

Building Prevention Together: Why Partnership is at the Heart

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Home / Hikitia! Tautoko Mai / Men and Community Spaces / Building Prevention Together: Why Partnership is at the Heart

Partnership in action, shaping safer communities from within

No single organisation can shift the social conditions that allow harm to occur. For Hikitia, partnership is not an add-on, it is the core of our strategy. By working alongside organisations that are already trusted, embedded, and active in community life, Hikitia reaches people where they are, in the ways that matter to them without having to recreate the wheel. By taking this approach, we maximise output, build momentum quickly, and build mobilisation outside of the Tautoko Mai network, creating a sustainable long-term approach across the rōhe. Three key partnerships now underway demonstrate how this approach works in practice, and what it can achieve over the next 18 months onwards.

Partnership 1

Youth Voice Aotearoa (YVA) — prevention led by the people it is for



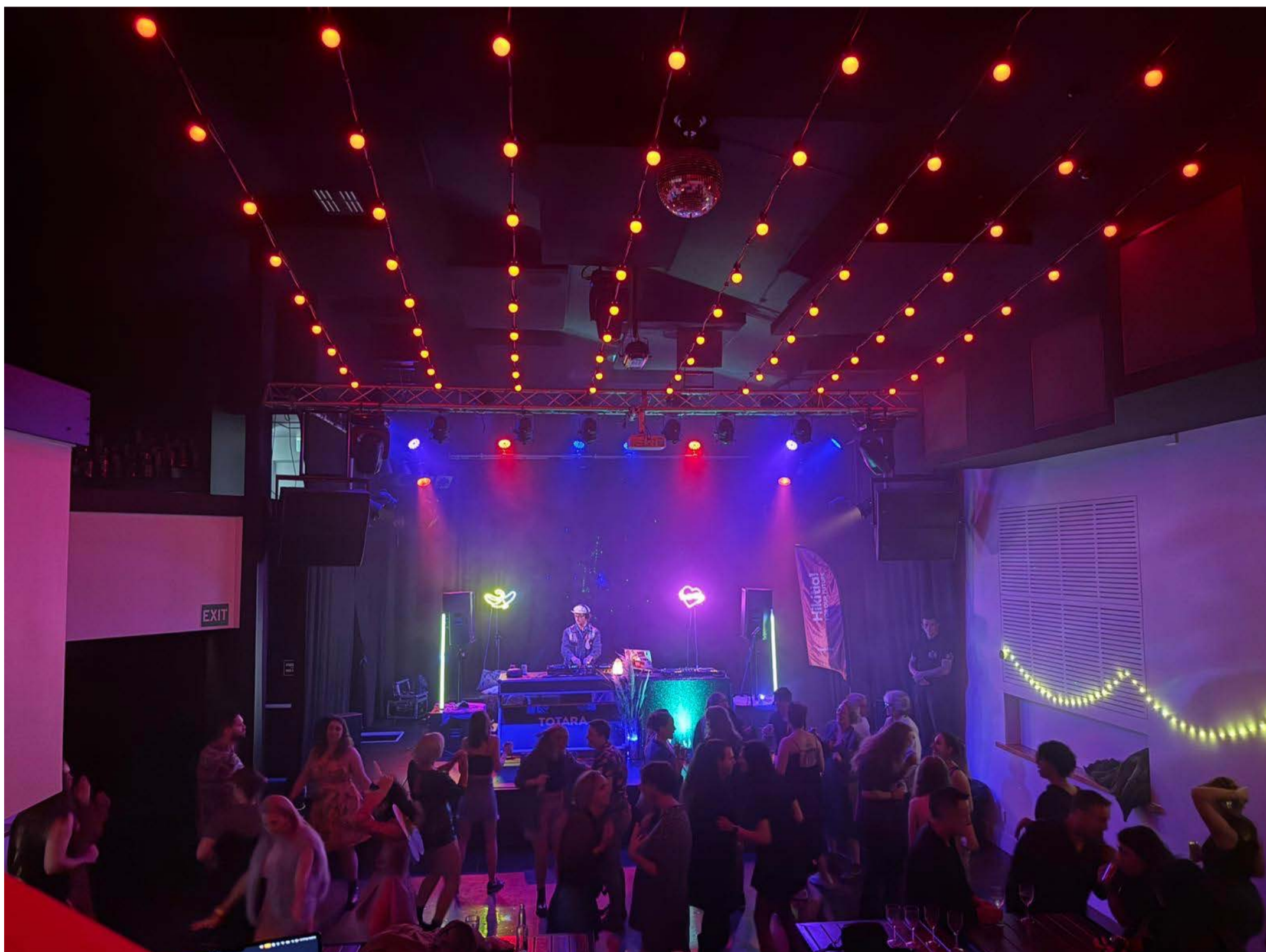
Young people are not just the audience for prevention work, they are its most powerful advocates. Through a newly signed MOU with YVA, Hikitia is activating a 3–6 month collaboration that places young people in the lead. Together, the two organisations will co-design youth-led content, campaigns, and creative activations, including support for Hikitia's own *Start By Believing* and *Little Matters* campaigns that connect peers to sexual violence prevention in relevant and accessible ways. Grounded in youth lived experience, the work will include facilitated workshops, storytelling, media analysis, and online engagement.

Potential impact

This partnership has the potential to deepen Hikitia's understanding of how young people want to engage in prevention, identify emerging youth champions for ongoing advocacy, and generate meaningful conversations about healthy, respectful relationships, informing future youth-led approaches across the initiative.

Partnership 2

Tōtara Street Venue (TS) — safety embedded in everyday spaces



Culture change does not happen only in formal settings, it happens in the places people already gather. Through its MOU with Tōtara Street, Hikitia is bringing prevention into the live music and events environment. TS will adopt a co-developed Code of Conduct, display consent and respect messaging across the venue, establish clear processes for harm-related concerns, and ensure staff can access agreed training. Hikitia will provide prevention guidance, resource development, activation events with Rainbow community, and ongoing support. This partnership actively centres tangata whenua, rangatahi, and rainbow communities, ensuring the kaupapa is delivered inclusively.

Potential impact

This partnership can increase community confidence to act, strengthen protective environments in everyday life, and improve awareness of support pathways. Critically, TS has the potential to inspire wider industry change, modelling what consent culture looks like in live music and encouraging venues, promoters, and festivals across Aotearoa to follow.

Partnership 3

Family Focus — positioning men as part of the solution



Addressing harm requires engaging those who are statistically most likely to cause it, and doing so in a way that is honest, constructive, and community-facing. Through its partnership with Family Focus, Hikitia will bring together men who are already working across family and sexual violence prevention, including some with lived experience as previous users of violence. Through workshops and hui, these men will explore how to bring community into the solution, drawing on their professional expertise and personal insight to identify what genuine, peer-led prevention can look like.

Potential impact

This partnership has the potential to reshape how prevention reaches men — moving beyond awareness to active participation and accountability. By elevating the voices of those closest to the issue, it can surface solutions that are more authentic, more trusted by communities, and more likely to create lasting change.

Across all three partnerships, a common thread runs: prevention is most powerful when it is embedded in real relationships, real places, and real lives. YVA brings the energy and insight of youth. Tōtara Street brings everyday community presence. Family Focus brings the courage to engage the hardest conversations.

ToC If we support trusted, community-embedded partners to build shared understanding and alignment around prevention, they can more intentionally shape the spaces and relationships they are part of, strengthening protective factors and influencing how safety is practiced across the wider community system.