



Wellbeing Waikato

Call for Expressions of Interest: Trustees

1. About Wellbeing Waikato

Wellbeing Waikato is an independent charitable trust dedicated to strengthening long-term wellbeing across the Waikato region. Established in February 2026, it builds on the foundations of the Waikato Wellbeing Project.

Our vision is simple and enduring: *our mokopuna are thriving.*

At the heart of our work is a belief that better decisions—by government, business, and communities—start with a deeper understanding of how people are really living and why. We focus on the everyday realities of households and whānau, asking whether the essentials of life—housing, energy, food, and connection—are affordable, accessible, and sustainable over time.

We are not aligned to any single agenda or model. Instead, we bring together data, lived experience, and local insight to help illuminate what is working, what is not, and where change is possible.

Our work is expressed through four connected areas:

- **Research:** Understanding the root causes of key wellbeing challenges
- **Knowledge:** Bringing together meaningful data and insights at a regional and household level
- **Storytelling:** Sharing the real experiences behind the numbers and highlighting community-led solutions
- **Influence:** Supporting better decisions by sharing what we are learning

Through this work, we aim to:

- Support more informed and effective policy and investment decisions
- Strengthen the voice and agency of whānau and communities
- Enable resources to be directed where they can make the greatest difference
- Encourage collective leadership across sectors

Ultimately, Wellbeing Waikato exists to connect big-picture decisions with the lived realities of everyday life in our region. To better understand our work and priorities, we encourage you to explore:

- Our website: <https://www.wellbeingwaikato.org.nz>
- Our 2026/27 Business Plan: <https://www.wellbeingwaikato.org.nz/business-plan>

2. The Opportunity

We are seeking an additional Trustee to join our Board.

This is an opportunity to contribute to something that matters—helping ensure that the Waikato is a place where people, whānau and communities can thrive, now and into the future. You will be able to bring your experience, perspective, and networks to help support a more equitable and resilient Waikato.



We welcome interest from people who:

- Have experience in community and social leadership and impact, purpose-driven business, governance, or leadership roles
- Are strongly motivated by contributing to positive social and community outcomes and are not satisfied with the status quo
- Bring relationships and networks that could help strengthen our reach and financial sustainability
- Are curious about the bigger picture—how different parts of the system connect and shape people's lives
- Genuinely understand and live collective leadership.

You do not need to come from a traditional social sector background. We particularly value those who can bring fresh perspectives, practical insight, and a willingness to engage with complex issues in a grounded way.

This is not your usual organisation or your usual governance role. To join Wellbeing Waikato is to live its values daily and to be willing to stand up, be heard and make a difference.

3. Governance and Commitment

Wellbeing Waikato is governed by a Trust Deed which sets out the purpose and responsibilities of Trustees. The current Board comprises three Trustees, with provision for up to seven.

Term:

- Initial term of three years
- Maximum of six years, with potential extension to nine.

Meetings and commitment:

- Board meetings are held approximately every 8 weeks (around 2 hours)
- Papers are provided one week in advance
- Meetings are generally in person, with remote participation available.

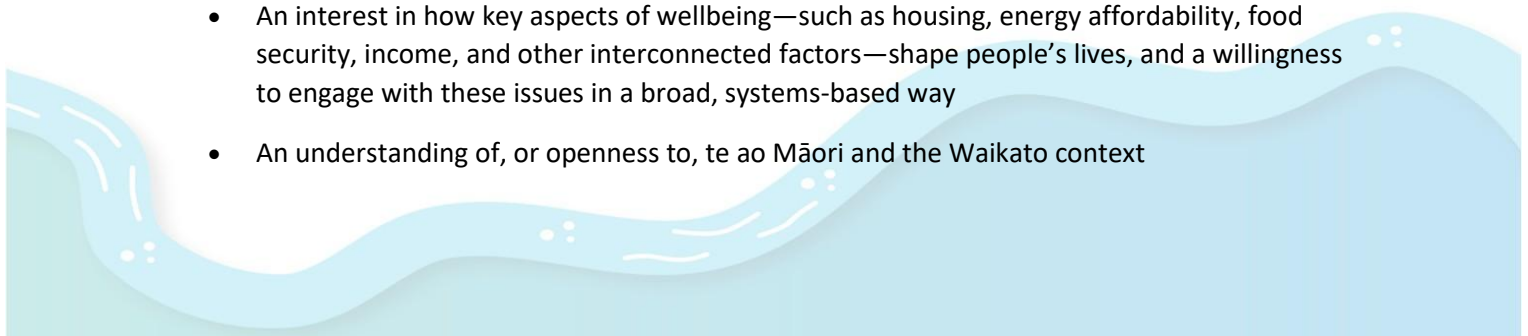
Remuneration:

- A modest meeting fee of \$250 (+ GST if applicable), plus reasonable travel expenses

4. Skills and Attributes Sought

We are looking for a Trustee who brings both capability and a genuine interest in the wellbeing of our region. Essential attributes include:

- Strategic and big picture thinking and good judgement
- An interest in how key aspects of wellbeing—such as housing, energy affordability, food security, income, and other interconnected factors—shape people's lives, and a willingness to engage with these issues in a broad, systems-based way
- An understanding of, or openness to, te ao Māori and the Waikato context



- A strong understanding of different social, cultural and political perspectives on wellbeing and a willingness to see things from many different points of view
- Respect for both data and lived experience as legitimate sources of insight
- The ability to support the organisation through relationships, influence, and advocacy

We also want to strengthen our ability to secure sustainable funding and partnerships, and welcome interest from those who can contribute in this area. As a regional initiative, we value diversity of background, experience, and perspective.

5. Expressions of Interest

If you are interested in contributing as a Trustee, we would be pleased to hear from you. Please submit:

- A one-page cover letter outlining your interest and what you would bring to the role.
- A current CV (no more than 3 pages)

Deadline: 5:00pm, 31 August 2026

Send to: www.wellbeingwaikato.org.nz/contact/

Shortlisted candidates will be invited to interview (in person or via Teams) in early September. The current Trustees will make final appointment decisions and reserve the right not to appoint.

Successful candidates will be invited to attend their first Board meeting in September 2026.

6. Enquiries

For a confidential discussion, please contact:

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Chair

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or

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