



SOMALILAND SOCIETY IN NEW ZEALAND INC.

ANNUAL REPORT

2025/2026

Our vision

Somaliland Society's vision is to focus on fostering and embracing diversity, empowerment to thrive, promotes inclusion, and supports the well-being of our community.

Key Elements of our Vision:

- 1. fostering:** We will encourage and promote the development of our community, creating an environment where a positive quality can grow.
- 2. Empowerment to thrive:** We will focus on empowering Somalilanders to become self-sufficient and active participants in New Zealand communities.
- 3. Diversity and Inclusion:** We will promote a culture that values diversity and fosters inclusion, which means creating a sense of belonging for our community, welcomed and respected.
- 4. Support the well-being of our community:** Our commitment to the overall health, happiness, and prosperity of our community which means that we will focus on both physical and mental health, as well as social and economic welfare of our community.

Mission Statement

Our mission is to support Somalilanders by providing comprehensive services that promote integration, empowerment, and well-being.

We share the same principles with ChangeMakers Resettlement Forum because we are a member organization with CRF.

Nothing about us without us.

People from refugee-backgrounds should be involved in all stages when policies and services are being developed. Their involvement should be meaningful and respectful of them as the people who will be most affected by those policies and services.

Focus on strengths not weaknesses.

Former refugees bring knowledge, experience and many diverse skills to Aotearoa New Zealand. They have much to contribute.

A human rights approach.

instead of a welfare approach should be the basis for policy development and service delivery. **A shared voice is a strong voice.**

While we acknowledge the differences and the importance of independence, we also recognize the great value of coming together to work on issues of common concern.

AGM Speech – Annual Report Presentation

Assalamu Alaikum and good evening, everyone, I would like to welcome on behalf of our community, **Craig Renney Labour Party candidate for Wellington Bays (pervious Rongotai).** Craig is friend of our community. Let's welcome **Judah Seomeng General manager of ChangeMaker's Resettlement Forum,** Judah provides a lot of support for our community and I hope he will help us a governance training for our board, whenever I need a support letter of our funding applications he provides us, **Thank you for your support, Judah.** We have also **Jawahir Jama Ahmed** advocate and expert in counseling and community engagement; she will provide mental **health awareness** in every meeting and hopefully **Jawahir,** she will deliver us. The last two years has been a turning point for our community. For the first time, we have an office where people can come for support, meet with staff, and gather whenever needed. This was made possible through the generosity of our funders, and we extend our deepest appreciation.

We faced high demand from Somalilanders and other refugee-background communities. Despite challenges, we strengthened our advocacy, expanded our programmes, and delivered daily support in immigration, housing, employment, health, and education.

Our national day celebrations — **18 May and 26 June** — brought unity, pride, and cultural connection. We also want to celebrate **Somaliland's recognition** by the **State of Israel 26 December 2025 and we will celebrate every year,** a moment that brought hope to many families.

Also, this year **2026** we delivered Education Hubs in **Lower Hutt** and are expanding to **Wellington.**

Our staffing needs remain urgent. We need funding for a full-time social worker, and a youth worker to support one of Wellington's largest Refugee-background youth.

I want to introduce you tonight our first Somalilander Social worker Nasiim Abdi she works Wednesdays and Thursdays and Hamza Abdi our Office Coordinator she works other days. Please come to the office if you need help and support.

We thank our funders, board members, and community for their trust and resilience. Together, we will continue building a strong, empowered community in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Thank you everyone.

Annual Report

Somaliland Society in New Zealand Inc.

Wellington, New Zealand

Subject: Annual Report 2025–2026

Dear Funders and Partners,

On behalf of the Somaliland Society in New Zealand Inc., I am pleased to present our Annual Report for 2025–2026.

This report highlights a year of significant growth, increased demand, and meaningful achievements. With your support, we established our first community office, expanded our advocacy work, delivered education and mental health programmes, and strengthened our engagement with refugee-background families across Wellington region.

We continue to face high demand for social support, youth services, and community coordination. Our report outlines these needs clearly and identifies priority areas for future programmes.

We deeply appreciate your ongoing support from our funders. We are working closely the CHangeMaker's Resettlement Forum, Refugee communities and other NGOs Sector.

Warm regards,

Adam Awad

President Somaliland Society in New Zealand Inc.

Somaliland Society in New Zealand Inc.

Annual Report 2025–2026

President's Message of Appreciation

This year marks a major milestone for our community. For the first time, we have an office where people can come for support, meet with staff, and gather whenever needed. This achievement was made possible through your generous grants and ongoing trust in our work. You have truly turned the impossible into possible for us.

We warmly invite you to visit our office and see firsthand the impact your support has created for our community.

1. Introduction

The Somaliland Society in New Zealand Inc. is proud to present its first Annual Report.

The past year has been both challenging and rewarding. As a new community organisation, we have faced significant demand from diverse refugee-background communities — not only Somalilanders, but also people from Somalia, Oromo, Ethiopia, Sudan, and others who do not yet have their own established community organisations.

Despite these challenges, we have grown in strength, unity, and purpose. Our mission remains clear: **to empower our people and strengthen their voice in Aotearoa New Zealand.**

2. Advocacy and Community Voice

Advocacy is at the heart of our work. We ensure that the lived experiences of our community inform decision-making at both local and national levels.

Key Achievements

- Engagement with government departments and local councils
- Active participation in ChangeMaker's Resettlement Forum programmes
- Collaboration with the wider not-for-profit sector
- Three community meetings held during the year
- National Day celebrations for **18 May** and **26 June**
- Daily support provided on immigration, housing, employment, health, education, and adult wellbeing

A Moment of Unity

The recognition of Somaliland by the State of **Israel** brought immense joy and relief to our community. Many families worry deeply about the future of Somaliland and its people. When the homeland is peaceful, stable, and internationally engaged, families in New Zealand experience less pressure and anxiety.

Our largest annual celebration continues to unite our community. Last year's event was proudly funded by the Ministry for Ethnic Communities, and we hope to receive similar support in the coming years.

Impact of Our Events

- Bringing families together
- Showcasing traditional food, culture, and music
- Connecting people with essential services
- Strengthening identity and belonging in New Zealand

3. Community Engagement & Capacity Building

We continue to work closely with ChangeMaker's and other NGOs across Wellington region.

Governance Development

- Securing funding for governance training remains a priority.
- Strong governance is essential for long-term sustainability.
- We are actively seeking support to strengthen our board's capability.

4. Looking Forward

4.1 Community Needs

Our focus for the coming years is deeper engagement and targeted support. One of the biggest challenges for newly family reunion cases arrived isn't getting a driver's licenses because it's expensive for new families — a barrier that affects employment, independence, and wellbeing.

4.2 Education Support

Many families struggle to understand the New Zealand education system. In 2026, we began working closely with the Ministry of Education.

Achievements:

- Two Community Education Hubs delivered in Lower Hutt and Wellington.
- Three additional hubs planned for Wellington, beginning **25 July 2026** at the Newtown Community & Cultural Centre

4.3 Mental Health Support

Mental health challenges are widespread across refugee communities.

In 2026, we received funding from Wellington City Council to strengthen community wellbeing and participation. Many community members experience disconnection, isolation, poor mental health, and barriers to inclusion.

Through our community meetings, we delivered awareness programmes addressing:

- Mental health
- Social isolation
- Family stress
- Community safety
- Youth wellbeing

4.4 Support for Elders

A key priority for 2026 is establishing a dedicated elders' programme to support older members of our community who often face isolation and language barriers.

4.5 Strengthening Our Staff

Our staffing needs remain urgent:

1. **Social Worker:** We currently have a part-time social worker. Demand is extremely high, and we are seeking funding to make this role full-time.
2. **Office Coordinator:** We have a one-day-a-week coordinator, which is no longer sustainable due to daily walk-ins and high community needs.
3. **Volunteer Coordinator:** We are seeking a part-time funding to establish this role to support our growing volunteer base.
4. **Youth Worker:** We have one of the largest Refugee-background youth populations in the Wellington region. A dedicated youth worker is urgently needed to support their wellbeing, identity, and development.

5. Partnerships and Collaboration

Despite limited funding and increasing demand, we continue to strengthen relationships with:

- Local community organisations
- ChangeMaker's Resettlement Forum
- Local and central government agencies

Our organisation relies heavily on volunteers — from our community, our board, and wider supporters — who give their time generously.

6. Acknowledgements

Our work would not be possible without:

- Volunteers who have supported the community for more than three years (They are supporting our organization since we started as Somaliland Society in New Zealand Trust which became finally Somaliland Society in New Zealand Inc.).
- Board members who provide leadership and guidance
- Community members who show patience, trust, and resilience

Our goal remains to support our people, advocate for their inclusion and dignity, and ensure that every member of our community has opportunities to thrive.

7. Major Event Highlights – 2025

- Attendance of more than 40 community members and families
- Participation of Rongotai MP **Hon Julie Anne Genter**
- Attendance of **Judah Seomeng**, General Manager of ChangeMaker's Resettlement Forum
- Celebration of Somaliland Independence Day – **26 June 2025**
- Opening remarks by **Adam Awad**, President of the Somaliland Society, highlighting the importance of national days and cultural pride

8. Our Funders

We gratefully acknowledge the support of:

- Wellington Community Fund
- Ministry for Ethnic Communities
- Lottery Grants Wellington
- Pelorus Trust
- Lions Club of Wellington (Host)
- ChangeMaker's Resettlement Forum

- **Monthly contributions from our community members**