

FUNDING REQUEST

2024

SUMMARY

Te Rōpū Rongomau o Aotearoa/The Peace Foundation delivers innovative training in conflict resolution skills to schools and their wider communities throughout Aotearoa, New Zealand. We are a registered charity and have been a leader in peace education since 1975. The Peace Foundation is the only organisation in Aotearoa that offers a national programme of peer mediation for schools which is culturally responsive for tangata whenua.

The world could be a more peaceful place if our culture and upbringing naturally gave us the conflict resolution skills we need, but this is rare and we need to be specifically trained. The Peace Foundation does just that – provides face to face training in schools on how to handle conflict constructively and help others resolve their disputes.

Through our peer mediation programmes students practice how to listen, be impartial, separate the people from the problem and mediate solutions. Through our Te Pou o Rongo and schools' symposia, they envisage how to bring their peace aspirations and positive impact to their wider communities. Through our REACT programme they learn about the alternatives to armed conflict in today's world. And through our international interns programme we transmit Peace Foundation know-how around the world.

More than 2000 schools throughout Aotearoa have participated in our programmes since they were launched in 1992. From 1st July 2022 to 30th June 2023, The Peace Foundation mediation programmes alone benefited 1,771 students and teachers in 62 schools, with many more attending our events and symposia.

For further information about us see www.peacefoundation.org.nz and our [2023 Annual Report](#)

We are now seeking funding to:

- Increase the number of schools benefiting and the depth of our follow up
- Further improve our programmes particularly for Māori and other indigenous ākonga
- Enable our programmes to be a model for use by schools beyond Aotearoa

PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Our programmes have been implemented in schools since 1992 with proven outcomes which include:

Student benefits

- Giving students the ability to handle conflict and mediate disputes
- Providing essential transferable skills for their work and life beyond school
- Building resilience and improving communication, so enhancing mental health.

Teacher benefits

- Saving time as students resolve minor conflicts by themselves.
- Learning the same skills as students, and so helping to model a mediation culture.

School benefits

- Reducing bullying and other forms of violence
- Transforming the school to be more harmonious and safer for all
- Promoting manaakitanga (caring), whanaungatanga (connection), kotahitanga (unity) and tolerance for differences.

WHY DO NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS NEED OUR PROGRAMMES?

- To cope with the increasing mental health problems in our schools
- To reduce the bullying problem prevalent in Aotearoa
- To address the significant family violence issue in our society
- To support the NZ Curriculum.

For further details please see the Appendix



WE NEED YOUR HELP

Many vulnerable and at-risk communities are currently unable to access our programmes and school communities are suffering. We urgently need to benefit more schools, which we can do with more funding. While The Peace Foundation was able to provide its mediation programmes in 62 schools in the year to June 2023, there are approximately 2,500 in Aotearoa in total. Our ultimate goal is to be able to offer our programmes to every school in Aotearoa that wants to participate.

In the year ending June 2023, Te Whatu Ora Health New Zealand provided 64 per cent of our total grant funding with the Department of Internal Affairs, Auckland Council and private foundations making up the balance. However, obtaining such funding is becoming increasingly competitive and it is insufficient to meet the demand for Peace Foundation programmes. While we are finding more ways to receive payment directly from schools, it is still less than 10 percent of our total income and it will take more time for us to develop a sustainable funding model.

FUNDING REQUEST \$405,000 PER ANNUM FOR 3 YEARS

The Peace Foundation is seeking funding. Funders are welcome to choose the programme that most aligns with their priorities and provide all, or a portion of the funding goal. A three-year commitment for funding is preferred to provide ongoing stability.

- Peer Mediation Programmes - Annual funding of \$300,000 to expand our capacity to deliver the programmes, so increasing the number of schools in New Zealand we reach and the depth of our follow-up.
- Te Pou o Rongo symposia - Annual funding of \$30,000 for two symposia (Auckland and Christchurch) for Māori rangatahi and Pasifika.
- REACT programme workshops. Annual funding of \$15,000 to support the delivery of disarmament education workshops in secondary schools.
- Internship Programme and Administration - Annual funding of \$60,000 to support our vital workforce of interns including the wages of our part-time Intern Coordinator as well as general administration, and so increase our international impact.

If the above options are not feasible, please consider a donation of \$5,000 to support the delivery of one peer mediation programme in a school. Smaller donations will be gratefully received and used at the discretion of the Peace Foundation.

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APPENDIX - FURTHER INFORMATION

WHAT WE DO

Our core programmes, Cool Schools for primary schools and Leadership through Peer Mediation (LtPM) for intermediate and secondary schools, teach students mediation skills together with procedures for establishing a peer mediation service in their schools. We implement this and our other programmes and events through face-to-face training sessions, which is essential to effectively convey the interpersonal skills needed. We also run symposia, leadership retreats and a number of other programmes to support young people in bringing their peace aspirations and positive impact to the wider world.

PEER MEDIATION PROGRAMMES

Cool Schools is a whole-school, student-centred, peer mediation programme for primary schools and Leadership through Peer Mediation (LtPM) is a conflict resolution programme for secondary students (rangatahi). The resources for teachers and students in both these programmes were substantially revised in 2022 to ensure they are now contemporary and culturally responsive.

The Peace Foundation's peer mediation programmes teach students the step-by-step process of conducting a mediation and important skills, like effective questioning, active listening and generating solutions which are keys to a successful mediation process.

In secondary schools the training uses role-plays of conflicts involving ethical issues such as climate change and animal rights, as well as situations the students are likely to encounter at school or at home. Professional adult mediators from Resolution Institute (LEADR) attend to coach the students, giving them top class role-models and truly practical training.

Students trained as peer mediators are leaders in their school. They are 'peace ambassadors' who model and promote the importance of kindness, fairness, empathy and respect. They are rostered on duty at interval breaks and are available to mediate minor conflict among their peers without intervention from teachers.

SYMPOSIA

Every year we hold an all-day Youth Peace Symposium for secondary schools who participate in our mediation programmes. This gives students from different schools the opportunity to come together, discuss issues relevant to society and promote peace education. In 2023 this was attended by 10 schools with 150 students and their teachers. In the run up to the Youth Peace Symposium we host a nationwide event 'Youth Peace Week' encouraging students to research, discuss and create activities around a theme for positive impact.

In 2022, The Peace Foundation hosted the first Te Pou o Rongo symposia in Auckland (Tāmaki Makaurau) and Christchurch (Ōtautahi). These events are designed to reconnect rangatahi Māori with their culture and help build strength and resilience in the Māori community.

REACT (RESPONDING TO ARMED CONFLICT) PRESENTATIONS

REACT presentations are educational lectures delivered in secondary schools throughout Aotearoa. They educate rangatahi around contemporary and historical armed conflicts. REACT has an emphasis on providing information about the risks of nuclear war and disarmament, with the aim of engaging secondary students to be knowledgeable on international affairs.

INTERNATIONAL INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME

We receive in excess of 8,000 labour hours from interns each year from around the world. This is not only a low-cost source of skilled human resources that we rely upon heavily, but also the way in which the Peace Foundation is able to have impact beyond Aotearoa. For example, Nadeem Ghazi, who was an intern with the Peace Foundation in 2015, is now the Founder/CEO of World Learning International School (WLIS) in Karachi, Pakistan. Over 2000 students and teachers from the campuses of WLIS participate in the Peace Foundations Youth Peace Week every year. WLIS now has a partnership with the Peace Foundation and WLIS teachers train Cool Schools mediators.

TESTIMONIALS

"It makes our school a safer place for students to be. It provides our school with a settled environment – it reduces bullying and conflict. People are aware the peer mediators in the playground are working out issues. As a result, our school is a more cohesive and happy place to be."

Malcolm Laurence – Principal Pukeoware Primary School

"It's changed our school culture. I would thoroughly recommend any school get involved with having a mediation service at their school. We've had a lot less fights in our playground. The changes you see in students with the skills that they use in the playground and within their families ... we get so much feedback from students that it has changed their lives."

Jan Pace (Student Services) - Mount Roskill Grammar School

"The benefits of the Cool Schools Peer Mediation Programme are huge for both children and adults. The great thing about the programme is it starts with professional development for the teachers and then the students themselves go through a series of lessons that empower them to become more confident as they learn how to deal with conflict in a positive way. They can diffuse a situation before it comes back into the classroom. I encourage other schools to participate because students have those skills for life. It's not just the intermediate school that benefits – those students take those skills with them when they find themselves in situations of conflict as they move onto high school."

Yolanda East (Principal) - Wairau Intermediate School

"You can use mediation skills in so many aspects of your life, not just at school. I use the skills I've learnt to resolve conflict in my family between my siblings."

Leadership Through Peer Mediation (LtPM) peer mediator

"The programme has made me a more confident person and from my training I am able to apply all that I learned in a lot of situations in my life and I would hope that I could say the same about how much I have taught my younger peers."

Leadership Through Peer Mediation (LtPM) peer mediator

"My skills as a peer mediator have really brought a positive change in me. These skills have helped me communicate well with other students, my peers and my family members. These skills have also effectively helped me solve conflicts between my friends that are sometimes not on good terms".

Cool Schools peer mediator



WHY DO NEW ZEALAND SCHOOLS NEED OUR PROGRAMMES?

TO COPE WITH MENTAL HEALTH PROBLEMS

Schools are reporting increased anxiety among students and a lack of resilience. The pandemic has exacerbated these issues. Mental health conditions amongst young people have doubled in the past decade with researchers describing it as "a silent pandemic of psychological distress". ([New Zealand young people are facing 'silent pandemic of psychological distress' | RNZ News](#)) 2020. Research shows that our school peer mediation programmes teach children and young people coping, communication, problem-solving and relationship-building skills. Children who participate in our programmes gain greater self-esteem, resilience and confidence.* (Connor and Buccahan, 2017) ([Leadership Through Peer Mediation: Research Report](#)).

TO STOP BULLYING

The Human Rights Commission acknowledges that New Zealand has a 'massive' problem with bullying and violence in schools. It says the issue is linked to New Zealand's wider problem of family violence and is also an indigenous rights issue, as Māori are more likely to be both victims and offenders. (Otago Daily Times, 2017). ([Bullying and violence remains 'massive' problem in schools, warns Human Rights Commission - NZ Herald](#)) At the end of the last decade New Zealand had the second-worst rate of bullying in the OECD with 20% of children who faced bullying in its schools, which is twice the average for all countries within the OECD. (Josephine Franks, 2019) ([NZ's school bullying rate the second highest in the OECD | Stuff.co.nz](#)) The Peace Foundation's Cool Schools and Leadership through Peer Mediation (LtPM) programmes are specifically designed to reduce bullying and violence in schools and participating schools tell us they make a profound and transformative difference (see for example testimonials above).

TO REDUCE FAMILY VIOLENCE

New Zealand Police conduct more than 100,000 annual investigations related to family violence. Nearly half of all homicides and reported violent crimes are family violence related. It is estimated that one in four females and one in eight males experience sexual violence or abuse in their lifetimes, many before the age of 16. (Ministry of Justice Website). The Peace Foundation's peer mediation programmes for schools have wider positive benefits that have the potential to reduce family conflict and violence.

TO SUPPORT THE NZ CURRICULUM

The Ministry of Education states that, for students to lead full and satisfying lives, among other things, they need to be supported to: build resilience, a positive identity and empathy; learn how to co-operate and negotiate; and develop competencies for mental wellness and safety management. The Peace Foundation provides programmes which are specifically designed to achieve the Ministry of Education aims. It also supports the New Zealand Curriculum's emphasis on students having agency over their learning and the development of positive, collaborative relationships between teacher/student and student/teacher.

REFERENCES AND FURTHER READING

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