

FOR OUR MOKOPUNA

**Expert Advisory Group
for Children & Young People**

July 2024



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Ko te pū

Te more

Te weu

Te aka

Te rea

Ko te wao nui

Te kune

Te whe

Te kore

Te pō

Ki ngā tāngata Māori

nā Rangi, rāua ko Papa

Ko tēnei te tīmatanga o te ao

Ko tēnei te tīmatanga o te ao



Kei te mihi tuatahi ki ngā atua Māori.
Ki Ranginui e tū iho nei,
Ki Papatūānuku e takato ake nei, tēnā kōrua.
Kei te mihi tuarua ki te iwi Māori.
Kei te mihi tuatoru ki ngā hunga mate,
E moe, e moe, e moe.
Nau mai ki te hunga ora – tīhei, mauri ora.

Ki ngā mokopuna o Aotearoa,
Ki ngā morehu,
Ko tēnei tō tātou rīpoata, ko tēnei to tātou mauri hoki.

Kei kōnei tātou.

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā rau rangatira mā,
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēna koutou katoa.





Mihi Ki ngāi Morehu

Acknowledgement of Survivors

This report is written for abuse survivors, for those who have lived on to tell their stories, those whose stories were told after their death, and for those whose stories were never told.

May our mokopuna to come be able to tell their stories of a violence-free Aotearoa.

The EAG acknowledges the Royal Commission of Inquiry's newly released report, *Whanaketia*. The EAG stands firmly behind and actively supports the recommendations within this report.

The EAG recognises that genuine, reciprocal engagement and participation with children and young people cannot occur without acknowledging harm and a state-initiated redress. This is a vital step in ensuring that harm does not continue.

Te Puna Aonui cannot have positive partnerships and engagements with mokopuna if they are experiencing violence from the institutions that were mandated to care for them, such as the state.

If Te Puna Aonui wishes to fulfil the strategy of Te Aorerekura, it must direct time, energy, and resources to end violence within any care setting, including the state.

We hope our report can contribute to a violence-free Aotearoa.

Now is the time to listen to mokopuna and act on what is heard.





Rārangi Take

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He Whakarāpopotanga Rīpoata

Executive Summary

The Children and Young People Expert Advisory Group (EAG) for Te Puna Aonui is a group of diverse individuals who bring a range of cultural, lived, personal, and professional experiences to this important kaupapa. The EAG welcomes the opportunity to prepare and deliver this report, providing advice and guidance on how children and young people can be meaningfully engaged in the work of Te Puna Aonui and realise the goals of Te Aorerekura. The EAG encourages Te Puna Aonui to be ambitious in its strategy to engage and empower mokopuna.

The EAG was tasked with developing advice for Te Puna Aonui on suitable mechanisms to promote and sustain children and young people's participation and engagement in the work of Te Puna Aonui. This includes a specific focus on how Te Puna Aonui can enable children and young people to become active partners in the learning, development, and monitoring of Te Aorerekura in future annual Hui, any updates to the Strategy, and future Action Plans.

This report acknowledges the existing barriers and limitations of government led engagement and hopes that Te Puna Aonui can learn from existing success stories of engagement from community-led partnerships. Because of the unique position members in the EAG hold, the accountabilities and knowledge they brought to this kaupapa have weaved together a dream for the future of mokopuna.





He Whakarāpopotanga Rīpoata

Executive Summary

The dream of our report is that Te Puna Aonui invests in our mokopuna. Invests in creating a world with them where they can thrive. Where they can have beautiful, fulfilling lives, free of violence. Our dream is to make Aotearoa the best place for our mokopuna to grow up in.

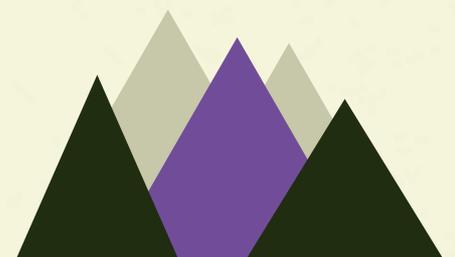
Therefore, this report is written from a rangatahi lens. This report is set as a wero for Te Puna Aonui to walk alongside rangatahi and tamariki into the future of Te Aorerekura, and Aotearoa.

This report lays out the whakapapa of our EAG, our values, the wisdom texts that guide us, and recommendations for Te Puna Aonui. All of this creates a foundation of empowerment for our mokopuna to be trusted and valued in the engagement and realisation of Te Aorerekura.

The EAG has developed seven comprehensive recommendations designed to share advice based on expertise within the group and affirmed by external sources.

This dream is underpinned by the EAG's values of:

- **Toitū Te Tiriti**
- **Whakawhanaungatanga and Ongoing Safe Spaces**
- **Power Sharing and Reciprocity**
- **Nurturing Creativity, Prioritising Mokopuna**
- **Evidence and Wisdom-Based Practice**
- **Accountability and Representation**





A high-level summary of the recommendations is as follows:

1. Create and sustain a Te Tiriti based whānau Māori engagement model that facilitates culturally safe and consistent modes of connecting with tamariki and rangatahi Māori.
2. Develop a web-based dashboard or information hub specifically aimed at children and young people to share information about Te Puna Aonui, Te Aorerekura, education and learning resources, links to services and support, and opportunities to engage.
3. Resource a permanent Children & Young People Expert Advisory Group (CYP EAG) to advise Te Puna Aonui on how to engage with children and young people and inform its work from a child and youth perspective.
4. Ensure that accurate, consistent, quality education is available about sexuality, consent, and healthy relationships for all people in Aotearoa from Early Childhood through to Primary, Intermediate, Secondary and Tertiary education sectors, and provide on-going specialist support for the educators in all of those settings to enable them to teach these topics accurately and with confidence.
5. Increase support and funding to build capacity for family violence prevention, sexual violence prevention, community, NGO, or external organisations to enable and empower children and youth to support the advancement of the implementation of Te Aorerekura. This includes raising awareness around forms of abuse, pathways to prevention, and spaces for healing.





A high-level summary of the recommendations continued:

6. Introduce family violence and sexual violence specific training requirements for all professionals working with children and young people that would be defined through the development of current best practice guidelines. Training requirements must be inclusive of practice across government agencies, and informed by a review of current systems that work with children and young people such as justice, care, welfare, education and health.

7. Ensure an independent review is conducted on the impacts on children and young people when engaging with the New Zealand judicial system across Criminal, Youth and Family Courts. The review should include how the judicial system responds to these populations and in particular their safety needs.

The recommendations developed by the EAG were drawn from various sources, including the expertise and lived experience of the members, prior research, input from sector experts, existing consultations relevant to engaging children and young people on issues important to them and consulting with young people to test the relevance, accuracy, and applicability of the recommendations.



The logo features a stylized circular emblem with intricate patterns, possibly representing a whakapapa tree or a traditional Maori design.

Whakapapa o te EAG

Where the EAG came from

The Expert Advisory Group for Children and Young People was convened by Te Puna Aonui to provide advice on ways to enable children and young people to become partners in the learning, development and monitoring of Te Aorerekura – the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence

The Expert Advisory Group for Children and Young People (EAG) is a collective of young people and practitioners who were invited to join the group based on their work, experiences and expertise in advocating for change, children and young people's participation, and issues related to family violence and sexual violence. The rangatahi invited to participate were all people with connections to organisations that are involved in violence prevention work and upholding the mana of rangatahi.

To ensure mokopuna voice could be centred throughout the EAG's development and tenure, it was important to include people with diverse perspectives, who could bring knowledge from the family violence and sexual violence sectors, with knowledge of child participation and lived experience as rangatahi engaged in the family violence and sexual violence system. The members of the EAG recognised the responsibility and importance of this mahi, and acknowledged their accountability to, and relationships with, the communities they are part of.



Whakapapa o te EAG

Where the EAG came from - cont.

The EAG came together with the goal of drawing on existing wisdom—*what is known*—and learning—*what is new*—to inform appropriate ways to engage children and young people in the prevention of family violence and sexual violence. This report shares the expertise and learning to guide and inform how all Te Puna Aonui agencies can work effectively with children and young people, mokopuna, to advance the implementation of Te Aorerekura.

The EAG first met in April 2023 to meet team members in Te Puna Aonui Business Unit, to get to know other members of the EAG, and to establish the kaupapa of the EAG and how we would work collaboratively with Te Puna Aonui to deliver the intended mahi of the rōpū. From the initial meeting, we met kanohi ki te kanohi again three additional times, each for two days in Tāmaki Makaurau, and would meet regularly online monthly and/or fortnightly as required to fulfil the Terms of Reference and meet the required obligations and timelines.





Tō Tātou EAG

Who we are

Hailey Xavier Co-Chair

Malayali, Tauīwi

Hailey is a queer young person currently living in Ōtepoti. Their heart is in the community and they are passionate about systems change.

They were invited to this EAG in recognition of their mahi in InsideOut Kōaro and their background in climate action, community, community work, and youth advocacy.

Hailey was appointed to act as the co-chair of this group alongside Quack.

Quack Pirihi Co-Chair

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Wai, Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara

Quack is a rangatahi Māori living in Te Whanganui-a-tara. They work across a wide range of sectors including community work, kaupapa Māori, climate action, and mahi takatāpui.

Quack was invited into the EAG in recognition in the kaupapa rangatahi Māori space.

Quack was appointed to act as the co-chair of this group alongside Hailey.

Naomi Vailimi Member

Samoa

Naomi is a young Samoan who has lived experience with a disability. Born and bred in South Auckland, she has found her lived experience to be her why in serving the community and advocating for young people with disabilities as well as bringing in a cultural lens

Naomi was invited into this rōpū in recognition of her lived experience and the mahi she does for her communities.

Nesil Satani Member

Indian, Tauīwi

Nesil Satani is a rangatahi mental health and violence prevention advocate, based in Kirikiriroa. She is currently a Dear Em Ambassador, where her mahi surrounds sexual violence prevention and education for the rangatahi in Aotearoa.

Nesil's work with Dear Em over the last three years opened up the opportunity to join the EAG, where she could apply her learnings and experience within the sector so far.

Imogen Stone Member

Ngāpuhi

Imogen is a rangatahi from Tāmaki Makaurau. She began working in the mental health space as a teenager, before completing her degree, and joining HELP Auckland. At HELP she works with Dear Em, a programme supporting young women to become leaders in sexual violence prevention.

Her work with, and advocacy for young people's voices in the sexual violence sector led her to be invited onto the CYP EAG.

Te Whetumairangi Balzer-Horo Member

Ngāpuhi, Te Arawa, Taranaki, Ngāti Porou

Whetu is a young person currently living in Rotorua.

She is passionate about empowering our youth, the leaders of today, and serve as the Rangatahi Ora Lead, focusing on youth wellbeing and suicide prevention. They were invited to the EAG in recognition for the service and experience they have for their communities.

Deborah Morris Te Puna Aonui Relationship Holder for the EAG

Pākehā

Deborah is the Manager of Strategic Communications at Te Puna Aonui and is a long-time advocate for children's rights and wellbeing.

She has worked with many community organisations and across sectors to advocate for children and is mother of 2.

Elena Moana Warman Member

Pākehā

Elena is a new mum currently living in West Auckland. She forged her career in social work, specialising in youth mental health and peer support. Currently she's stepped into her lived experience to push for better outcomes for those who have experienced sexual violence

Jacqui Southey Member

Pākehā

Jacqui is a child rights advocate currently living in Masterton. They work across a wide range of sectors and were invited into this EAG in recognition of their mahi in empowering children and youth to speak up for change on issues important to them.

Peter-Clinton Foases Member

Samoa

Peter is a well experienced community and youth worker who is guided by his village and faith. Peter works at the Office of the Children's Commission, Mana Mokopuna as a manager of participation and engagement for children and young people. He was invited to the EAG in recognition for the many hats he holds for his communities, and his passion for advocating for justice.

Sonya Hogan Member

Pākehā

Currently living in Whanganui-a-Tara. Sonya works to advocate for positive change for children and young people and those working to support children and their whānau. She was invited into this EAG in recognition of her work advocating for children and young people.

Maggy Tai Rākena Member

Pākehā

Maggy Tai Rākena is an older Pākehā person living in Ōtautahi who manages a specialist sexual violence support service for children, youth and adults. Maggy's worklife has included ECE, Social Work, Management and Leadership, and she has held a number of voluntary roles in community settings. She was invited to join the EAG because of her involvement in various advocacy forums for young people.



Me Pēhea te Mahi i te Mahi

Creating meaningful ways to work together

From its conception, the EAG has challenged the power dynamics of stereotypical advisory working groups. We wanted to ensure that rangatahi were able to lead and learn through the process. Our first step was to explore a 'tuakana teina' approach to how the rōpū operates. Instead of having two of the more experienced and older people chair the Group, we decided that two rangatahi should co-chair – and be supported by the tuakana in the group to do that. This meant that from the very beginning – this EAG could be by and for rangatahi voice.

Hailey Xavier and Quack Pirihi were appointed as rangatahi co-chairs by the members of the EAG.

This required us to meaningfully reflect on how we supported the rangatahi in the Group to engage and lead in order to deliver on our responsibilities as an EAG.

The beginning of our journey was dedicated to working out how we would like to work with each other. Wānanga and talanoa were held to understand and explore the role of rangatahi and young people as leaders and how the EAG would support this. We created an understanding of shared values and ways of working together that enabled rangatahi to thrive in this space, and created a sense of trust, and reciprocity between EAG members.





Me Pēhea te Mahi i te Mahi

Creating meaningful ways to work together - contd.

Rangatahi in the EAG had a specific goal of revolutionising how the government engages with children and young people, and they were determined to explore this from the very beginning. The first 'revolution' enacted was to organise a noho marae focused on whakawhanaungatanga. This was because we felt like our initial induction hui was focused on a high-level understanding of stakeholders and contractual requirements rather than a space to get to know each other and build connections.

Before the noho, our first couple of hui were focused on what we wanted to achieve in this noho to set up our term for a good start. Most of the rangatahi wanted to be able to spend more time dissecting our purpose, allies, potential obstacles, and potential opportunities.

We began with discussing what a tuakana teina model could look like and what values would underpin this model. We wanted the rōpū to be able to work in fluidity and reciprocity to honour the nature of this mahi.

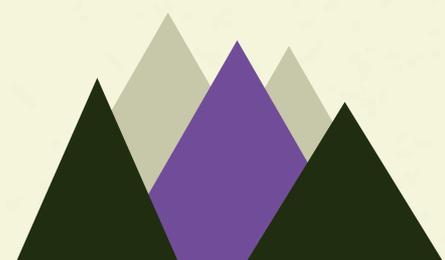
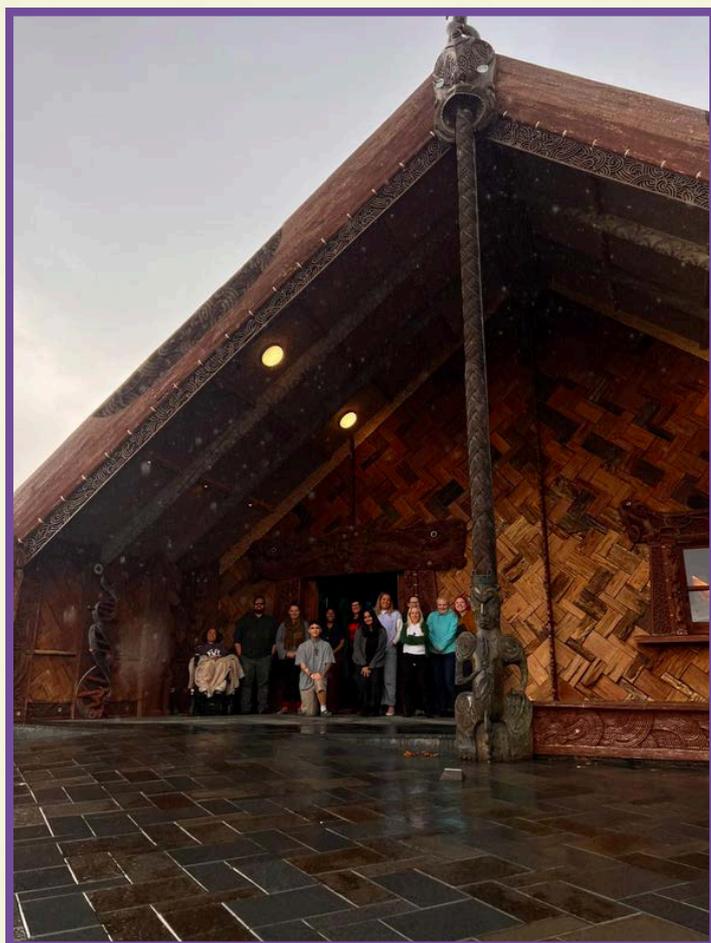


With a collective kaupapa at the front of minds, the chairs facilitated discussions on barriers to participation, enablers of good mahi, and what needs to be in place to create safe working environments. We also looked into frameworks for operating, accessing support, and managing conflict. These discussions were the foundation for our tikanga.

After working through our journey and our tikanga, we established a foundation for understanding the ecosystem of Te Puna Aonui, where we fit in, and who would be important to learn from, work and advocate with.

The EAG identified where we could make change, what roles we could play, and what we would prioritise, all of which have been reflected in the recommendations.

This noho was instrumental in establishing strong connections between EAG members, agreeing our group dynamics, identifying shared values, and setting the goals that informed our timelines and deliverables.





Toitū te Tiriti

Honour te Tiriti

The EAG recognises Te Tiriti o Waitangi as the fundamental foundation for engaging with mokopuna, tangata māori and tangata tiriti.

Te Aorerekura is underpinned by Te Tiriti and brings a focus onto te ao Māori and whaanau-centred approaches to addressing the complex issues of family violence and sexual violence. It seeks to give practical effect to Te Tiriti, including through relationships and partnering, enabling mana motuhake/ authority, and achieving equitable outcomes. Government engagement with mokopuna, and processes for our participation must be consistent with Te Tiriti.

All of the values and recommendations in this report are written with the Articles of Te Tiriti in mind. Genuine partnership, or positive engagement cannot occur without tino rangatiratanga. Toitu Te Tiriti is the first, and main value in this report. Honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi will lead to whakawhaungatanga and ongoing safe spaces. It will allow for power sharing and reciprocity.

It will nurture creativity and prioritise mokopuna. It will promote evidence and wisdom-based practice through the acknowledgement of tino rangatiratanga, and ōritetanga, which is the obligation of the kāwananga (government) and karauna (crown). The EAG holds Te Puna Aonui accountable to honouring Te Tiriti, as this is the first step to representational, reciprocal relationships with children and young people.





Whakawhanaungatanga and Ongoing Safe-Spaces

These values came from examples of engagement that prioritised community and relationship building. There was a specific focus on honouring the mana of our rangatahi and tamariki through maintaining integrity, building respectful relationships, using ongoing consent-based practices, and dismantling barriers to genuine engagement.



Power-Sharing and Reciprocity

Power-sharing and reciprocity are the values that make it possible to have relational power-sharing with rangatahi so they can be fully engaged. This means dismantling transactional relationships with children and young people, building reciprocal relationships, and having long-term and tangible ways for them to stay engaged and feel appreciated and honoured in their mahi.





Nurturing Creativity, Prioritising Mokopuna

For our mokopuna to be engaged safely and positively, they must be treated and seen as a priority. Engagements must manaaki the mokopuna, and their whānau around them, and support them to lead and shape engagement approaches. There should be no wrong path or closed door for our mokopuna. Interactions with mokopuna must be prepared to get creative if they want to genuinely engage with, and learn from, **all** mokopuna.



Evidence and Wisdom Based Practice

These values acknowledge the mahi that already happens. We have seen examples of good practice being developed and used in our communities, which government and people in communities can learn from. Rangatahi are often overlooked and/or overworked, and engagement can be traumatising if care is not taken to ensure genuine and caring engagement practices in the best interests of rangatahi are not used. Te Puna Aonui engagements with children and young people must be ethical and align with best practice guidelines.





Accountability and Representation

Engagements must be intentional, transparent and genuinely include diverse groups of tamariki and rangatahi. Te Puna Aonui should work in a manner that is clear about the power they hold as a Crown Entity and reflect and integrate methods to share power with communities without over-burdening the community with more work. This accountability and power-sharing must be reflected in the representation of these engagements, including consideration of who engages and the mahi that ensues afterwards. Representation is a key part of engagements for mokopuna, who must see themselves in the engagement process.

All of these values underpin our engagements, along side important critical documents and wisdom texts.



Te Aorerekura draws on Te Tiriti o Waitangi, mātauranga Māori and te ao Māori values to envision a different expectation of how to achieve safety and wellbeing for all people in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Te Aorerekura incorporates Te Tiriti o Waitangi approaches:

- Article one – Kawanatanga – continuing to build relationships and partnering with iwi and Māori organisations in the delivery and governance of Te Aorerekura.
- Article two – Tino Rangatiratanga – enabling iwi, hapū, whānau, and Māori communities to have full authority (mana motuhake) over their own wellbeing.
- Article three – Oritetanga – working with tangata whenua to strengthen protective factors and achieve equitable outcomes that allow iwi, hapū, whānau, and Māori communities to realise their potential, free of family violence and sexual violence.

A te ao Māori focus seeks to be inclusive of all perspectives. Māori and Pacific peoples share a special relationship or va. They are connected by whakapapa with kinship through commonalities of history, culture, and oral traditions of origins. Wairuatanga is emerging as something to be considered alongside Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Wairuatanga enables iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori communities to practice ritenga (customs) framed by te ao Māori, enacted through tikanga Māori and encapsulated within mātauranga Māori.





International Treaties

In order to effectively and safely engage with children and young people, it is important that their rights are understood, respected and upheld throughout the process. The EAG has drawn from several human rights treaties to guide and inform our work together and to shape the recommendations we have developed to inform and support genuine engagement with children and young people to contribute to the elimination of family violence and sexual violence.

In addition to being led by Te Tiriti o Waitangi, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child has played an important role in this process.



The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) is the most widely ratified human rights treaty in history, being ratified by all countries with the exception of the United States. New Zealand ratified the UNCRC in 1993, granting all children in New Zealand rights to be protected, provided for, and to participate, regardless of their gender, ethnicity, religion, wealth, ability, or disability. The New Zealand Government has the responsibility to uphold these rights for all children.

The right to participate is central to the UNCRC and also integral to children's development. It ensures that their voices are heard and considered on issues that impact them, such as protection from violence and harm.



International Treaties

The Convention on the Rights of Disabled People

Other important human rights treaties that inform this work include the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women.

Too often, disabled children, indigenous children, girls, women and people of diverse gender or sexual orientation bear the brunt of violence. These international treaties provide important frameworks that can guide and inform the achievement of all rights for all people, including rights to be protected from all forms of violence. New Zealand is a signatory to these treaties and is internationally obligated to uphold and fulfil these treaties here in Aotearoa, New Zealand.

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

In 1985, New Zealand ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), obligating New Zealand as a States party to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in all areas of life, ensure women's full development and advancement in order that they can exercise and enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms in the same way as men, and allow the CEDAW Committee to scrutinise their efforts to implement the treaty by reporting to the body at regular intervals.

Despite New Zealand's commitment to uphold women's rights, women and girls face persistent discrimination, including enduring levels of gender based violence.





International Treaties



The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) - cont.

Women are more likely than men to suffer abuse from a partner, including repeat victimisation, and are more likely to suffer sexual violence. The impacts of violence are serious, long-lasting, and too often fatal (Ministry for Women, 2023).

Additionally, rates of sexual violence remain unacceptably high, and although the prevalence of sexual violence is widely recognised, the most recent New Zealand Crime and Victims Survey found that 92% of sexual assault offences went unreported to the Police (Ministry for Women, 2023).

Sexual harassment, digital harm and violence, and financial and economic abuse are other forms of gender-based violence women and girls experience at higher rates than males in New Zealand.

The EAG recommends that Te Puna Aonui draws on CEDAW as a guiding treaty to ensure that the rights of women and girls, including to be free from all forms of discrimination and violence is central to all work to eliminate FVSV in Aotearoa.





International Treaties



United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

On 13 September 2007, the Resolution for United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations. Within this Declaration, sit a suite of Articles that affirm a range of rights including protection of tradition, language, people, and land. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ensures that Indigenous Peoples have a say in matters that are important to them. The Declaration covers a broad range of rights and freedoms, including the right to self-determination, culture and identity, and rights to education, economic development, religious customs, health and language. This declaration was developed with extensive involvement from indigenous Peoples themselves and various international organisations.

New Zealand has officially endorsed the Declaration since 2010.

Māori hold a distinct and special status as the indigenous people, or tangata whenua, of New Zealand. Indigenous rights and indigenous culture are of profound importance to New Zealand and fundamental to our identity as a nation.

The EAG believes that through a holistic approach to health and wellbeing, every Article under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples contributes to the health and wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi, but we wish to point to certain points that are of particular relevance to the work of supporting mokopuna in the context of Te Aorerekura.





International Treaties



United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - cont.

Annex: United Nation Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

“Recognizing in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and wellbeing of their children, consistent with the rights of the child”

Article 7, Section 2

“Indigenous peoples have the collective right to live in freedom, peace and security as distinct peoples and shall not be subjected to any act of genocide or any other act of violence, including forcibly removing children of the group to another group.”

Article 9, Section 1

“Indigenous peoples and individuals have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation, in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned. No discrimination of any kind may arise from the exercise of such a right.”





International Treaties



United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples - cont.

The EAG considers that special consideration must always be had for the experiences of iwi, hapū, whānau, tamariki Māori, and rangatahi Māori. Consideration may be in the ways in which mokopuna within these communities are engaged, ways in which wider Te Puna Aonui may advocate on policy that impacts the experiences of tamariki Māori, and rangatahi Māori.

Consideration may also fit in a way that requires Te Puna Aonui to continue to maintain and evolve connections with hāpori Māori in the updating evolution of what engagement looks like for mokopuna Māori.

The EAG recognises the obligation Te Puna Aonui has to mokopuna and whānau Māori under the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. The EAG also believes that what works for mokopuna Māori, strengthens and safeguards the positive experiences of tauīwi mokopuna. We also believe that there is valuable strength in having responses and engagements tailored in a culturally appropriate and safe way for any community that Te Puna Aonui is engaging with.



Engaging Across the Wider Aotearoa Context

Plans, Strategies and Models



Violence prevention and response must be present in every area of children's and young people's worlds. Therefore, it is important to acknowledge the broader context of work being done to support and uplift mokopuna in Aotearoa (Family Violence Death Review Committee, 2016). Our recommendations interconnect with a range of significant plans, strategies, and models already in action, highlighting the vital connection between Te Aorerekura and the wider ecosystem built to uplift children and young people in Aotearoa.

The EAG recommends Te Puna Aonui agencies take a life course approach (*as described in Appendix 1*) in their engagement with and support of children and young people to understand the impacts of family violence and sexual violence across the various ages and stages of an individual's life. The life course approach would enable government agencies to build enabling environments for effective engagement, tailored to their particular stage of life.





Engaging Across the Wider Aotearoa Context



The New Zealand Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

“– It has been estimated that an even greater number of children and young people (nearly 300,000) experience or are exposed to family and sexual violence every year... New Zealand will never be the best place in the world for children and young people if these challenges are not addressed.” (The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, 2019, p. 12).

The Government’s Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS) sets out a shared goal of wanting Aotearoa, New Zealand, to be the best place in the world for children and young people. As one of the strategy’s three priorities, it acknowledges the vital role that addressing family and sexual violence plays in achieving this goal. In developing our recommendations, we drew from this premise, ensuring that we provided actions that can be pursued through Te Aorerekura while also working towards the six outcomes of the CYWS.

In line with the CYWS, our recommendations focus not just on inclusion but on genuine participation and empowerment. These go on to inform the interconnected actions proposed to address the primary barriers to engagement and healing currently being faced by mokopuna.





Engaging Across the Wider Aotearoa Context



The New Zealand Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy - cont.

This report creates a tangible link for children and young people between Te Aorerekura and the CYWS, and acknowledges the intrinsic connection between eliminating violence and achieving children and young people's wellbeing.

This is relevant to the EAG's work as it aligns with our dream to co-design an Aotearoa with mokopuna as enablers of their own empowerment.

The CYWS calls for an interagency, non-governmental, and governmental approach to supporting children and young people, which the EAG agrees with. In order to provide the best service and engagement to mokopuna, there must be collective approaches and accountabilities. Within the recommendations in our report, Te Puna Aonui has a shared responsibility in this collective approach.





Engaging Across the Wider Aotearoa Context



The Youth Plan

“Youth voice and leadership are protective factors in young people’s wellbeing, as well as a driver for transformative change. The Youth Plan should be incorporated across all CYWS work to embed effective youth participation in government action.” (Youth Plan, 2023, p. 7)

The Youth Plan is a key facilitator for the CYWS outcome area where “children and young people are involved and empowered”, a key area that will support mokopuna to engage with Te Aorerekura. It is fundamental that rangatahi are empowered as leaders, and opportunities to engage with Te Aorerekura are accessible and ever-present in the world around them. To ensure that the work of Te Aorerekura serves children and young people, we must not only hear children and young people's voices, but actively engage with them through dialogue, relationship, and action. This is why it is vital to take guidance from The Youth Plan when considering the recommendations laid out in this report.

The Youth plan is extremely relevant to our report because mokopuna have been at the forefront of our minds, mahi, and intentions in writing our recommendations. Positive, genuine engagement and partnership will drive transformative change and act as a protective factor in young people’s wellbeing and lives.





Engaging Across the Wider Aotearoa Context



Te Tokotoru

Te Tokotoru (Hagen et al., 2021), the “unbreakable three”, lays out a framework for designing and investing in wellbeing through three interconnected dimensions that sit across a “wellbeing ecology”: strengthening, healing, and responding. As laid out in Te Tokotoru, the conditions for wellbeing are set across the whole ecological system. Our recommendations do not focus on a single area, but acknowledge the need for work across the ecosystem to uplift mokopuna engagement with Te Aorerekura sustainably. Collectively, these contribute toward an interconnected vision for community, whānau, and mokopuna wellbeing.

Strengthening: refers to investing in the relationships, conditions, and capital to enable whānau and communities to thrive, lead, and pursue their aspirations. This can be achieved by investing in the development of community-led initiatives, providing resources for capacity building, and providing access to resources to support economic, social and cultural development.

Healing: refers to intentional investment in enabling healing, protection, respite, recovery, rebalancing, and restoration for people and environments. Healing is an important area that requires additional access to funding and resourcing. Investment is needed to provide resources to increase workforce capability that ensures children and young people are supported and empowered to participate actively in their healing.

Responding: refers to the support that needs to be available in a variety of forms, not only through formal services and programs and not just during and after times of crisis. This support should be tailored to the individual needs of each child and provided by adults who understand child development. It should also include opportunities for children to participate in activities that promote their social and emotional development.



Recomendations

The following recommendations draw on the aforementioned texts, values, and whakapapa of the EAG





Recommendation 1

Create and sustain a Te Tiriti based whānau Māori engagement model that facilitates culturally safe and consistent modes of connecting with tamariki and rangatahi Māori.

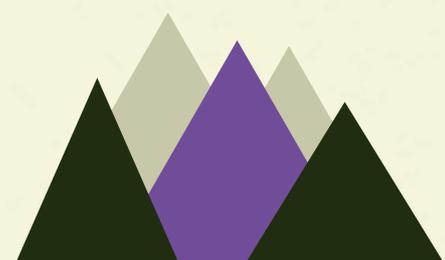
Values alignment:

Recommendation 1 affirms Te Tiriti o Waitangi. For mokopuna Māori to be prioritised, they need to feel represented in the models that serve them. Te Puna Aonui must embrace the diversity of mokopuna and use creative methods to ensure whakawhanaungatanga and safe spaces are prioritised. These values are vital to recommendation one to ensure that whānau Māori are engaged with in consistently culturally safe and secure methods.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

In recognition of Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (the development of a Te Tiriti based whānau Māori engagement model would recognise the tino rangatiratanga of whānau Māori in their own lives and relationships. Engaging from a Te Tiriti lens is imperative as Te Puna Aonui has responsibility under Te Tiriti o Waitangi.

The development and consistent use of such a model would set a strong foundation for tamariki and rangatahi Māori to build and sustain their confidence to engage in the family violence and sexual violence system and to raise their voice as they continue to move through their journey toward positive change. By creating a safe space where they can see their culture and identity are respected, and at the forefront of practice, tamariki and rangatahi Māori will develop a sense of belonging, connection and empowerment.





Recommendation 1 cont.

The impacts of colonisation are long-lasting, with a significant influence on how Māori continue to be impacted by family violence and sexual violence (Barnes & McCreanor, 2019; Ngata, 2021).

Acknowledging this history and creating pathways for tamariki and rangatahi Māori to advocate for the change necessary to shift patterns entrenched by intergenerational trauma (Smith & Tinirau, 2019).

What would this recommendation look like?

Creating a whānau Māori engagement model would facilitate safe and consistent modes of connecting with tamariki Māori and rangatahi Māori.

It is highly important that this model is:

1. Te Tiriti centric
2. Mātauranga Māori focused
3. Age appropriate
4. Culturally safe and responsive
5. Sustainable

Ensuring that this model fits these criteria would increase the engagement of Māori within the family violence and sexual violence space and help ensure Te Puna Aonui is upholding its commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It would enable tamariki and rangatahi Māori to see themselves prioritised and feel welcomed to engage in spaces they see honouring them, their whānau, and their culture.





Recommendation 1 cont.

This model must also accommodate a range of engagement modes, including:

1. In-person
2. Digital
3. Hybrid
4. Survey-based

Mana Mokopuna (2022) have resources on these methods.

Often, models of engagement targeted at Māori hold a specific focus on being *kanohi ki te kanohi* (O'Carroll, 2013). It would be valuable to broaden engagement methods, to take tamariki and rangatahi out of this box of only wanting to engage face to face. We cannot limit engagement methods as a result of what we perceive they want, Māori voices must be heard in any and all capacities. This is especially relevant when connecting with tamariki and rangatahi who have been disconnected from whānau, hapu or iwi, and are seeking other avenues to engage and reconnect.

It is vital that we embed whakawhanaungatanga within this model to ensure that tamariki and rangatahi Māori have a safe space to come into and feel heard. An investment in whakawhanaungatanga helps ensure positive results for now and the future; tamariki and rangatahi are able to connect, feel seen, and feel confident in their identities throughout the engagement, and as a result, engagements are richer and more authentic, providing us with valuable insights to work towards the future (Penny et al., 2024). Creating positive and safe ongoing relationships would mean that we can more effectively integrate their opinions and needs into future engagements.





Recommendation 2

Develop a web-based dashboard or information hub specifically aimed at children and young people to share information about Te Puna Aonui, Te Aorerekura, education and learning resources, links to services and support, and opportunities to engage.

Values alignment:

Recommendation 2 is underpinned by whakawhanaungatanga and ongoing safe spaces. It recognises the need for an online platform that enables young people to engage, understand, and find support through Te Puna Aonui. This dashboard should acknowledge young people as key collaborators and creators, which ties into our values of nurturing creativity, prioritising mokopuna, and power sharing. As this dashboard is developed and accessed, it should be based on best practices and have ongoing accountability mechanisms for the inclusion and representation of mokopuna.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

For children and young people to engage with Te Puna Aonui and advance the implementation of Te Aorerekura, they first need to know these structures exist, understand what they are, and how they relate to the lives of children and young people with a particular focus on eliminating family violence and sexual violence at every level of New Zealand society (Children's Convention Monitoring Group, 2019; Te Puna Aonui, 2022).

This recommendation is for rangatahi who may feel more comfortable accessing support via online avenues. From the EAG's consultation it was found that existing online platforms are designed for older audiences, are not inclusive, nor do they encourage young





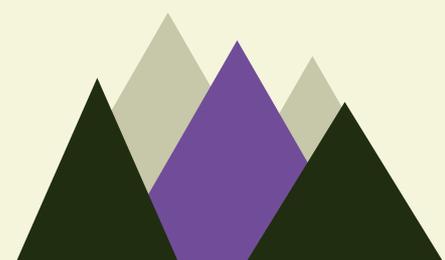
Recommendation 2 cont.

people to reach out for the support or information they may need. Providing children and young people with a dedicated technological tool would provide a safe and confidential space for individuals to seek the information or specific help they may need in their own time.

This web-based dashboard would have the power to enable free access to knowledge and support for all young people. To ensure it remained relevant, it would need to be accompanied by a permanent Child and Young Person's Expert Advisory Group in order to collaborate and share power with young people effectively. This would address and respond to intersectional access needs and experiences, including for disabled young people, making it relevant and engaging for all rangatahi.

What would this recommendation look like?

The technology platform would have clearly defined sections where Information about Te Puna Aonui, Te Aorerekura, Education and Learning Resources, Links to Services and Support, and Opportunities to Engage can be found. A list of other service providers would be included, allowing young people to choose a provider that is right for them should they seek support. Te Puna Aonui should endeavour to ensure that the dashboard has the ability to be regularly updated, and re-evaluate best practices and user access considerations as relevant. Te Puna Aonui should also utilise the advisory groups within the sector to ensure representative advice is provided for maintaining an accessible dashboard.

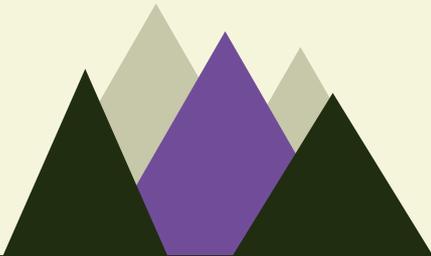




Recommendation 2 cont.

It is recommended that a dedicated section is designed specifically to include children and young people with disabilities and incorporate a portal to disability support services as part of the dashboard. Individuals with disabilities, particularly those who have experienced trauma, often face significant trust issues with mainstream service providers. By providing a focused entry point for disability support services, children and young people with disabilities can gain confidence in the system. and recommended assistance can be better aligned to their specific needs and preferences. The availability and visibility of such tailored resources can contribute to a sense of reassurance, inclusion and validation.

For enhanced visual accessibility, FutureReady (2021) provides a comprehensive resource for transition services in New Zealand. This site includes various navigation options, such as features for reducing screen reader fatigue, which could serve as a model for designing accessible support services. The dashboard should meet all accessibility criteria as all rangatahi need to be able to participate and engage. This should include but not be limited to the homepage having an accessibility option for users that have impairments. The dashboard should minimise the intense use of colours or flashes. There should be clearly labelled key features and a simple design and language that is mokopuna friendly so the dashboard is easily navigated. The dashboard should have a screen reader to make it easier for those with visual impairment and enhance visuals and fonts.



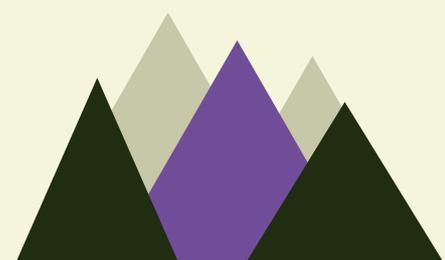


Recommendation 2 cont.

Children and young people engage with a broad variety of technological platforms and this is continually changing at a rapid pace. Therefore no single platform will be effective in reaching the diverse groups of children and young people with different abilities, identities, interests, resources and needs across Aotearoa. However, a tailored technology platform can present opportunities to reach many children and young people and share information they can understand, and that is useful to their needs.

To reach children and young people, we recommend a varied approach that starts with a website that functions like a dashboard or information hub, developed by Te Puna Aonui specifically for children and young people. This website is supported by a clear plan for how children will engage with and use the information.

It is important to consider the different levels of access and experiences that mokopuna may have when developing and promoting the dashboard. It is important to consider those who have access to the internet yet are unable to access support resources due to the fact that sexual violence and family violence are perceived to be taboo topics and, therefore, not spoken about in households, or it is frowned upon to reach out. In order to combat this issue, it would be very useful to have this web-based dashboard available in public spaces such as libraries or schools, where it can also be accessed outside of homes. There needs to be careful consideration of the physical space where mokopuna can access the dashboard,





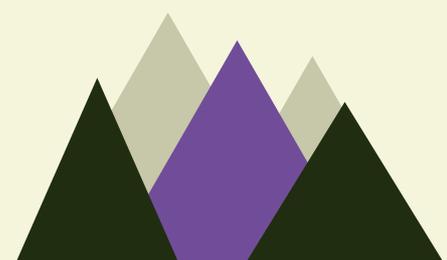
Recommendation 2 cont.

ensuring relevant support people are available for mokopuna while they are using the dashboard. Ensuring the dashboard is part of the Government's zero data programme, will also help ensure wider access.

In order for this tool to reach its maximum effectiveness in developing the dashboard, it will be important to partner with children and young people through existing groups in the family violence and sexual violence spaces. This would enable conversations regarding what support is currently missing in the online space, what is working, and what could be added to this dashboard to further benefit children and young people seeking support. This would ensure the maximum number of individuals actively engaging in support resources, because the dashboard is relevant, inclusive, and accessible.

Consideration needs to be given to the technology spaces children and young people are actively engaged in and consider ways for information from the web based information hub to be redistributed to reach diverse audiences of children and young people. This may include interfaces with social media platforms such as Instagram, Tik Tok, Snapchat, or other technology platforms.

Ideally the platform would have the capability for two-way engagement, where not only can children and young people seek accurate and accessible information, access and engage in learning resources, they can also access engagement opportunities, and have





Recommendation 2 cont.

the ability to provide advice to Te Puna Aonui on issues related to family violence and sexual violence and the work to eliminate violence in Aotearoa. There is potential for Te Puna Aonui to work alongside experienced service providers to host relevant content and share engagement opportunities in a centralised, easy to access and reliable online space.

Research shows that knowing about their rights is a protective and enabling factor for children and young people (*Southey, 2022, as cited in, Ministry of Education Gazette, 2022*). The information in this online space should intentionally and explicitly take a child rights approach where children, young people and adults can learn about children's rights to be protected from all forms of violence, to participate and share their voice on issues important to them, be free of discrimination, to access accurate information, and access care and support to recover from harm if they need it. These are some of the rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child that have the potential to be respected and upheld through this online mechanism.

From our experiences, children and young people seeking access to or information about support related to family violence and sexual violence currently find the system convoluted and difficult to navigate. The development of a dedicated web-based information hub could provide a clear pathway option for children and young people to gain an understanding of and access to family violence and sexual violence services, organisations, and initiatives to simplify and make the system more accessible for children and young people and or whānau looking for support for their children.



Recommendation 3

Resource a permanent Children & Young People Expert Advisory Group (CYP EAG) to advise Te Puna Aonui on how to engage with children and young people and inform its work from a child and youth perspective.

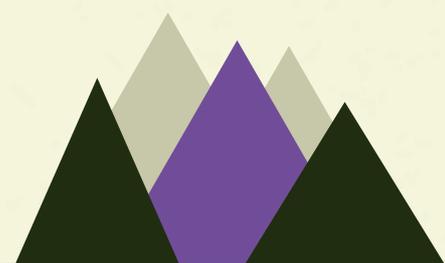
Values alignment:

Recommendation 3 is influenced by values of power sharing, recognising expertise, and reciprocity. By seeing young people as codesigners and partners, we are able to nurture their creativity by prioritising their ways of working and being. Recognising and empowering children and young people as experts, providing them support to be partners in their future and for ongoing engagement with Te Puna Aonui, will enable the best solutions.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

The EAG believes that having a direct link to children and young people's voices for future work will create a genuine pathway of engagement. A permanent CYP EAG could be utilised widely and whenever possible to inform policy and practice across government to eliminate family violence and sexual violence. A CYP EAG would inform and set the tone for the future of engaging with children and young people within Te Puna Aonui.

Establishing a permanent children and young people advisory group to act as kaitiaki for this report and the future work of Te Puna Aonui to engage children and young people is one of the important pathways to healing, strengthening and responding referred to in Hagen et al. (2021).





Recommendation 3 cont.

It is vital that Te Puna Aonui consistently prioritises children and young people's voices as a foundation to inform future projects and plans instead of using the episodic children and young people engagement that we see currently. There needs to be a shift towards a consistent and relational approach to ensure children and young people's voice is prioritised. Children and young people's worlds are changing at a more rapid pace than any other cohort. To stay up to date with the current reality of their worlds, we must always be in relationship with them, and they must always be able to connect and participate with children and young people.

What would this recommendation look like?

Establishing a permanent CYP EAG would provide ongoing input on policies and services related to family violence and sexual violence and connect Te Puna Aonui with children and young people and vice versa. This would allow for a reciprocal mechanism where Te Puna Aonui would support the CYP EAG with skill-building opportunities and platforms to reach decision-makers on family violence and sexual violence issues impacting children and young people and inform decision-making, and children and young people would improve the quality of future Te Puna Aonui mechanisms.

This recommendation would require sufficient and ongoing funding to resource a permanent mechanism. Leadership within Te Puna Aonui must ensure the CYP EAG is fully resourced and well supported,





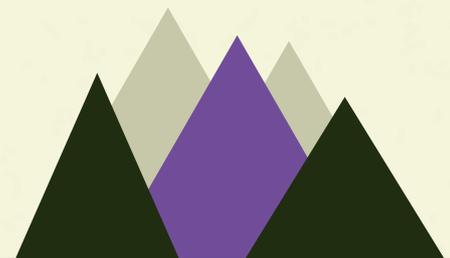
Recommendation 3 cont.

and is connected across the Te Puna Aonui workstreams. Te Puna Aonui should make use of existing advisory groups in the sector and allow the CYP EAG to collaborate with other advisory groups to ensure there is genuine representation.

The CYP EAG must be grounded in whanaungatanga, meaning that it is sustained through relationship and connection, as opposed to being driven by episodic pieces of work that rely on transactional engagement. Working in this way is an ongoing process that enables authentic engagement and supports mutual growth of young leaders and the work of Te Aorerekura. Throughout the current CYP EAG's term, we have had the opportunity to practise in this style, building whanaungatanga through our noho marae and placing a priority on maintaining empowering tuakana-teina relationships across the rōpū. It is important that this process is not dismissed as a "one-and-done", but rather that this way of working continues to be embedded in the tikanga and whakapapa of future rōpū.

The CYP EAG should have the opportunity to regularly meet with the Minister to provide information from a rangatahi perspective.

The CYP EAG should have representation of children and young people from different backgrounds, with a range of different experiences, and representative of the diversity of those accessing and needing support and services.

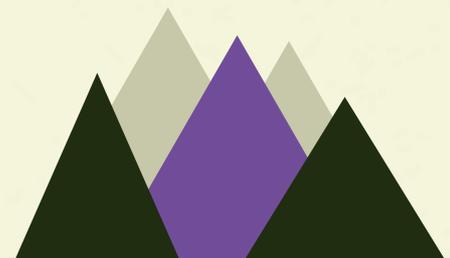




Recommendation 3 cont.

Te Puna Aonui should facilitate a handover process that allows future CYP EAGs to understand the context of work and progress, and feel connected to the ever-growing whakapapa of this rōpū.

Future CYP EAGs should have the opportunity to build on previous EAG reports and recommendations. This will account for the growth of understanding and the evolving nature of evidence and best practice that occurs in this sector.



Recommendation 4

Ensure that accurate, consistent, quality sexuality, consent and healthy relationship education is available for all people in Aotearoa from Early Childhood through to Primary, Intermediate, Secondary and Tertiary education sectors.

AND



Provide on-going specialist support for the educators in all of those settings to enable them to teach these topics accurately and with confidence.

Values alignment:

Recommendation 4 is underpinned by values of accountability and representation through the emphasis on accurate, consistent, high-quality education and ongoing space for educators to be supported to improve their delivery and practice. Evidence and wisdom-based practice is imperative to ensure this recommendation provides accurate, quality and representative education and delivery to people of all ages. Evidence and wisdom of lived experience should lead the development and disbursement of education resources and teaching practices whether in informal or informal teaching and learning settings. Additionally, accurate, high-quality teaching and learning resources support and uphold children's rights to accurate information.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

For children and young people to be protected and empowered to engage with family violence and sexual violence prevention, it is important they have access to and receive quality, accurate, unbiased education to learn about sexuality, gender, consent and relationships.



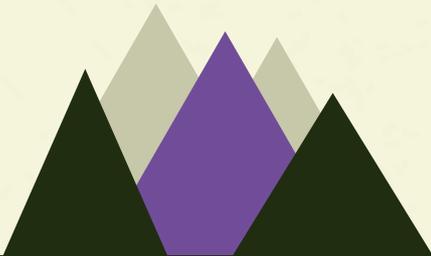


Recommendation 4 cont.

This aligns with eliminating family violence and sexual violence, where Te Puna Aonui can become a 'go to' place where children, young people, whānau, and those teaching in this space can access quality, accessible, and accurate sexuality, gender, consent and relationship education resources.

Young people have been calling for improvements to the quality and accessibility of sexual education in schools. In the last two years alone young people have led the Let's Talk Consent campaign and report (Hawkins-Boulton, 2023), and the I Stand for Consent (McClymont, 2023) documentary created in response to sexual harassment surveys carried out at Christchurch schools. Both of these represent a broad collective call from young people for consistent, high-quality, compulsory consent education. Beyond this, the call for improved sexuality and healthy relationship education has been prevalent across our engagements with the community.

An over reliance on schools to deliver sexuality and healthy relationship education means that learning is often inconsistent, and of a highly varied quality. Surveys undertaken in 2022 (Dixon et al., 2022) and 2023 (Dixon et al., 2023; Calder-Dawe et al., 2023) found persistent gaps remain in terms of the quality of content and or lower than recommended provision of time spent learning about sexuality and healthy relationships. Sexuality and healthy relationship education is too reliant on the varied confidence and knowledge of individual teachers. Members of the EAG found content available





Recommendation 4 cont.

does not support rainbow children and young people due to a reliance on predominantly cisgender-heteronormative binary material. Additionally, recent political decisions may see the sexuality education available in schools significantly reduced, and access to education around rainbow relationships is being removed from curriculums.

Efforts to normalise conversations around family violence and sexual violence have not been effective to date. Quality sexuality and healthy relationships education is core to understanding family violence and sexual violence, without which, little change can be made. This recommendation is one which will significantly support children and young people.

What would this recommendation look like?

This recommendation would provide a trusted database of resources that is vetted for accuracy to support the learning and growth of children and young people that they can access themselves. This resource database would also support parents, kaimahi and kaiako in the delivery of education across many different sectors. Given the large amount of inaccurate and even harmful content available, particularly in the online world, Te Puna Aonui could become a trusted and leading voice in this space.





Recommendation 4 cont.

Funding the development of quality sexuality and healthy relationships education would bring significant change and value for Aotearoa's children and young people. It would provide consistency in the education being delivered to children and young people across New Zealand, and would allow education settings to better accommodate the needs of their community. This would be done through staff being equipped with the tools and knowledge to respond to disclosures and discussions, in an adaptable and appropriate manner that is responsive to the needs of their children and young people.

Implementing this recommendation successfully, would reflect provision of diverse avenues for receiving sexuality, consent and healthy relationships education, through models that extend beyond, but would also support, the formal New Zealand Curriculum. This would contribute to further normalising discussions around family violence and sexual violence through the safe delivery of information about these issues in schools or informal education settings, encouraging children and young people to seek help and support when needed.

To support the development of quality education models to tackle family violence and sexual violence, it is recommended that Te Puna Aonui collaborates with community partners who have existing educational materials and programmes that support the teaching and learning of these topics. Some examples include; Shama, who





Recommendation 4 cont.

have developed a healthy relationships program targeted at children and young people; Peer Sexuality Support Programme (PSSP), who have developed programmes around sexuality and healthy relationship peer education models, or InsideOut Kōaro who have created respectful relationship programmes and resources for rangatahi of all ages that focus on rainbow and takatāpui experiences as a norm.

Collaborating with community partners will allow for representative, quality education that is able to change and evolve to meet community needs. Furthermore, it prevents unnecessary duplication, and allows Te Puna Aonui to draw on and support existing expertise in the family violence and sexual violence sector.

Actively engaging with young people in diverse family violence and sexual violence spaces would aid in identifying what is currently missing in our education systems, what is already existing and working, and which aspects could be amplified and strengthened, while still prioritising what is needed.

Using young people's voices to create a foundation for this recommendation, would ultimately make it most effective as quality teaching and learning materials would be directly informed by their knowledge, needs and experiences.



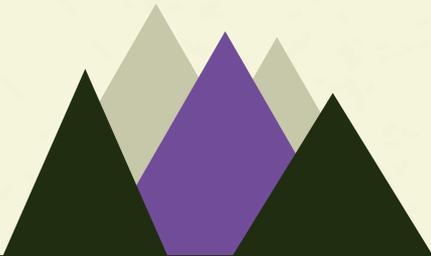


Recommendation 4 cont.

It is vital that we acknowledge that sexuality, consent and healthy relationships education is not the sole responsibility of the curriculum. Education around such topics is directly tied to the broader culture of education settings, both formal and informal.

For children and young people to receive the full benefit of such education, the environment around them must promote a culture of respect and consent that models the foundations of healthy relationships as presented in the curriculum; this includes education providers being equipped to facilitate safe discussions, while also being prepared to receive disclosures and follow appropriate support processes. Access to learning about sexuality, consent and healthy relationships should be promoted and available in ways that encourage children and young people to want to learn about it, rather than it being relegated to classroom lessons that fail to effectively or accurately communicate the significance and importance of this learning.

While it may be difficult to influence formal curriculum requirements in schools, there is potential to develop, commission and host quality education resources via the recommended web-based dashboard or information hub as described in Recommendation One. It could also be a space where external organisations, including those that support rainbow and/or takatāpui and/or mahu, vakasalewa, palopa, fa'afafine, akavai'ne, fakaleiti (leiti), fakafifine, and more (MVPFAFF+) children and young people, and or focus on consent or healthy





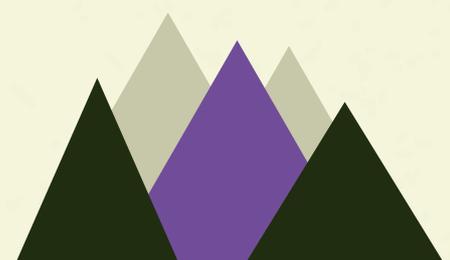
Recommendation 4 - cont.

relationships, could share their resources. Diverse, culturally appropriate resources are also essential, and Te Puna Aonui could have a leading role in supporting these resources to be developed, collated and made easily available through a trusted platform.

Providing ongoing specialist support for educators

The EAG believes that professional development is the core to ensuring that this education is consistent and effective for all the students. It is important to prioritise professional development for teachers, counsellors, nurses and other education staff, in order to ensure capability within education settings for both engaging delivery and accurate content, but also for safely and appropriately supporting students who make disclosures or are seeking support. It is important that staff in education settings are equipped to create an environment where children and young people can feel safe and comfortable to engage with content, participate in appropriate open dialogue with peers, and know that any disclosures or support seeking will be honoured.

Members of the EAG have found a significant issue with existing education models around these topics, with a very noticeable difference in teaching within and between schools. Ongoing professional development would be a major contributing factor to create consistent education delivery across mainstream schools and kura kaupapa, and in other settings such as health, social work and youth development.

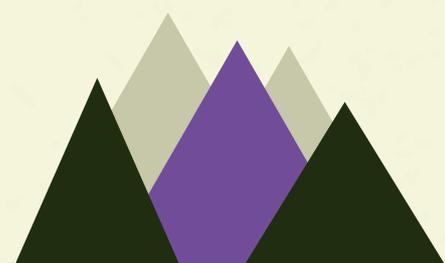




Recommendation 4 cont.

A professional development module to recognise and respond to disclosures or help seeking should be developed in partnership with the specialist family violence and sexual violence sector. Partnership would ensure that this professional development is trauma informed, appropriate, and up to date with good practice guidelines. Working with professionals experienced in family violence and sexual violence would be the most beneficial method of delivering, as all staff would be well equipped with knowledge, experience and information to respond to the majority of possible situations. It would also be significant in facilitating greater relationships between educational providers and relevant specialist services in their area, equipping them to connect and access these services expertise and support when relevant.

The provision of training and resources to support parents, kaimahi and kaiako to recognise and respond to signs of violence, and provide or access support for affected children is another important area that requires support. This provision aligns with the goal of Te Puna Aonui to develop workforce capability frameworks focused on children and young people.



Recommendation 5

Increase support and funding to build capacity for family violence prevention, sexual violence prevention, community, NGO, or external organisations to enable and empower children and young people to support the advancement of the implementation of Te Aorerekura. This includes raising awareness around forms of abuse, pathways to prevention, and spaces for healing.

Values alignment:

Recommendation 5 is underpinned by values of evidence and wisdom based practice to ensure best practice is implemented to increase capacity to grow prevention work. To be accountable to mokopuna and their whānau who experience violence, Te Puna Aonui must prioritise the wisdom communities hold through valuing their experiences, and acknowledge their solutions as best practice. This approach will allow for reciprocity and power sharing to be maintained throughout this process.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

Young people have been key players in raising awareness, advocating for change, and speaking up for themselves, or their peers impacted by various forms of violence and or discrimination. Providing resources to support and enable young people such as (but not limited to) leadership training, contestable funding to run wānanga, host events, or develop and run campaigns would further grow the capability and power of young people to lead change (The Hive, 2023).

It is significant to recognise that increasing resource allocation and providing more support to children and young people's voices is not just important because people are raising their voice. It is important because people have trauma and they need their voices to be heard.



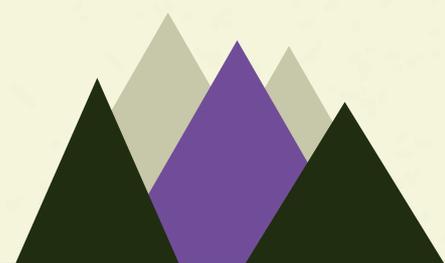


Recommendation 5 cont.

Children and young people need to be able to express themselves in recognition of how they have been silenced in the past; it is important that the disempowerment children and young people have felt in their experiences of violence is not replicated, which is why there must be a prioritisation that allows them to be heard. Children and young people should not be ill informed or encouraged to ignore issues of family violence and sexual violence that exist in this world.

Children and young people are aware of the issues surrounding them, and increasingly feel a sense of duty to change this and better their futures. They are faced with prevalence of family violence and sexual violence (Child Matters, 2021; HELP Auckland, 2023), coupled with inconsistent consent education (Dixon et al., 2023), all while existing in a broader society fraught with power imbalances, rape culture and a lack of youth-led spaces for them to be heard in.

With these issues and risks being so present in our day to day lives, it is important that we teach children and young people that their voices are needed, valuable, and that they as individuals are important and heard. To do this successfully, children and young people and the services supporting them need to be provided with resources to feel supported at every stage of their healing and/or advocacy journey.





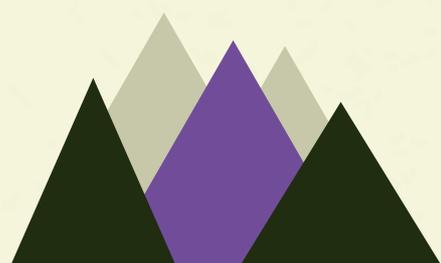
Recommendation 5 cont.

What would this recommendation look like?

To achieve positive change, there is a need to involve communities and those with lived experience in prevention efforts and raise awareness about the impact of family violence and sexual violence.

Community based organisations across Aotearoa provide quality support and response for children and young people, but are limited by funding constraints and an insufficient qualified workforce. Investment is required to strengthen the capacity and capabilities of organisations and professionals working in the field of child and young people support, especially in dealing with family violence and sexual violence. This funding should also increase the ability of community organisations to raise awareness on the impact of family violence and sexual violence in their communities, particularly related to children and young people being harmed by violence.

These organisations would benefit from a dedicated funding and resourcing provision additional to their regular formal contracts. This would allow for specific work to enable and empower children and young people to advocate for change, engage with others and speak out and contribute to growing their skills, knowledge and capability.





Recommendation 5 cont.

An important focus in this work would be to ensure funding is available to develop effective Māori solutions for Māori, allowing iwi Māori and kaupapa Māori organisations to collaborate with Māori communities, leaders, and rangatahi to create programmes that resonate and respond to Māori cultural values and practices. Dedicated funding and resourcing would support the development and implementation of culturally appropriate solutions and support systems for Māori children and young people.

In addition to growing the workforce and developing services, resources are needed to enable safe spaces for expression and healing. These are safe environments where children can express themselves and find support.



Recommendation 6

Introduce family violence and sexual violence specific training requirements for all professionals working with children and young people, that would be defined through the development of current best practice guidelines. Training requirements must be inclusive of practice across government agencies, and informed by a review of current systems that work with children and young people such as justice, care, welfare, education and health.



Values alignment:

Recommendation 6 is underpinned by values of evidence and wisdom-based practice through the need to seek best practice guidelines and update professional working guidelines for all staff working with mokopuna. This recommendation would prioritise mokopuna and their wellbeing by making kaimahi safe people to support mokopuna. Allowing for best practice guidelines will lead to reciprocal relationships and genuine power-sharing with mokopuna.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

Currently, many professions working in direct contact with tamariki and rangatahi have no specific requirement to engage in training regarding normal child development or the dynamics of sexual violence and/or family violence. This omission can bear out in the decision-making processes engaged in by these professions. Examples of this lack of knowledge have been reported to specialist violence support services by children and young people who have been in such settings as the Family Court and child protection-related services. We recommend that education about the distinct developmental needs of tamariki and rangatahi forms an important part of all professions that interact with children and young people in their work. We see this as promoting the professional integrity of these workforces and placing value on the needs of these younger populations who deserve the most well-informed services possible, given their innate vulnerability.





Recommendation 6 cont.

What would this recommendation look like?

The EAG recommends that Te Puna Aonui takes a leadership role to ensure that all professions that have contact with tamariki and rangatahi in their day-to-day roles develop training modules on recognising and responding to family violence and sexual violence and trauma-informed practice that can then be delivered to their workforces. For training requirements to be effective, there must be funding available for the development, delivery and ongoing support to implement the training. It may be that Te Puna Aonui can provide a funding mechanism or contestable fund that specialist organisations can apply to for the development and delivery of training to these workforces. The EAG recommends that Te Puna Aonui seek advice and guidance from the specialist family violence and sexual violence sectors on the appropriate content for such education. This recommendation does not expect all professions to become sexual violence and family violence specialists but for all to learn sufficiently as appropriate to the roles that they hold as to how best to assist tamariki and rangatahi to be safe.

The training and guidelines delivered to professionals working with children and young people must encompass:

- Awareness of the issues and dynamics related to family violence and sexual violence
- Sound development knowledge regarding children and young people
- Knowledge about trauma-informed approaches
- A child rights approach to ensure their rights are upheld throughout interactions with professionals.





Recommendation 6 cont.

These guidelines must be adaptable for a range of sectors that engage with children and young people, including:

- Judges, lawyers and court support staff
- Educational professionals including early childhood, primary, secondary, alternative and tertiary
- Health professionals
- Social workers
- Youth workers
- Holiday, Before and After school programme providers
- Te Puna Aonui staff
- Oranga Tamariki staff
- Ministry of Justice staff
- Ministry of Education staff
- Ministry of Social Development staff
- Government officials that work with children

Safe, respectful and effective collaboration between the Government and children and young people should be at the forefront of relevant projects within the sexual violence and family violence space, and should inform the review and development of training and guidelines. Communication and collaboration with children and young people as well as services working with them, should ensure existing resources and organisations are kept up-to-date and implemented using best practice. Additional gaps should be identified and resolved in collaboration with children and young people.





Recommendation 6 cont.

The training and guidelines delivered must set a standard for professionals to respect and uphold the mana of each individual they engage with. In order to effectively do so they will need to build a respectful and professionally appropriate relationship with the child or young person. No person working with children and/or young people should assume they are seen as safe to talk to, and will need to recognise that trust will need to be built.

Children and young people must also be seen in the context of the 'village that raised them' which means that adults and others important to the children and young people should be considered when interactions are planned.

Professionals working with these populations can seek guidance and support about how best to consult and engage with them via the following resources:

- Ministry of Youth Development Youth Voices Toolkit (2023)
- Mana Mokopuna Child and Youth Engagement Toolkit (2018)
- Kia Tika, Kia Pono, VOYCE (Te Rōpū Arotahi, 2022)
- The 9 Basic Requirements for Meaningful and Ethical Children's Participation (Save The Children, 2021)



Recommendation 7

Ensure an independent review is conducted of the impacts on children and young people when engaging with the New Zealand judicial system across Criminal, Youth and Family Courts. The review should include how the judicial system responds to these populations and in particular their safety needs.



Values alignment:

Recommendation 7 is underpinned by all of the EAG's values. Justice for tamariki and rangatahi requires an acknowledgment that often the very systems designed to keep them safe do not achieve that goal. The Government must take account of the systemic inequalities within the courts in order to allow for the judicial system to be a safe space for mokopuna. This would provide reciprocal ways of working with mokopuna through prioritising their wellbeing and ensuring they get representational support through their contact with the courts.

Why this recommendation is important to children & young people:

Children and young people require safety to be able to learn and thrive. They are highly perceptive, and have a sharp awareness of the world around them, meaning they are quickly able to assess the quality of a service or engagement being offered to them. It is the Government's duty to facilitate safe, empowering and effective engagement to honour the mana of mokopuna, while also creating a space in which mokopuna are willing to engage. Children and young people who have been traumatised frequently have trust issues and require trauma informed responses to enable them to feel supported and seek help when needed.





Recommendation 7 cont.

Our judicial system is designed primarily to serve the needs of the State and the person who has perpetrated harm. It demonstrates less attention to the needs of victims, and in particular young victims. It is designed with adults in mind. The system currently is not one that encourages or builds trust and confidence for our tamariki and rangatahi to reach out if they are in need of help.

Additionally a lack of trust in the judicial system can be attributed to historical injustices, as well as inadequate support services which have resulted in too many instances of negative experiences. It is vital that judicial professionals are equipped to engage in a developmentally appropriate manner that is adaptable and honours the experiences of children and young people of all ages and backgrounds, and upholds their rights throughout the process.

What would this recommendation look like?

Te Puna Aonui would oversee a research project whereby qualified research professionals would conduct a formal review of existing literature and current interactions by tamariki and rangatahi with Aotearoa's judicial system across Criminal, Youth and Family Courts.

This research would reflect on existing documentation and reports as well as conducting direct interviews with young participants and their supporting adults. The scope should be sufficient that an informed view can be made of both the successes and shortcomings of these systems so that sound recommendations can be made as to how to continue with successful approaches and to improve on any failings or gaps.





Te Whakapaunga

Conclusion

The CYP EAG has encouraged and supported the mauri of rangatahi movements, ways of being, and working in order to collect extensive knowledge on what best practice could look like for the child and young person engagement space of Te Aorerekura. In doing so, these recommendations are supported by critical texts such as Te Tiriti o Waitangi, and United Nations obligations, Te Tokoturu, as well as wisdom from community organisations and other youth led initiatives.

This report has aimed to capture the heart of what the EAG stands for, and what we, as experts, recommend Te Puna Aonui prioritises. The process of developing these recommendations has taken over 1.5 years, and naturally during this time the members of this EAG have gone through personal and collective challenges, grief, triumphs, changes, and successes. As a rōpū we have prioritised knowing each other authentically, and seeing each other first as mokopuna and whānau. We hope that the authenticity of our relationships with one another, and the passion we collectively hold for this work can be felt throughout this report.

The recommendations written all speak to the needs of mokopuna old and young. Each recommendation speaks to aspects of Te Tokoturu, and aims to strengthen, heal, and respond to the relationship between mokopuna and the services encompassed in Te Aorerekura. It is imperative that these recommendations are read within the context of the values the EAG has recognised as enablers for positive and meaningful engagement. The EAG dreams that with this report, Te Puna Aonui invests in our mokopuna by creating a world with them where they can thrive. Where they can have beautiful, fulfilling lives, free of violence.

Our dream is to make Aotearoa the **best place for our mokopuna** to grow up in.





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Appendix 1

Life Course Approach

The life course approach considers the various ages and stages of development across an individual's lifetime. It acknowledges that each stage builds upon preceding stages, recognising that the stages of development are interconnected and part of a continuum from preconception through adolescence and beyond (Tomlinson et al., 2021).

The stages that make up the life course trajectory are not rigid and can be broadly identified as prenatal (pre-birth), infancy (the first 12 months), early childhood (1-5 years), middle children (6-10 years), adolescence (11 - 14 years), teenage years (14-19 years), young adulthood (20 - 25 years), and adulthood through to the elder years (Disability Hub MN - Charting the LifeCourse: Life Stages, n.d.).

Identifying ages and stages across the life course allows one to consider individuals' needs during those times and how an enabling environment will support and/or respond to those needs. For example, an infant is wholly reliant on the environment provided by the adults who care for them. As children grow and develop through the ages and stages of childhood through adulthood, they become more independent, develop a range of capabilities, and have greater influence on their environment.

In essence, the life course approach recognises that we need different things at different times, and this can be defined as the enabling environment. Enabling environments are the systems, forces, and factors that create the conditions in which optimal child and adolescent development is possible (Tomlinson et al., 2021).



Kia hora te marino
Kia whakapapa pounamu te moana
Hei huarahi mā tātou i te wā nei
Aroha atu, aroha mai
Tātou ki a tātou kātoa
Hui e, Tāiki e!



FOR OUR MOKOPUNA

Dedicated to all mokopuna in Aotearoa



