



Empowering grandparents and caregivers - strengthening **whānau**

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Our Vision and Purpose

To tātou moemoeā me te kaupapa

To provide specialised services and programmes that empower and strengthen grandparent and whānau care families to raise resilient and healthy tamariki.

Our Values

Ngā Matapono

♥ **Children are our taonga**

Children are our taonga (treasure) and their caregivers are the kaitiaki (guardians) of their future.

♥ **Whakapapa and Whanaungatanga**

We embrace the need for people to be connected and belong to their family or whānau through the concepts of whakapapa and whanaungatanga (relationship, kinship, sense of family connection).

♥ **Ako – Learning from each other**

We value ako; the exchange of learning from one another and enriching each other's lives.

♥ **Pono – Respect and Integrity**

We honour the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and work with honesty, respect, and integrity towards people of all ethnicities and cultural backgrounds.

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Trust NZ (GRG)

Registered charitable trust established 2001.

Empowering grandparent and whānau care for over 23 years:

- ~**6,500** grandparent and whānau care member families
- ~**10,000+** caregivers providing safe and loving homes for over **16,000** tamariki and rangatahi across Aotearoa



Specialised support for grandparents raising grandchildren

He tautoko motuhake mo nga tupuna e whakatipu ana i a ratou mokopuna

Specialised services to support, equip and empower grandparents and whanau caregivers.

- **Information/resources**
- **Crisis support**
- **Advice and specialised advocacy**
- **Education programmes**
- **Support Group Coordinators enabling peer support across Aotearoa New Zealand**

Our services

Ko a mātou ratonga

- ♥ **0800 GRANDS free helpline**
- ♥ **Outreach and Advocacy Service**
- ♥ **New member welcome & information packs**
- ♥ **Bi-monthly newsletter via email or post**
- ♥ **Support group networks nationwide**
- ♥ **Emergency care packs**
- ♥ **Caregiver education programme**
- ♥ **Respite opportunities / camps**



Our Strategic Priorities

Ko a mātou kaupapa rautaki matua

Advocating, Educating and Empowering GRG Whānau

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren services and programmes help whānau:

- ♥ Access income and legal support that helps them provide safe, stable and nurturing homes.
- ♥ Focus on children's mental wellbeing and their recovery from past trauma.
- ♥ Thrive in accordance with their cultural values and aspirations.
- ♥ Empowering a sense of belonging and support within their community.

Community partnerships and collaboration

Partnerships and collaborations locally and globally with aligned community organisations and groups on initiatives and events that benefit grandparent and whānau care families.

National advocacy and thought leadership

Sector leadership that influences and informs law and policy development focused on the wellbeing of children, young people and their whānau.

Sustainability

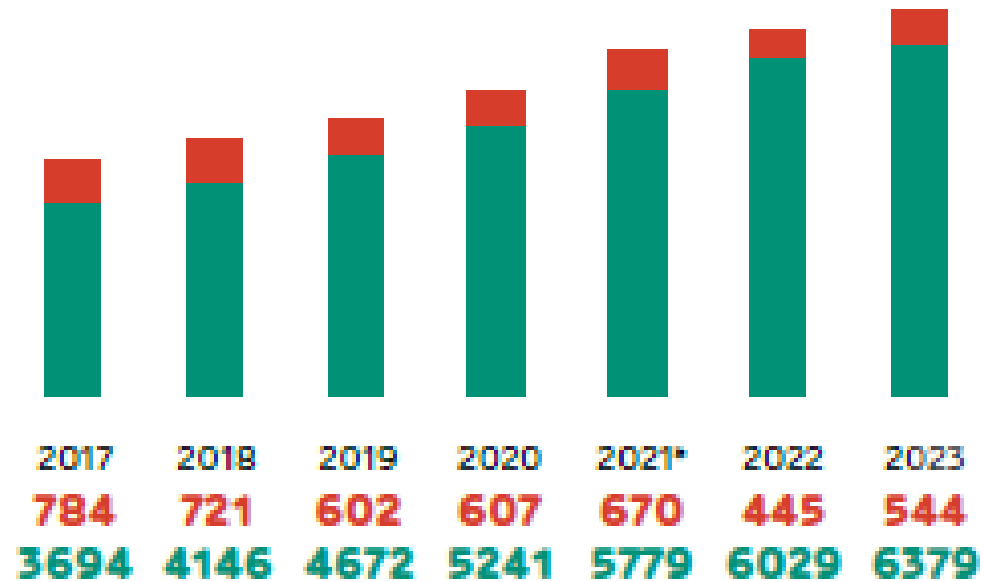
A clear vision and objectives linked to positive social impacts – together with experienced staff, governance, robust systems, policies and diversified funding streams.

What have we learned?

- Substance abuse / addiction is the leading cause of children and youth in care
- >60% of children in the care of grandparents or other whānau have a psycho-social or cognitive disorder
- Diagnoses are predominantly linked to past trauma and abuse
- Average age of caregivers is 55-59 years
- >90% of GRG caregivers are grandmothers and female caregivers
- 35% are grandmothers raising mokopuna on their own
- 72% of sole grandparents have a household income <\$30,000
- GRG's member caregivers' range in age 40s to mid-80s
- Our caregivers are raising two children on average
- 73% have health problems affecting their lives
- 53% not in paid employment
- ~50% have had to give up work, retire or reduce working hours
- Some will go back to work or take on two

Membership growth

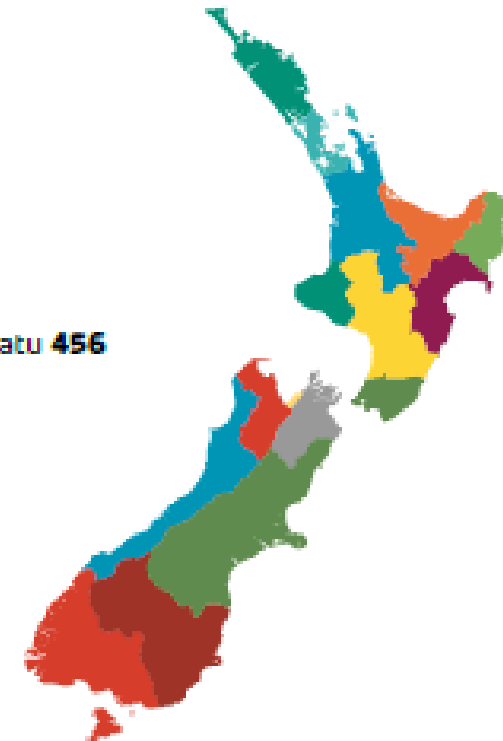
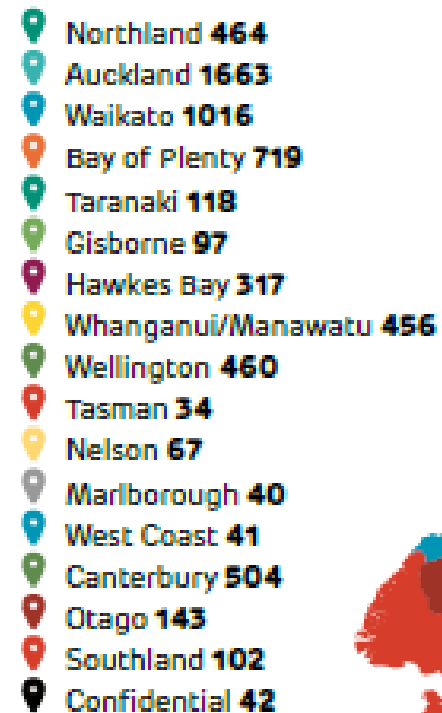
Te pikinga ake o to mātou mema



New member families | **Total member families**

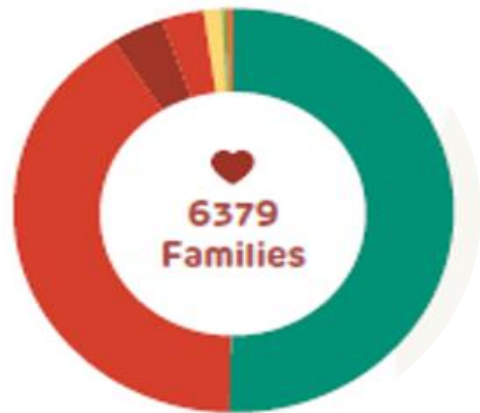
Where our member families live

Te wahi e noho o mātou mema



Ethnic profile of our member families

Te taupori ā-iwi o ā mātou mema



50.4% NZ European/Pakeha
40.7% Maori
3.1% Pacific
0.4% Asian
0.4% MELAA (Middle Eastern/Latin American/African)
1.2% Other European
3.8% Undisclosed

Why members seek our support or advice

Te take i tonu ai ngā mema ki te tautoko me te tohutohu

1% Respite
6% Housing
19% Special Needs and disabilities
21% Oranga Tamariki
27% Family Court
35% Counselling
43% Guardianship and Parenting
56% GRG Newsletter
66% Financial and Income Support

How we helped our member families in the 2022 year to 30 June 2023



6,379 Grandparent and whānau care families raising 16,000+ children and young people were supported through our programmes and services. (2022:6035)



561 Members, including 296 new clients requested and received information, advice or advocacy assistance from our Specialist (Income Support) Advocacy Service.



38 Clients were granted the **Unsupported Child Benefit** because of our advocate's intervention and advocacy, after the applications had initially been declined or clients were incorrectly told they didn't qualify for this support



96% of our clients said our advice and advocacy support helped them access what they needed and **93%** say they now have a **better understanding of their rights and responsibilities as a caregiver than before**



32 Support and Coffee Groups nationwide, providing peer support to member caregivers in their communities.



101 Clients and families in need received emergency care packs with donated new and preloved clothing.



511 Clients requested and received help from our **Community Outreach Advocacy** service including **258 new clients**, needing help with parenting, guardianship, Family Court, Oranga Tamariki, special needs, schooling, education, mental health, youth justice or housing concerns.



\$1,279,276

In arrears payments were paid to **36 clients** because of our advocacy to establish their entitlement to this income support



94 Caregivers in 15 locations; learned best practice strategies for parenting children affected by trauma through our **SALT (Simply Acquired & Learned Techniques™) Grandparent and Whānau Care Workshops**



100% reported that the information they learned at the SALT programme was helpful to them.

Advocating and supporting grandparents

In New Zealand more than 80% of the children in 'alternative care' following a family breakdown are being raised by grandparents or their extended whanau.

- ♥ Our research has shown the needs of children in these families are largely the same as children who are placed in state care, often due to trauma through neglect, family harm, drug abuse, mental illness, sexual and or physical abuse.
- ♥ Studies show outcomes for children and their ability to recover from past trauma, to lead healthy and resilient lives is directly linked to the levels of support and resources caregivers can access.

Client member feedback...

“Thank you! I would never have coped without GRG help. I would have given up and the child would have remained in a home full of drugs and violence. The child’s life has changed so much, and she is safe now.”

“The support provided was excellent, right at the time I needed to talk to someone, and I knew they understood what I was going through.”

“My granddaughter is happier now she knows she is able to play sport without the worry of how it will be paid for... without you to help us we would have still been struggling. You are a God send, and I will be forever grateful for your support. Thank you, GRG and God bless you for all that you do, you are all truly amazing!”



*Thank
you*

