

# Across the Spectrum



He waka eke noa  
[We're in it together]

**Sean Stowers** CHIEF EXECUTIVE  
SPECTRUM FOUNDATION GROUP

## From the CE

WINTER 2023

The last quarter has been a particularly dynamic one for all of us at Spectrum Foundation Group, marked by significant achievements across our subsidiaries. We've finalised our strategic plans, which provides a framework for all of our activities and outlines how we'll have the most significant impact. For Spectrum Foundation, this involves four key areas of focus:



**Philanthropy** – Funding programmes that deliver specific and measurable systemic and societal change for disabled people.



**Voice** – Enabling and empowering active participation by working with disabled people, whānau, and allies to develop their voices.



**Cultural Partnerships** – Being responsive to the needs of tāngata Whaikaha Māori and Pasifika and building our cultural capacity through community collaborations.



**Shared Services** – Working collaboratively to provide our subsidiaries with best practice Finance, Workforce, Business Technology, and Communications services.

Another accomplishment for Spectrum Foundation was the appointment of the Philanthropy Moderation Panel, a group of people with lived experience of disability that will play an integral role in assessing and selecting funding applications before final approval by the Board. You can find out more about Spectrum Foundation's funding and meet the members of our Philanthropy Moderation Panel at [www.spectrumfoundation.org.nz/funding](http://www.spectrumfoundation.org.nz/funding).

A recent sector highlight was July's NZDSN conference in Wellington, at which Spectrum Care's 'Media Lab' took the NZDSN Community Choice Award. Media Lab provides a soft entry point into high-level creative practice, offering courses in music production, filmmaking, photography, and screen-printing.

The NZDSN Community Choice Award recognises those who have had a meaningful positive impact in the community. Congratulations to the Media Lab students and staff, and Spectrum Care's Aspirations team. This is a fantastic acknowledgement of the great work we're doing every day.

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# Two new properties!

Homes of Choice acquires not one, but two new accessible properties for people with disabilities in Whangarei.

Finding an accessible home is a challenge at the best of times, but it's particularly difficult in smaller regions like Whangarei, where housing is in even shorter supply.

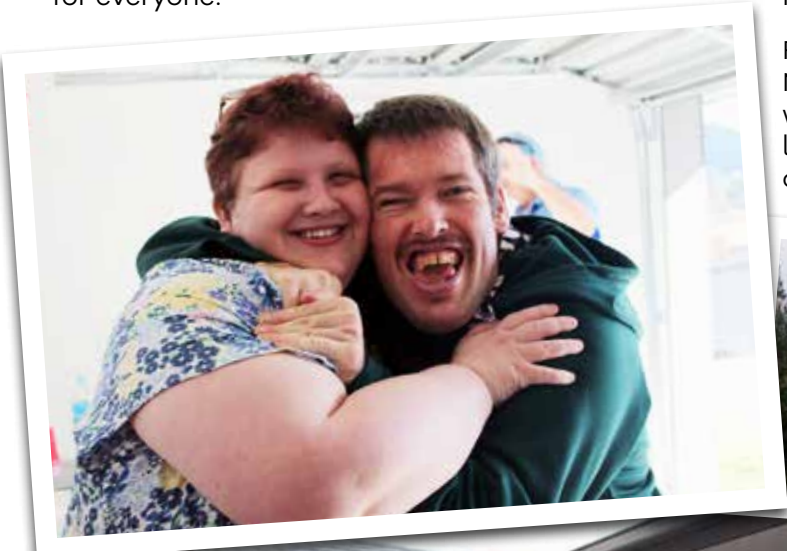
The Spectrum Care and Homes of Choice team were given a difficult task in finding two beautiful new homes for the people we support in Northland, but thanks to partnerships with Kainga Ora and a local investor, and the collective support from Spectrum Foundation Group staff, we were able to find options for everyone!



The first of these is a warm and vibrant new build in the Kamo region of Whangārei, which will be home to three young men. The tenants were beyond excited to move into a place of their own and have more choice, freedom, and independence.

A second property in Whangārei was recently secured with the help of Kāinga Ora. Since moving out of their previous house, the residents have enjoyed staying in a holiday home beside the beach, but after months of searching, they are relieved to have found a property that suits all of their needs.

Finding not one, but two suitable properties in Northland is a great achievement and will go a long way in ensuring the people we support are able to live fulfilling and independent lives within their home communities.



## From the CE continued...

In other positive news, our social housing subsidiary Homes of Choice has successfully attained funding to support its strategic goals; 'Housing more people', 'Housing people better', and 'Growth through partnerships and funding'. Funding from the Affordable Housing Fund will see the development of several affordable, accessible homes for families with disabled children.

Meanwhile, further funding from the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development will be utilised in the development of eight units in South Auckland, five of which will be fully wheelchair-accessible. The average wait time for accessible homes is even longer than that for standard public housing, so we're delighted to be able to increase the stock of modified homes and provide suitable options for those with additional needs.

# Dedicated staff make all the difference

Thanks to our incredible support workers, we're able to offer much-needed support continuity for disabled children and whānau on Waiheke Island.

It's no news that organisations across the country have been struggling to recruit and retain staff, and the disability sector has been hit harder than most?. In smaller communities like Waiheke Island, it's even more difficult to find qualified people with the skills, experience, and personality that are essential when working with children with diverse abilities.

Spectrum Care hasn't been immune to these challenges, but thanks to a few particularly passionate staff members, we've been able to continue running our School Holiday Programme on Waiheke.

Some of the team live on the island, working hard year-round to provide person-centred support to disabled people within the community. Others travel all the way from South Auckland every day during the school breaks, when the need for support is higher.

But despite the long commute, the staff are energetic and enthusiastic with the kids, and always plan a range of fun activities based on each child's needs.



And at the end of the week, they go the extra mile to ensure that each child feels valued and supported by creating personalised scrapbooks with photos and memories of their time at the programme.

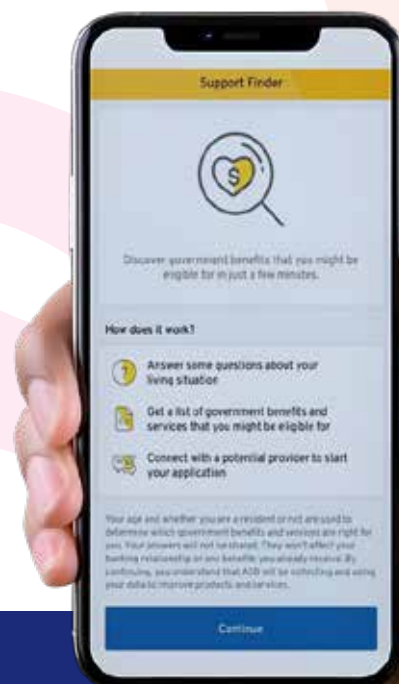
Without such a wonderful team, we wouldn't be able to offer this programme, so a huge thanks goes out to the staff whose hard work and dedication enables us to provide much-needed support to whānau on Waiheke.

## Find out if you're eligible for additional financial support

ASB Support Finder is a free tool that helps whānau connect with government providers and apply for financial assistance, ensuring that every support option is being utilised.

By answering a few simple questions, you can figure out if you qualify for government benefits, services, or other financial support, including many you may not know about!

ASB Support Finder is completely free and available for customers of any bank. Discover what support is available to you at <https://www.asb.co.nz/banking-with-asb/support-finder.html>



# Sailability: enabling accessible sailing for people with disabilities

For many people with disabilities, opportunities to get out on the water are few and far between.

In addition to the financial and physical barriers, there aren't many programmes that cater to a range of abilities, but thanks to Sailability, more disabled people are now able to enjoy the Waitematā Harbour.

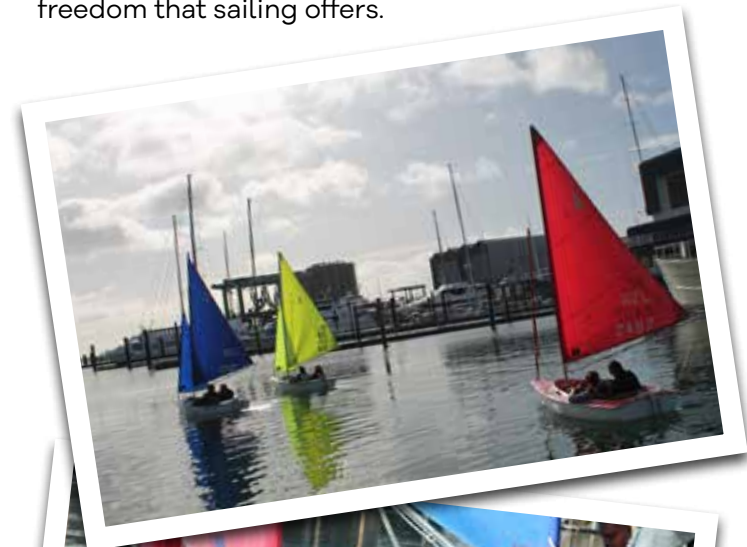
Sailability is an organisation that gives children and adults with disabilities the opportunity to learn to sail and race. Coach Finn from the Auckland group has been sailing for most of his life, and his passion for the sport is tangible. He believes that everyone should have the chance to experience the adventure and freedom that sailing offers.

*"The yachts we use are really safe and easy to sail, and they're accessible for people with mobility issues and wheelchair users. A trained sailor goes along with them, so it's the perfect way for people who have never tried it before to experience being in control of a sailing boat in a safe and supportive environment."*

Spectrum Care and Sailability have been working together for years, and over the past few months, the programmes have expanded and more groups from Spectrum have been able to attend the programmes at Westhaven Marina in Auckland.

Finn says that almost everyone who comes along has a good time. "Even if they're a bit nervous at the start, you can see people relax and start to enjoy themselves once they get the hang of it."

Dorothy, a Community Facilitator at Spectrum Care, agrees wholeheartedly. "Some people go just for fun, or to experience something new. Others really love it and continue learning themselves! Without programmes like Sailability, they wouldn't have the opportunity to explore this interest."



**"A whole lot of fun!"**

- Hannah

**"Nice boats, beautiful day."**

- Diane

**"I had fun on the boat.  
I want to go again!"**

- Tommy

# Your feedback matters!

Customer feedback helps us to understand your needs and ensures that we're delivering the best possible experience.

We want to hear the voices and views of the people we support, whānau, and key workers, and understand how people feel about the support we provide.

Our Customer Experience Monitor is an online tool that you can use to tell us your thoughts and feelings about our services.

It's quick and easy to use and can be accessed at any time and on any device.

You can find the Customer Experience Monitor on our website – simply click the 'Customer Feedback' button at the bottom of the page, or scan the QR code below to go directly to the form.

You can also email us at [feedback@spectrumcare.org.nz](mailto:feedback@spectrumcare.org.nz)



**Spectrum  
care**

Te Wai Kahukura Atawhai

## D\*List

Introducing the D\*List – the home of disability culture in Aotearoa!

The D\*List is an online culture magazine that's on a mission to transform attitudes towards disability in Aotearoa by creating a space where people can be authentically and unapologetically themselves.

Featuring columns, news reporting, and opinion pieces, the D\*List invites disabled people to tell their own stories, to have their voices heard, and to challenge norms. But it's not just for disabled people. The writers encourage non-disabled people to engage, too, by reading, listening, and building towards a world that refuses to tolerate ableism.

Along with Foundation North, JR McKenzie Trust and Todd Foundation, Spectrum Foundation's support is providing The D\*List with the resources to bring their content, events and experiences to life.

Check it out: [thedlist.co.nz](http://thedlist.co.nz)

**THE D\*LIST**

**Our promise is to leave no one behind.**

[spectrumfoundation.org.nz](http://spectrumfoundation.org.nz)

# Spectrum Foundation has its first volunteer day!

In June, Spectrum Foundation welcomed its very first volunteers to help with a landscaping project at one of our Auckland properties.

A group from Salesforce worked alongside our Homes of Choice team to renovate the garden, building a rock bed, planting young fruit trees, and adding a statue.

Thanks to a generous donation from whānau, some of our tenants were able to choose and purchase some decorations for their garden.

Unfortunately, their budget didn't account for labour, so some volunteers from Spectrum Foundation Group were enlisted to help complete the project.

Despite heavy rain on the day, the job was done in just a few hours, and the residents and staff alike were very impressed with the result!



# Welcoming our new Te Pou Tikanga!

In August, we welcomed Aufata Muaulu as our te Pou Tikanga, and a member of our Executive Team.

Aufata is of Ngapuhi/Te Rarawa/Te Aupouri iwi and Ngati Rehia/Ngati Hine/Te Paatu hapu. He is also of Samoan descent, from the villages of Matautu Falealili, Sapunaoa Falealili, Tulaele and Vaivase.

The Te Pou Tikanga is a new role within the Spectrum Foundation Group, but it is a crucial one. The Te Pou Tikanga will provide advice, guidance, and support to the Chief Executive, Board, and senior leaders of Spectrum Foundation, Spectrum Care, and Homes of Choice, and play a key role in ensuring we achieve our strategic objectives and deliver equitable outcomes for tāngata whaikaha.

We're excited to welcome Aufata on board to help us to build cultural capability within the organisation and enable us to better understand and serve the needs of tāngata whaikaha Māori and whānau.

Nau mai haere mai, Te Pou Tikanga!



**SPECTRUM  
FOUNDATION**

Ahākoa ko wai te tangata, ahākoa nō hea

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