



INTRODUCING ACCELERATING AOTEAROA

Who we are

Accelerating Aotearoa was established in 2007 and with funding from the Tertiary Education Commission initial operational capacity was enabled in 2008. Since then, we have focused on the design and delivery of collaborations enabling alignment between community, job seekers, employers and skills providers to deliver more effective, accessible and quality support services and pathways for tamariki, whanau and community, to prosperity.

After more than a decade of delivery across South Auckland we're now focusing delivery at Otara where we are well known, strongly invested and have established a reputation for achieving effective solutions across the community.

Our strength is our long term commitment to South Aucklanders, and now with close relationships at Otara, our opportunity is to leverage those critical skills our founders gained in their former corporate leadership roles, for this community.

Our Purpose

We serve our Otara community in three priority areas:

- ~ **Igniting learning passion** with children, youth and adults through local digital and aligned skills and innovation programmes, connections and partnerships through our STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math's) based "Geek Camps" in a broad based Kaupapa Maori, Pasifika context.
- ~ **Unlocking local potential** through digital and traditional upskilling programmes enabled by local collaborations supporting pathways to local employment and pastoral care; A2E (Access2Employment) and LEAP (Local Employment Access Programme) support locals into local work and where required further upskilling programmes; Digital skills, Literacy and Numeracy in the context of our Indigenous Maori and Pasifika knowledge.
- ~ **Enhancing entrepreneurial mind sets** through our fledgling Community Enterprises based on our Food Bank and Upcycled Homewares enterprises led by locals.

Our programme

What we're offering our Otara Community:

- ~ From our increasing community response and participation at our Otara base "We o Tara", we're sensing we have established a **significant, genuine core in our community**; reaching out, providing programmes and links for members of the community to connect with each other, with information and with agencies. We o Tara is a place where people can engage and learn new skills in a safe nurturing environment that provides immediate support and leads to a path for personal growth, resolution of issues and engagement in the workforce. Locals see it as their own.
- ~ Further, We o Tara has become a **trusted, safe 'front door' for hard-to-reach members of our community with very high needs**; family violence, drug and alcohol issues, food poverty, physical and mental health, unemployment and financial problems. By coming to us, we can support locals to link with people and services for help. These services increasingly find this most underserved community very difficult to engage with directly under their ways of working.

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Our target group, the Gaps we seek to resolve, Our Priorities

Our Target Group

- ~ We are focused on our community at Otara, in particular those who are underserved.

The Gaps

We are committed to increasing digital capability for our Community enabling:

- ~ **Increased social equity, participation and resilience for our people, families and communities** and their ability to access education, employment and enterprise opportunities along with the networks that they need to achieve and maintain wellbeing
- ~ **Enhanced environmental wellbeing** by caring for our environment, its biodiversity today and for future generations.

Our Priorities are set by our community and address the persistent inequalities affecting Māori and Pasifika at Otara. We are working with our community to;

- ~ **Achieve positive outcomes** for children, young people and their whanau to disrupt intergenerational disadvantage
- ~ **Enable community-led economic development**, in particular communities most affected by income inequalities
- ~ **Conserve and enhance our natural environment** for the benefit of all communities.

The Difference we want to make; for more than a decade we have been working locally to support **local digital capability** in communities to enable increased:

- ~ **Participation**, especially by tamariki, whanau and hard-to-reach, high-needs peoples – and in workforce dynamics
- ~ **Social equity**, through enhanced access to fundamental living requirements especially access to well-paid work and services
- ~ **Whanau resilience**, through access to skills, strategies, links to networks through We o Tara, our outreach programmes and local networks
- ~ **Community capability and self-determination**, as one of Otara's only collaborative, community-led, community-responsive and fully accessible entity
- ~ **Inclusion and social cohesion**, with We o Tara as a demonstrated connector, catalyst and welcoming "home".

Our 3-5 year horizon

Accelerating Aotearoa's is currently progressing partnerships to ensure our community base, "We o Tara" is fully equipped to locally perpetuate operations within a 3 – 5 year timeframe; resourcing existing platforms for transition to local leadership and laying the foundations for future success.

- ~ **Enabling increased Digital Capability** for local Maori and Pasifika whanau at all ages
- ~ **Empowering local Maori and Pasifika Leadership** of future operational and governance capacity at "We o Tara"
- ~ **Enhancing local and aligned local Maori and Pasifika capacity** to establish and perpetuate local Innovation Initiatives