The Braille Authority of New Zealand

Aotearoa Trust BANZAT

**“BANZAT Building Better Braille”**

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027

**as at 2 April 2025**

# About this Strategic Plan

This plan succeeds and replaces the first three year plan 2021-2024.

This plan was initially adopted at BANZAT's meeting on 25 September 2024. The resolution reads:

“That the 2024-2027 Strategic Plan as circulated in the Agenda be adopted subject to trustees agreeing by email a better name for the Memorandum of Understanding”. (Res. 72-7).

It was updated with year assignments on 27 November 2024.

The update of Goal 1 was agreed by email on 27 February 2025 and confirmed by Resolution 76-5 in the Minutes of Meeting 76 on 2 April 2025.

# List of abbreviations

ABA: Australian Braille Authority.

BANZAT: The Braille Authority of New Zealand Aotearoa Trust.

ICEB: International Council on English Braille.

Round Table: Round Table on Information Access for People with Print Disabilities.

UEB: Unified English Braille code.

# Founding Organisations

The five founding organisations of BANZAT are:

Royal New Zealand Foundation of the Blind (Blind Low Vision NZ), the Settlor of the Trust;

Blind and Low Vision Education Network NZ (BLENNZ);

Association of Blind Citizens of New Zealand Incorporated (Blind Citizens NZ);

Kāpō Māori Aotearoa/New Zealand Incorporated (Kāpō Māori Aotearoa);

Parents of Vision Impaired NZ Incorporated (PVINZ).

The Braille Authority of New Zealand

Aotearoa Trust BANZAT

**“BANZAT Building Better Braille”**

Strategic Plan 2024 – 2027

# 1. Vision

High quality Braille is available and accessible to all people who use it in any aspects of their life.

# 2. Mission

## Code and Accreditation:

We set and monitor standards for how the Braille code is implemented and produced in Aotearoa New Zealand, ensuring it remains current with print trends and reflects the needs of Aotearoa New Zealand Braille users.

We support and accredit Braille producers to ensure consistency and high-quality Braille production standards are maintained throughout Aotearoa New Zealand.

## Collaboration and Consultation

We collaborate with local and international organisations and partners to ensure we remain current and aligned with developments in all Braille codes.

## Communication, Teaching and Promotion

We promote Braille as the prime literacy medium for blind people, sharing best practice in teaching, acquisition and distribution of Braille and encourage the widespread use of Braille for anyone who would benefit.

# 3. Values

3.1. Te Tiriti o Waitangi (Treaty of Waitangi): Uphold the articles of te Tiriti o Waitangi across all our work.

3.2. Urunga (Access): All New Zealanders who require Braille to access information have the right to Braille literacy.

3.3. Tikanga (Equity): All New Zealanders who are blind, deafblind, and vision impaired have the right to have in Braille equitable access to information available in print.

3.4. Tiritahi (Sharing): A spirit of co-operation and resource sharing is fostered among Trustees and those the Trust seeks to assist.

3.5. Whakaute (Respect): Engagement with users, teachers and producers is practised with respect to all aspects of the Trust's work, above all, when making major changes in Code and formats.

3.6. Kotahitanga (Unity): Trustees reach agreement collectively and democratically through consensus and their decisions are promoted by all Trustees.

# 4. Strategic Objectives and Goals 2024-2027

## 4.1. Strategic Objective: Ensure the UEB Code is updated to meet the needs of users and reflect current trends in print, remaining relevant to the bi-cultural environment in Aotearoa New Zealand

Goal 1. Partner with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa to ensure Māori-first leadership of Te Reo Braille usage, implementation and initiatives in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 2. Maintain links with ABA, and Round Table, attending their annual conferences. (Ongoing).

Goal 3. Through the New Zealand Code Maintenance Committee, contribute to ICEB UEB Code developments, monitor ICEB decisions and recommend as appropriate to the Trust Board the adoption of ICEB decisions in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 4. Action the ICEB 2024 General Assembly Resolutions in the New Zealand context. See <https://iceb.org/gares24.html>. (Ongoing).

Goal 5. Recommend to ICEB the development of UEB code symbols for emojis. (Year 1).

Goal 6. Attend Mid-Term meeting of ICEB Executive Committee in Boston, USA, in June 2026. (Year 2).

## 4.2. Strategic Objective: Support and monitor the production of Braille in Aotearoa New Zealand

Goal 7. Increase the number of accredited Braille producers by at least 2 each year, counting BLENNZ and BLVNZ Braille producers who pass the Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB as well as individuals who have passed the Certificate and then the Accreditation process in the Trust's Policy 7. (Ongoing).

Goal 8. Review with ABA and update as appropriate the Guidelines and the process for the Trans-Tasman Certificate of Proficiency in UEB. (Year 2).

Goal 9. Update the New Zealand UEB Manual to incorporate changes since the 2017 edition. (Year 1, Year 2).

Goal 10. Update the New Zealand booklet Essentials of Braille Formatting with any changes since the 2014 edition. Among any other matters that may arise, consider the needs of ākonga learners of Braille and also a format that might be more suitable for short-life Braille handouts intended for experienced readers. (Year 1, Year 2).

Goal 11. Update BANZAT Policy 7: Accreditation of Braille Producers working in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Year 1).

Goal 12. Request from producers their policies, guidelines and samples of their tactile graphics produced in Aotearoa New Zealand, and compare the samples with the Round Table Guidelines for Producing Accessible 3D Prints (2024), and Guidelines for Producing Accessible Graphics (2022), providing feedback when appropriate. (Year 2, Year 3).

## 4.3. Strategic Objective: Ensure ongoing collaboration with, and outreach to, local communities and stakeholders

Goal 13. Monitor the implementation of Blind Citizens NZ Strategic Framework for the Provision of Braille Services in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 14. Promote awareness of Braille via the BANZAT website and social media platforms with video stories of Braille in action. (Ongoing).

Goal 15. Liaise with BLENNZ to promote Braille activities for ākonga. (Ongoing).

## 4.4. Strategic Objective: Ensure Governance procedures are up to date and steps have been taken towards long-term Sustainability

Goal 16. Investigate independent sources of finance to enable BANZAT to continue its work. (Year 1).

Goal 17. Arrange governance training for trustees and review the Trust Deed written in 2010, in line with the Charities Act requirement to review the Trust's governance procedures at least once every three years. (Year 2).

Goal 18. Revise Memorandum of Understanding with each of the BANZAT founding organisations, not reviewed since the Trust was set up in 2010. (Year 1).

Now renamed Manatu Orotau Statement of Collaboration

# 5. 2024-2025 Business Plan Year 1

Goal 1. Partner with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa to ensure Māori-first leadership of Te Reo Braille usage, implementation and initiatives in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 2. Maintain links with ABA, and Round Table, attending their annual conferences. (Ongoing).

Goal 3. Through the New Zealand Code Maintenance Committee, contribute to ICEB UEB Code developments, monitor ICEB decisions and recommend as appropriate to the Trust Board the adoption of ICEB decisions in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

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# 6. 2025-2026 Business Plan Year 2

Goal 1. Partner with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa to ensure Māori-first leadership of Te Reo Braille usage, implementation and initiatives in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 2. Maintain links with ABA, and Round Table, attending their annual conferences. (Ongoing).

Goal 3. Through the New Zealand Code Maintenance Committee, contribute to ICEB UEB Code developments, monitor ICEB decisions and recommend as appropriate to the Trust Board the adoption of ICEB decisions in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 4. Action the ICEB 2024 General Assembly Resolutions in the New Zealand context. See <https://iceb.org/gares24.html>. (Ongoing).

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Goal 12. Request from producers their policies, guidelines and samples of their tactile graphics produced in Aotearoa New Zealand, and compare the samples with the Round Table Guidelines for Producing Accessible 3D Prints (2024), and Guidelines for Producing Accessible Graphics (2022), providing feedback when appropriate. (Year 2, Year 3).

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Goal 17. Arrange governance training for trustees and review the Trust Deed written in 2010, in line with the Charities Act requirement to review the Trust's governance procedures at least once every three years. (Year 2).

# 7. 2026-2027 Business Plan Year 3

Goal 1. Partner with Kāpō Māori Aotearoa to ensure Māori-first leadership of Te Reo Braille usage, implementation and initiatives in Aotearoa New Zealand. (Ongoing).

Goal 2. Maintain links with ABA, and Round Table, attending their annual conferences. (Ongoing).

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