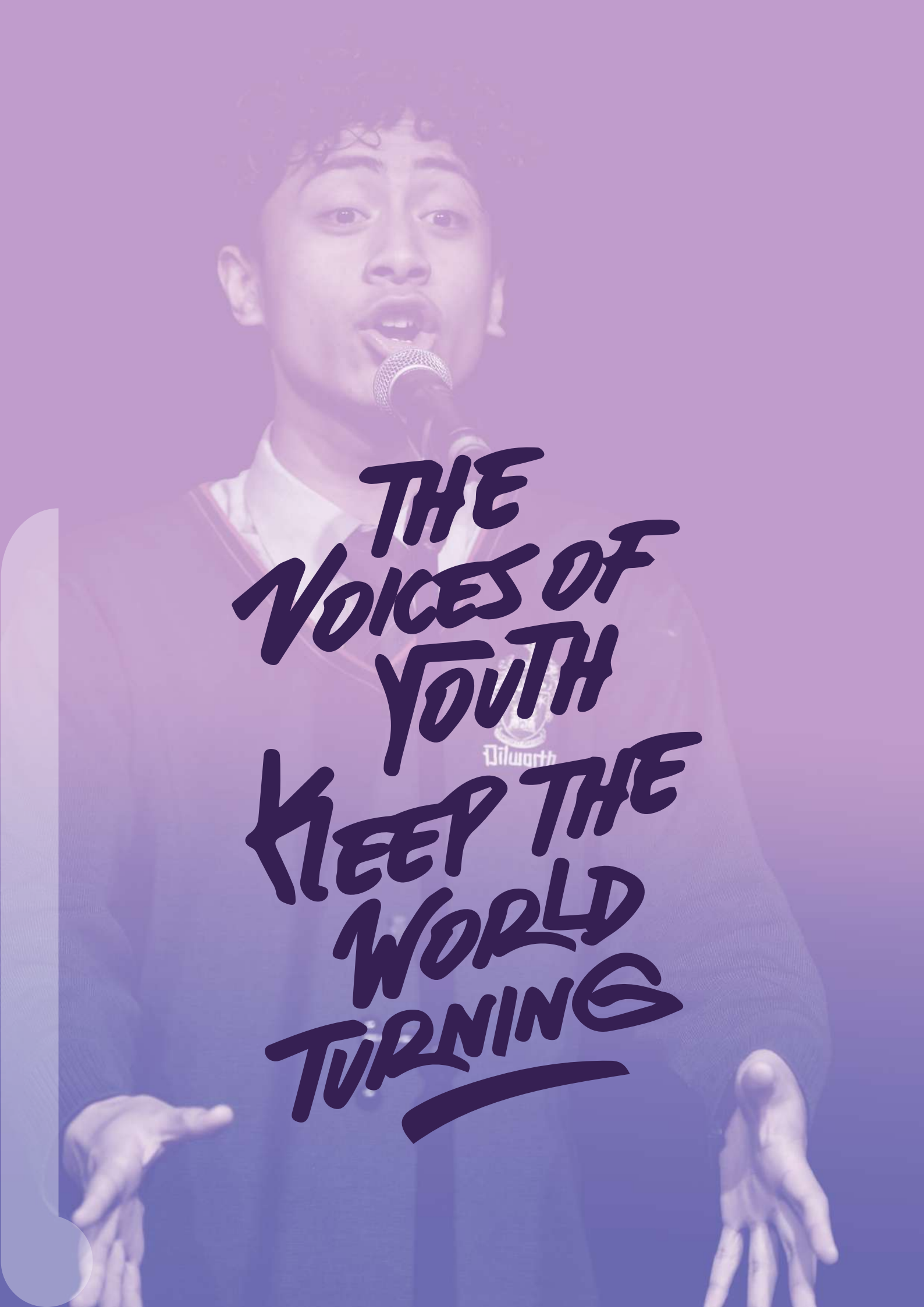
From this year's WORD – The Front Line participants:

"I love the space that Word opens to Rangatahi. It feels safe and encourages you to express yourself freely without judgement. The team as well are kind people and I think it's a kaupapa everyone should be allowed to experience."
— WORD – The Front Line participant, age 18

"Everything! It's SO well run — I have the largest respect for this programme and the staff behind it. The community is amazing, and every year I foster the best relationships that have sustained many years despite the distance between schools."
— WORD – The Front Line participant, age 16

"Everyone coming together as a family and expressing themselves and also connecting with one another's stories."
— WORD – The Front Line participant, age 18

"The reason Word – The Front Line was such a perfect experience for me is because of all the people behind it, planning and organising. We love you all!"
— WORD – The Front Line participant, age 18


THE VOICES OF YOUTH
KEEP THE WORLD TURNING



Alumni Feature-

From Stage to Facilitator:

koromiko





Koromiko Jacob-Williams is a poet, activist, writer, facilitator, creative, and filmmaker who hails from Tauranga Moana and Ireland (Ngāiterangi, Ngāti Ranginui). While she grew up around the arts she didn't imagine she would end up in poetry.

"Dad is a musician, mum is a DJ too. Growing up in the arts I saw you could make a career out of it... but I never expected you could do that with writing poetry" Miko's journey into spoken word was a chance event. In an attempt to get out of doing English speeches at her school Ngā Puna O Waiōrea, she successfully convinced her teacher to sign up to Word The Front Line. Drawing inspiration from Ngā Hine Pūkōrero, the Word the Front Line champions of 2018 who were alumni of her school, and working with friends she entered the competition as a Year 10 and never looked back.

"In the beginning I was so shy, so scared… I was so nervous and anxious to speak in public and share a part of myself. [WTFL] helped me be more vulnerable, it grew my confidence, my connection to culture, to myself and peers too!"

Her decision to join Word the Frontline cascaded into a series of amazing events and a poetry journey that thus far has been stellar. Not only did her poetry team win the Word The Front Line inter high school slam and the Trans Tasman slam in 2023, but following in the blueprint of Ngā Hine Pūkōrero created their own poetry collective Rehekōrero (alongside Billy McCarthy, Piremina Ngapera, and Milan Moala) who have performed at festivals, concerts, and conferences across New Zealand, most notably for Miko are Splore Festival, Laneway Festival, and featuring on the Fat Freddy's Drop's SloMo tour.

Outside of the success she has found with her collective, Miko has also been an 09 Poetry finalist and participated in an international Writers and Story-Sharing Residency in Banff, Canada. When not explicitly focusing on her own craft, she runs poetry workshops as a Youth Development Worker for Action Ed, something she immensely enjoys and finds fulfilling.

"Helping give a voice to youth poetry, and to be able to give back to a place that helped me grow, I am really grateful for the opportunities and I am really excited to see what the future holds for me."

When asked if there was a moment in her poetic journey that really affirmed that she is exactly where she needs to be she had this to say:

"I wouldn't be the person I am today without poetry, the people I've met, the community that has been fostered… it's been such a safe space and place I can find comfort in. But if I had to think of a particular moment I would say it was fresh out of WTFL when I went into my first solo comp at the 09 Slam that I had this moment. I had written about my koro, I could feel the spirit of my koro as I performed the piece. It was reaffirming and emotional; it showed me how expansive spoken word poetry can be, and the world that it is able to open up for you".

Koromiko is currently studying towards a Bachelor of Communications, focusing on film, journalism, and advertising at the Auckland University of Technology, while working at Action Ed as a Youth Development Worker. She hopes to write and release a collection of poetry accompanied by visual pieces in the future, a body of work speaking to the urban-indigenous experience of being a wāhine Māori.

Acknowledgements

Key Funders
Action Ed's mahi this year was made possible through the generous support of:
Creative New Zealand · Foundation North · Auckland Council · Lotteries Auckland · JR McKenzie Trust · MAS Foundation · Ministry for Pacific Peoples · SkyCity Auckland Community Trust · Ministry of Youth Development · Pub Charity · Auckland Airport Community Trust · Rata Foundation · Lion Foundation · Te Rau Ora · Tindall Foundation · Dragon Foundation · Four Winds Foundation · Sargood Bequest · COGS (Auckland, Manukau, and Rodney/North Shore)

We're also grateful to the many individuals and organisations whose donations and in-kind support sustain our work throughout the year.

Thank You to Funders
To our largest funders this year — Creative New Zealand, Foundation North, Auckland Council, Lotteries Auckland, the JR McKenzie Trust, MAS Foundation, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, and the Ministry of Youth Development — thank you. Your investment doesn't just fund workshops and events; it funds rangatahi finding their voice, often for the first time. It funds a wharekura in Waikato hearing their own language spoken with pride on stage, a Christchurch student stepping into a spotlight they never imagined for themselves, and a South Auckland poet telling their own narrative.

We know that funding decisions carry weight — that behind every grant is a team weighing priorities, taking a chance, and choosing to believe in an organisation's ability to deliver. We don't take that trust lightly. Every dollar you've given this year has gone toward building something real: confidence, community, and a sense of belonging for young people who often don't get told they truly matter.

Ngā mihi nui, ngā mihi aroha — thank you for walking this journey with us.

Thank You to Our Schools
This year, Action Ed worked alongside an incredible range of schools across Tāmaki Makaurau, Ōtautahi, and beyond — from Northland to Waikato, from wharekura to international colleges. Thank you to:
ACG Parnell College · Albany Senior High School · Alfriston College · Auckland Girls' Grammar School · Avondale College · Birkenhead College · Bruce McLaren Intermediate · Cashmere High School · Christchurch Girls' High School · De La Salle College · Dilworth School · Diocesan School for Girls · Epsom Girls' Grammar School · Glendowie College · Glendowie School · Glenfield College · Hauraki Plains College · Henderson High School · Henderson Intermediate School · Hobsonville Point Secondary School · Kelston Girls' College · Kristin School · Manurewa High School · Marcellin College · Massey High School · McAuley High School · Michael Park School · Mount Albert Grammar School · Mount Roskill Grammar School · Nga Taiātea Wharekura · Ngā Puna o Waiōrea · Northcote College · Onehunga High School · Ormiston Junior College · Ormiston Senior College · Papakura High School · Papatoetoe High School · Rosehill College · Rosmini College · Rototuna Junior High School · South Auckland Middle School · St Cuthbert's College · St Dominic's College · St Kentigern College · St Kentigern Girls' School · St Mary's College · St Peter's College · St Peter's School Cambridge · Tangaroa College · Te Aratai College · Te Kura Kaupapa Māori o Te Whānau Tahi · Titirangi Primary School · Villa Maria College · Wairau Intermediate · Waitākere College · Wesley College · Zayed College for Girls

Thank you for trusting us in your classrooms, your halls, and your communities — and for making space for your students to be heard.

Thank You to Community Organisations
We're equally grateful to the hapori and community organisations who partnered with us this year, opening doors, sharing spaces, and standing alongside our rangatahi:

Fonua Ola · Graeme Dingle Foundation · LSV · New Zealand Defence Force · Target Education · The D*List · Whau Pasifika · Te Karanga Trust · Te Kāhui · Voice of Purpose · Sudanese Society New Zealand

And to the venues and event partners who hosted us throughout the year:
Corban Estate Arts Centre · Wesley Community Centre · Onehunga Community Centre · Ōtara Music Arts Centre · Grey Lynn Library · Youthline Manukau · Studio One Toi Tū · Te Pae Convention Centre · Auckland Live · WORD Christchurch Festival · Splore Festival

---

Thank You to Our Rangatahi
Last of all — and most of all — thank you to the rangatahi.
To every young person who picked up a pen, stepped up to a mic, or simply sat with us in a circle and let their guard down: thank you. You are the reason this mahi exists. Every workshop, every wānanga, every showcase only means something because you showed up and shared what was real — your truths, your knowledge, your insights, your aroha.

You taught us as much as we taught you. You reminded us that vulnerability is strength, that stories carry mana, and that a young person's voice — heard fully and without judgement — can change the shape of a room, a school, a whānau, a hapori.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou katoa. This report belongs to you.

Financials

ACTION ED

HE REO RANGATAHI,
HE AO HURIHURI

ACTION EDUCATION INCORPORATED

PERFORMANCE REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2026

Mailing Address: Action Education Inc, 4G Kitchener Road Sandringham, Auckland, 1025

Email: info@actioneducation.co.nz **Web**: www.actioneducation.co.nz

Contents

3 Entity Information

6 Approval of Performance Report

7 Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report

9 Statement of Service Performance

10 Statement of Financial Performance

11 Statement of Financial Position

12 Statement of Cash Flows

13 Notes to the Performance Report

Entity Information

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

Legal Name of Entity

Action Education Incorporated

Entity Type and Legal Basis

Incorporated Society and Registered Charity

Charities Registration no

CC24073

Incorporation Number

547624

Entity's Purpose or Mission

Action Education Incorporated Society is Aotearoa's leading Youth Development organisation who uses Spoken Word poetry to facilitate life changing experiences.

Our kaupapa (mission) is to strengthen identity and develop self-esteem through creative self-expression, using the medium of Spoken Word and our vision is '"to enable young people to express their authenticity while growing a vibrant community that supports them". Our services are located and delivered across Aotearoa.

Our set of values reflects who we are, what we do, how we do it and where we are going.

- Kia ngakau toi: We fundamentally believe that creativity is essential for wellbeing.
- Kia manaaki tētahi ki tētahi: We embody manaakitanga
- Kia hangai: Young people feel a sense of ownership and belonging
- Kia pono kia aroha: We consistently deliver on our word
- Kia ngakau nui: Our priority is the healthy development of young people which has been built on by generations of skilled facilitators
- Kia mauri ora: We bring passion, positivity, and vitality to everything we do.

We use the artform of Spoken Word Poetry as an effective and accessible artform for our communities to address who they are, where they come from, the world around them, and the issues impacting them. Spoken Word is a resilient, dynamic, and ancient art form, combining poetry, theatre and movement.

We deliver workshops, programmes, mentoring, and events. Our annual programme includes:

- WORD – The Front Line – Full year programme. Aotearoa's first and largest inter-high school poetry competition. A poetry slam equipping young people with poetry skills and leadership principles to battle for themselves and the challenges their generation faces.
- Word Summit – Annual full-day wānanga connecting geographically or socially isolated young artists to the wider poetry community and bringing together key stakeholders to strengthen the youth poetry sector.
- Spoken Word Poetry Workshops – Ongoing, nationwide. Safe spaces for young people to develop creative expression and voice, stretch comfort zones, and celebrate identity.
- Community Open Mic Poetry Nights – Monthly inclusive community events providing an āhuru mōwai to come together and share stories. Safe, drug and alcohol-free, open to all regardless of age and identity.
- Showcases and events – Focused on uplifting and supporting our communities.
- Road to Waitangi – Annual programme empowering rangatahi Māori to connect with their culture, develop leadership skills, and contribute to national conversations around Waitangi Day through workshops and performances.
- Alumni Early Career Development Programme –Providing structured mentoring, paid and unpaid work experience, and skills development to prepare emerging poets for leadership roles in the creative and youth sectors.

- He Reo Rangatahi – Annual daylong wānanga for poets new to the poetry world, featuring workshops on writing and performance, mentoring from established poets, and an Open Mic Slam.
- Ngā Toi o Rongo (Rangatahi Māori Programme) – Ongoing kaupapa Māori spoken word programme (6 modules), designed by kaumātua, Māori artists, youth workers and rangatahi to guide communities in using poetry through an Ao Māori lens.
- Say It How You Know It (Pacific Programme) – Ongoing kaupapa Pacific spoken word programme (6 modules), designed by Pacific Elders, artists and youth workers to enhance language acquisition and expression through a Pacific lens.

These initiatives fostered safe and vibrant spaces where rangatahi transformed vulnerability into strength, isolation into solidarity, and creativity into leadership. Feedback consistently highlights increased confidence, improved literacy, stronger cultural identity, and enduring community connections. Alumni participation as leaders strengthens generational continuity.

Entity Structure

Action Education Incorporated is an independent charitable society that uses spoken word poetry to support the professional, educational, and personal growth of young people — delivered across schools, marae, community centres, sports clubs, and beyond, throughout Aotearoa New Zealand. The Society operates as a single entity and does not have any separate operating units, divisions or branches.

Governance Arrangements

The constitution and rules set out the structure of the Society. The Society is governed by eight volunteer members from a range of business and professional backgrounds. Erin Matariki Carr is our Chairperson and Kaajal Kumar our Treasurer.

Entity's Reliance on Volunteers and Donated Goods or Services

Action Education Inc. relies significantly on the support of volunteers and occasionally on donated goods and services to deliver its programmes and extend its reach in the community.

Volunteers play an important role in supporting events, workshops, and community engagement initiatives. These include spoken word artists, facilitators, youth mentors, and administrative helpers who contribute their time and expertise, often without financial compensation.

While the organisation does not rely heavily on donated goods, it does at times benefit from donated venue space, equipment, or in-kind services (such as photography, design, or professional advice), which help reduce operating costs.

This support strengthens Action Education's capacity to deliver high-impact youth development programmes while maintaining financial sustainability.

Business Location

4G Kitchener Road, Sandringham, Auckland, New Zealand, 1025

Registered Office

4G Kitchener Road, Sandringham, Auckland, New Zealand, 1025

Contact Details

Phone - 09 376 6646

Website - www.actioneducation.co.nz

Email - info@actioneducation.co.nz

Accountants

Findex NZ Limited

Level 17, 88 Shortland Street

Auckland 1010

IRD Number

028-030-101

Board Members

Ms E M Carr (Chair)

Ms A Heather

Ms K Kumar

Mr E Raui

Mr J Minty

Ms G Allen

Ms S Davis-Tana

Mr M Esekielu

Independent Reviewer

JSA Audit Limited

Bankers

ASB Bank Ltd

Incorporation Date

29 June 1992

Approval of Performance Report

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

The board are pleased to present the approved performance report of Action Education Incorporated for the year ended 31 March 2026.

APPROVED

Erin Matariki Carr

Erin Matariki Carr

Chair

Date 29/09/2026

Kaajal Kumar

Kaajal Kumar

Treasurer

Date 29/09/2026

Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

Statement of Service Performance

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

Medium to Long Term Objectives

Our purposes, as set out in constitution, are:

Education: Enhance education and employment outcomes and opportunities for youth and adults through creative facilitation and in collaboration with schools and communities using spoken word poetry, music, visual and multimedia art and other creative mediums.

Health and Wellbeing: strengthen identity, developing self-esteem, confidence and supporting mental health and holistic well being of youth and adults through providing opportunities for creative expression and personal development.

Community Benefit: Build a vibrant and thriving community that supports it's youth and all people by providing opportunities for creative expression for creative expression, occasions for people to be together, and being led by the needs of the communities the society serves, namely of Tangata Whenua, Tangata Moana, rainbow, migrant and refugee communities and all communities in Aotearoa New Zealand.

These purposes translate into three outcome horizons:

1. Develop foundational skills in communication, critical thinking and emotional intelligence (Short Term)
2. Strengthen identity and self-worth by connecting to culture and community (Medium Term)
3. Become Catalysts for change - leading initiatives, influencing peers and reshaping narratives (Long Terms)

Key Outcomes Achieved

- **Increased confidence and self expression** among young people, practically those from marginalized and underrepresented communities. Participants consistently reported feeling more confident in their voices and more capable of articulating their lived experiences.
- **Enhanced wellbeing and resilience,** especially among rangatahi navigating mental health challenges, cultural disconnection, or social isolation. our creative spaces supported emotional regulation, identity exploration, and peer connection.
- **Strengthened cultural identity and pride**, particularly through kaupapa Māori and Pasifika-led programmes such as Ngā Toi O Rongo, Say it how you know it, and Māori Showcase. These spaces enabled rangatahi to connect with their whakapapa, language, and stories
- **Youth voice and leadership development** through platforms like WORD – The Front Line, mentoring initiatives, and showcases. Many alumni returned as mentors, facilitators, and cultural leaders — demonstrating a clear pathway from participant to practitioner.
- **Broader access to the arts and equity in creative opportunities**, achieved by delivering 579 workshops and 31 events and performances across Aotearoa, engaging 7,825 rangatahi and reaching total audiences of 10,446. Our commitment to removing financial and cultural barriers ensured participation from diverse communities.

Our outcomes are evidenced through consistent participant feedback, facilitator reports, partnerships with schools and community organisations, and strong alumni engagement

	2026	2025
Description and Quantification of the Entity's Outputs		
WORD – The Front-Line programme delivered (Auckland and Christchurch)	2	2
Total Spoken Word Events	22	23
Spoken Word Workshops Delivered	579	746
Number of young people taking part in workshops, programmes and events	10,446	9,790

Statement of Financial Performance

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	NOTES	2026	2025
Revenue			
Government service delivery grants/contracts		350,579	353,625
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts		369,384	359,674
Donations, koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities		15,660	20,826
Revenue from commercial activities		796	-
Interest, dividends and other investment revenue		192	412
Other revenue		3,739	-
Total Revenue		**740,351**	**734,536**
Expenses			
Employee remuneration and other related expenses		396,335	409,949
Other expenses related to service delivery		189,986	220,736
Other Expenses		133,740	85,123
Total Expenses		**720,062**	**715,809**
Surplus/(Deficit) for the Year		**20,289**	**18,728**

These Financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report and Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report.

Statement of Financial Position

Action Education Incorporated
As at 31 March 2026

	NOTES	31 MAR 2026	31 MAR 2025
Assets			
Current Assets			
Cash and short-term deposits	4	28,184	138,811
Debtors and prepayments	4	52,008	9,256
Other Current Assets	4	13,179	7,281
Total Current Assets		**93,371**	**155,348**
Non-Current Assets			
Property, Plant and Equipment	3	32,781	28,161
Total Non-Current Assets		**32,781**	**28,161**
Total Assets		**126,152**	**183,509**
Liabilities			
Current Liabilities			
Creditors and accrued expenses	5	25,528	35,800
Employee costs payable	5	24,493	45,009
Deferred revenue	6	-	47,867
Other current liabilities	5	2,349	-
Total Current Liabilities		**52,370**	**128,676**
Non-Current Liabilities			
Loans	5	1,859	3,200
Total Non-Current Liabilities		**1,859**	**3,200**
Total Liabilities		**54,229**	**131,876**
Total Assets less Total Liabilities (Net Assets)		**71,923**	**51,634**
Accumulated Funds			
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	8	71,923	51,634
Total Accumulated Funds		**71,923**	**51,634**

These Financial statements should be read in conjunction with the Notes to the Performance Report and Independent Assurance Practitioner's Review Report.

Statement of Cash Flows

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

	2026	2025
Operating Activities		
Operating Receipts		
Government service delivery grants/contracts	261,289	392,392
Non-government service delivery grants/contracts	366,499	309,387
Donations Koha, bequests and other general fundraising activities	15,660	20,826
Revenue from commercial activities	796	-
Interest received	192	412
Total Operating Receipts	**644,436**	**723,016**
Operating Payments		
Employee remuneration and other related payments	(430,783)	(392,407)
Other Expenses related to service delivery	(182,823)	(204,723)
Other Expenses	(124,866)	(100,170)
Total Operating Payments	**(738,472)**	**(697,299)**
Net Cash Flows from Operating Activities	**(94,036)**	**25,717**
Other Activities		
Cash was received from		
Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment	6,326	-
Total Cash was received from	**6,326**	**-**
Cash was applied to		
Payment for property, plant and equipment	(19,521)	(20,000)
Repayments of loans borrowed from other parties	(3,396)	(2,300)
Total Cash was applied to	**(22,917)**	**(22,300)**
Net Cash Flows from Investing Activities	**(16,591)**	**(22,300)**
Net Cash Flows	**(110,627)**	**3,417**
Cash and short-term deposits		
Cash and short-term deposits at beginning of period	138,811	135,394
Net change in cash for period	(110,627)	3,417
Cash and short-term deposits at the end of period	28,184	138,811

Notes to the Performance Report

Action Education Incorporated
For the year ended 31 March 2026

1. Introduction

Reporting Entity

Action Education Incorporated ("the Society") is an incorporated society under the Incorporated Societies Act 2022, formed on 29 June 1992.

The Society delivers community services including personal development, counselling, and youth development programmes.

The Society is a public benefit entity and its primary objective is to provide services for community and social benefit, rather than making a financial return. Accordingly, the Society has designated themselves as a not-for-profit public benefit entity (not-for-profit PBEs) for the purpose of financial reporting.

Basis of Preparation

This performance report is prepared in accordance with the XRB's Tier 3 (NFP) Standard. The entity is eligible to apply these requirements as it does not have public accountability and has total annual expenses of less than $5,000,000. All transactions in the performance report are reported using the accrual basis of accounting. This performance report is prepared under the assumption that the entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.

The performance report has been prepared on a historical cost basis.

The performance report is presented in New Zealand dollars, which is the Society's functional currency, rounded to the nearest dollar.

The performance report has been prepared on a going concern basis of accounting.

Revenue

a) Contracts: Revenue from contracts is recognised as the services provided by reference to the stage of completion. Where the contract outcome cannot be measured reliably, revenue is recognised only to the extent that the expenses incurred are recoverable.

b) Significant grants, received with no documented expectations over use: These are recorded as revenue when cash is received. Revenue is not deferred even if the society expects to spend the funds received on related expenditures in future periods.

c) Significant grants received with documented expectations over use: On receipt of grant, the society records the asset for funding received (generally cash) and a matching deferred revenue balance. As or when the documented expectations over use are met, the deferred revenue balance is reduced and revenue is recorded. The deferred revenue balance as at balance date reflects the extent to which the documented expectations over use have not yet been satisfied.

d) Insignificant grants received: The society records as revenue when cash is received. Revenue recognition is not deferred even if insignificant grants with documented expectations over use.

Income Tax

The Society is a registered charity with Charities Services and has charitable status with the Inland Revenue so is not liable for income tax, under the section CW 41 of the Income Tax Act 2007.

GST

All amounts are recorded on a GST exclusive basis, except for Debtors and Creditors which are stated inclusive of GST.

Cash and Short-Term Deposit

Cash and short-term deposits in the Statement of Cash Flows comprise cash balances and bank balances (including short-term deposits) with original maturities of 90 days or less.

Comparatives

During the year, certain items were reclassified in the performance report and cashflow statement. Accordingly, the comparative figures have been reclassified to align with the current year's presentation. These reclassifications have no impact on the total amounts previously reported.

2. Changes in Accounting Polices

There have been no changes in accounting policies. Policies have been applied on a consistent basis with those of the previous reporting period.

3. Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, Plant and Equipment is measured at cost less accumulated depreciation and impairment. Cost includes items directly attributed to the acquisition, as an asset have future economic benefits and the cost or fair value of the items can be measured reliably. Where an asset is acquired at no cost, or for a nominal cost, it is recognised at fair value as at the date of acquisition.

Depreciation is charged on a straight-line basis and diminishing value over the useful life of the asset. Depreciation is charged at rates calculated to allocate the cost or valuation of the asset less any estimated value over its remaining useful life. The useful lives of major classes of assets have been estimated as follows:

Asset Class	Method	Rate
Equipment Fixtures & Fittings	Straight Line	8.30 - 10.00%
Motor Vehicles	Diminishing Value	30.00%

	Equipment Fixtures & Fittings	Motor Vehicles	Software & Intangibles	Total
Cost				
Opening 1 April 2025	16,342	9,778	20,000	46,120
Additions	5,523	18,083	-	23,606
Transfers	20,000	-	(20,000)	-
Disposals	-	(8,039)	-	(8,039)
As at 31 March 2026	**41,865**	**19,822**	**-**	**61,687**
Accumulated Depreciation				
Opening 1 April 2025	12,246	5,713	-	17,959
Depreciation reversed on Disposal	-	(5,452)	-	(5,452)
Depreciation	12,202	4,197	-	16,399
As at 31 March 2026	**24,448**	**4,458**	**-**	**28,906**
Book Value				
Opening 1 April 2025	4,096	4,065	20,000	28,161
Closing 31 March 2026	17,417	15,364	-	32,781

During the year the website development of $20,000, previously held as work in progress within Software & Intangibles, was completed and transferred to Office and Computer Equipment, which is included within Equipment Fixtures & Fittings.

4. Analysis of Assets

	2026	2025
Cash and short-term deposits		
Action Education Inc	27,946	25,004
Business Saver	239	113,807
Total Cash and short-term deposits	**28,184**	**138,811**
Debtors and prepayments		
Accrued Income	45,000	-
Accounts Receivable	1,940	2,855
Prepayments	5,068	6,401
Total Debtors and prepayments	**52,008**	**9,256**
Other current assets		
GST Receivable	5,897	-
Rental Bond	7,281	7,281
Total Other current assets	**13,179**	**7,281**

Debtors and Prepayments

Receivables are initially recognised at fair value and subsequently measured at amortised cost less any provision for impairment. A provision for impairment of receivables is established when there is evidence that the Society will not be able to collect all amounts due.

Other Current Assets

Other Current Assets are recognised at fair value

5. Analysis of Liabilities

	2026	2025
Creditors and accrued expenses		
GST Payable	-	4,658
Accruals	5,000	8,448
ASB Credit Card 9646	-	301
ASB Credit Card 4046	4,954	-
Accounts Payable	15,574	22,392
Total Creditors and accrued expenses	**25,528**	**35,800**
Employee costs payable		
Holiday Pay	24,493	26,143
PAYE Payable	-	16,193
Kiwisaver Employee	-	1,426
Kiwisaver Employer	-	1,248
Total Employee costs payable	**24,493**	**45,009**
Other current liabilities		
Spark Interest Free Phone Loan - Current Portion	2,349	-
Total Other current liabilities	**2,349**	**-**
Loans		
Spark Interest Free Phone Loan - Non Current Portion	1,859	-
Loan from Youthline - NCS949 LKY127	-	3,200
Total Loans	**1,859**	**3,200**

Creditors and accrued expenses

Creditors and accrued expenses are recognised when the Society incurs an obligation to pay for them. Creditors are initially measured at the amount owing. Where an invoice has not been received for goods or services received before balance date, the Society recognises an accrual for the estimated amount payable.

Employee Costs Payable

Liabilities for wages and salaries and annual leave are recognised in Statement of Financial Position during the period in which the employee rendered the services, and are generally expected to be settled within 12 months of the balance date. The liabilities for these short-term benefits are measured at the amounts expected to be paid. Sick leave is recognised as an expense when the leave is taken and is measured at the rates paid.

Loan

2026: During the year the loan was drawn down to purchase 2 new phones in December 2025 and January 2026. Both loans are interest free and are over a 24 month period with monthly repayments of $97.88.

2025: The following loan from Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust was initially drawn down in October 2024 for $5,500, to purchase two motor vehicles. The loan is interest free and unsecured with monthly repayments of $460. This loan was fully repaid during the year.

	2026	2025
6. Deferred Revenue		
NZ Lottery Grants Board	-	7,867
The Trust Community	-	40,000
Total Deferred Revenue	-	47,867

Deferred Revenue

The following funding was received by the Society prior to balance date and relates to the subsequent financial year. These amounts are only recognised when the documented expectations are satisfied:

Funds received from The Trust Community are advanced to Action Education and cover the period 15 April 2025 to 30 September 2025. The funds are to support Action Education's local coordination team in their delivery for "Word of the Front Line" event in Christchurch.

Funds received from NZ Lottery Grants Board cover the period 17 March 2025 to 17 March 2027. The grant is to assist delivery of events held by Action Education. A results report will be provided to Internal Affairs after the grant has been fully utilised.

7. Financial Risk Management

Financial assets are classified as loans and other receivables and include cash at bank and accounts receivable. Financial liabilities are classified at amortised cost and include payables and provisions. The carrying value of financial assets and liabilities closely approximate their fair value. The Board assesses whether there is any objective evidence that a financial asset or liability is impaired. Any impairment losses are recognised in the statement of financial performance.

	2026	2025
8. Accumulated Funds		
Accumulated Funds		
Opening Balance	51,634	32,906
Accumulated surpluses or (deficits)	20,289	18,728
Total Accumulated Funds	**71,923**	**51,634**
Total Accumulated Funds	**71,923**	**51,634**

9. Related Parties

Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust was the controlling entity of the Society until 1 September 2024. Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust was therefore not a related party of the Society during the year ended 31 March 2026.

Comparative related party transactions and balances for the year ended 31 March 2025 arose from the relationship with Youthline Auckland Charitable Trust and are disclosed below. The balance outstanding at 31 March 2025 was repaid in full subsequent to year end.

	2026	2025
Related Parties		
Income		
Share of grant received	-	39,750
Total Income	-	**39,750**
Expenses		
Administration, rent and IT Services	-	60,897
Total Expenses	-	**60,897**
Payables		
Payables	-	6,253
Total Payables	-	**6,253**

10. Commitments & Contingent Liabilities

There are no commitments as at balance date. (2025: nil)

No significant contingent liabilities are known to exist at balance date. (2025: nil)

11. Subsequent Events

There are no significant subsequent events. Action Education Incorporated is exploring the possibility of transitioning from an Incorporated Society to a Charitable Trust. The board has engaged lawyers to advise on this matter. At the time of review of Action Education's performance report, no decision has been made relating to the change to a Charitable Trust.

12. Ability to Continue Operating

The entity will continue to operate for the foreseeable future.



ACTION ED