



# 2023 CHAIR REPORT

It has been a honour to chair the RAW Board this year.

I have been a part of RAW since its conception and continue to be encouraged as I observe the RAW wāhine and their whanau being enabled and supported to live pro-social lives.

During 2022, RAW attained a significant milestone, reaching 80 wāhine in our cohort.

Since March 2015, RAW has now supported 80 wāhine through their integrative space, and had impact on over 400 tamariki and whanau.

It was a great privilege to welcome RAW's new patron, Her Excellency, The Right Honourable Dame Cindy Kiro, GNZM, QSO, the Governor-General of New Zealand. It is inspiring for us all to have had two leading female Governor-General RAW patrons (Dame Patsy Reddy being her predecessor).

As RAW refines and formulates to develop the most effective model of care for high and complex wāhine recidivist offenders, we have now divided the model into five distinctive parts.

## RAW ON THE INSIDE

RAW previous to Covid-19, worked weekly inside New Zealand's wāhine prisons (Covid conditions, and staff shortages have now created absence and limitations).

Our mahi consisted of a diverse and individualistic approach advancing hauroa within the framework of Te whare tapu wha. Sessions were held weekly under pre-Covid access and they were well engaged with by a diversity of the inside wāhine.

Today, RAW works closely with Case Management and Probation from within the prison to ensure that each wāhine choosing to come to RAW are parole ready and RAW's relationship with them has been well established prior their release. Connec on is largely achieved through referral, from staff and inmates, and trusted relationships, that are built through AVL platorms. We are currently working with a total of 22 wāhine on the inside.

## HE HAUMARU

This is RAW's Waikato based integrative property for wāhine choosing to come to RAW upon release – there are no time limits to the duration of stay. The property delivers the intensive therapeutic part of the RAW model. Here we accommodate up to eight wāhine at a time.

RAW has connected with local Iwi, Ngāti Tumutumu Trust, to ensure the offering is diverse and appropriate. In partnership with Māori, we have built trusted relationships based on respect, reciprocity and responsibility. This year we had 8 wāhine arrive to the main home in Te Aroha.

## RAW ALUMNI

Once a wāhine graduates from He Haumarua she moves to our lifelong Alumni group, now consisting of over 80 wāhine.

There is a small group of these Alumni who are active within the RAW mahi, supporting the model and the newer RAW wāhine as they arrive, alongside enlisting RAW for their own and whānau support as needed.

However, in most cases the Alumni wāhine are reliably self-determining in regard to their own outcomes: Total of wāhine 80

## RAW OUTREACH

RAW's outreach is nationwide, RAW supports wāhine who have safe accommodation to return to and therefore choose not to come to He Haumarua. Here we help with crisis management, employment, and educational opportunities. These wāhine, also often provide opportunities for our more complex wāhine within the model. – This group currently sits at 15, and has no cap.

## RAW'S RESPITE

Our ongoing relationship with Waikato Women's Refuge, enables us to provide culturally centred crisis respite care for our RAW wāhine and whānau. RAW is utilising the Refuge space and model of care to minimise harm and trauma when a disruptive situation arises. Our Waikato Women's Refuge collaboration enables RAW to ensure all wāhine acute needs are met with immediate, robust, individualistic and culturally sensitive support networks. This year we had three wāhine that we supported in respite care.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

RAW would like to thank our funders – Department of Corrections, Ministry of Social Development, Strathlachlan Fund, Trust Waikato, Gallagher Charitable Trust, Glenice and John Gallagher Foundation, Frozen Fund, ANZ New Zealand Staff Foundation, Catholic Caring Foundation, Lotery Community Grants Board, COGs, and the Waikato University.

RAW would also like to acknowledge those that provide support to our mahi in the local community. Ngā mihi nui to Ngāti Tumutumu Trust, Health Te Aroha, Silver Fern Farms, Health Fit Te Aroha.

Our greatest thanks go to the RAW wāhine. Thank you for choosing RAW as your support network, acknowledging that we are your culturally aligned lifelong 'place to stand'.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS FROM THE CHAIR

Thank you to my board colleagues, for your ongoing contribution and support of the RAW mahi, your diversity, and commitment have allowed RAW's governance growth throughout the year.

It has been another year of new learnings for RAW as we have navigated the tail end of COVID-19. Acknowledging that many of our wāhine continue to face an ongoing and now amplified battle of financial hardship as increasing costs of living, continue.

I would like to thank Annah, (RAW's CEO), and Rebecca, our Clinical Operations Manager for their unrelentless commitment to RAW's mahi, for embracing change, enabling the new and acknowledging the 'treasure' in understanding wāhine histories to enhance the new pro-social behaviours and learnings.

*Tungia te ururua.  
kia tupu  
whakaritorito te  
tupu o te  
harakeke*

*Clear away the undergrowth, so the new shoots of the harakeke can spring up.*

**Ruahine Albert**  
RAW( 2014) Ltd Board Chair

