
Taking philanthropy from good to great

Rātā Foundation is the guardian of a \$600 million endowment or putea, making around \$20 million in grants per annum, across its four funding regions—Canterbury, Nelson, Marlborough and the Chatham Islands.

Chief Executive, Leighton Evans says “the Foundation gets the best results by working with partners who know the most about the areas we want to support. This also means we are taking an intergenerational view around investing in our communities.”

In the past few years Rātā Foundation has invested \$80m plus through partnerships, as well as supporting a wide range of programmes managed by established and well-regarded organisations that are experts in their fields. “We aim to add value to our partnerships through our funding, connections and knowledge,” says Mr Evans.

Rātā Foundation as a funder is keenly aware of the need to keep evolving and adapting its thinking around its funding programme. Mr Evans says he wants the organisation to be involved in transformational work, across all sectors, by supporting high impact projects which reach into communities, alongside its business as usual funding.



Leighton Evans, Chief Executive

partnership with Maia Foundation, on its successful 13 Minute campaign as an example of this thinking.

Rātā Foundation partnered with Māia Health Foundation to launch a crowd-funding campaign which aimed to raise \$500,000 from the community, with Rātā matching that contribution dollar for dollar.

Christchurch Hospital is New Zealand’s busiest trauma centre and the only major hospital without a helipad on site. In addition, the use of helicopters for emergencies and patient transfers has increased approximately 40% over the last three years. Christchurch and the South

Island need a helipad that will cope with current and future demand for this service.

Currently, it takes 13 minutes on average to transfer by ambulance to Christchurch Hospital, after landing in Hagley



Park. A larger helipad and purpose built rooftop clinical support unit will mean critically unwell patients receive emergency hospital care immediately on touchdown, and a quicker transition to full care for routine transfers.

Of their support Mr Evans says the helipad will be a game changer for the region and the Foundation was proud to support a health initiative which will demonstrably save lives. The campaign has raised over \$1million.

“The partnership with Maia to match every dollar raised was an innovative approach which has proved very successful, with our contribution directly at the level of community support. No-one is disappointed to see their money double—especially when that money is going to a good cause and their impact is amplified.”

“Our aim for the future is to strengthen and build on the existing culture of collaboration, both within the organisation and externally. We are keen to learn and create conversations, with key partners which will see us leverage our relationships and resources to strengthen the local impact of our grants.”

For more information on Rātā Foundation, visit ratafoundation.org.nz