

EVIDENCE CENTRE UPDATE

EVIDENCE CENTRE
TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

UNDERSTANDING WHAT
WORKS FOR TAMARIKI

THE ORANGA TAMARIKI EVIDENCE CENTRE



Kia ora koutou katoa. Welcome back to another year at the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre. As always, we're excited to share our news with you as we hope to strengthen partnerships and embark on another year of exciting work, dedicated to supporting the wellbeing of New Zealand's children, young people, and their whānau.

Since our last newsletter, we have published work on a variety of topics, including three youth justice related reports: What drives remand decision-making; evaluation findings on the Remand Options Investigation Tool; and young people's participation and engagement with the youth justice system.

This month, we're celebrating Children's Day; an excellent reminder to everyone why we care about children, and what it means to put them first and help tamariki thrive. To find out more about the

day or to take part in an event, check out the organisation's [web page](#).

Our next Evidence Centre seminar and the eighth in the series will feature two presentations, one from child psychiatrist Dr. Denise Guy, presenting on the social and emotional wellbeing of children, and the other from Catherine Harrow (Oranga Tamariki) on how welfare and tax policy affects children's involvement with child protective services. The seminar will take place on Friday 5th April at 10:30am. For more details, email research@ot.govt.nz.

As always, we love to hear from our friends across the social sector, so please get in touch if you have any questions or ideas. And keep an eye on our [research](#) web page for regular updates and interesting publications. Noho ora mai, Vasantha.

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. Recently, we've been focussing on young people's interaction with the youth justice system...

Young People's Engagement in Remand Decisions This report presents perspectives on young people's participation and engagement in the youth justice system in relation to remand decisions. The findings are informed by qualitative data collected from interviews with young people in two youth justice residences; focus groups and/or interviews with staff from Police, Oranga Tamariki and youth advocates; and, direct observations of court cases in two Youth Courts. The research found that young people need encouragement and support to engage in the youth justice process; communication with them must be clear and in a

way they understand; a relational experience with skilled professionals is the key to quality engagement; and whānau must be included in the process. Read more from the report's findings [here](#).

Remand Options Investigation Tool Prototyping Evaluation

This report summarises evaluation findings from a live prototyping of the Remand Options Investigation Tool (ROIT), designed to support youth justice professionals. The report presented findings showing that the ROIT was improving information sharing about the young person; and supporting a more systematic and comprehensive framework for remand recommendations; as well as providing the groundwork for a more holistic understanding of the young person and focussing on protective factors, not only risk factors. Read more from the report [here](#).

Young People Remanded into Youth Justice Residences

This report provides findings from an Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre study on what drives remand recommendations made for young people in the youth justice system. Various professionals are involved in remand decision-making with varying levels of input. The key contributors to remand decision-making in court are judges, police, and youth advocates. The study showed that a range of factors that influence remand decisions include the nature and seriousness of offence; resource-related constraints; variability in practices among professionals; and, timeframes for court processes. A number of alternatives can safety minimise the number of young people being remanded in youth justice residences. Read more [here](#).

Visit our [website](#) to catch up on all of our latest research.

RESEARCH SEMINARS

The Evidence Centre hosts regular seminars, in collaboration with social sector partners. Learn more about our recent seminars showcasing research for those working in areas that impact the lives of New Zealand's children and families.

Children and Young People in Health and Education: Wellbeing Barriers and What Can Be Done About Them

This was the seventh in a series of seminars hosted by the Evidence Centre. The event featured two presentations; one focussing on results from a Health survey estimating social, emotional and behavioural difficulties for children, the other discussing recent work undertaken by the Education Review Office on the contribution of resilience in children's learning.



Social and Emotional Wellbeing of the New Zealand Child Population

Linda Pannekoek is a Senior Advisor and researcher at the Ministry of Health. Her work largely focusses on child health, development, and wellbeing. In this presentation, Linda gave a short background on her work using the *Strengths and Difficulties Questionnaire* (SDQ) based on data from the New Zealand Health Survey. The results from the SDQ in the Health Survey provide nationally representative estimates of social, emotional, and behavioural difficulties for children aged 3-14 years.



Contribution of Resilience in Children's Learning

Jason Timmins is Manager of Insights at the Education Review Office (ERO) and uses data to measure the performance of the Education sector, school and early learning services. Jason's presentation shared the findings of recent research undertaken by ERO, *Contribution of Resilience in Children's Learning*, looking at non-cognitive skills and their importance in later life, explaining some of the survey concepts and questions used, and exploring the relationship between resilience, grit, and school perseverance.

MEET THE MANAGER: ROSIE DEUTSCHLE



Rosie is acting manager of the Analytics and Insights team within the Evidence Centre. Originally from Auckland, she moved to Wellington five years ago following the completion of her studies at the University of Auckland, where she graduated with a conjoint Bachelor's degree in Science and Arts, triple majoring in Geography, German and Management.

Since then, she has worked in a number of data and analytics

teams, developing a keen interest in the use of data to support change within organisations. Highlights include being at the forefront of the shift towards a focus on wellbeing, working with other agencies on cross sector projects, and presenting at an international conference on wellbeing.

Outside of work, Rosie's interests involve getting active, eating delicious food, supporting charities, and spending time with friends and family. She is a keen skier in the winter, and over summer enjoys doing walks around the Wellington region and beyond.

I started off at the Ministry of Social Development in data reporting and analytics, and from there transitioned into the Investing in Children Programme where we were tasked with leading the fundamental shift required to achieve better outcomes for children in New Zealand. This involved the development and implementation of the Children's Lifetime Wellbeing Model.

One of the three teams in the Evidence Centre, the Analytics and Insights team uses insights and analysis to support decision making across the organisation, and to inform the organisation's strategic approach to service delivery.

As a new Ministry, we have a unique opportunity to drive real change in the way we work with New Zealand's children and their whānau. I am inspired by the innovative and enabling environment we have here at Oranga Tamariki, and the willingness of the organisation to try new ideas, push the boundaries, and lead the way on a number of frontiers. One highlight of the job is getting to work with so many people who are here for the right reasons and really want to make a difference.