



2025 ANNUAL REPORT



Little Citizens Early Learning Centre

This year has been an exceptional one for Little Citizens, marked by growth, achievement, and deepening connections within our community.

A standout highlight was the outstanding result of our recent ERO (Education Review Office) report, in which we were recognised as performing above quality across all areas of evaluation. This success is a testament to the dedication and hard work of our entire team, led by our Kaiwhakahaere Matua/Centre Manager, Katee Thomas, whose leadership has been instrumental in achieving such positive outcomes. ERO highlighted our strength in supporting smooth transitions - both within the centre and on to school - and our commitment to honouring each child's individuality within a curriculum shaped by whānau values and voices.

They also noted the strong focus on oral language development, with intentional and knowledgeable teaching woven throughout the curriculum. Professional development for our kaiako has had a clear impact, strengthening their practice in key areas.

We have continued to make meaningful progress on our bicultural journey, with increased use of Te Reo Māori across play, new resources for both kaiako and tamariki, and a deepening commitment to cultural understanding through internal evaluation and targeted professional learning.

As our community becomes more diverse, we have embraced opportunities to celebrate culture through events like Holi, Diwali, and expanded Pasifika Language Weeks. These have inspired initiatives like the Kōtuku Room's Whānau Café, where families cook, share stories, and connect across cultures through food and conversation.



Young Mums Transition House

This year brought significant change for the Young Mums Transition House due to major funding cuts. Faced with a stark choice - either close the service entirely or continue operating with just one-third of our previous funding - we made the difficult decision to restructure into a lighter-handed service for young mums in need of less intensive support, rather than shut our doors.

Despite these changes, our core purpose remains unchanged: to support young mums aged 16 to 24 who are part way through their pregnancy or caring for a child under 24 months, by providing a safe, nurturing environment as they transition to independent living. We still believe that a more intensive service is needed and hope to re-establish this version of the service as funding becomes available.

Many of the young mothers who come to us are the primary caregivers for their whānau and are struggling to secure stable housing. While otherwise independent, they face barriers in accessing the rental market. At the Young Mums House, they are given the opportunity to build confidence, develop practical skills, and take steps toward sustainable, long-term accommodation in the community.

Outcomes for Young Mums



Accommodation

Sustainable transitions to stable accommodation



Child development

Foundations laid for a positive life course for mother and child



Health

Improved physical, mental and sexual health outcomes



Personal Development

Improved self-management skills, leading to long-term resilience

In addition to safe housing, we connect residents with essential resources, including parenting support, maternal and mental health care, and pathways to education, employment, or permanent housing. Crucially, our support doesn't end when they leave. Our Taituarā a Hāpori (Community Services Specialist) continues to walk alongside them, offering guidance and advocacy to help ensure a strong and successful transition.

We offer more than just a roof - we provide a supportive space to grow confidence, build life skills, and plan for the future.

SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

Summary Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expense for the year ended 30 June 2025	2025	2024
Revenue from Exchange Transactions	8,582,828	8,090,790
Revenue from Non-Exchange Transactions	179,144	158,656
Less Total Expenses	8,400,736	7,775,611
Plus Net Surplus from Finance Activities	195,830	164,215
Operating Surplus / (Deficit)	557,066	638,050
Plus Other Gains / (Losses)	776	1,384
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	557,842	639,434
Other Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses	-	-
Total Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses for the Year	557,842	639,434

Summary Statement of Financial Position as at 30 June 2025	2025	2024
Assets		
Current Assets	5,065,899	4,528,555
Non Current Assets	408,643	364,434
Total Assets	5,474,542	4,892,989
Less Liabilities		
Current Liabilities	753,091	729,380
Total Liabilities	753,091	729,380
Net Assets	4,721,451	4,163,609
Equity		
Accumulated Funds	4,721,451	4,163,609
Total Equity	4,721,451	4,163,609

Summary Statement of Changes in Net Assets for the year ended 30 June 2025	2025	2024
Balance at start of period	4,163,609	3,524,175
Surplus / (Deficit) for the year	557,842	639,434
Other comprehensive revenue and expenses	-	-
Total	4,721,451	4,163,609

Summary Statement of Cash Flows for the year ended 30 June 2025	2025	2024
Net Cash from / (used in) operating activities	618,584	1,006,898
Net Cash from / (used in) investing activities	(603,951)	(942,526)
Net increase / (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents	14,633	64,372
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of the year	112,443	48,071
Cash and cash equivalents at end of the year	127,076	112,443

Summary Statement of Service Performance for the year ended 30 June 2025	2025	2024
Performance by Programme		
Parenting through Separation (Number of Clients)	171	152
Client Support (Number of Clients)	104	92
Sustaining Tenancies (Number of Clients)	129	131
Early Learning (Number of Children)	143	149
Transition Housing (Number of Residents)	44	51
ENGAGE Delivery (Number of Teachers and Children)	39,476	35,653
ENGAGE Early Education Research (Kia Timata Pai) (Number of Teachers and Children)	2,271	2,271
ENGAGE Primary Schools Research (Number of Teachers and Children)	756	-
Total	43,094	38,499

Performance by Location		
Auckland	44%	60%
Bay of Plenty	9%	10%
Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu	7%	5%
Canterbury	6%	2%
Otago	11%	14%
Southland	4%	3%
Waikato	4%	-
Te Tai Tokerau	2%	-
Hawke's Bay/Tairāwhiti	3%	-
Wellington	3%	-
Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast	2%	-
Nationwide	5%	6%
Total	100%	100%

NOTES TO THE SUMMARY FINANCIAL REPORT

This is the summary financial report of Methodist Mission Southern (the "Mission") for the year ended 30 June 2025.

The specific disclosures included in this summary financial report have been extracted from the full annual financial report that was authorised for issue by the Board on 5 September 2025. The full annual financial report dated 5th September 2025 has been prepared in accordance with Tier 2 Public Benefit Entity (PBE) Financial Reporting Standards as issued by the New Zealand External Reporting Board (XRB). They comply with New Zealand Equivalents to International Public Sector Accounting Standards Reduced Disclosure Regime (NZ IPSAS with RDR) and other applicable Financial Reporting Standards as appropriate to Public Benefit Entities.

This summary financial report does not include all the disclosures as in the full financial report and therefore cannot be expected to provide as complete an understanding as provided by the full financial report.

An unqualified audit opinion has been received on the financial statements, included in the full financial report for the year ended 30 June 2025. A qualified audit opinion has been received on the statement of service performance included in the full financial report. A copy of the full financial report of the Mission for the year ended 30 June 2025 may be obtained upon request from the Methodist Mission, Level One, 258 Stuart Street, Dunedin.

The summary financial report has been examined by our auditor for consistency with the full financial report. This summary financial report was approved for issue by the Board on 5th September 2025.

Basis of Preparation – The Mission is deemed a Public Benefit Entity and is registered with the Charities Commission.

This is the summary financial report and they comply with PBE FRS 43: Summary Financial Statements. The presentation currency is New Zealand dollars and all amounts have been rounded to the nearest dollar, except where otherwise indicated.

The full financial report upon which this summary financial report is based, has been prepared to comply with the Accounting Standards Framework for Public Benefit Entities.

Specific Accounting Policies – All specific accounting policies have been applied on the same bases as those used in the full financial report of the Mission.

Changes in Accounting Policies – The accounting policies have been applied consistently to all periods presented in this summary financial report and there have been no changes in accounting policies during the year.

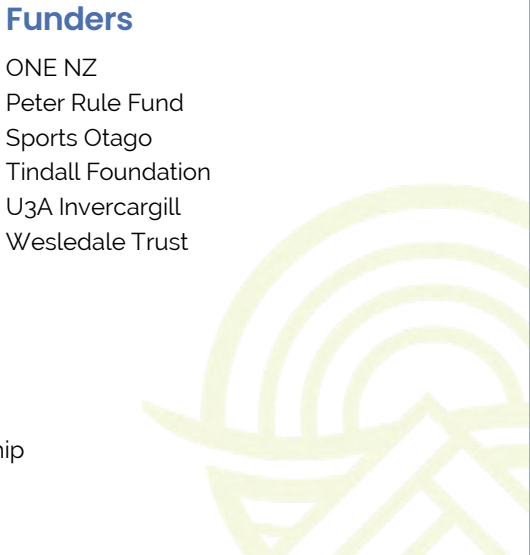
METHODIST MISSION MAJOR FUNDERS & PRIVATE DONORS

Private Donors

Bruce Spittle
Debbie Iversen & Wayne Goodall
Father Peter Devereux
Julie Pearse
Laura Black
Leah Taylor
Paul Barton
Rachael Masterton
Rhonda McKimming
Steven Reeve
T G Murphy
Warren McNoe
W Allen (Estate of)

Funders

Active Southland
Community Trust South
Dream Team
Dunedin City Council
Invercargill Methodist Parish
Invercargill City Council
McRobie Photography
Methodist Alliance (MCNZ)
Ministry of Education
Mornington Methodist Church
Mornington Methodist Fellowship
Mosgiel Methodist Womens Fellowship
New Zealand Lotteries



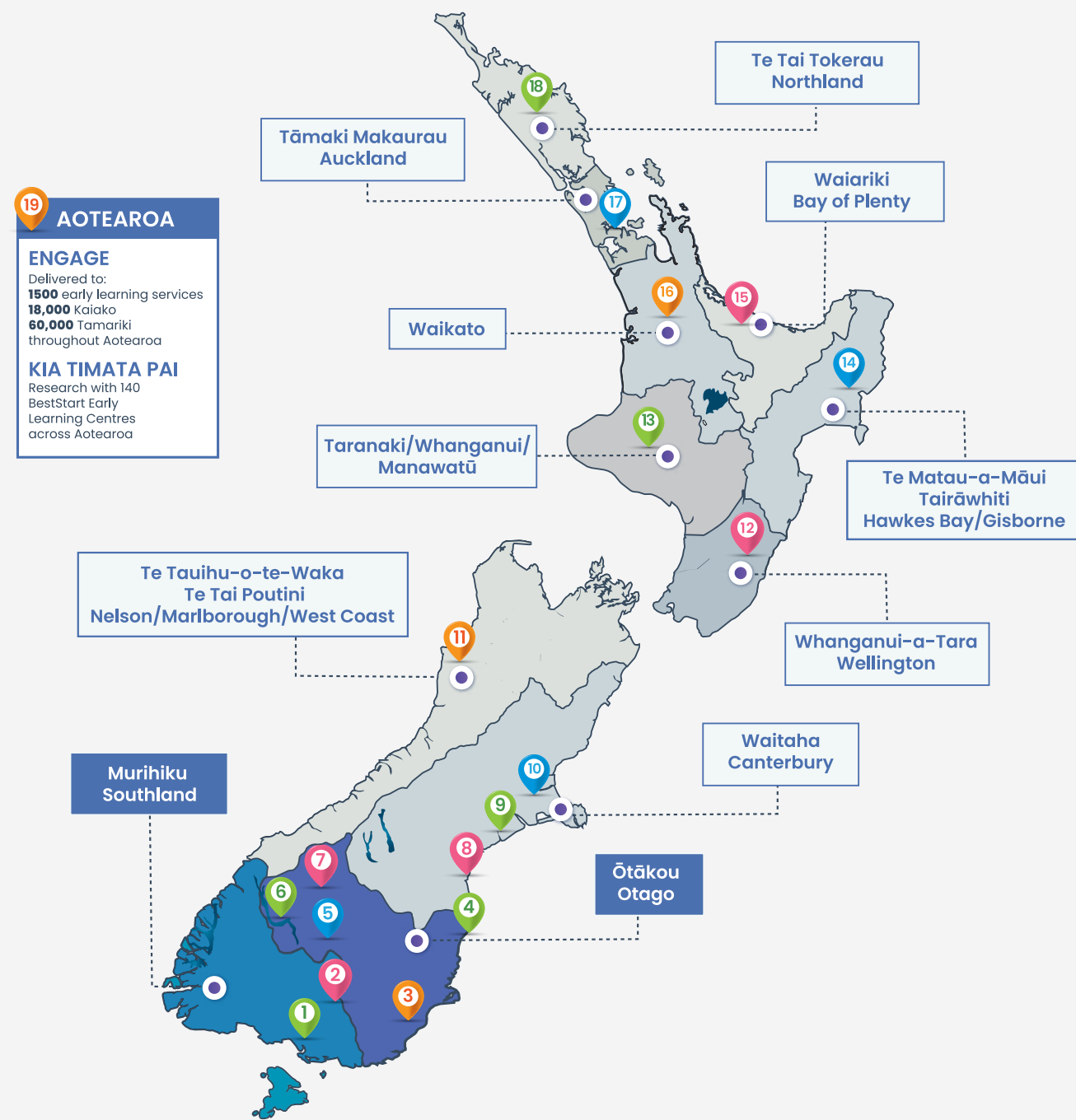
Funders

ONE NZ
Peter Rule Fund
Sports Otago
Tindall Foundation
U3A Invercargill
Wesledale Trust

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT



Mission Programmes Regional Map



- Waihōpai** (Invercargill)
ENGAGE
Sustaining Tenancies
Taituara ā Hāpori
Waihōpai Youth Transition House
Young Mums Transition House
- Maruawai** (Gore)
ENGAGE
Sustaining Tenancies
- Iwikatea** (Balclutha)
ENGAGE
Parenting Through Separation
Sustaining Tenancies
- Ōtepoti** (Dunedin)
Taituara ā Hāpori
Dunedin Little Citizens
ENGAGE
Parenting Through Separation
Ōtepoti Youth Transition House
Sustaining Tenancies
- Areketanara** (Alexandra)
Parenting Through Separation
Sustaining Tenancies
- Tāhuna** (Queenstown)
ENGAGE
Parenting Through Separation
Sustaining Tenancies
- Wanaka** (Wanaka)
ENGAGE
Parenting Through Separation
Sustaining Tenancies
- Te Ōha-a-Maru** (Oamaru)
Parenting Through Separation
ENGAGE
Sustaining Tenancies
- Te Tihi-o-Maru** (Timaru)
Sustaining Tenancies
Brief Drink Driving Programme
- Otautahi** (Christchurch)
ENGAGE
Parenting Through Separation
Ōtepoti Youth Transition House
Sustaining Tenancies
- Te Taihū-o-te-Waka Te Tai Poutini** (Nelson/Marlborough/West Coast)
ENGAGE
- Whanganui-a-Tara** (Wellington)
ENGAGE
- Taranaki/Whanganui/Manawatu**
ENGAGE
- Te Matau-a-Māui/Tairāwhiti** (Hawkes Bay/Gisborne)
ENGAGE
- Waiariki** (Bay of Plenty)
ENGAGE
- Waikato**
ENGAGE
- Tāmaki Makaurau** (Auckland)
ENGAGE
- Te Tai Tokerau** (Northland)
ENGAGE
- Aotearoa**
ENGAGE
Kia Timata Pai



From July 2024 to June 2025, ENGAGE was successfully delivered to **460** new early learning services across Aotearoa, with top-up support services delivered to a further **230** ECEs.

This means the programme has now reached **1,240** ECEs since 2021, with funding from the Ministry of Education. Another **920** ECEs will be set-up with ENGAGE by June 2027.

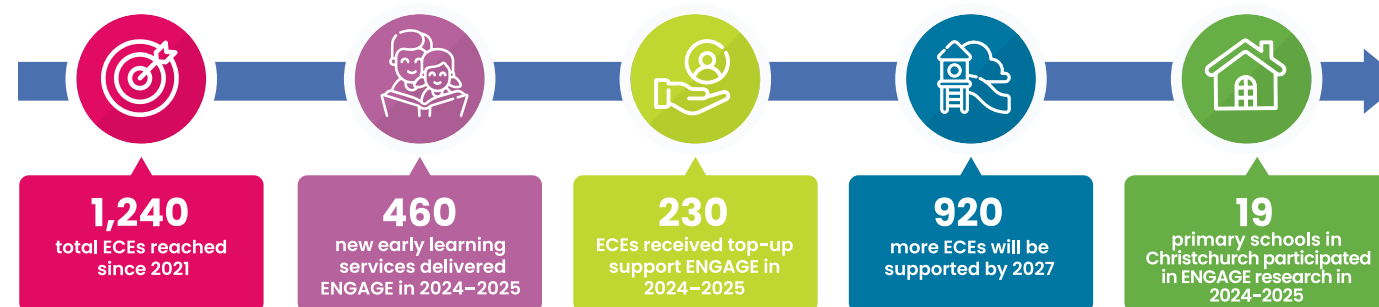
In 2024-2025 we also delivered ENGAGE to 19 primary schools in Christchurch – as part of a research project funded by the Ministry of Education. This study showed statistically significant gains in emotional, cognitive and behavioural skills for tamariki aged 5 – 7, with teachers reporting that ENGAGE was able to be successfully embedded into ongoing classroom activities, and could be easily integrated into other curriculum areas – including reading, writing and maths.

ENGAGE is an evidence-based approach that supports pre-school tamariki to develop their self-regulations skills – the skills that help us manage our feelings, thoughts and behaviours.

By developing their self-regulation skills, tamariki are better able to recognise and manage their intense emotions, improve their attention and memory skills, persist with tasks when they become difficult or frustrating, have more successful and fulfilling relationships with others, and regulate their behaviour when things are difficult. This leads to immediate benefits for tamariki and their ability to participate in ECE and schools, and life-long benefits in many other aspects of life (including physical health, mental health, education, employment, relationships and more – as evidenced by the famous Dunedin Longitudinal Study).

If you are connected with an early learning service or primary school and would like to find out more about ENGAGE, please email us at enquiries@engageplay.co.nz.

ENGAGE – Our Impact so far



KIA TIMATA PAI

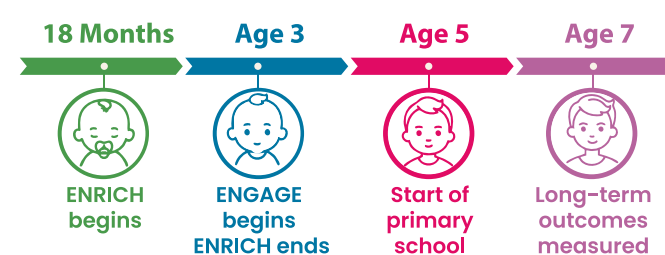
Kia Timata Pai (KTP) is a gold-standard research study that aims to test the effects of supporting oral language skills and self-regulation skills in a large group of tamariki attending BestStart ECEs around the country.

In April 2025 the pre-school phase of the Kia Timata Pai (KTP) study was successfully completed – bringing to a close a huge project of research that commenced in the early days of the COVID pandemic – when the cohort of 1,600 study tamariki were just 18 months old.

Most of those tamariki have now started school, and thanks to a major Marsden Fund research grant in late 2024, the KTP team will now be able to follow the progress of these tamariki through to age 7 – which will allow us to more accurately measure the educational and developmental benefits of supporting language skills (with the ENRICH programme) and self-regulation skills (with the ENGAGE programme) in early childhood education.

The KTP team will be publishing findings from the study throughout late 2024 and 2025 – with initial findings focussing on the outcomes of the ENRICH language programme, which was delivered to 70 ECEs when tamariki were aged 18 months to age 3.

Tamariki Development



KTP is a partnership between MMS, BestStart and University of Otago, and the project is funded by The Wright Family Foundation. KTP is working with over 1,000 ECE kaiako and 1,600 tamariki – based at 140 BestStart ECEs around Aotearoa, with two evidence-based programmes being delivered: ENRICH and ENGAGE.

ENRICH

In the May 2025 Budget, Hon Erica Stanford (Minister of Education) announced an initial 4-year government funding package to enable the ENRICH programme to reach 525 early learning services across Aotearoa.

ENRICH is an evidence-based programme that supports tamariki starting from the age of 18 months through to age 5 to develop:



Since 2019, MMS has worked closely with Professor Elaine Reese and Dr Elizabeth Schaughency (University of Otago) to develop and test the ENRICH programme, as part of the Kia Timata Pai study.

ENRICH is specifically designed for busy ECE environments in Aotearoa – focussing on serve and return interactions, book-reading, reminiscing about past and future, sound play, and early maths concepts – with games, activities and techniques designed for common routines that happen regularly throughout the day in ECEs (book time, group time, kai time, play time, greetings and farewells and nappy change time (with toddlers)).

ENRICH is also designed to complement the self-regulation effects of the ENGAGE programme, and can be delivered by the same team of MMS facilitators and partner organisations that have been successfully delivering ENGAGE across the country since 2021.



Working with over
525
early learning services
over four years



YOUTH TRANSITION HOUSES

Since opening in 2018 and 2020 respectively, these houses have become a vital stepping stone for over 160 young people as they move toward independence.

Our Youth Transition Houses (YTH) in Ōtepoti and Waihōpai continue to provide essential support to rakatahi (young people) aged 16–19 who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness.

This year, we've continued to strengthen our tailored support, helping residents develop life skills that form a solid foundation for independent living. Individual housing plans are co-created with each resident and often include goals such as learning to cook, keeping their room clean, and building good study habits. Most young people achieve these milestones before they move on, supporting smoother transitions into long-term accommodation.

A significant development this year was the creation of a new accommodation pathway from the Ōtepoti YTH specifically for under-18s. This initiative – led by Suzy Swanson-Dobbs, our Taituara a Hāpori/Community Services Specialist, and the team – addresses a major barrier for 16–17 year olds: finding landlords willing to accept younger tenants. The pathway is already delivering strong results, helping these rakatahi access safe, appropriate housing sooner.

Demand for support continues to grow amid a challenging housing market. Still, strong partnerships with community groups and referral agencies help us maintain a responsive, supportive environment.

At the heart of YTH is aroha (love) and manaakitanga (respect). We empower rakatahi to take charge of their journey, supporting them toward goals in education, training, and employment.

Ultimately, our goal remains the same: to help rakatahi build stable, fulfilling futures. By equipping them with practical skills, emotional support, and a strong sense of community, we strive to ensure they leave the Youth Transition Houses with confidence, resilience, and hope.

I really enjoyed the Youth Transition house. I came from a place where my needs weren't met, and I was quite behind in a lot of avenues. Living there gave me opportunities to get my bank account set up, get my learners license, develop motivation for study and teach me how to be smart with money. There were many other benefits from living there that I could take with me for life and I'm very grateful.

– Former Youth Transition House resident



Methodist Mission Southern is proud to deliver the only Parenting Through Separation (PTS) programme in the Otago region, under contract with the Ministry of Justice. We run four free, 4 - hour courses each month - both onsite and online - supporting whānau across Ōtepoti and wider Otago.

PTS helps parents navigate the complexities of separation with their children's wellbeing. We know that when relationships break down, it can be hard for parents to separate their own emotions from what is in their child's best interests. At times, conflict can overshadow communication, and tamariki may feel caught in the middle.

This course is designed to shift that dynamic. Through accessible, practical information, we support parents to reduce conflict, improve co-parenting communication, and create child-focused parenting plans. Course content includes strategies for managing stress, shielding children from adult conflict, and understanding how separation affects tamariki at different stages.

This past year has seen a significant increase in course engagement - participation was up 61% compared to the same time last year. Feedback continues to be overwhelmingly positive, with participants valuing the quality of the course materials, the respectful delivery, and the opportunity to reflect on their parenting.

PTS remains a powerful tool to support whānau through challenging transitions - giving parents the knowledge and confidence to make decisions in the best interests of their tamariki.

4
Free courses per month
onsite and online

61%
Increase in
participation this year

SUSTAINING TENANCIES

Over the past five years, the Sustaining Tenancies service has supported over 300 whānau across Otago and Southland to remain safely and stably housed - many facing complex and evolving challenges. By focusing on both immediate needs and long-term housing stability, our service continues to make a meaningful difference in people's lives.

Recent changes to tenancy legislation, rising housing pressures, and a noticeable increase in clients experiencing mental health challenges have made cases more complex, and demand for support now outstrips our contracted numbers. However, our Taituara a Hāpori / Sustaining Tenancies Specialists remain deeply committed to upholding the safety, dignity, and rights of our clients. We continue to work closely with community organisations to ensure access to wrap-around supports tailored to each whānau's needs.



Over **300**
whānau
supported to
maintain
stable
housing

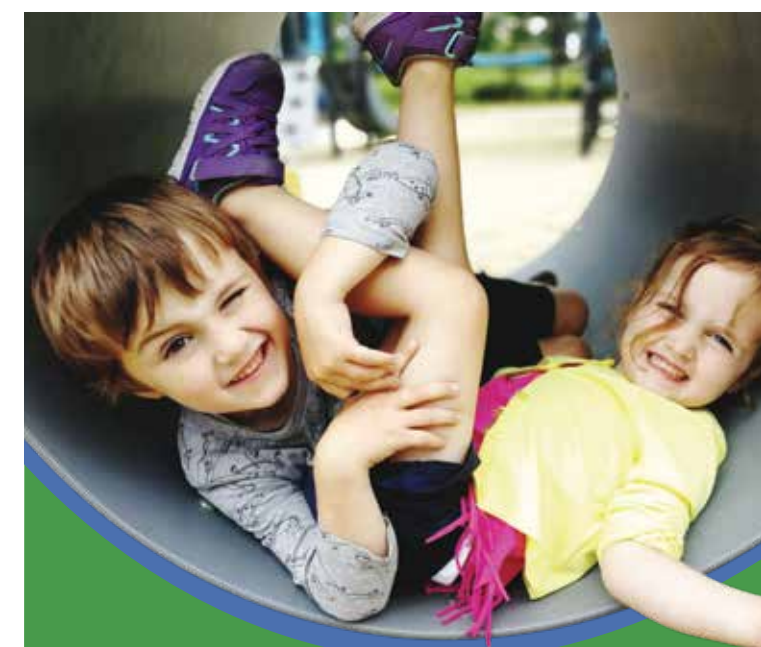


Focus:
Intermediate
needs &
long-term
housing
security

This year, our clients have included those navigating serious health and financial stress, and others at risk of eviction. In one case, we supported a previously self-sufficient individual suddenly facing hardship due to their partner's medical condition. A simple but impactful intervention - helping replace a broken vacuum cleaner - prevented a tenancy issue from escalating. The client is now being supported to apply for social housing, a pathway they hadn't realised was available to them.

We also worked alongside a client facing a 90-day eviction, compounded by their mental health challenges. Through coordination with housing services and the MSD broker, the client secured a new home that accommodated their certified service dog. The successful relocation has provided much-needed stability and a renewed sense of security.

These stories reflect the heart of Sustaining Tenancies: providing compassionate, practical support that empowers people to overcome barriers, navigate complex systems, and hold on to safe, secure housing.



2025 Annual Report

methodist
missionsouthern
Te Haahi Weteriana a Otago
A member of the Methodist Alliance



HELP TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Methodist Mission Southern works to create positive, sustainable change for individuals and families throughout Otago and Southland. While we currently achieve a lot, we will achieve even more with your support.

Please join our Supporters' Club, and receive monthly newsletters.

Direct Credit
Bank: BNZ
Account Name: Methodist Mission
Account Number: 02-0912-0216744-000

Via Givealittle
Head over to our Methodist Mission Southern Givealittle page.
<https://givealittle.co.nz/org/methodistmissionsouthern>

Payroll Giving
Sign up for Payroll Giving with your employer. You can then set up a donation of any amount at your chosen frequency

Leave a Legacy
Bequest for a future of support and social justice. Information brochure available on request

To find out more about the Mission, please feel free to contact us on (03) 466 4600 or admin@mmsouth.org.nz

[@methodistmissionsouthern](https://www.facebook.com/methodistmissionsouthern) [@hellommsouth](https://www.instagram.com/hellommsouth) [Methodist Mission Southern](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC...)
[methodist-mission-southern](https://www.methodist-mission-southern.org.nz) www.mmsouth.org.nz