

THE HUSTLE NETWORK

@THE_HUSTLENETWORK

THE HUSTLE NETWORK

**VIDEO EDITED BY MAIA-JADE RIVERS
(INTERN STUDENT FROM PAPA KURA HIGH SCHOOL)**

***VIDEO COMPIATION OF OUR
PEOPLE IN THE HUSTLE NETWORK***



About Māia

Founded in 2020 by Dr Michelle Johansson and Jay Allnutt, Māia's aim is to make social change in creative ways.

We recognise that the causes of systemic injustice in education and beyond are often hidden and implicit in norms, assumptions, and ways of being, including in schools.

We work in deep partnership with people, communities and organisations to explore what this means for them, and to come up with new ways of addressing it that fit with their context. This means we are involved in a range of projects.

Māia is a charitable company. We generate an operating surplus which we invest in projects that we think will make a difference, and seek partnerships with funders to ensure these projects are sustainable. The Hustle Network, Brave Research, Brave Summit and Truant are our current Māia-initiated projects.

THE HUSTLE NETWORK

THE IDEA

NARRATIVES ABOUT YOUNG PEOPLE WHO CHOOSE TO ENTER THE WORKFORCE INSTEAD OF TERTIARY STUDY ARE OFTEN NARROW AND AT TIMES PATRONISING. THIS CAN DISCOURAGE OUR YOUNG PEOPLE AND DIMINISH THE MANY GREAT QUALITIES THEY DEVELOP FROM WORKING AND THE CHOICES THEY ARE MAKING FOR THEIR LIVES.

THE HUSTLE NETWORK WAS BUILT TO SHED LIGHT ON THE POSITIVE THINGS THAT COME FROM OUR YOUNG PEOPLE IN THE WORKPLACE AND TO TAUTOKO THEM AND THEIR CHOICE, RATHER THAN SEEING IT AS A DEFICIT.

WE HOPE THAT OUR YOUNG PEOPLES' STORIES ARE SHARED AND ENCOURAGE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE TO TAKE PRIDE IN WHAT THEY DO; REGARDLESS OF WHAT THEY DO FOR WORK.

THE HUSTLE NETWORK

BASED ON RESEARCH

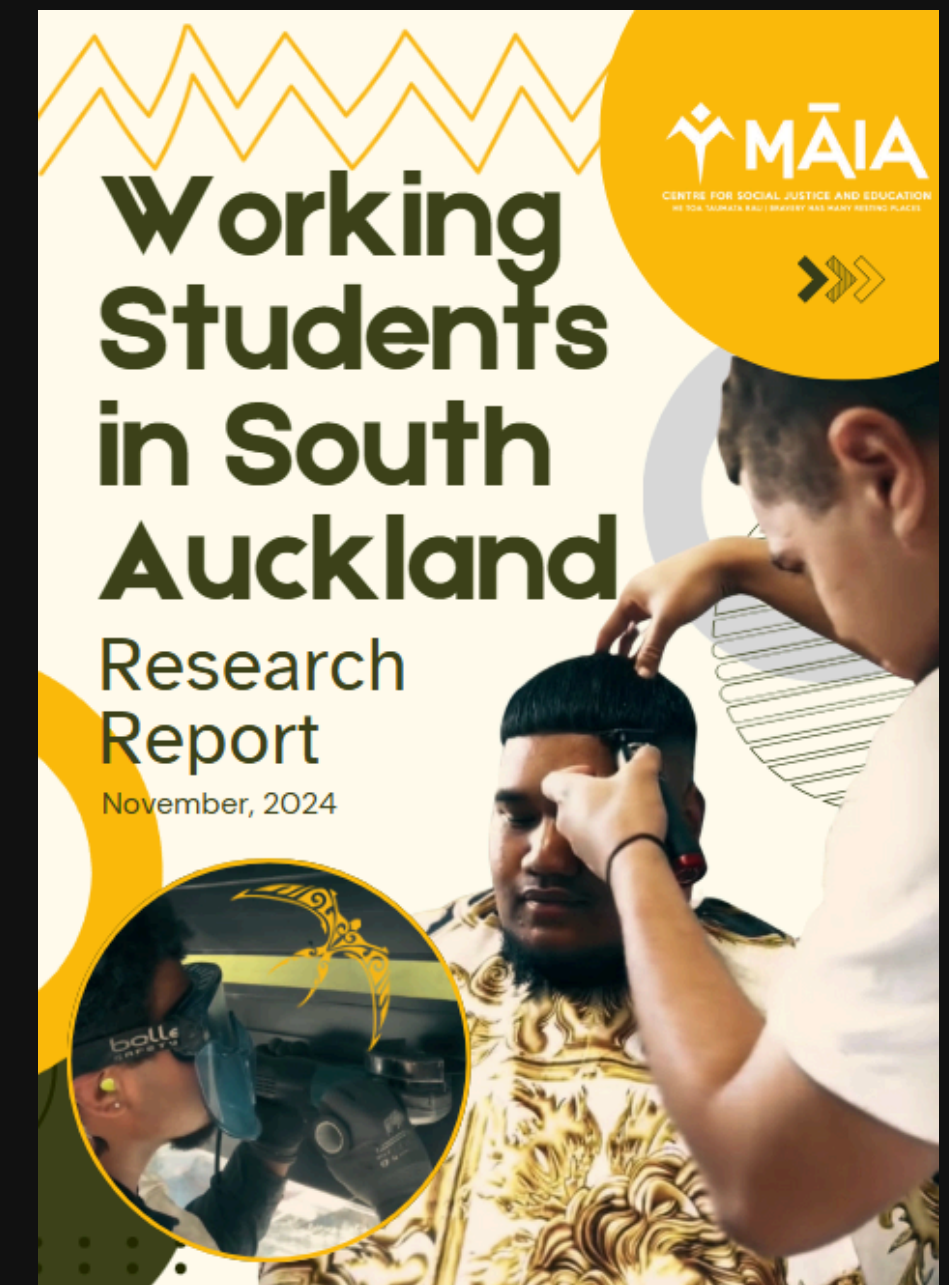
IN 2024 WE RELEASED A REPORT AT OUR ANNUAL BRAVE SUMMIT BASED ON RESEARCH BY YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH OUR BRAVE RESEARCH INTERNS INVESTIGATING THE EXPERIENCES OF YOUNG PEOPLE WHO TOOK ON EMPLOYMENT WHILST AT SCHOOL.

BRAVE RESEARCH IS A PAID INTERNSHIP PROGRAMME FOR PRE-UNIVERSITY YOUNG PEOPLE FROM THE SCHOOLS IN SOUTH AUCKLAND TO LEARN ABOUT, DESIGN AND DELIVERY RESEARCH FOR THEIR OWN COMMUNITIES.

THE REPORT HIGHLIGHTED THAT MANY YOUNG PEOPLE TAKE EMPLOYMENT TO GROW THEIR INDEPENDENCE, SUPPORT THEIR FAMILY, AND TO DEVELOP NEW SKILLS. MANY ALSO REPORT BEING ALIENATED FROM EDUCATION, AND STRUGGLING TO BALANCE WHO THEY ARE WITH THE RIGID DEMANDS OF SCHOOL.

THIS RESEARCH AND PREVIOUS WORK WE HAVE DONE WITH SCHOOLS AND YOUNG PEOPLE HAS INFORMED THE HUSTLE NETWORK, AND THE PREVIOUS VERSION OF IT WHICH WAS CALLED 'BRAVE RESEARCH'.

YOU CAN READ THE REPORT ON OUR WEBSITE [HERE](#).



THE HUSTLE NETWORK

OUR PEOPLE

A NETWORK OF PEOPLE AGED 17-21 WHO ARE IN THE WORKFORCE AND TAKE PRIDE IN THEIR “HUSTLE”.

OUR HUSTLES RANGE FROM: BARBERING, ACTING, SCAFFOLDING, FORKHOIST LIFTING, FACTORY WORK, WEIGHTLIFTING, SECURITY, SINGING, DANCING, PREACHING.

OUR VISION ON THE OTHERHAND IS THE SAME: WE ALL ENCOURAGE EACH OTHER TO BE THE BEST VERSIONS OF OURSELVES AND CELEBRATE THE WINS ALONG THE WAY.

THE HUSTLE NETWORK

WHAT WE DO (ORIGINAL PLAN FROM 2024 MIDYEAR REPORT)

**THE
HUSTLE
NETWORK**



Work with employers and schools to ensure they are supporting young people to enter safe, meaningful and non-exploitative work.*



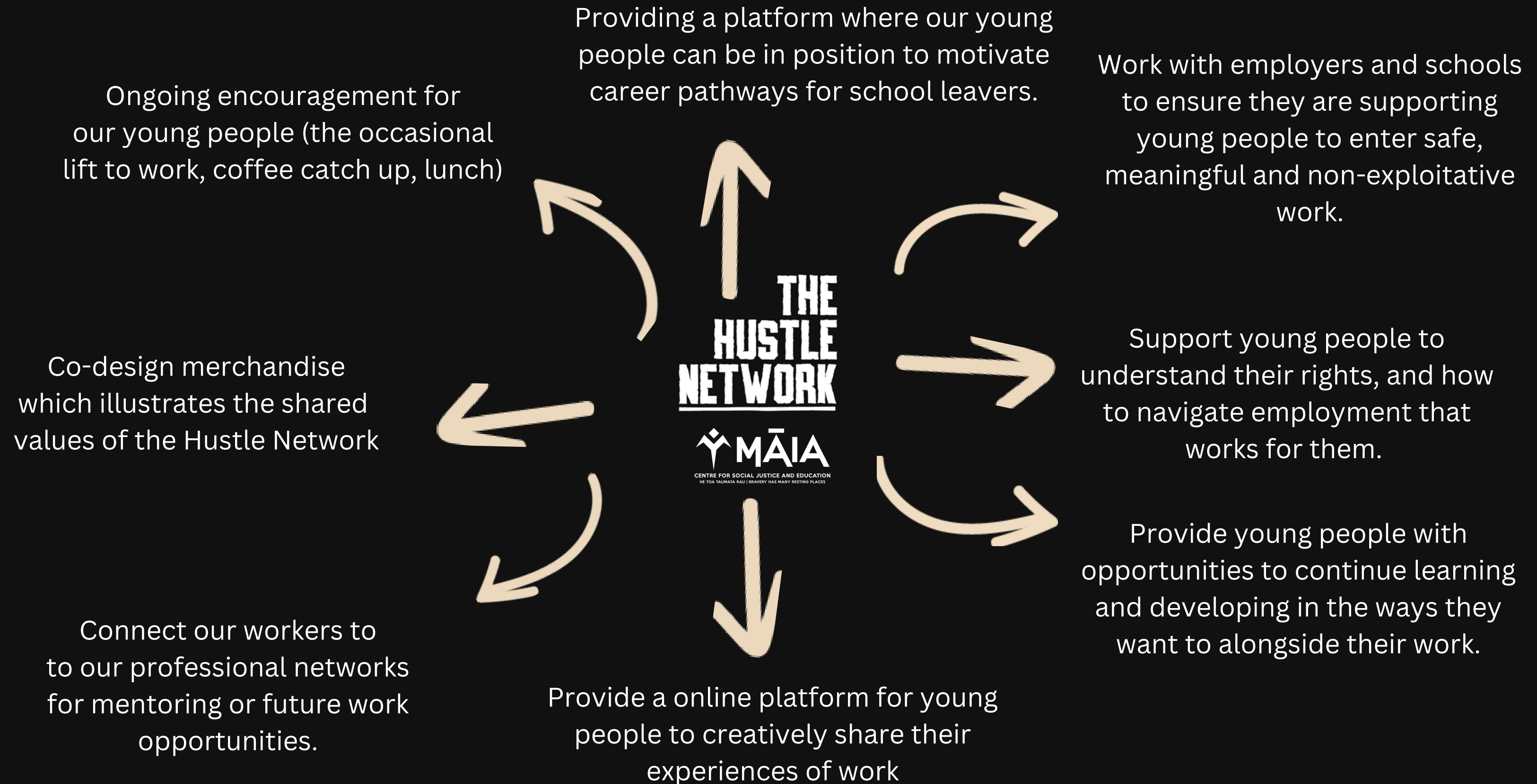
Support young people to understand their rights, and how to navigate employment that works for them.



Provide young people with opportunities to continue learning and developing in the ways they want to alongside their work.

* We mean this to include not just paid employment, but caring and community responsibilities too.

WHAT WE NOW DO (UPDATED 2025)





MEET PASI



Pasi speaking on behalf of the Hustle Network at the Brave Summit in 2024

PASI TOKI IS A 19-YEAR-OLD, TONGAN, EX-ONE TREE HILL COLLEGE STUDENT. HE CHOSE A CAREER PATH IN TRADES NEAR THE END OF HIGH SCHOOL. SINCE THEN, HE HAS WORKED IN CONSTRUCTION FOR THE LAST 2 YEARS. IN THIS TIME, HE HAS BEEN ABLE TO BUILD ON HIS SAVINGS AND SUPPORT HIS FAMILY. HE IS PROUD OF WHAT HE ACCOMPLISHED IN HIS EARLY ADULthood AND HAS LONG-TERM GOALS OF BEING AN INDEPENDENT CONTRACTOR.

PASI HAS BEEN CONNECTED TO THE MĀIA CENTRE THROUGH THE BRAVE LEARNING BROTHERHOOD MENTORING GROUP IN 2022-23 (AS A MENTEE) AND IS NOW PART OF THE HUSTLE NETWORK (SEE VIDEO).

HE IS CONFIDENT, ENERGETIC, FUNNY, AND MAFANA. WITH ZERO ACTING EXPERIENCE (AND ON SHORT NOTICE), THE YOUNG MAN AGREED TO PLAY TOMASI IN THE RECENT MĀNGERE ARTS CENTRE PLAY: *TRUANT*. AS A HUSTLE NETWORKER, HE WAS ABLE TO MAKE THE CONNECTION WITH THE BLACK FRIARS WHO WERE LOOKING FOR AN ACTOR WITH HIS BUILD AND PERSONALITY FOR THE ROLE.



Pasi in the Brave Learning brotherhood mentoring group 2023*



Pasi and Principal Geraint Tagaloa



Pasi starring as Tomasi in Truant

**PASI REHEARSED WITH THE BLACK FRIARS
ALMOST EVERY DAY AFTER WORK FOR
ABOUT TWO WEEKS. MOST OF THE
ACTORS AND ACTRESSES IN THE CAST
WERE PROFESSIONALS AND HAD
PERFORMED IN MULTIPLE THEATRE PLAYS.
THEY TOOK HIM UNDER THEIR WING AND
EMBRACED HIM.**

**IN TWO WEEKS, HE SUCCESSFULLY
REMEMBERED ALL HIS PARTS AND MADE
HIS DEBUT PERFORMANCE AT THE WORLD
FAMOUS, MANGERE ARTS CENTRE.**

**OUR VERY OWN *TRADESMAN BY DAY,
ACTOR BY NIGHT***

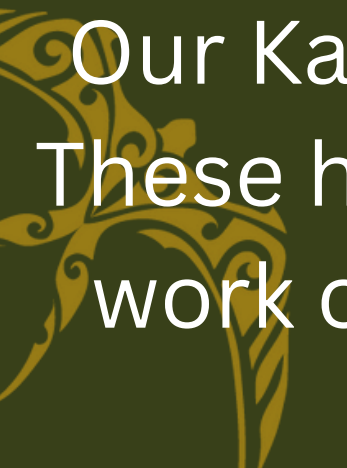


Changing the narrative, one story at a time




Current work

The Hustle Network has recruited 22 young people (15 male, 7 female) between the ages of 17-20. The majority are of Pacific heritage. Currently there are 10 young people who are in the process of joining due to snowballing (our network wanting their peers at work to join). We are expected to have 30-40 for 2025.



Our Kaihautū schedules weekly check-ins with each Hustle Network member. These happen as phone calls, meeting for lunchbreaks, giving workers a ride to work or seeing workers them on their day off. Occasionally our Kaihautū will meet group members for Saturday brunch.



Our members have also spoken at the Brave Summit in 2023, designed our Hustle Network merchandise (more coming 2025) and have made videos for our social media.

Plans for the rest of 2025

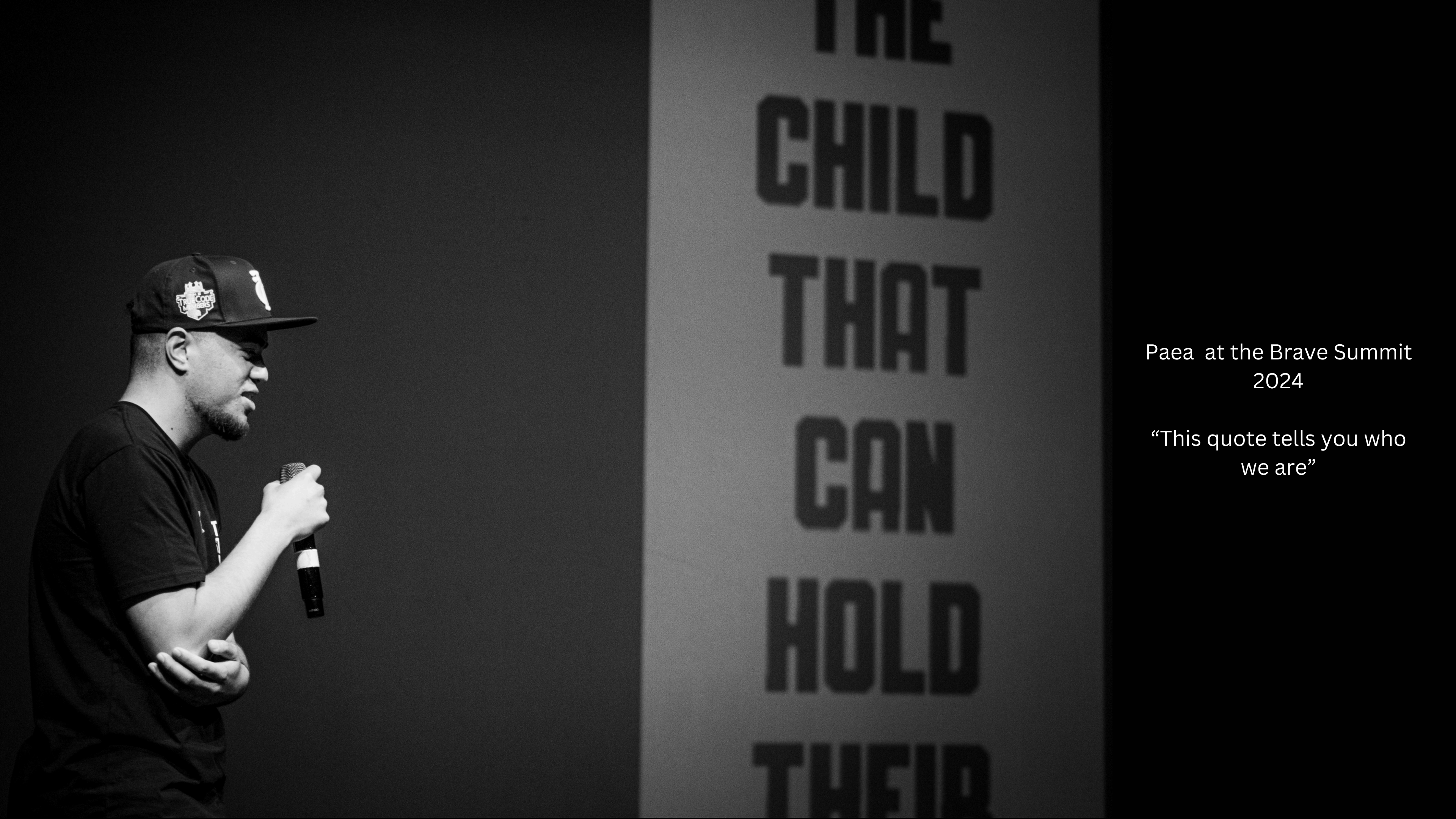
- More content for our social media and our website.
- Organise a series of workshops and events with guest speakers for our network starting in March 2025
- Continue ongoing 1-to-1 support for each THN member
- Establish pastoral care connections for our workers.
- Maintain monthly group catch up dates with either: all THN members or clusters of members (due to location and availability)
- Develop resources with THN members for schools and employers about helping young people into safe, meaningful and non-exploitative work
- Establish a 'young workers union' group (long term plan)
- Set up podcast/interviews to be released through social media (postponed from last year)
- Design more branded merchandise to increase visibility of the group and furthermore promote our kaupapa
- Get our THN members to do school talks ie motivate high school students, career talks
- Plan more social events for our members
- Identify potential Kaihautū to help facilitate THN as the numbers are steadily increasing

BILLIE HOLIDAY

God Bless The Child



Our first t-shirt



THE
CHILD
THAT
CAN
HOLD
THEIR

Paea at the Brave Summit
2024

“This quote tells you who
we are”

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DROP US A DM IF YOU WANT TO JOIN