

Disability Support Services Hearing Aid Services

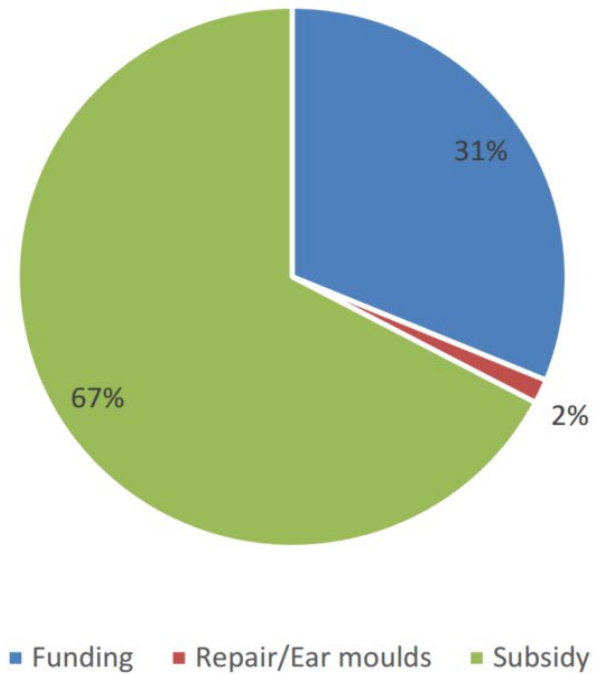
**Managing demand
within an allocated budget
and gathering ideas
for solutions**

**Presented by
Rachel Tatham NZROT
National Manager Clinical Advisory Services**

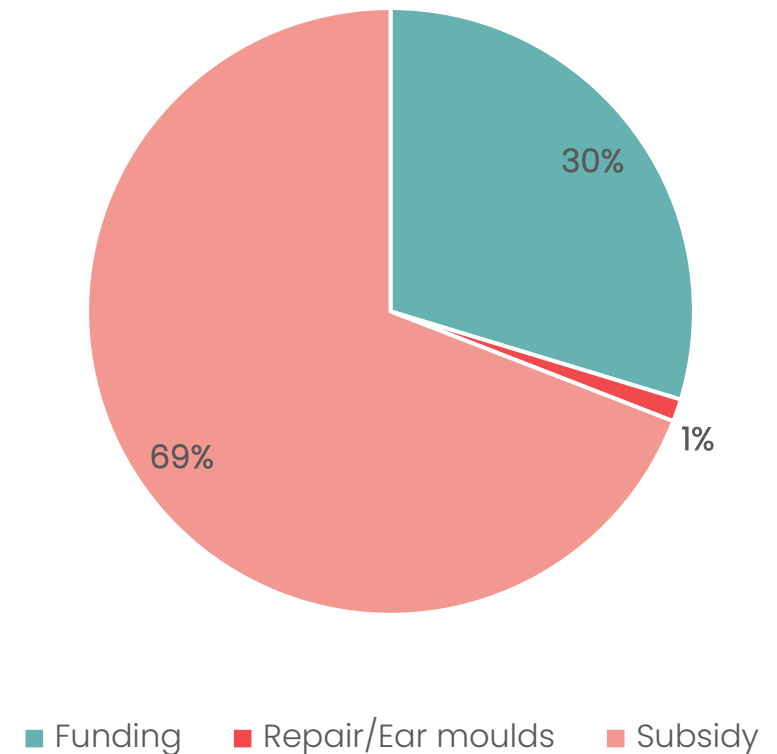


Percentage of expenditure in funding: Ear moulds, repairs and subsidies over last six months

Percentage of expenditure in funding, ear moulds and repairs and subsidies over last 6 months (July 2023- December 2023)

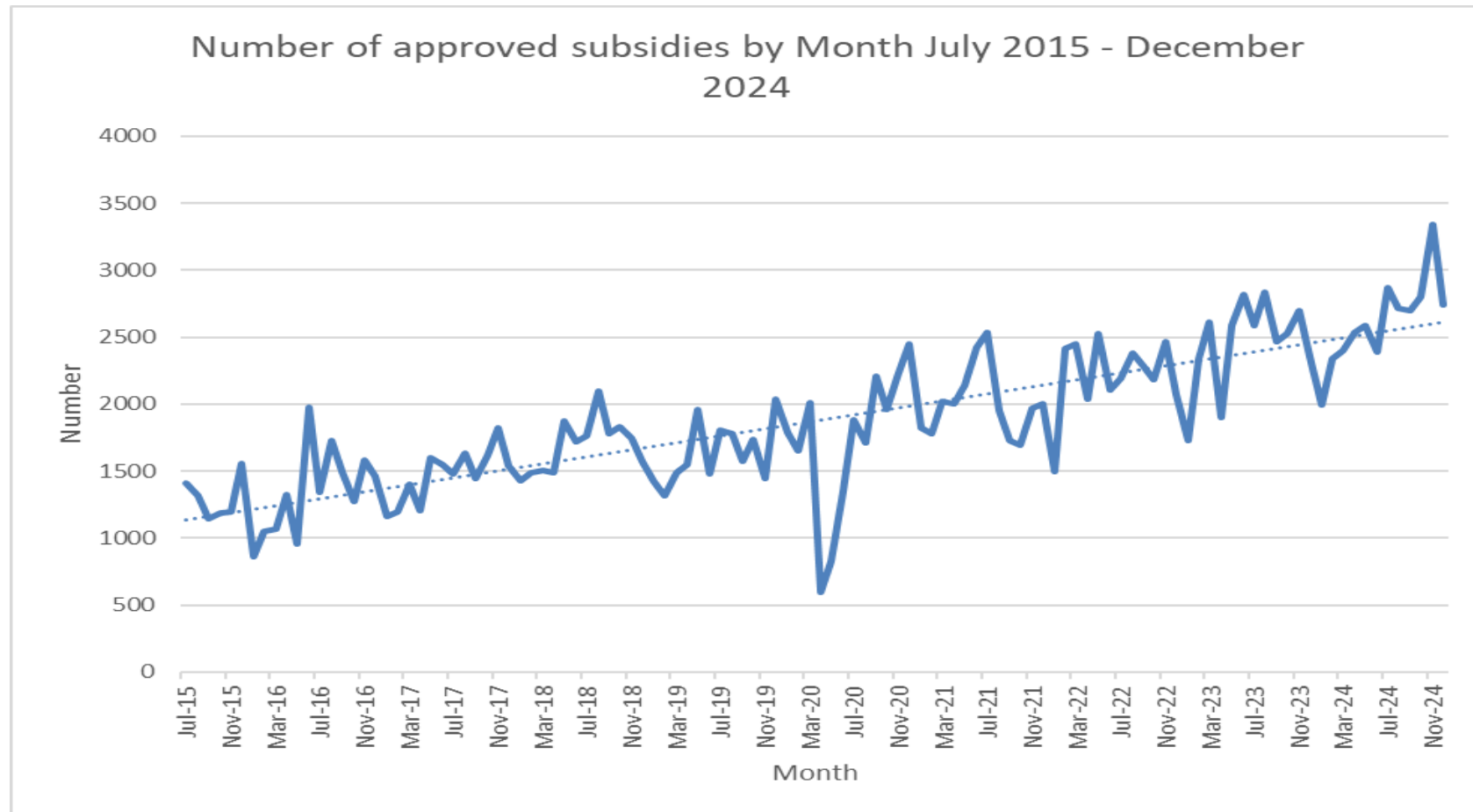


July – December 2024

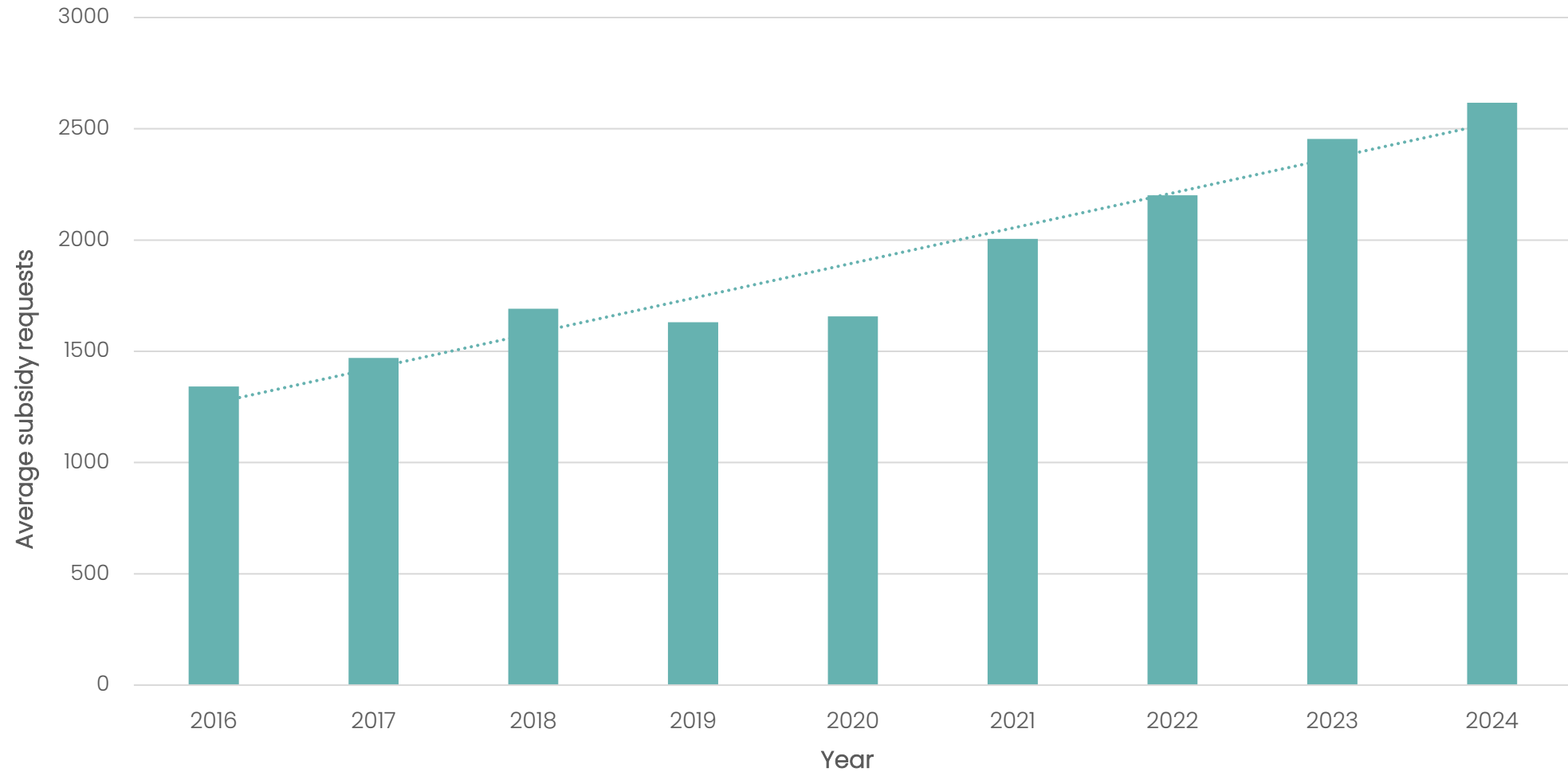


Number of approved subsidies

By month: July 2015 – December 2024

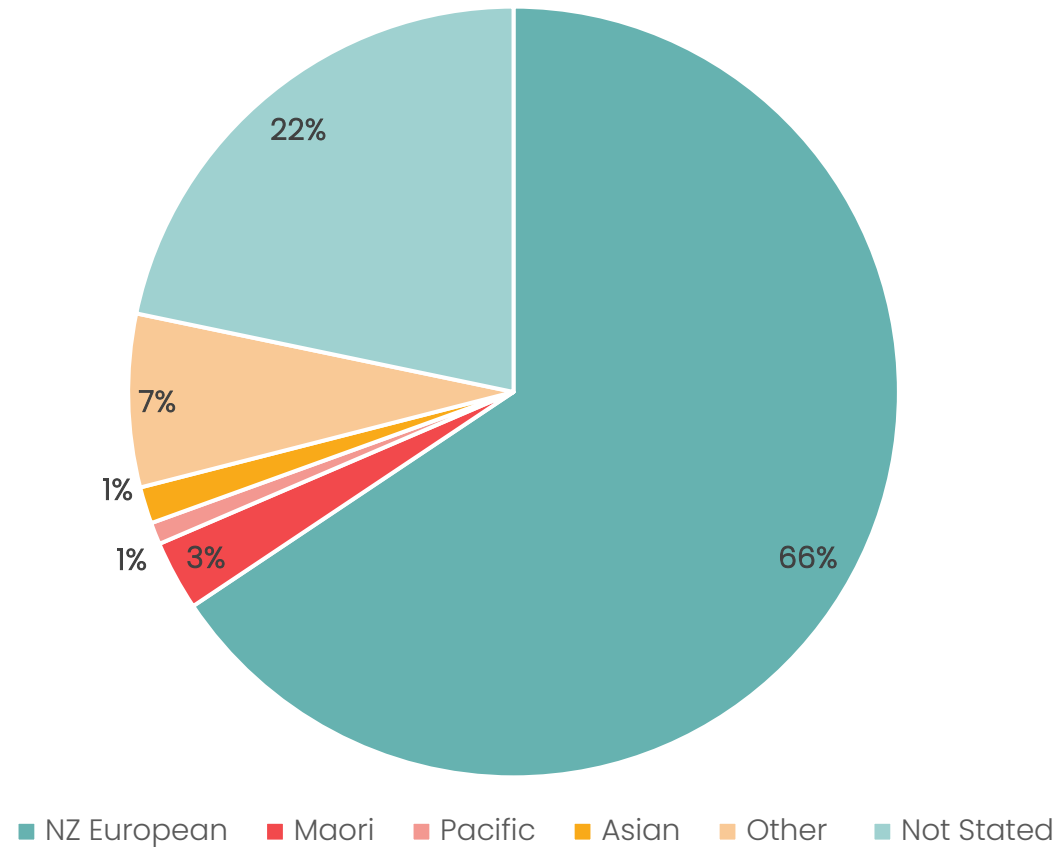


Average subsidies requested per month



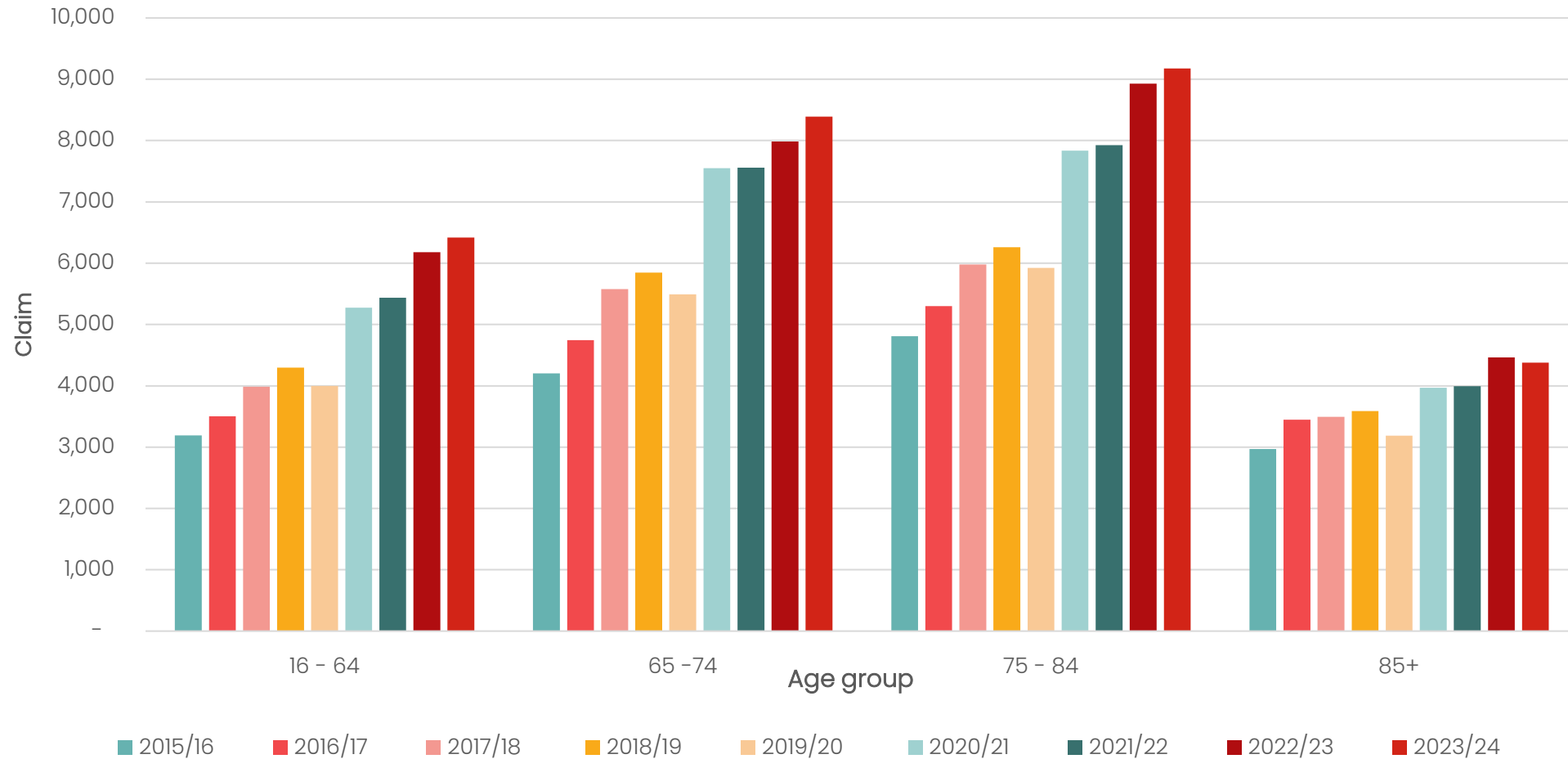
Percentage of subsidies requested by ethnicity As identified by assessors

YTD December 2024

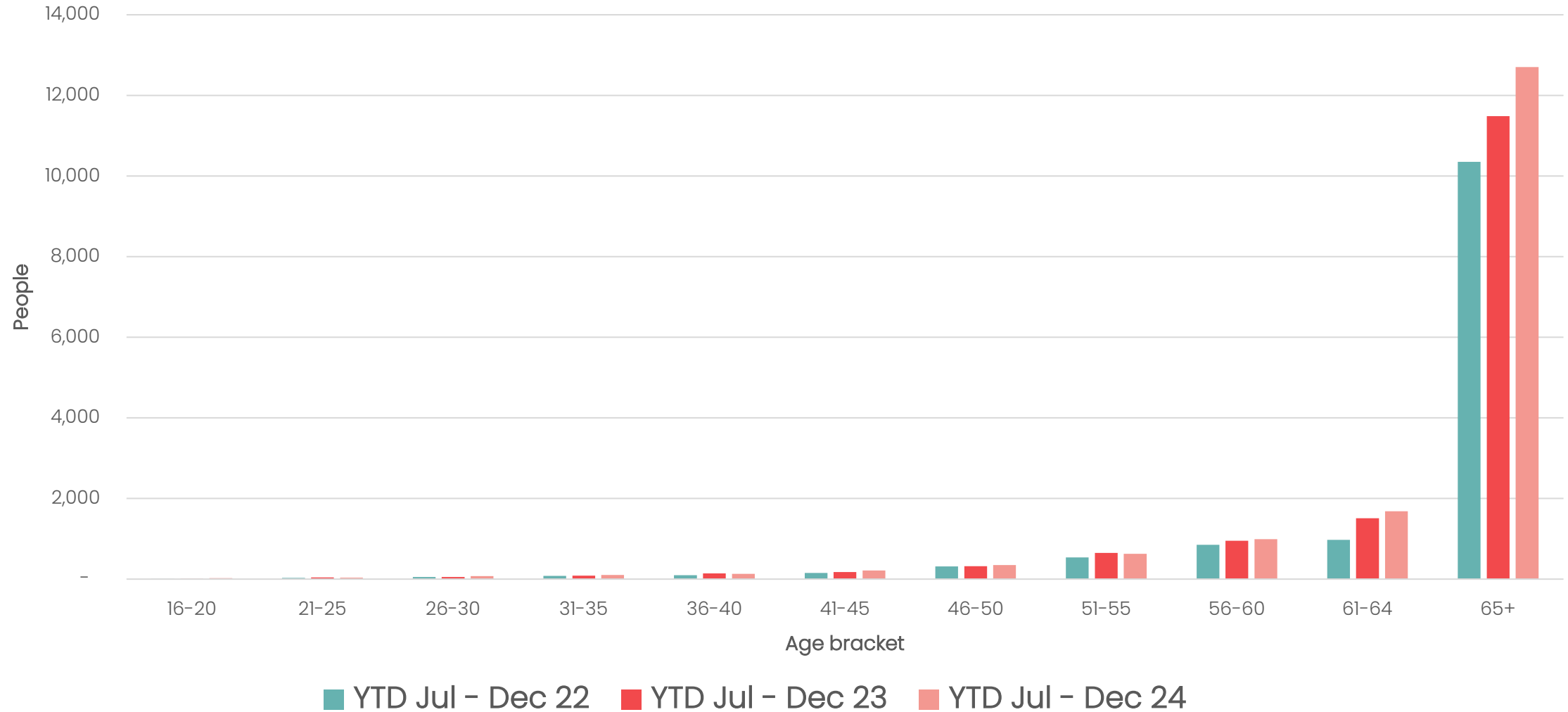


Subsidy request by age group

By financial year



Subsidy request by age



Key observations- subsidy

There were a total of **34 new branches/** business claiming in 2024 compared to 2023.

This equated to **\$1.3 million** expenditure in subsidies in 2024 just for these new businesses.

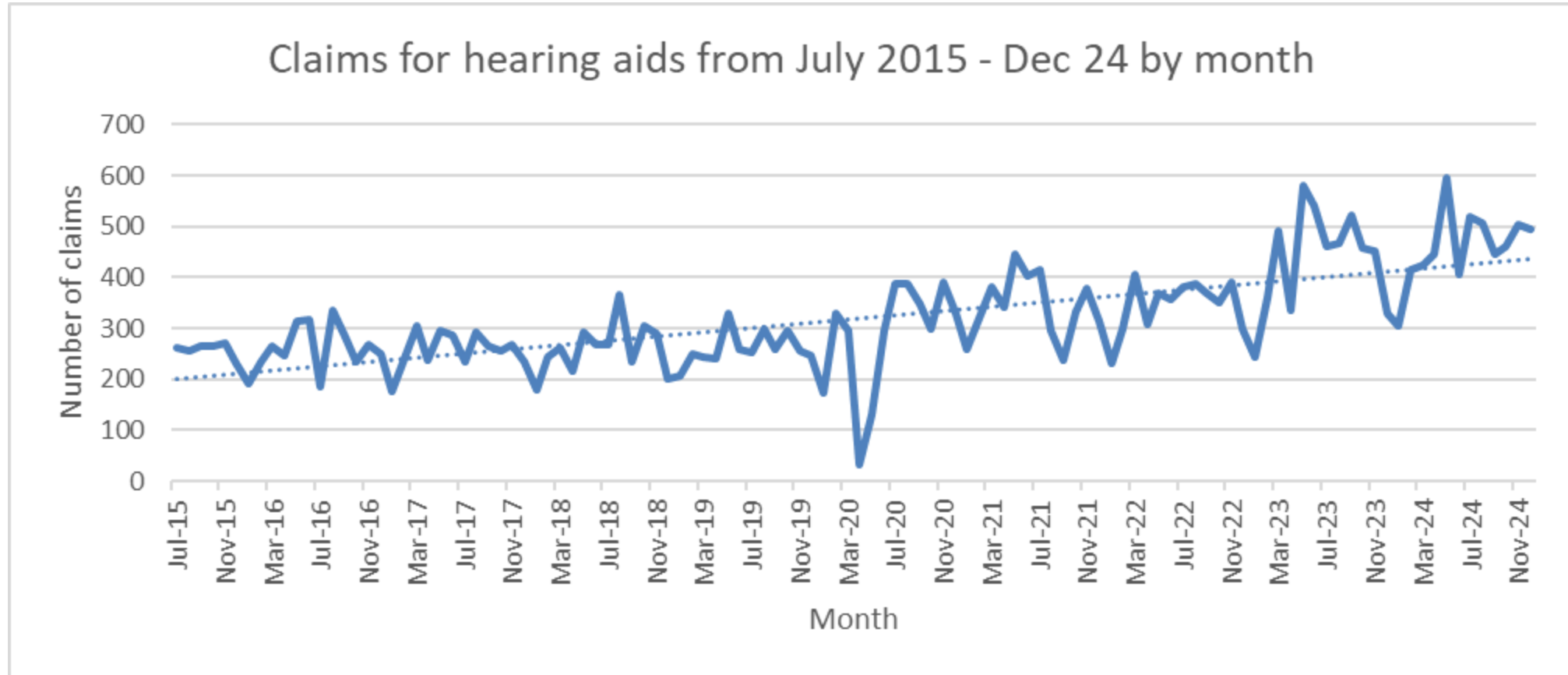
Majority receiving the subsidy are NZ European and over 65 – We have seen **growth in all age groups.**

3% are identified as Māori – we **have not seen any growth** in this, despite the range of schemes available.



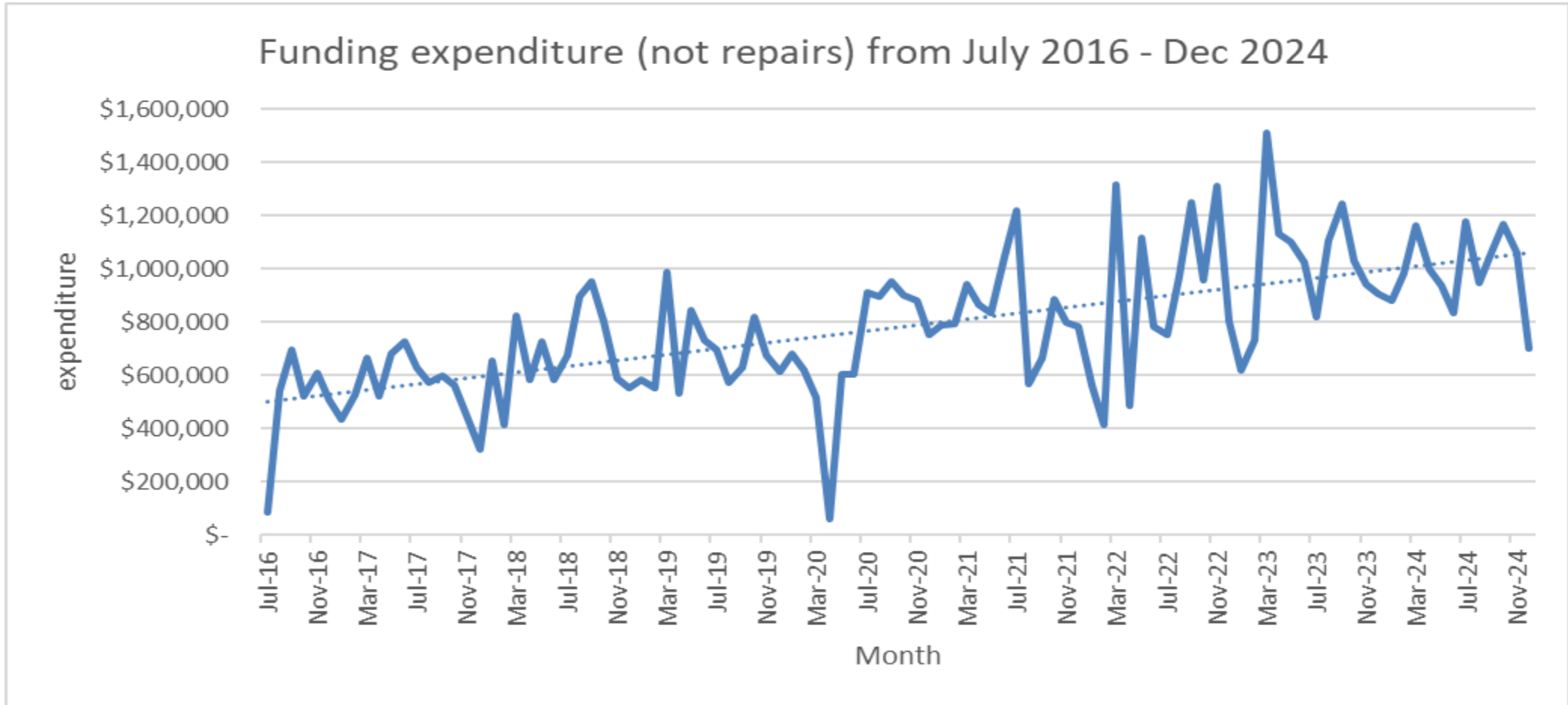
Funding services

Claims for hearing aids. July 2015 – December 2024 by month.



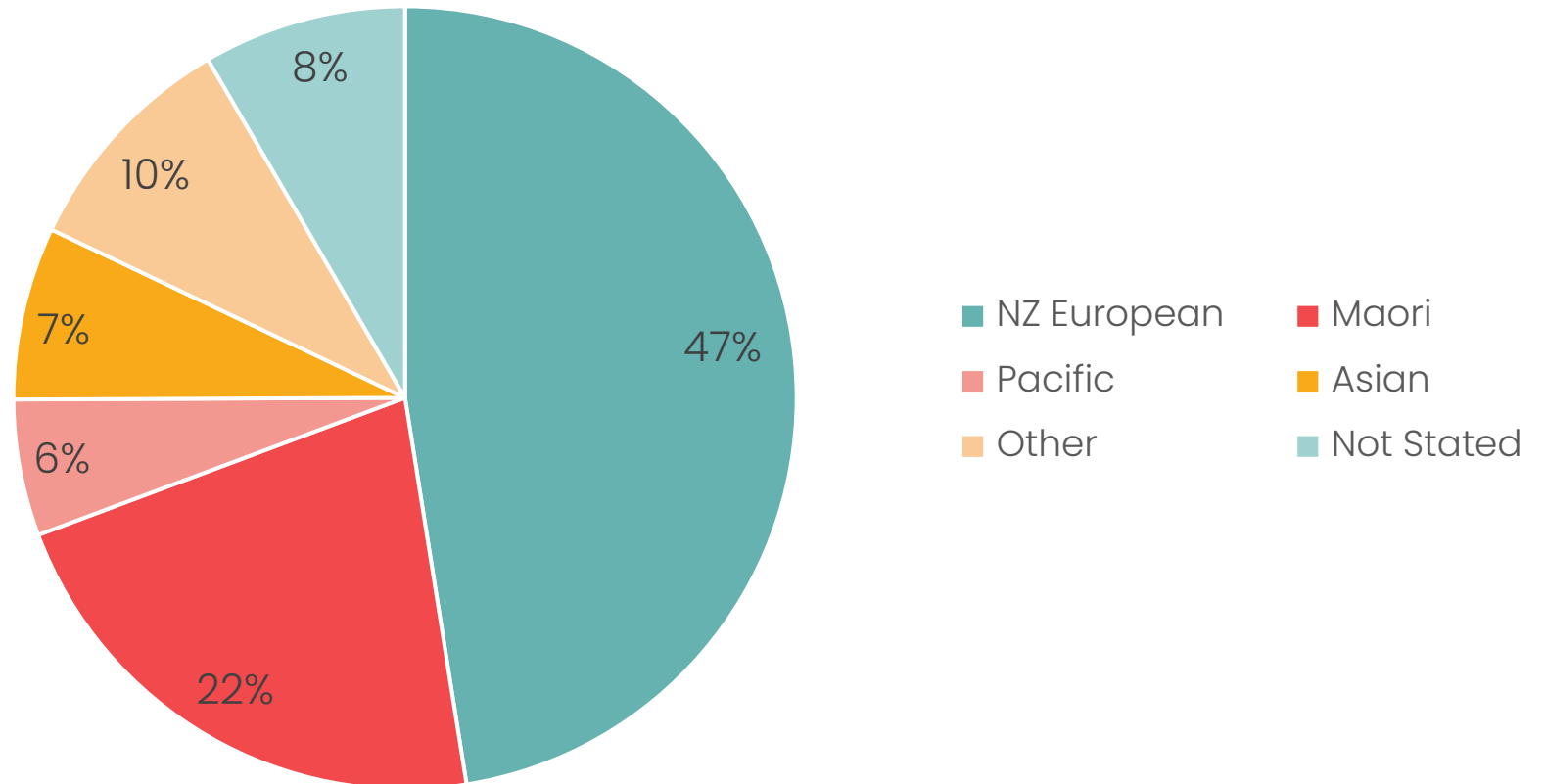
Funding expenditure

Excluding repairs/moulds

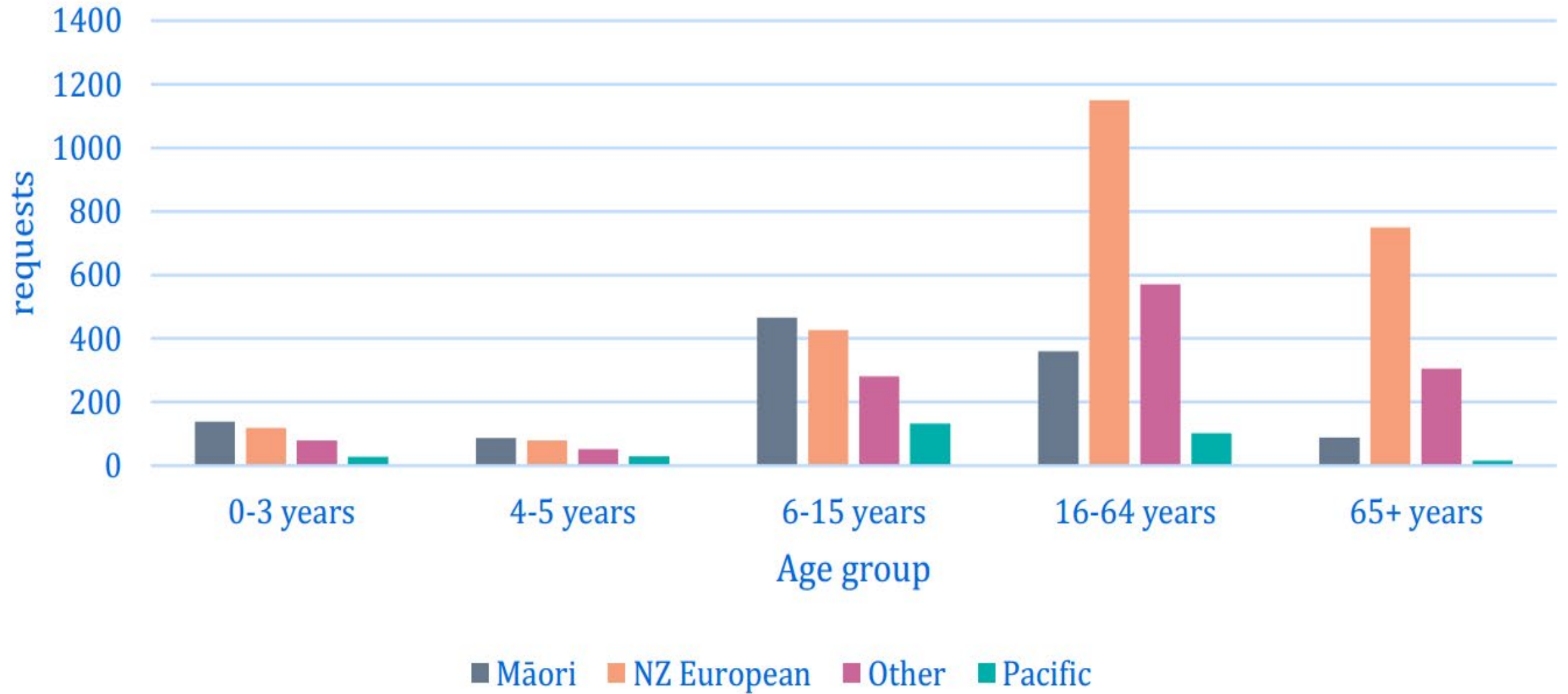


Clients who accessed hearing aid funding

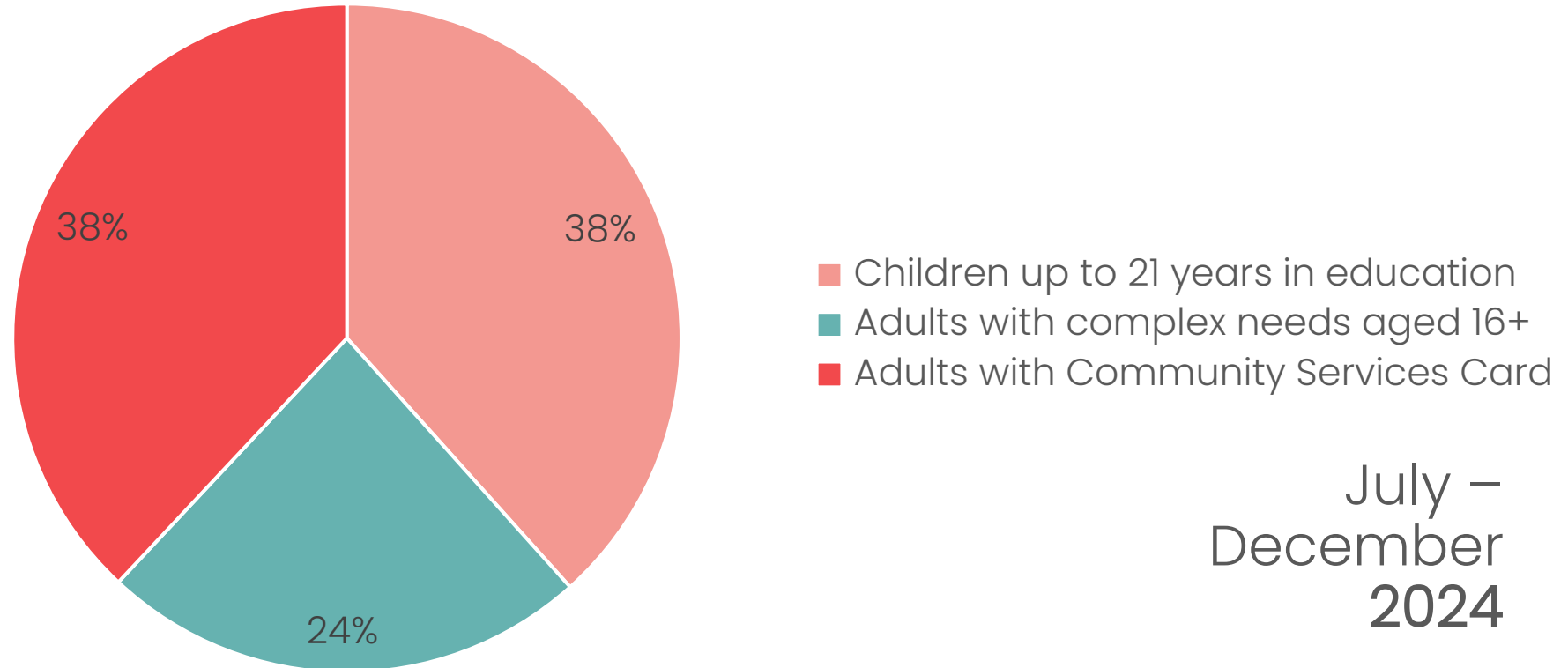
Categorised by ethnicity (July – December 2024)



Requests by age group and ethnicity 2023/24 FY

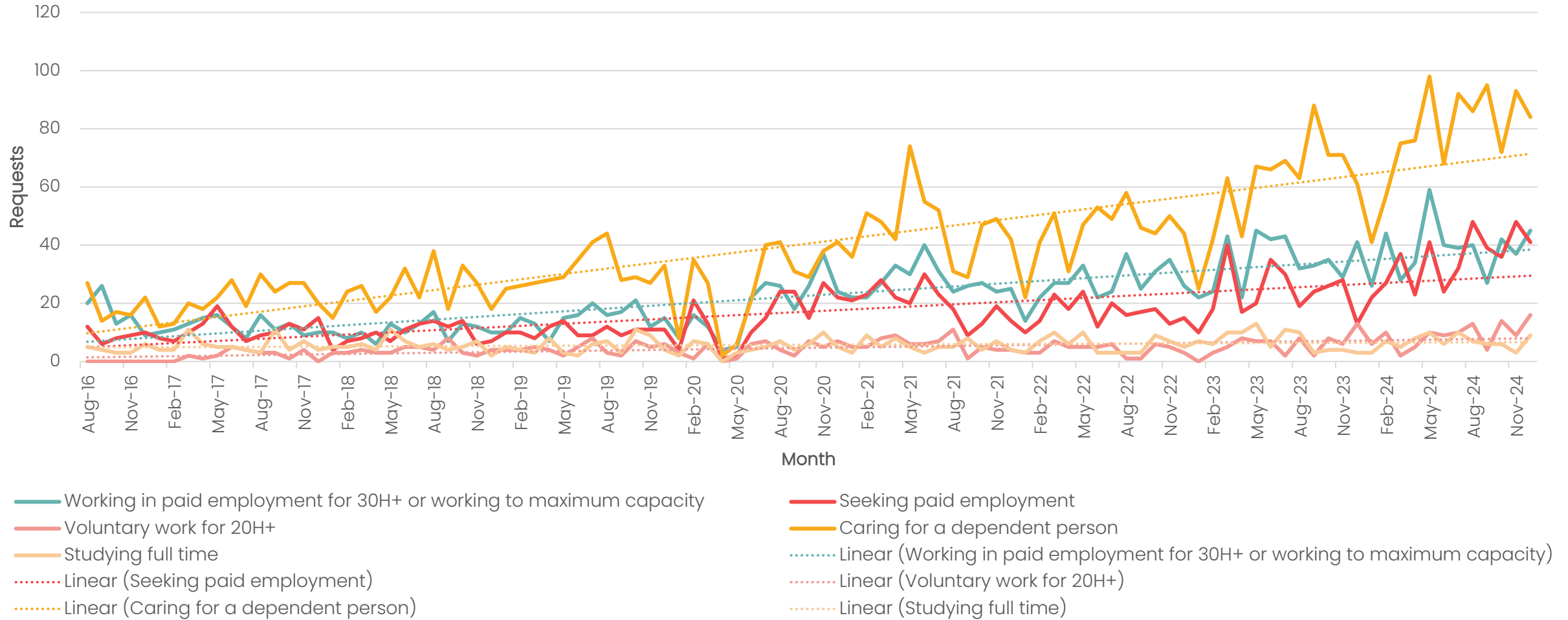


Percentage of requests in funding criteria



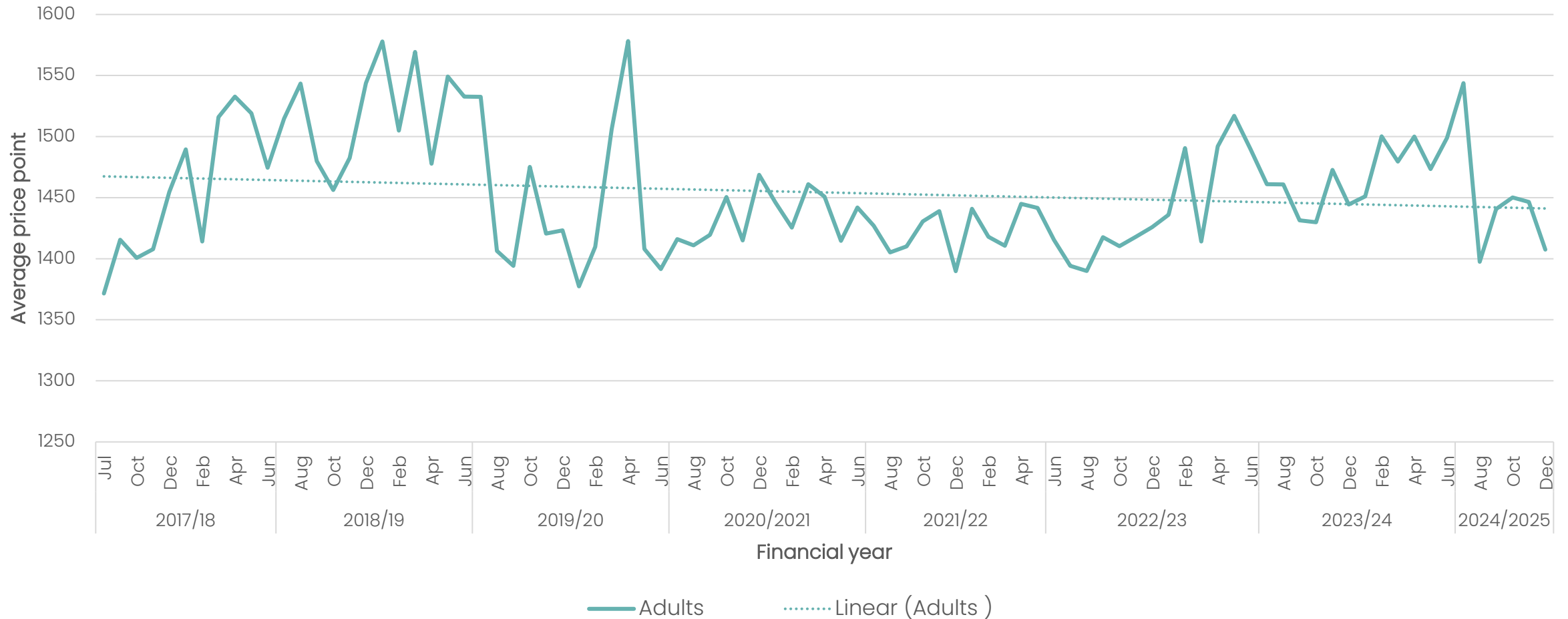
July –
December
2024

CSC requests



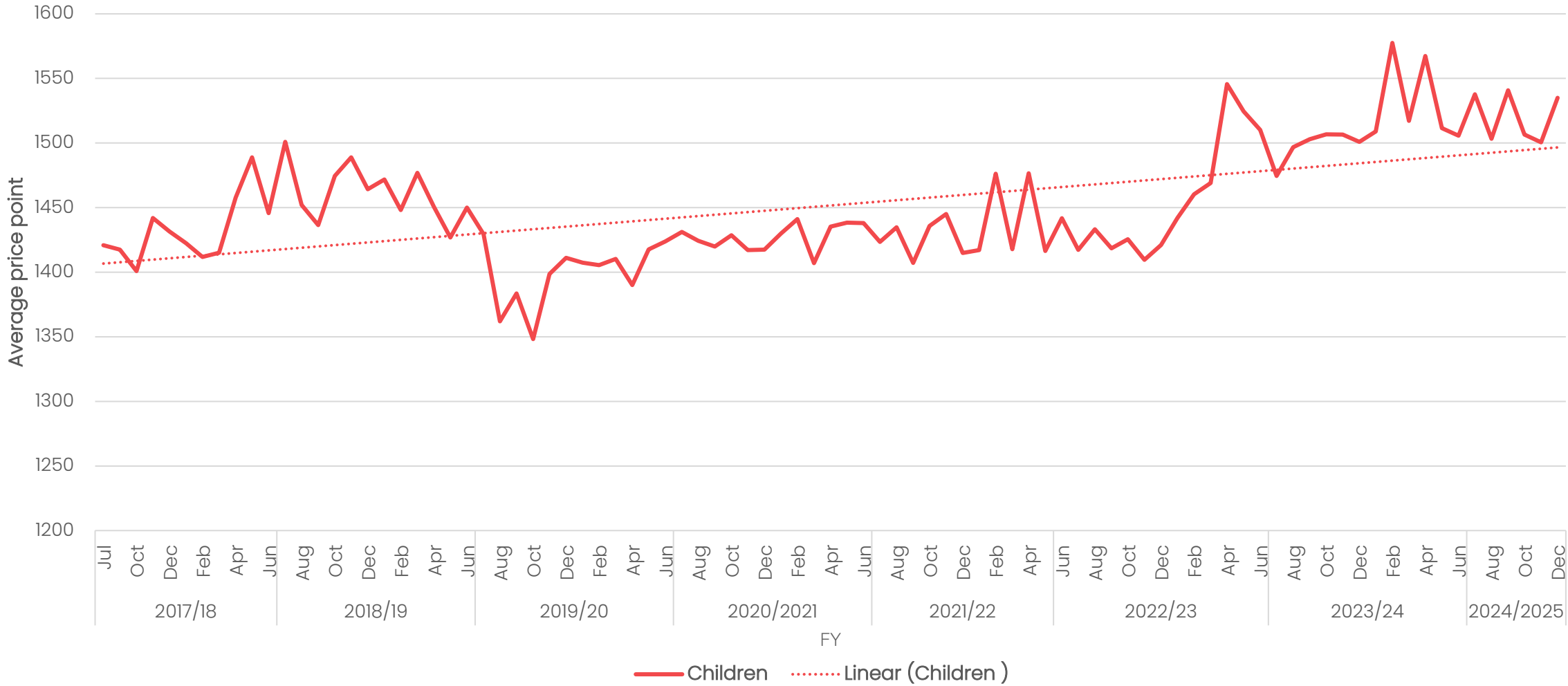
Adult average price point

June 2017 – December 2024



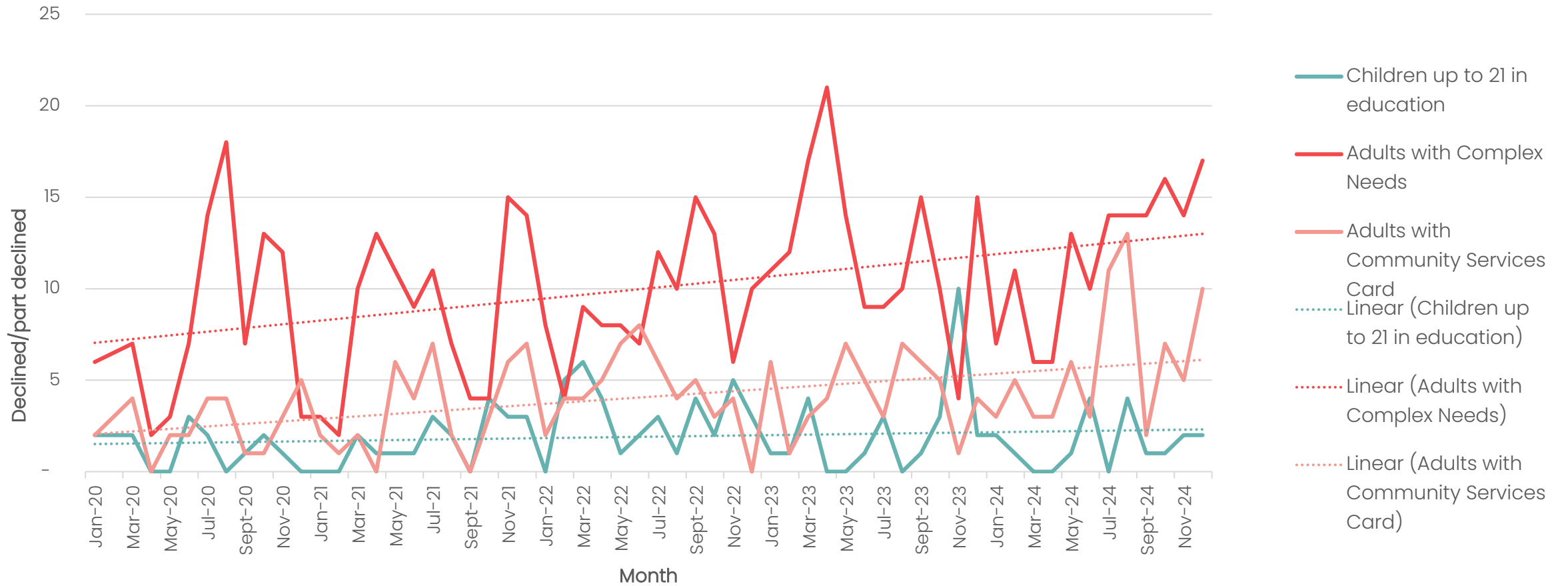
Child average price point

June 2017 – December 2024



Declines and part declines

January 2020 to December 2024 (over 4 years) by Criteria Category



In summary

- CSC is increasing, especially:
Caring for a dependent person, in work,
or seeking work.
- Childrens' requests seem to be
decreasing slightly.
- Māori are accessing the Hearing Aid
Funding scheme more than Subsidy
scheme.





Disability Support Services - Update -

Hearing service budget – It's our role to ensure people receive what they need within the allocated budget.

Do we have any levers to keep within the budget?

- Are waitlist hearing aid requests based on **highest need first**?
- Could we release **funding for children first**, while adults wait?
- Could we release **within a daily amount** to ensure meet the budget?
- We could continue until budget is spent, stopping all processing until the new financial year (resulting in the same situation next year)
- We could look to **reduce the average price** target.



What can you do to support

- **Choose cost effective solutions (\$1300)**
 - there are advanced and some premium hearing aids in this price range.
- **Consider** if the hearing aids can last longer than **the replacement periods**
- **Ensure you are meeting the requirement of the Section 88 notice.** For example subsidies need to be submitted once finalized. Credits on subsidies should be very exceptional.

Please continue to evaluate current spending practices and explore innovative ways to maintain and improve hearing care.

Your ideas to support budget management are welcome!

Contact me

Rachel.tatham@enable.co.nz