

Rural Travel Fund 2024 Snapshot



JULY 2023 - JUNE 2024

Sport NZ's Rural Travel Fund (RTF) helps lower travel barriers for rural sport clubs and school teams where players aged between 5 and 19 years require subsidies to assist with transport expenses to local sporting competitions. The RTF is distributed via the 35 smallest (by population) Territorial Authorities.

Total investment into the RTF since its inception in 2003 totals \$8,549,656. This includes an additional one-off investment, provided through Covid Recovery funding, of \$304,110 distributed over two years in 2022-23 and 2023-24 to assist with higher transport costs. In 2023-24 requests for funding totalled \$1,474,507.

Applications

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Approved applications	385	405
Sports Club Applications	212	233
School Applications	173	172

Investment

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Approved funding	\$654,389	\$677,983
To Sports Clubs	\$346,774	\$389,849
To Schools	\$307,614	\$288,134

Investment levels into top 10 sports

Sport	Investment	No. of participants
Combined Sports*	\$209,933	14383
Rugby	\$92,146	4464
Football	\$88,395	3853
Netball	\$60,899	2178
Hockey	\$46,329	1196
Cricket	\$28,775	1063
Rugby League	\$17,923	1038
Basketball	\$26,532	941
Volleyball	\$8,515	504
Athletics	\$11,739	472

*Where funding is sought by a club or school for more than one sport



Funding by sport

36%

of approved investment went directly into rugby, football and netball. An increase in participation numbers in both rugby and football noted for 2024.

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Rugby	\$91,672	\$92,146
Football	\$74,315	\$88,395
Netball	\$65,784	\$60,899



Participation by sport

33%

of approved applications identified funding directly into rugby, football and netball compared with **31%** in 2023 and **27%** in 2022.

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Rugby	3,804	4464
Football	3,501	3853
Netball	2,563	2178

Key Findings



32,193

RTF funded tamariki and rangatahi participating through sports clubs and schools compared with **32,921** in 2023.

	2022-2023	2023-2023
Sports Clubs	212	233
Tamariki & Rangatahi assisted	14,383	15,884
Per participant	\$24.11	\$24.54

	2022-2023	2023-2024
Schools	173	172
Tamariki & Rangatahi assisted	17,878	16,309
Per participant	\$17.21	\$17.67



Demographics

Involvement via sport clubs = 252

10,561 primary school aged
5,945 secondary school aged

Involvement via schools = 178

4,392 primary school aged
12,149 secondary school aged

Diversity & Inclusion Data



13,365
female
participants



18,196
male
participants



215
disabled individuals explicitly identified
as receiving support from the RTF.

Based on Rural Travel Fund council annual reporting where school listed as the applicant.
Calculations are based on the on 2024 school roll demographic data.

Participation Data (Schools Data Only)

Overall, consistent numbers with the previous year, were impacted by the Rural Travel Fund.

Participation by Ethnicity

	2022	2023	2024
European	7,672	8,326	7,569
Māori	6,324	6,951	6,081
Pacific	375	444	469
Asian	560	757	943

Investment by Ethnicity

	2022	2023	2024
European	\$120,333	\$132,528	\$120,295
Māori	\$120,922	\$133,934	\$115,669
Pacific	\$6,073	\$7,857	\$8,641
Asian	\$9,141	\$10,847	\$14,277

Based on Rural Travel Fund data where a school is listed as the applicant.
Calculation of demographic is based on the 2024 school roll demographic data.

Tamariki & Rangatahi Impacted by Rural Travel Funding 2015-2024

