



About the Social Investment Agency

The Social Investment Agency (SIA) was established on 1 July 2024 as a central agency to lead, develop and demonstrate a social investment approach in action.

It reports to the Minister for Social Investment, Hon Nicola Willis who leads the social investment work programme along with a group of Social Investment Ministers.

The Minister for Social Investment also receives independent advice from the Social Investment Board - a ministerial advisory group established in late 2024.

As SIA has progressed its work programme it has become increasingly clear the status quo is not working for our most vulnerable people, whānau and communities.

SIA is leading change across the public sector to improve how it works with and invests in the social sector.

What does SIA do?

SIA has the following functions:

- Advise Ministers on investments to be delivered through the new commissioning function, using a rolling programme of reviews and expressions of interest from non-government and community organisations to identify funding and current contracts that could be transferred to the Social Investment Fund.
- Provide system leadership and oversight of social investment commissioning, and coordinate advice to Social Investment Ministers on commissioning and other related matters.
- Oversee standards for social investment practice through monitoring and evaluating the performance of social sector investment.

We're changing the way government works, so that:

- Resources are directed where they can have most impact
- Investments focus on outcomes for people rather than outputs
- Communities have the authority to commission services that meet local needs
- Providers have the stability and flexibility to determine the best approach
- Services prioritise early intervention, prevention and innovation
- People get tailored services and support in a way that works for them, from providers they trust.



How is SIA supporting government to take a social investment approach?

- As a central agency, SIA is responsible for building the capability and methodologies to review the effectiveness of funding across the social sector, improve service delivery, and increase visibility of what the government spends and where.
- SIA is also responsible for supporting other agencies to apply a social investment approach with guidance, standards, outcomes contracting and commissioning support, evaluation models, and data and analytics.
- Some initiatives and services lend themselves to a social investment approach more than others - social investment is not a 'fix all' solution and there will continue to be instances where traditional delivery of social services serves the intended purpose.

We use these tools and assets

- Data visualisation and dashboards – to help make complex data more accessible for non-technical users via data explorers and/or curated dashboards
- Data engineering and storage – to enable social sector partners to safely and securely organise and store data so that it is easier to use, analyse and share in a cost-effective way
- Standards and guidelines – to ensure there is consistency across government agencies and contracted providers (particularly around the use of data and evidence)

We publish our analysis and advice on our website: [**sia.govt.nz**](https://sia.govt.nz)

We work with:

- Public sector agencies and the Regional Public Service
- Social sector NGOs and their related membership associations
- Iwi and Māori partners
- Philanthropists, social sector funders and impact investors



Our values



TĀNGATA

We're about people

People will do better, sooner and for longer, when the social system works in partnership, acting on better evidence to develop and deliver services.



MANAWA MĀUI

We're a catalyst for change

We challenge the status quo constructively and seek better ways of doing things. We help create change to improve lives through different approaches.



TAUNAKITANGA

We influence through evidence

We use evidence to influence positive change for New Zealanders.



PUARETANGA

We're transparent by nature

We will share what we're doing, how we're doing it, and what we learn.

Toi Hau Tāngata

Our reo name, Toi Hau Tāngata, signifies the valuable aspects of living life – manifesting in the wellbeing of the people. The individual words have many meanings, including: Toi - peak, Hau - vital essence and Tāngata - humankind.

Mohi Apou of Taranaki-Whanganui descent gifted the name to the agency. Toi Hau Tāngata comes from a karakia unique to Taranaki-Whanganui Iwi, 'Te Hau Tai Tāngata' – the principles influencing the creation of mankind. The karakia is not written but passed from one generation to the next as the taonga tuku iho, or oral tradition.