



Whangārei Rape Crisis

Ngā Whītiki Whānau Āhuru
Mōwai O Whangārei

Annual Report
2023 - 2024



Contents

1. Chair & General Manager Report
2. WRC Mission & Strategic Plan 2024 to 2026
3. Our Mahi
4. Our Impact
5. Who We Supported
6. Rape Awareness Week, May 2024
7. Our Supporters



WRC staff with Acute Response Self-Care packs, created with a grant from AK Franks Charitable Trust.



Board Chair & General Manager Report

Kia ora tātou katoa,

We are pleased to present the Whangārei Rape Crisis (WRC) Annual Report for 2023/2024. As we reflect on this year, we are proud of the progress made in strengthening both the governance and operational capacity of WRC. This has been a year of important collaboration, with the Board ensuring robust oversight, while the service's dedicated team worked hard to maintain the high standards our community expects.

One of the key achievements this year has been the collaborative development of our new Strategic Plan, a roadmap to 2026 that aligns the mission and priorities of both the Board and staff as we continue to enhance the services we provide to survivors of sexual violence.

The Board has been committed to providing strong governance, with a continued focus on scrutiny and assurance, prioritising robust financial oversight and resilience planning. At the same time, a core priority for WRC has been deepening our commitment to Te Tiriti, which is the first stated priority in our new Strategic Plan, to strengthen its application at a governance level. This initiative supports our ongoing efforts to ensure that we continue to foster a culture of excellence and inclusivity in all aspects of governance.

A key challenge this year, as with many other social services, was recruitment. In July, we faced a critical staffing shortage, particularly in Social Work, which placed significant strain on our ability to meet the growing demand for services. This led to a difficult decision to temporarily close new referrals, so we could prioritise maintaining support for those already in our service and safeguard the wellbeing of our frontline staff. After four months of uncertainty, we were pleased to restore staffing levels and reopen referrals, which we have continued to maintain.

During the year, we successfully re-met Te Kāhui Kāhu's Level 2 Social Sector Accreditation Standards and launched social media alongside the He Hapori Whakaae: Community of Consent initiative at the same time as unveiling our new organisational logo, marking the beginning of Rape Awareness Week. This new community-focused initiative aims to foster a culture of enthusiastic consent, to reduce instances of sexual violence and challenge the stigma surrounding discussions about consent by bringing it into everyday activities.

2023/2024 concluded with WRC playing a key role on the Partnership Group for the Te Tai Tokerau Sexual Violence Network and a successful tender to become an ACC Sensitive Claims Supplier, further enhancing the support we provide to survivors of sexual violence.

We are deeply grateful to our stakeholders, funders, volunteers, and supporters for their continued commitment to our work. We look forward to furthering this important mahi in the year ahead, seeking out opportunities to improve the services for survivors and create meaningful change.



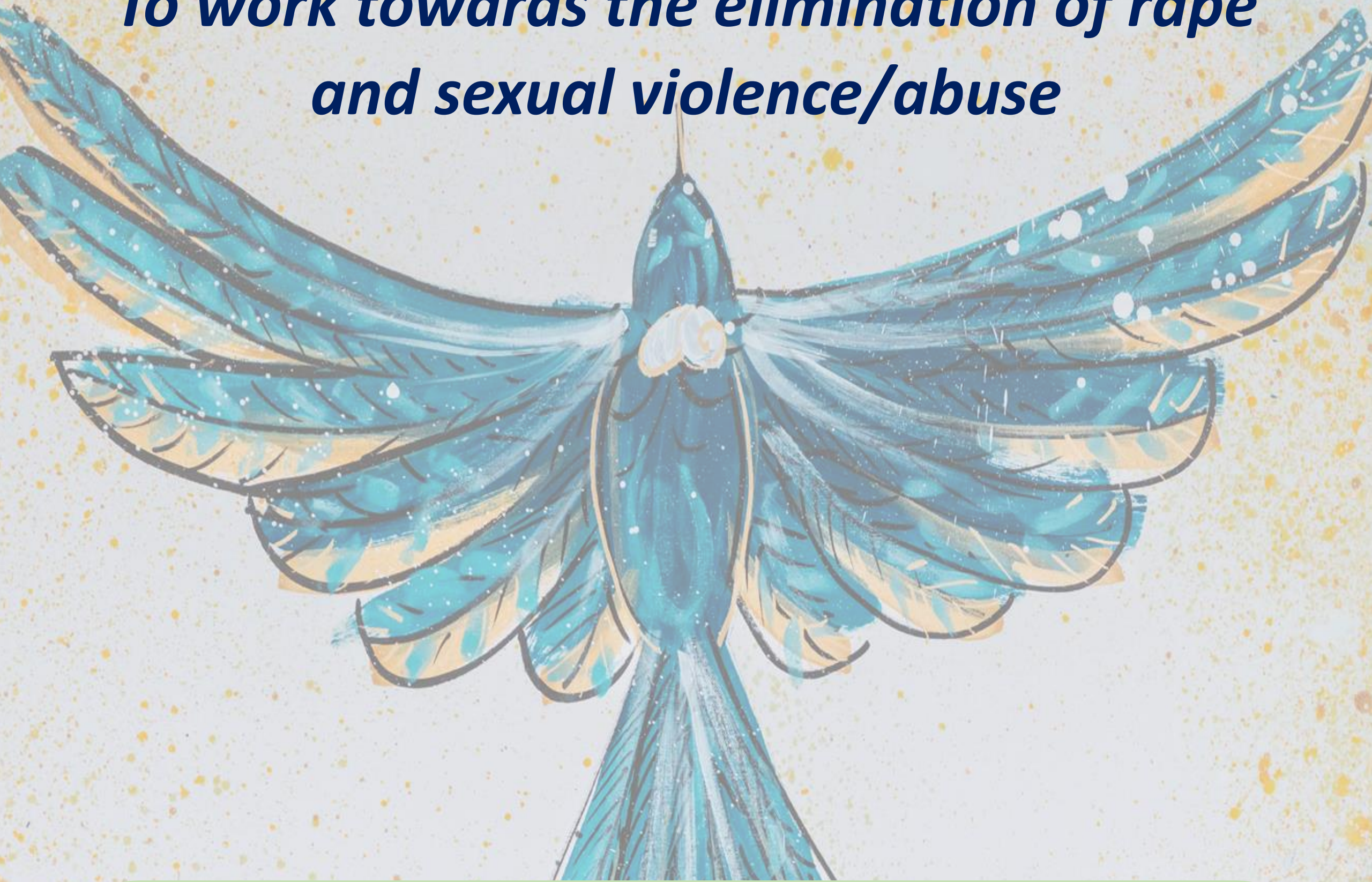
Ngā mihi nui,
Janice Millman
Board Chair

Ange Jones
General Manager



Our Mission

***To work towards the elimination of rape
and sexual violence/abuse***



Our Strategic Plan 2024 to 2026

1. Ensure Te Tiriti and Te Ao Māori guide how we do what we do
2. Support people to heal and build resilience within their whānau, families and communities
3. Involve survivor voice in service design
4. Increase understanding and awareness around sexual harm
5. Contribute to the elimination of sexual violence through advocacy and collaboration

Underpinned by maintaining a resilient organisation



What is Sexual Violence?*

*Sexual violence encompasses sexual behaviours that are engaged in without consent and involve **elements** of force, coercion and/or power by one person over another for the purpose of sexual gratification and control. This can include both contact and non-contact behaviour, including ‘online’ computer-assisted sexual harm.*

*MSD Sexual Harm Crisis Support Service Guidelines F21

Crisis Service

Our Crisis Service provides immediate support to those impacted by sexual violence to help reduce the devastating longer-term impacts that sexual harm has on individuals, their whānau/family.

A crisis support worker is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week (24/7) to support someone through any treatment or other processes immediately following a crisis event. This may include police interviews and medical examinations.

“I got support I needed when I didn’t realise I actually needed support. I’m used to having to work things out on my own. I wouldn’t of known to access the supports... ...like I wouldn’t know where to go”

Crisis support is not defined by the actual event, but by the person’s response (and the response of their family/whānau /community) to that event. A survivor may still be considered in crisis if the event is historical, as crisis episodes can be triggered by events later in a survivor’s life.

We ensure that the survivor feels believed, is treated with respect and understanding, retains some control over proceedings and is given adequate information.

We are not only a crisis service. Many people who contact us have experienced rape and/or sexual abuse some time ago. Our services are available to anyone who has experienced rape and/or sexual abuse, no matter when it happened.

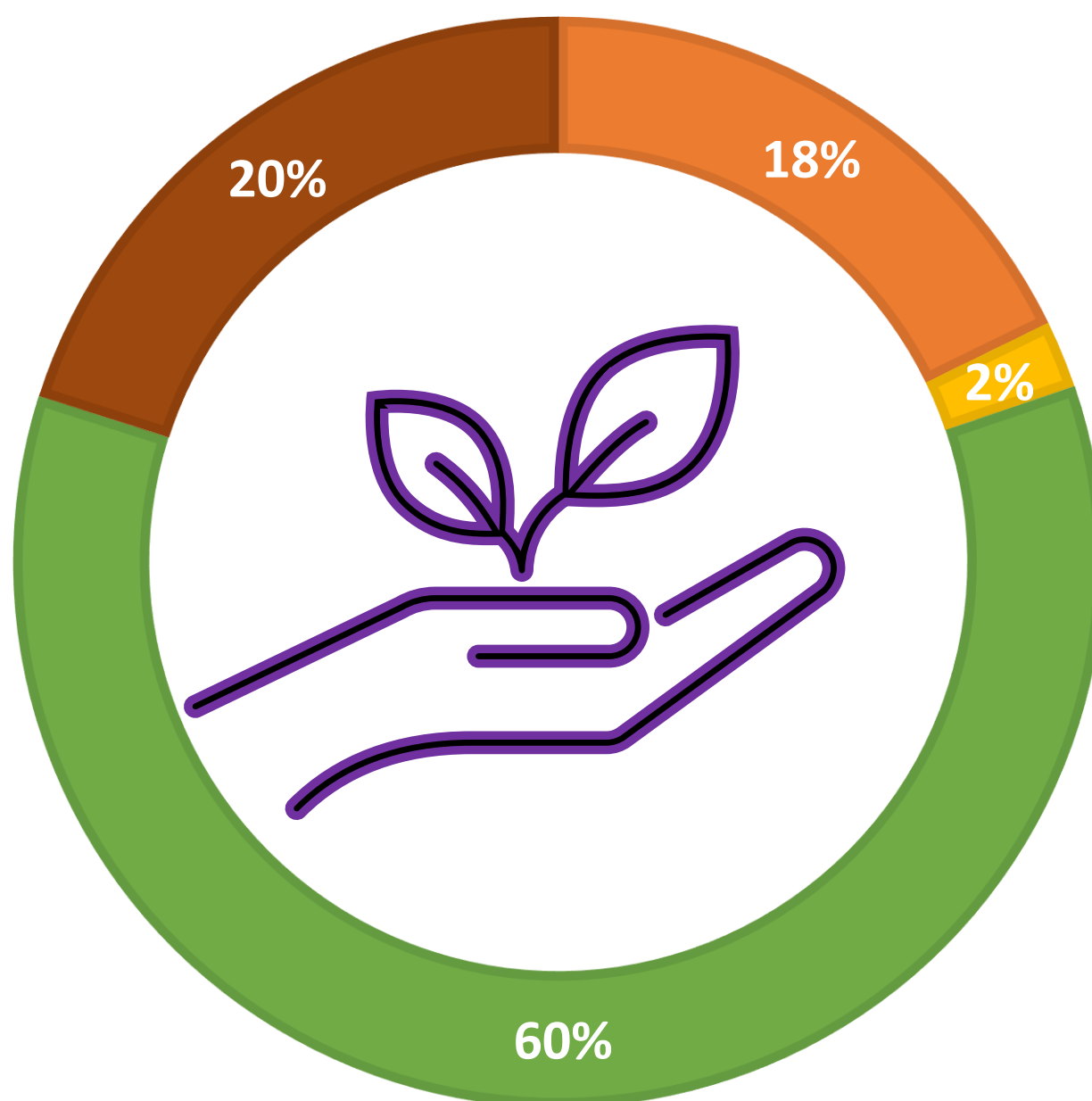
Court Service

Our Court Service provides support throughout the criminal justice process. We work with partners such as police and Court Victim Advisor to ensure survivors’ emotional, psychological and practical needs are met pre, during and post the court process.



192

Referrals received for support



■ Self ■ Friends & Whānāu ■ Police ■ Other Agencies



290

Calls received by our 24/7 Crisis Line



Who We Supported

Of the people who
accessed our service;

91% reported
to the Police

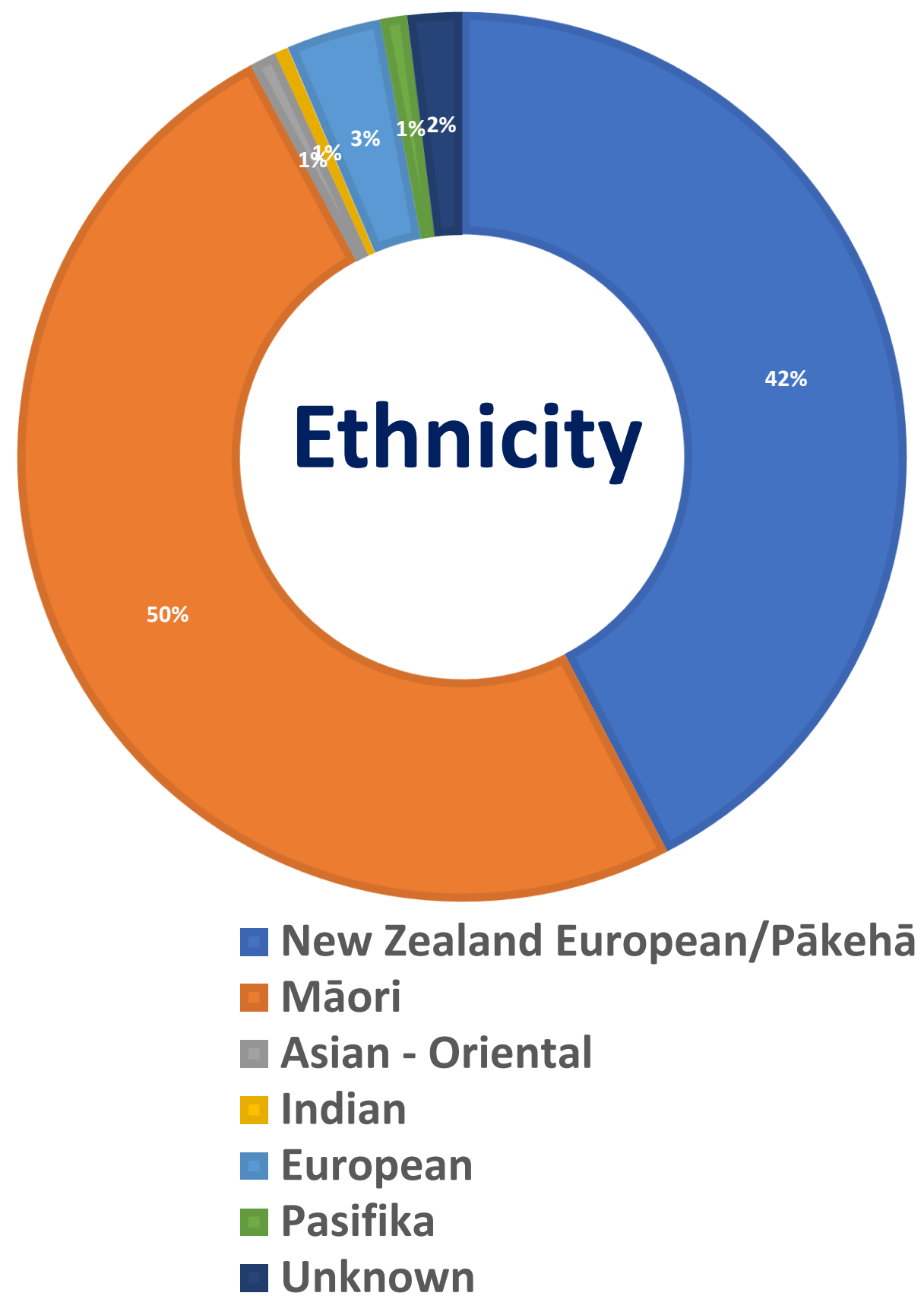
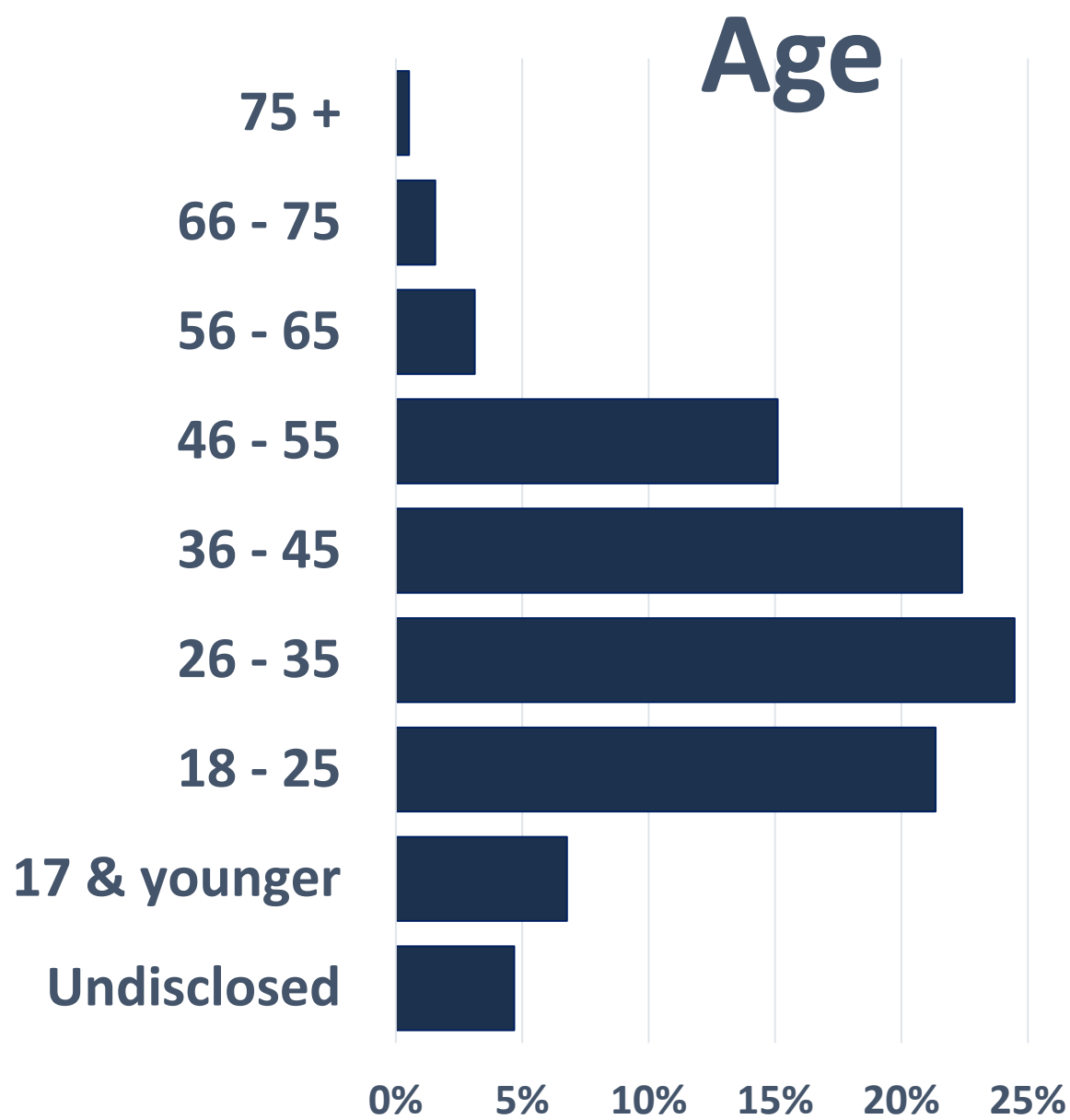
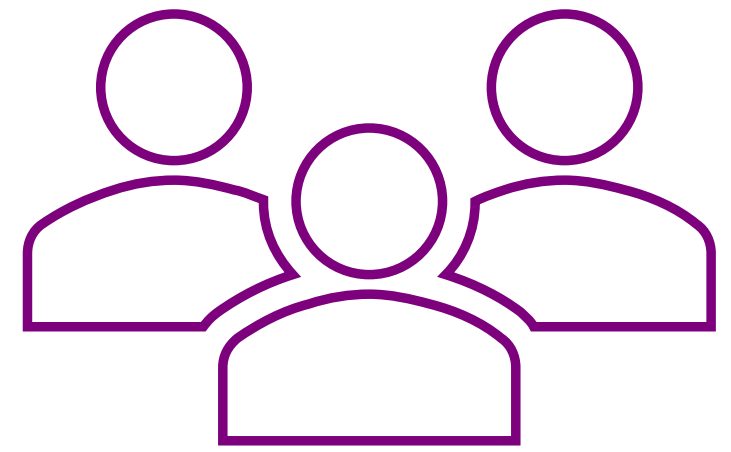
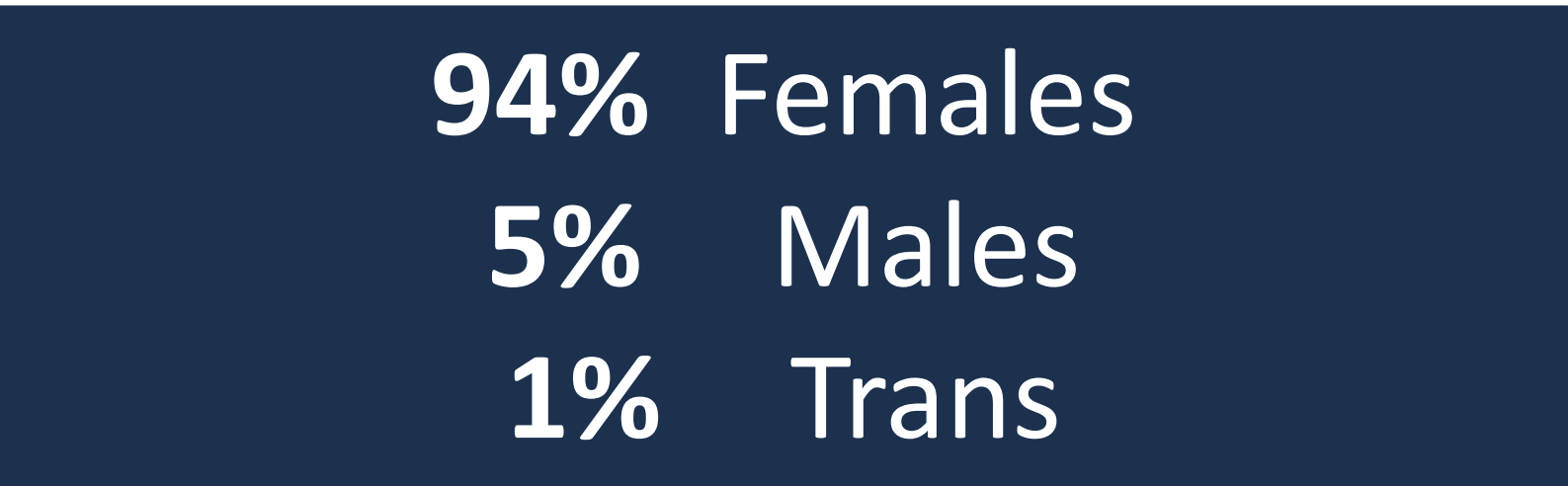


*"I felt a ton of support
and learned how to
deal with the
whole process through
the police"*

*"The support I
received [from
WRC] was just
amazing. Very
welcoming,
comfortable and
patient"*

92% Perpetrators
were **known** to the
survivor

8% Perpetrators
were **unknown**



“I honestly felt really invested in, and treated with the utmost hospitality”



Rape Awareness Week, May 2024

Rape Awareness Week (RAW) opened on 6th May with the unveiling and blessing of He Ara Tatai, an artwork conceived by Vicki Graham (pictured) and confirmed with input from Kaumatua Glen Hauraki (pictured) and previous Board Chair, Fran Hauraki. The combination of Poutama (steps to healing), Kōrari/Harakeke (representing whānau) and the Tui soaring, now grace the entrance stairway to our support rooms.

He Ara Tatai marked the birth of WRC's new logo.

WRC also launched He Hapori Whakaae Community of Consent. The initiative aims to normalise consent and foster open, respectful conversations about boundaries, seeking to reduce sexual violence and challenge stigma by promoting enthusiastic consent.

2024 saw initial engagement with our communities which will be built on going forward.



HE HAPORI WHAKAAE COMMUNITY OF CONSENT

Make consent an everyday activity.
Kia noho ko te whakaae hei mahi o ia rā.





Many thanks to our supporters



**MINISTRY OF SOCIAL
DEVELOPMENT**
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO ORA

COGS
Community Organisation
Grants Scheme

**Pub
Charity**

 **Four Winds**
FOUNDATION

 **THE LION
FOUNDATION**

**A.K. Franks
Charitable Trust**



Whangārei Rape Crisis
Ngā Whītiki Whānau Āhuru
Mōwai O Whangārei