

Who we supported in 2023/2024 and why?

2023/24 Funding Outcomes

The purpose of Water Safety New Zealand's contestable funds is to invest in community-led initiatives that tackle the drivers of drowning in Aotearoa.

By investing in this way, we aim to have a positive impact on the drowning rate and to build water safety focused community capability across the country.

This support is made possible thanks to the commitment of the Lotteries Grants Board, Sport New Zealand and ACC. The collective effort of these partners means that \$2,067,530 of funding support was distributed in 2023/24.

Funding continues to be focused on supporting improvement in the priority areas set by Wai Ora Aotearoa 2025, the New Zealand Water Safety Sector Strategy.

Priorities are:

- **Under-Fives**
- **Water Skills for Life delivery**
- **Māori water safety education**
- **Reducing male drowning and improve decision making in the 15-34 age range**
- **Programmes and tools that aids people's awareness of the difference between their perceived competencies and real competencies**
- **Targeted interventions for overrepresented groups, activities and environments.**

There are three funds focused on specific issues contributing to drowning over the past decade:

Kia Maanu Kia Ora putea

Focuses on driving down the disproportionate rate of Māori drowning.

It encourages kaupapa Māori solutions that focus on addressing the underlying reasons why Māori are being disproportionately impacted. The end goal is to support safe connection to water.

Drowning Prevention fund

Invests in community-led initiatives that tackle the greatest drivers of drowning in Aotearoa. By investing in this way, we aim to help drive down the drowning rate and build water safety focused community capability focused on the highest risks.

Water Skills for Life funding

Support aims to lift the water survival competence of young New Zealanders so that they have the necessary knowledge and skills to have a safe, fulfilled life connected to water.

The focus is supporting water-based programmes where Water Skills for Life is a foundational component.

We also want to prioritise support for communities least likely to be able to afford programmes on their own.

In the 2022/2023 year we received 67 applications for funding support, seeking \$4,269,445. Of these, 39 programmes were prioritised with the \$2,067,530 available.

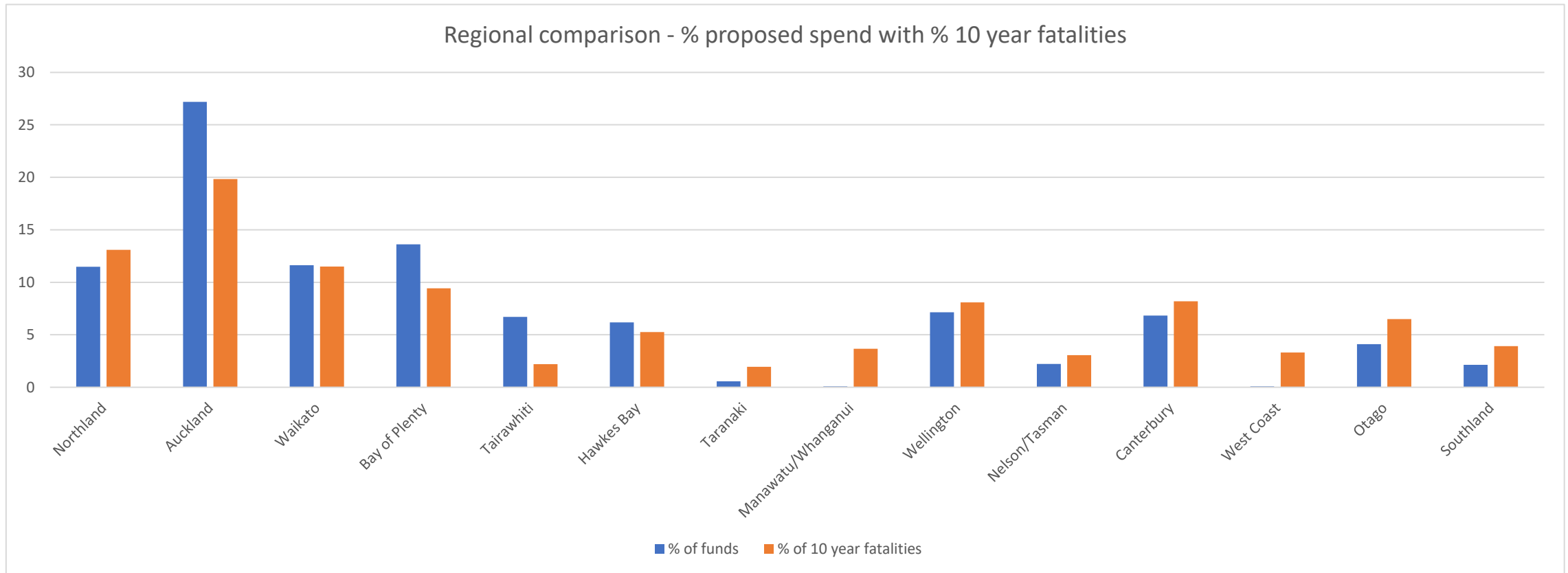
A total of 26% of available funding was distributed through the Kia Maanu Kia Ora putea, 16% through the Drowning Prevention Fund, 55% through Water Skills for Life funding support and the remaining 3% to improve the ability to evaluate these programmes over time.

Summary of impact on Wai Ora Aotearoa priorities

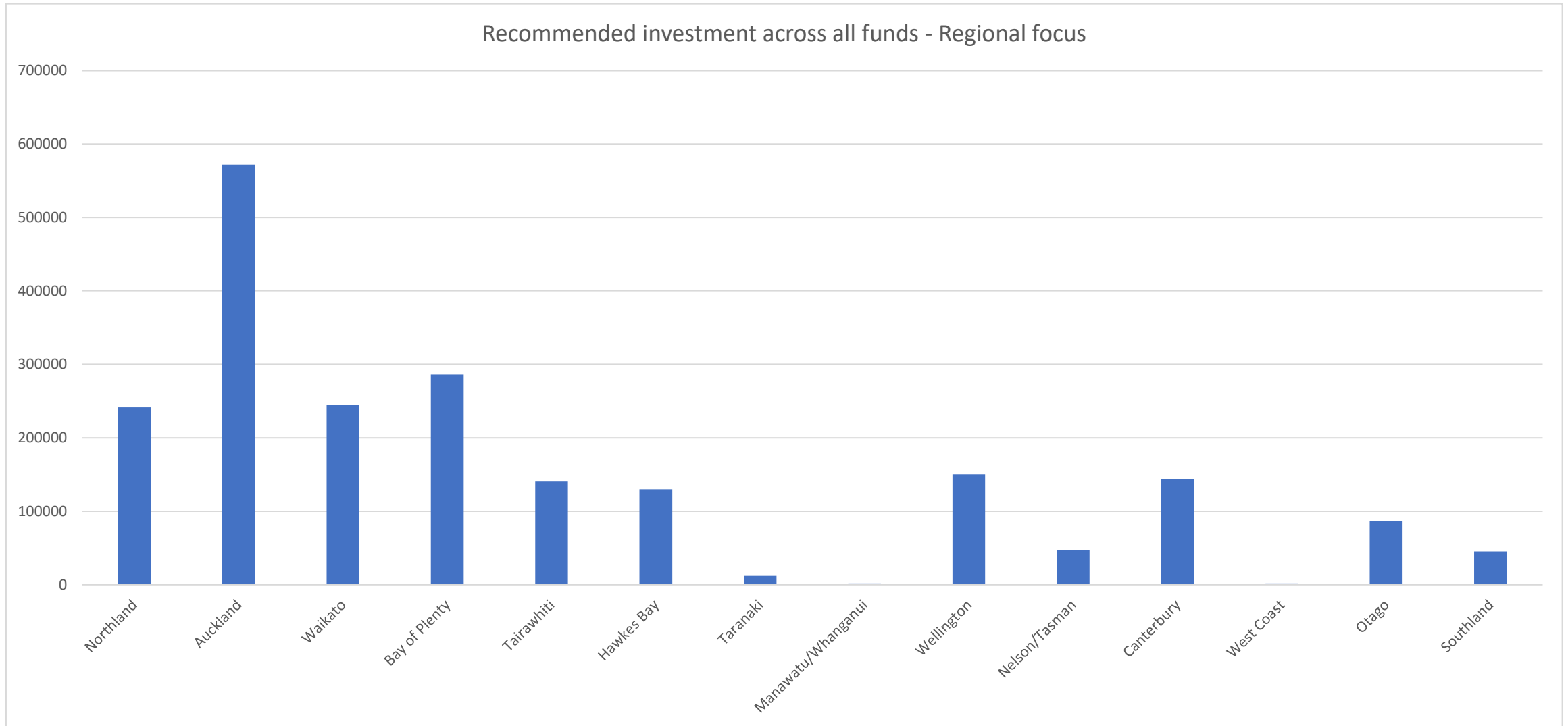
Wai Ora Aotearoa 2025 priority	Number of prioritised interventions	Value of prioritised interventions (\$)	Proportion of spend
Under-fives	2	100,328	5%
Water Skills for Life delivery	13	1,127,356	55%
Māori water safety education	18	543,735	26%
Reducing male drowning and improve decision making in the 15-34 age range	1	70,000	3%
Programmes and tools that aids people's awareness of the difference between their perceived competencies and real competencies.	-	-	0%
Targeted interventions for overrepresented groups, activities and environments	5	151,111	7%
Capability – Evaluation support for KMKO and DPF programmes	1	75,000	4%

Overall regional impact

The graph below provides a simple overview of how the recommended package of funding compares to drowning fatalities over the past decade. Equitably distributing resources regionally wasn't a driver in our assessment of applications but alignment with priority regions (principally the upper North Island) was. As we don't have the resources to work everywhere at once, we are recommending a continued greater focus in the upper North Island. By investing more in these specific regions, we aim to build community capability faster to help lower the risk profile for those most 'at risk' in these regions.



Overview of total recommended investment by region to illustrate the amount of investment by region



Funded programmes - Kia Maanu Kia Ora putea

Provider and project	Description	\$
Te Hotu Manawa Māori Trust - Maiea	National initiative aimed at promoting water safety in Māori communities through the Māori health sector.	10,000
CulturED Retreat Ltd- Hokianga Kaimoana Gatherers Water Safety	Hokianga marae-based delivery focusing on increasing knowledge and awareness around safely gathering kai in a range of situations	20,000
Ngati Porou Surf Lifesaving Club – Karakia a Paikea	Multifaceted programme lifting water safety competence amongst the communities of Tairāwhiti	25,000
Te Ripo Ltd - Manaakitia to mana o te awa	River safety programme supporting rangatahi from four Kura located near Waikato awa	20,000
Aotearoa Water Patrol - Nga Tikanga haumarū wai	Haumarū Wai wananga (Water Safety/Survival) in Waikato	15,000
Te Ripo Ltd - Tuna to Taniwha	Expanding existing under-fives initiatives in the Waikato	12,000
Te Wairakei Pūrea Trust - Hinemoa water safety programme	Five-day long river/lake skills programme for rangatahi from Rotorua, Murupara and Te Urewera	90,000
Failoa Famili - Tagata ole Moana	Using a Pacific development approach to support Samoan, Tongan and Tuvaluan communities to identify their water safety priorities and help them progress priority initiatives.	25,000
Splash Gordons Ltd - Nga kairuku o Te Whanganui a Tara	Supporting local iwi, Ngati Toa and Te Atiawa marae kai gatherers in Wellington to encourage safe diving/free diving/snorkelling practice.	51,135
Sport Hawkes Bay – Rukuhia Wahine Toa	Wahine driven kaupapa. Kai gathering wananga focused on safety, environment and traditional kai preparation	15,000

Funded programmes - Kia Maanu Kia Ora putea

Moana Futures Ltd – Mana Moana and Kairuku Kaitiaki	Basic water skills, scuba diving, free diving and snorkelling in collaboration with iwi, hapu and marae in Northland, Waikato and Bay of Plenty	110,000
Dive Otago – Ruku Kai. He Mauri te Wai, He Mauri to Tangata	Otago and Southland based delivery of snorkelling, free diving and scuba diving training to increase skills around gathering kai moana.	37,000
Nga Tai Tuatea a Taraika – Manaaki mai, Manaaki Atu Tuarua	Multi-day Wellington programme focussed on enabling rangatahi to learn water safety skills in the sea undertaking a range of water-based activities.	20,000
Whenua Iti Trust – Tuatahi ko te Wai	Experiential learning focussed on supporting rangatahi to grow their mātauranga and skill base in natural water settings using authentic learning environments (waka, kai moana). Participants will come from across Te Taihū and Te Tai Poutini.	28,900
Tangata o te Wai Dive Trust – Ruku Papaku	Marae based wananga in Hawkes Bay supporting kai gatherers to have improved knowledge. Will be supported by Splash Gordons/Dive Wellington.	15,000
Aotearoa Dive – Improving diver safety through professional instruction	Kai gathering, specifically scuba, free diving and snorkelling competence in the Bay of Plenty.	22,000
Rehua Innovations Ltd – He Huinga Waka, He Huinga Korero	Waka Hourua as the medium to learn water competence. North Island marae-based wānanga.	16,900
Salt Aotearoa – Water Wāhine	Free dive training led by wāhine Māori	10,800

Funded programmes - Drowning Prevention fund

Provider and project	Description	WSNZ funding (\$)
NZ Underwater Association - Survive the Dive Expansion Project	Promotion of dive safety through online training, refresher certification nationally	11,740
Drowning Prevention Auckland - Improving water safety for Asian communities in Auckland	Mix of practical training and communication programmes targeting Auckland based, Asian New Zealanders swimming and rock fishing	58,400
Community Leisure Charitable Trust -SwimMagic Safe Start. Nurturing water safety from the start	Under-fives programme supporting engagement and parental responsibility. Multi-faceted method combining education and hands on elements. National focus	41,256
Mountains to Sea Conservation Trust - community snorkel days	Wellbeing focus and a gateway to connecting whanau with wai - holistic programme about safe interaction with water. National focus	61,726
Hamilton City Council - Drowning Prevention Waikato Region Communication Strategy	Multi-faceted behaviour change campaign in response to river drownings. Waikato focussed	70,000
Surfing New Zealand Inc - Surfers Rescue 24/7	Upskilling surfers to help them be better prepared to rescue others as a first line of rescue response. Delivered nationally	12,375
The Splashsave Foundation - Under Fives National Water Safety Programme -	Under-fives focussed initiatives. Parent/whānau/community led approach combining education and hands on elements. Bay of Plenty region	59,072
Sir Peter Blake Marine Education and Recreation Centre - Kiwi water skills for new kiwis	Supporting new migrant Asian New Zealanders with water survival skills and beach safety. Auckland focussed	6,870

Funded programmes - Water Skills for Life funding

Provider	Description	WSNZ co-funding (\$)
John Walker Find Your Field of Dreams Charitable Trust	South and East Auckland schools, equity index 446 and above	116,393
Swim for Life Tairawhiti	Tairawhiti schools (mostly rural)	30,000
Aktive	West, Central and East Auckland schools, equity index 446 and above	137,500
Sport Northland	Northland schools, equity index 446 and above	101,750
Waimakariri District Council	North Canterbury schools, equity index 446 and above	11,000
Bay Venues Ltd	Tauranga schools, equity index 446 and above	33,000
Active Southland	Southland District schools, equity index 446 and above	25,000
Christchurch City Council	Christchurch City schools, equity index 446 and above	38,500
Sport Otago	Dunedin and Central Otago schools, equity index 446 and above	46,750
Community leisure Management - Rotorua Aquatics Ltd	Rotorua schools, equity index 446 and above	27,500
Dash Swim School - Porirua City Council	Porirua schools, equity index 446 and above	38,000
Surf Lifesaving New Zealand	Water Skills for Life - Beach programme targeting years 5-8 from coastal schools in Northland, Auckland, Waikato, Bay of Plenty, Tairawhiti, Hawkes Bay, Wellington, Canterbury and Otago. Equity index 446+	150,000
Find Your Field of Dreams, Aktive, Swimming Waikato, Sport Hawkes Bay, Christchurch City Council	Ex Swimming NZ programme supporting Kaiako led delivery in schools with their own pools. Equity index 446+ in Auckland, Waikato, Hawkes Bay and Canterbury	419,242