

**MARCH 2021 UPDATE**

**The Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre**



**Vasantha Krishnan**  
General Manager

Kia ora koutou katoa.

It's sometimes hard not to feel our country is having a run of bad luck... If you've emerged from a rock or just want to take the ride again – I'm referring to the recent earthquake, tsunami evacuations, and of course that old pandemic with fluctuating transmission counts (that doesn't look like it's going anywhere soon).

Thankfully, Aotearoa New Zealand is now back up and running, and I continue to be impressed by how the country's social sector has remained productive and on the pulse. The Evidence Centre has been turning out some interesting new research and data and continuing to remind ourselves that we do this work in order to make a difference for tamariki and whānau across the country -- not least in unsettling times.

In the last quarter, we've published an annual survey of young people eligible for a transition worker under

the Transition Support Service; a formative evaluation which attempts to answer questions about how well Pae Whakatupuranga I Functional Family Therapy--Cross Generations can accommodate the cultural worldviews of Te Ao Māori and Tafa o le Pasefika; an evidence brief designed to look specifically at Māori centred theory and practice and approaches to child and family welfare assessments.

We'll also be hosting an exciting seminar in May, so keep your eyes peeled for more details, or email our Research inbox to make sure you're on the invite list: [research@ot.govt.nz](mailto:research@ot.govt.nz).

I wish you all a peaceful Easter break and look forward to updating you with our latest research and data offerings again very soon.

Ngā mihi,  
Vasantha.

**One Year Anniversary: COVID-19 related work**

One year anniversary of the first lockdown...! During New Zealand's nationwide lockdown back in 2020, the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre established weekly operational reporting on key statistics in order to maintain oversight of the Oranga Tamariki operating system.

The two summary data reports we published back then may provide an idea of what might be happening in more recent Covid outbreaks – and therefore useful and/or interesting.

Read the presentation about the first lockdown ([data to June 2020](#)) and the second lockdown ([data to October 2020](#))

**Our Recent Publications**

The Evidence Centre works to build the evidence base that helps us better understand wellbeing and what works to improve outcomes for New Zealand's children, young people, and their whānau.



**Just Sayin': Survey of rangatahi eligible for a Transition Worker**

This report presents the findings from an annual survey of young people eligible for a Transition Worker (TW) under the Transition Support Service.

The Transition Support Service began on 1 July 2019. Part of the design is an evaluation process that enables the service to learn and grow over time. Just Sayin' has been developed as a survey to hear the voices of rangatahi about how they are being supported, what difference the support has made for them, and to understand their living situations.

Information from the survey will help both service development and service update. This is the first in an annual series to measure key outcomes the Transition Service aims to achieve. It is one element of the overall evaluation programme with the next survey currently in preparation.

The survey was completed between May and July 2020 by 141 rangatahi eligible for a transition worker, by phone with a backup online option for those who could not be reached by phone. It was available in English and te Reo Māori.

[Read the report here.](#)

**Māori centred social work practice**

- This evidence brief is designed to look specifically at Māori centred theory and practice and approaches to child and family welfare assessments.
- Oranga Tamariki leadership, through its Professional Practice Group (PPG), has committed to move frontline social work practice to a Māori centred approach. The purpose of the evidence brief is to inform the development of a Māori centred approach to social work practice, using a mana enhancing paradigm.
- This evidence brief looks at the following research questions:
- How does Māori centred theory and practice fit with other approaches?
- What are the origins of a Māori centred approach and how has it further developed?
- What are the core components of a Māori centred approach?
- What are the origins of mana-enhancing practice and how has it further developed?
- What are the defining characteristics of mana-enhancing practice and who is it relevant for?
- How is mana-enhancing practice being implemented?
- What enablers support a shift from a Western to a Māori centred position?

[Read the report here.](#)

**Pae Whakatupuranga I Functional Family Therapy – Cross Generations**

In this formative evaluation the primary question is How well does Pae Whakatupuranga I FFT-CG (Functional Family Therapy -- Cross Generations) accommodate the cultural worldviews of Te Ao Māori and Tafa o le Pasefika?

Oranga Tamariki has partnered with the New Zealand Police, Department of Corrections, Youth Horizons Trust (the provider) and the developers of FFT to design and deliver the pilot programme.

The Family Centre Social Policy Research Unit (FCSPRU) is undertaking a multi-year evaluation of Pae Whakatupuranga I FFT-CG. This evaluation has three overall high-level objectives:

- To assess how well Pae Whakatupuranga I FFT-CG is being implemented, including its cultural appropriateness in the Aotearoa/New Zealand context, and identify any areas for improvement
- To understand the service's early effect on the wellbeing of young people and their whānau
- To identify key requirements for implementing the service well in other locations (if it is deemed effective).

[Read the report here.](#)

**View our website to catch up on all of our latest research.**

**Our Research Seminars**

Our next research seminar is currently being finalised but expected to be held in May 2021. Keep your eyes peeled for announcements soon.



**Meet Dessi Broughton: Senior Analyst Insights and Measurement Quality**

**Ko Taranaki te maunga.**  
**Ko Pātea te awa.**  
**Ko Ngā Rauru, Ngāti Ruanui, Ngāruahine me Te Āti Awa ngā iwi.**  
**Ko Rangitawhi me Ngāti Manuhiakai ngā hapū.**  
**Ko Waioturi, Pariroa me Aotearoa ngā marae.**  
**He uri au no Taranaki, mai Taranaki.**  
**Ko Dessi Broughton tōku ingoa.**

Dessi is one of two Senior Analysts - Insights and Measurements Quality Assurance, a new role established for ensuring the quality and consistency of the organisation's strategic measures and insights. She and her team will seek to ensure that the insights and measurements underpinning Oranga Tamariki's strategic objective are meaningful, fit for purpose and methodologically robust.

Dessi's background is in intelligence analysis. Prior to returning to New Zealand, she plied her craft working in people smuggling disruption through the Middle East and South-East Asian corridors and was a Regional Intelligence Manager at Christmas Island Immigration Detention Centre. With a Bachelors Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice and a Masters in Intelligence Analysis, Dessi has a unique perspective on the art and science of analysis.

Outside of Oranga Tamariki, Dessi is co-Director of a consultancy company specialising in sports analytics, Point 9 Analytics. With several high profile clients, Dessi is focussed on identifying and measuring the intangible game-critical features and pursuing innovative competitive differences. She hopes to bring her passion for critical and strategic analysis and the pursuit of excellence to Oranga Tamariki.

Dessi knows she's made a positive impact when her audience are quoting her. In her own words, "You know you've made a difference when the self-confessed 'bad' mathematicians in the building want to champion your measure!"