

SEPTEMBER 2022 UPDATE



Vasantha Krishnan
General Manager

Welcome to spring

Kia ora koutou katoa,

Welcome to Spring in the Southern Hemisphere! Well, it has certainly been a challenging winter for the country. We have navigated through much stormy weather, a lot of consequential infrastructure damage and illness caused by two competing viruses - the seasonal winter flu and the COVID variants. I hope you all have weathered these storms well and are looking forward to all that Spring has to offer. For me, spring is one of my favorite seasons as it resonates with hope, new growth, warmth, light and new opportunities. It is with this lens that we can analyze findings from our research and evaluation activities and really unpick what are opportunities for change, enhancements, consolidation. Applying this lens is broader than an organisation effort

and must come from a collective community and cross-agency effort. I encourage you all to familiarize yourself with our latest research and engage with us on what this means from a collective practice perspective.

We have published studies over the past few months which shed light on a range of topics including understanding more about children who offend, supporting children and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic, what we know about harm to children and young people in New Zealand, and takatāpui and rainbow young people who had been involved with Oranga Tamariki. I hope you find these reports interesting and useful to you and your work - more details are below.

Ngā mihi
Vasantha



Oranga Tamariki
Action Plan

The Evidence Centre is heavily involved supporting the **Oranga Tamariki Action Plan** (the Action Plan). The Action Plan is a collective commitment from all the children's agencies to work together to achieve the outcomes in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and promote the best interests and wellbeing of children and young people with the greatest needs. An important first step is understanding the needs of these young people so we can provide suitable and effective supports.

Building this evidence-based picture of need cannot be done by individual agencies operating in isolation. A key part of this work is therefore bringing people from multiple agencies together to develop a more holistic view of the needs of these children and young people.

Initially this is being done through a series of in-depth assessments focusing on the education, health, and housing needs of children and young people who have been in care, in contact with the youth justice system, or who are transitioning out of care. More detail on the immediate cross-agency actions to support the Action Plan can be found in the **Implementation Plan** and **Actions** documents.

The Evidence Centre's current role is to support the Implementation Plan through providing evidence and analysis for the in-depth assessments and assisting with monitoring and reporting. Of most importance is how we work with colleagues at other agencies to drive a system-level view. We do this through our connections and via work in the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) and the Children's Wellbeing Model.

More details can be found on the **Action Plan main page**. If you have any general questions please contact us. If you have questions or suggestions, contact our Programme Team on otap@ot.govt.nz, or contact us at research@ot.govt.nz.



Child and Youth Wellbeing



...are LOVED, SAFE and NURTURED



... have WHAT they NEED



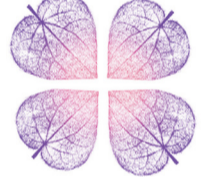
... are HAPPY and HEALTHY



... are LEARNING and DEVELOPING



... are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED and CONNECTED



... are INVOLVED and EMPOWERED



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.



Read the reports here

Children arrested by Police in 2020-21

This study informs work considering changes to the minimum age of criminal responsibility. The data provides an understanding of this group of children and what their behaviour means for developing possible new legislative settings if the minimum age of criminal responsibility is increased.



Read the reports here

Supporting children and families through COVID-19

This research provides insights into the trajectory of COVID-19 in the community and community recovery, including how other jurisdictions are continuing to respond to impacts of the pandemic.



Read the reports here

Prevalence of harm to children and protective factors

This analysis presents what we can know about harm to children and young people in New Zealand, as well as protective factors, through a data driven lens.

It pulls together information on harm and protective factors from a number of sources, including Oranga Tamariki, Police, Stats NZ, the Ministry of Health, and the Ministry of Education.



Read the reports here

Youth19 rangatahi smart survey reports

Six reports have been produced from the Adolescent Health Research Group's Youth19 Rangatahi Smart Survey. The reports compare outcomes between students who reported involvement with Oranga Tamariki and those who did not.

The latest report focusses on takatāpui and rainbow young people.



The presentation can be seen on our web page here

Our Research Seminars

Our August seminar featured Ernst Young Melbourne presenting insights and sharing learnings to date on the approach to business and workforce continuity, and COVID-19 support for children and families in other jurisdictions.

The COVID-19 pandemic has placed significant pressure on children and their whānau, of disrupting young people and children at heightened risk. The compounding effects of disrupted services during lockdowns, limited access to schools and other economic challenges require a holistic approach to supporting vulnerable children, young people and whānau.



The research can be seen on our web page here

Resurfacing earlier research

The Youth justice pathways research, published in 2021, explores the pathways young people take to the youth justice system, provides insight into what their wellbeing indicators and outcomes look like before, during and after youth justice involvement, and explores how they compare with people who had no youth justice involvement. A key takeout was that the vast majority (85%) of the care and protection only group of children did not receive a corrections sentence by the age of 22.