



2025 CHAIR REPORT

RUAHINE ALBERT – RAW (2014) LTD BOARD CHAIR

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā iwi, tēnā koutou katoa.

E mihi ana au ki a koutou mō tō koutou tautoko pūmau, tō koutou whakapono ki te kaupapa o RAW, me tō koutou ū ki te oranga o ngā wāhine me ō rātou whānau. I tēnei tau kua pahure, kua kaha tonu mātou ki te poipoi i ngā huarahi hou, kia ū ai te whakahaere, kia haumarū ai ngā tikanga, ā, kia toitū ai te kaupapa mō ngā tau e heke mai nei.

E tū māia ana te Poari i ngā kawenata whakahaere me ngā kawenga whakahaepapa, me te mōhio anō kei te tika te huarahi e whāia ana e mātou, he ara e whakanui ana i te mana o te wāhine, e whakapakari ana i te hapori, ā, e ārahi ana i te panonitanga pai.

He mihi māhaki ki a koutou katoa mō tō koutou tautoko me tō koutou aronga nui ki te kaupapa.

To all leaders, communities, and voices, warm greetings.

I thank you for your continued support, your confidence in the Kaupapa of RAW, and your commitment to the wellbeing of wāhine and their whānau. Over the past year, we have remained focused on strengthening our foundations, ensuring sound governance, safe practice, and sustainability for the future.

The Board is confident in its responsibilities and accountabilities and assured that RAW continues to walk a strong and principled path, one that upholds the dignity of wāhine, strengthens community, and leads positive change.

With sincere thanks for your trust and support,

Roni

Kia ora koutou,

As we reflect on 2025, RAW's Kaupapa has moved beyond vision into evidence a year where lived experience became embedded as regular practice, and where the voices once silenced inside the wire now lead the way in shaping change.

LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVOCACY

RAG at the Centre

At the heart of this transformation sits the RAW Advisory

Group (RAG), the living embodiment of RAW's belief that those closest to the problem hold the solutions.

In 2025, RAG's role has evolved from advisory to delivery, now holding regular placements at Waikeria Women's Estate, working alongside Corrections as part of the *Haea te Ata* "day done differently" programme.

These sessions have become a cornerstone of the Waikeria model, providing wāhine with guidance, hope, and tangible examples of change. RAG's presence brings credibility and authenticity to the space, ensuring that all programme design and delivery remain grounded in lived reality, not policy language.

This is what it means to operationalise lived experience. It is no longer a concept; it is a consistent practice.

INSIDE THE WIRE

Haea te Ata: A Day Done Differently

Haea te Ata continues to define RAW's contribution to justice reform, a blueprint for decarceration grounded in culture, connection, and self-determination.

In partnership with Corrections, Māori leaders, and the RAW Advisory Group (RAG), RAW has continued to co-design and deliver this innovative model at Waikeria. It reflects a genuine collaboration between government and community, weaving accountability with aroha to create new possibilities for rehabilitation.

This year, we strengthened our *Haea te Ata* delivery through meaningful partnerships with community leaders and organisations including Graeme Lowe's Kick for Seagulls, Butterbean Motivation (Dave Letele), Foundation, and Ben Purua, Paul Wood, Senior community leaders, (Waiata, barbershop,) whose shared commitment to restoration and wellbeing has expanded the depth and reach of the programme.

We have also engaged local Hamilton-based partners, including the Hamilton Library, Open Polytechnic, and other community networks, to provide literacy, education, and vocational pathways that ensure wāhine inside have tangible opportunities to continue their learning and growth beyond the wire.

These relationships represent the strength of the *Haea te Ata* model, collaboration across cultures, communities, and sectors, all focused on restoring dignity, purpose, and hope.

HE HAUMARU

The Beating Heart of RAW

Beyond the wire, He Haumarū remains the anchor of RAW's

reintegration pathway. It continues to embody safety, structure, and purpose, place where wāhine can reset, rebuild, and reconnect.

This year saw deepened collaboration with Ngāti Tumutumu through the alternative education programme for rangatahi, with RAW wāhine providing stability and mentorship. The partnership with Mobility Dogs Aotearoa also continues to thrive, fostering responsibility, empathy, and confidence in daily life.

Milestones such as wāhine gaining driver's licences, supporting local community projects, and mentoring others reflect the strength of this environment.

He Haumarū is more than accommodation, it's where transformation begins.

CREATIVE AND CULTURAL ADVOCACY ON THE GLOBAL STAGE

RAW Beauty & Curate@148

RAW's creativity continues to be a powerful force for social change, proving that art and storytelling can drive reform as effectively as policy.

The evolution of RAW Beauty into Curate@148, Aotearoa's first *social impact gallery*, has created a vibrant national platform where fashion, photography, and lived experience intersect to challenge stigma and celebrate transformation.

This creative mahi reached unprecedented heights in 2025 when RAW was invited to present on the international stage as keynote speakers at the 19th European Prison Education Association Conference in Macedonia. RAW's session, *Let's Talk, The RAW Model in Action*, positioned RAW as a global thought leader in creative, dialogue-based reintegration, sharing how human connection, trust, and storytelling can transform justice outcomes.

Accompanying the keynote, RAW's paper *RAW Beauty, A Creative Approach to Reintegration and Identity Reconstruction* was recognised internationally as a pioneering model aligning with the Bangkok Rules and global gender-responsive correctional strategies. It showcased how arts-based, agency-driven reintegration restores dignity, redefines identity, and reshapes public perception of justice-involved women.

RAW's presence on this world stage was a defining moment, elevating both the organisation and Aotearoa as leaders in humane, forward-thinking, and evidence-based reintegration practice.

PARTNERSHIPS, POLICY, AND PURPOSE

Our partnerships continue to strengthen the bridge between community, government, and lived experience.

RAW's involvement in the Clean Slate Policy consultation ensured the real voices of wāhine were heard at the decision-making table, a first for New Zealand.

Collaborations with Waikato Women's Refuge, Wintec, and the University of Waikato have expanded access to education, mental health, and vocational opportunities, each reinforcing RAW's holistic approach to reintegration.

These partnerships are not peripheral; they are the ecosystem that sustains RAW's impact.

FINANCIAL SUSTAINABILITY AND SUPPORT

Maintaining a strong financial foundation remains essential to our mahi.

This year, we extend heartfelt gratitude to our funding partners Trust Waikato, The Gallagher Charitable Trust, Glenice & John Gallagher Foundation, DV Bryant, Wel Energy, Lotteries Community, Sky City and the Department of Corrections, for your continued belief in what RAW stands for.

Your trust allows us to plan boldly and act with purpose.

CLOSING REFLECTION

From Seeds to Systems

What began over a decade ago as a seed of possibility is now an enduring model recognised for its integrity, innovation, and impact.

Through unwavering leadership from Annah and Bec's, the dedication of the RAW team, and the guidance of our Governance Board, we have shown that meaningful reform is not only possible, but also happening.

To our funders, iwi partners, collaborators, and especially to the wāhine who walk this journey thank you. You are the proof of what belief, structure, and support can achieve.

As we look to 2026, RAW stands not just as a voice for change, but as a system shaping it.

Mā te huruhuru ka rere te manu – With feathers, the bird will fly.

Ngā mihi nui,

Ruahine Albert

Board Chair, RAW (2014) Ltd

