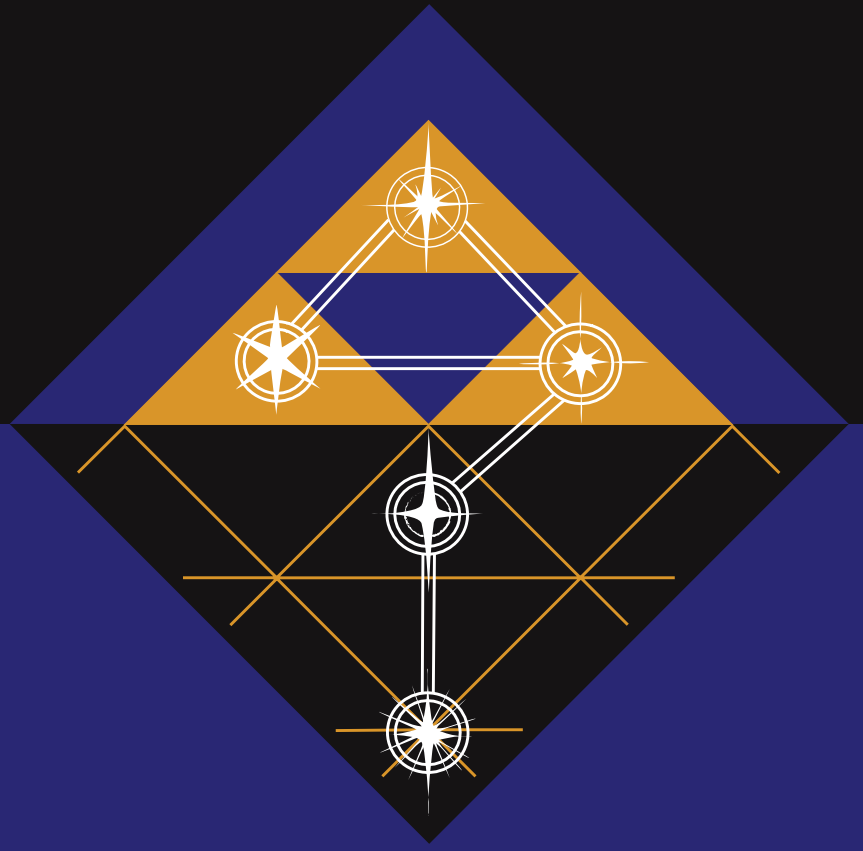


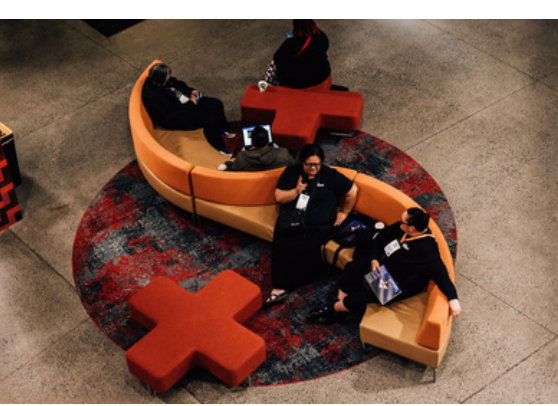
# THE STARS THAT GUIDE US

 **involve.** 2023



# 2023 REPORT

Tukua kia tū takitahi ngā whetū i te rangi  
*Let each star in the sky shine its own light*



# CONTENTS



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ABOUT INVOLVE	4.
INVOLVE IMAGE	5.
WHO WAS THERE?	7.
KEYNOTE SPEAKERS	8.
PROGRAMME	9.
FEEDBACK	11.
SUPPORTERS	12.



# ABOUT INVOLVE

INVOLVE is a biennial conference for all of the youth sector to gather, connect, learn, laugh and 'be' together.

The first INVOLVE conference was held in 2002 and organised by NZAAHD - New Zealand Aotearoa Adolescent Health and Development.

From 2002 to 2010, the conference ran every two years, gathering professionals from across the youth health and development sector. After an eight-year hiatus, INVOLVE made its return in 2018, with four organisations from the wider youth health and development sector hosting: Ara Taiohi, the NZ Youth Mentoring Network, SYHPANZ - Society of Youth Health Professionals Aotearoa New Zealand, and The Collaborative Trust.

After the 2021 INVOLVE conference, the four organisations made the decision for Ara Taiohi to be the sole host moving forward, making 2023 the first conference held by Ara Taiohi.

INVOLVE's vision is to see a unified community empowered in their work with taiohi/young people.

Our mission is to facilitate change-making connections and conversations that impact the lives of young people and those who engage with them.

# ABOUT INVOLVE

## 2023 INVOLVE IMAGE

Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland-based youth artist Ehetere Pearse, designed the 2023 INVOLVE image, using the conference theme 'The Stars That Guide Us' and the supporting whakatauki as inspiration.

Tukua kia tū takitahi ngā whetū o te rangi  
Let each star in the sky shine its own light

The top star represents the young person and the surrounding stars are their support people.

Blue represents Rangi/sky Father, Gold represents Papa/earth Mother and white for pure heart and intentions of the celestial/ngā whetu.



Ngāi Te Rangi /  
Ngāti Ranginui  
Cornwall, Scotland

## CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

An evaluation outcome from INVOLVE 2021 was to invest in external professional conference organisers to support Ara Taiohi staff. The decision was made to use the amazing team at Composition Ltd through recommendations from people in the sector.

Composition were a huge contributor for INVOLVE 2023's success and this was captured through feedback from keynotes, presenters, attendees and staff.



Extremely well organised...  
helpers were amazing!

Massive mihi to the INVOLVE team. It was so carefully and cleverly curated to manaaki and feed every part of the diverse sector.

The organisation of the event couldn't be faulted.





# WHO WAS THERE?



INVOLVE 2023 was our largest ever with over **1080 +** registered!

YOUNG PERSON  
**29.7%**

YOUNG ADJACENT  
**32.9%**

YOUNG AT HEART  
**34.2%**

3.7% chose not to identify their age

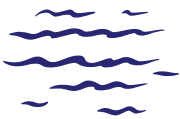
**177** recipients of scholarships and discounts to make INVOLVE more accessible

**113** groups registered, making up **more than half** of INVOLVE total attendees

Where INVOLVE attendees travelled from and where they whakapapa to

**240 +**

People selected multiple rohe for their whakapapa or residence



Highest locations outside of Aotearoa New Zealand were Samoa, Nuie and Cook Islands



# KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



**MATEKINO MARSHALL**  
Chief Executive Officer  
Ngāti Tamaoho



**POOJA SUBRAMANIAN**  
Executive Director  
Rainbow Youth



**ANYA SATYANAND**  
Professional Aunty  
Foot soldier of hope



**DR TEORONGONUI  
JOSIE KEELAN**  
Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga  
Senior Research Scholar



**LOURDES VANO**  
Indigenous Rights  
Activist



**KELLY FRANCIS**  
Founder  
Whenua Warrior



**Prof THOMAS WILSON**  
Chief Science Advisor  
NEMA



**RAMON NARAYAN**  
Founder  
Action Education

The keynote speakers were thought-provoking.

I loved the keynote speakers...were top notch.

It was the best involve ever! Thoroughly enjoyed the keynote speakers and it was so relevant to what is happening for young people and the youth development sector.

LOVED ALL THE KEYNOTE SPEAKERS esp Whaea Dr Terorongonui with her insightful kōrero of wisdom and matauranga.

Ramon and the poets were a conference highlight. They just took it to another level. It was great to see young people showcasing their talents.



# PROGRAMME



## 6 SPEAKER SESSIONS

Keynotes | Minister for Youth: Youth Plan Launch | Poet Speakers | Panel



## CONCURRENT SESSIONS

79 different offerings of 10 - 75 minute workshops and oral presentations.

**Themed topics included:** creative approaches, emerging issues, justice, kaupapa Māori, mentoring, local expression, Pasifika, research, wellbeing, health, Youth Work, whai wāhitanga and diverse communities

10 breakout spaces

5 concurrent sessions

34 workshops

45 oral presentations

## SOCIAL CONNECTION SPACES

Shared parakuihi breakfasts | connection hub met ups | open space for continued kōrero + learning | bouncy castle | coffee cart | Taiohi Traders | exhibition stalls | silent disco etc...



## TAIOHI TRADERS MARKETPLACE

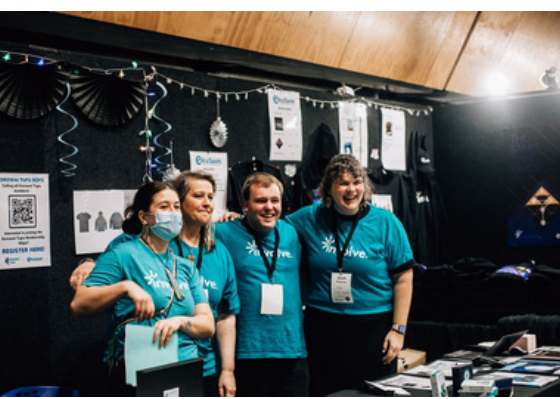
In the last year, The Prince's Trust Aotearoa New Zealand has supported more than 72 youth-led businesses with funding from its He Kākano Seed Fund. He Kākano is a \$2-million seed fund for young entrepreneurs aged 17-30 years.



Prince's Trust  
Aotearoa  
New Zealand

At INVOLVE, The Prince's Trust Aotearoa New Zealand hosted the conferences first ever marketplace, having young people celebrate, display and sell their products and their businesses.





# FEEDBACK



Attending the INVOLVE conference was one of the best things I have ever done for myself and my career as a youth worker.

**INVOLVE still remains the paramount gathering for youth practitioners across Aotearoa, and the sessions therein provide colace, emboldening, knowledge and connection with other like-minded people. I am thankful for Involve and the hard work that goes into the event.**

INVOLVE 2023 was a high-quality and well run kaupapa. From the conference app through to the on-site support. Attendees felt well looked after and the manaaki was most definitely on show throughout.

**Not only was it a great learning experience, it was also something I personally needed.**

If the kai is good the hui is good - could be more true in the case of INVOLVE! As a recent vegetarian this was the first catered multi-day event I attend with dietary requirements and I was blown away.

**OVER  
TWO  
HUNDRED +  
SURVEY  
RESPONSES**

77.8% ranking it 8 out of 10 or higher



# SUPPORTERS

## INVOLVE LOCAL RŌPŪ

There were nine Tāmaki Makaurau / Auckland youth organisations that worked behind the scenes to support and shape INVOLVE 2023. Special thanks to all of them for their time, energy, mātauranga and knowledge!



The Western Initiative



## FRIENDS

PRAXIS | YOUTHTOWN | CITY LODGE AND YMCA HOSTEL AUCKLAND | BOUNCE FOR A CAUSE | MAD BUTCHER TAKANINI | COMMUNITY BUILDERS NZ TRUST | THE PRINCE'S TRUST | ERUPT DESIGN | MERLE WORKS

## PILLARS OF INVOLVE 2023

KEY PARTNER



NGĀTI TAMAOHO TRUST

KEY SPONSOR



MAIN SUPPORTERS



MINISTRY OF YOUTH DEVELOPMENT  
TE MANATŪ WHAKAHIATO TAIGHI

SUPPORTERS

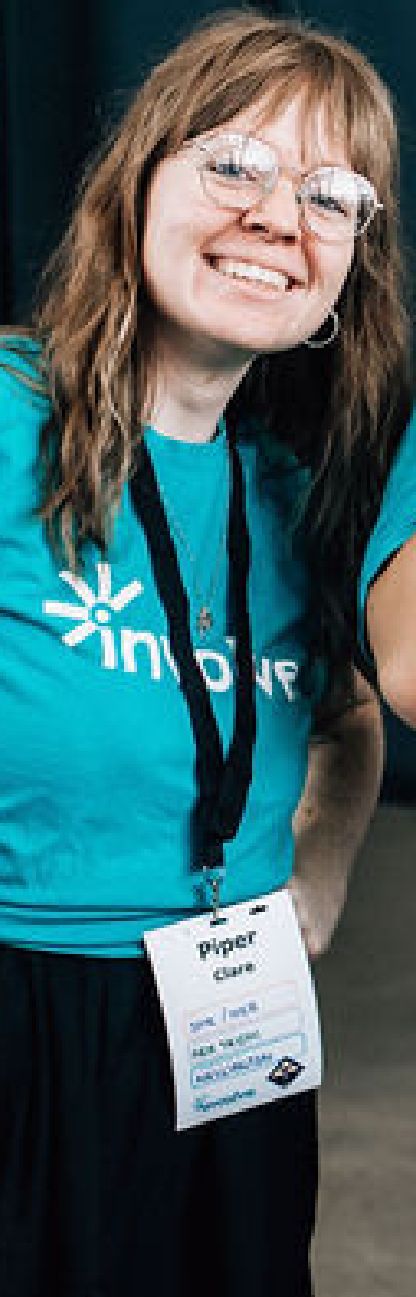
AT THE HEART OF THE MATTER.  
NZ DRUG FOUNDATION.



Funded by  
NZ Lottery Grants Board







REGISTER HERE

THE STARS THAT GUIDE