

JULY 2022 UPDATE



Vasantha Krishnan  
General Manager

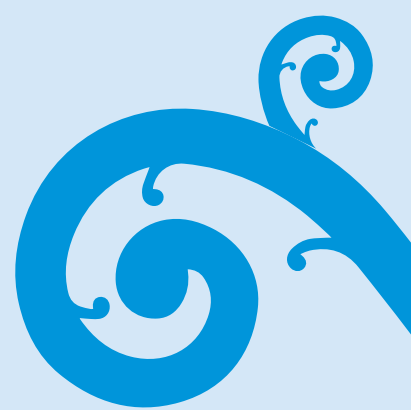
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It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through 2022. A recent memorable event has been the acknowledgement and celebration of Matariki across the country as a uniquely Aotearoa public holiday last month. Matariki is a time of reflection, acknowledgement, remembrance, and thinking about our future. It's also been a time where many more New Zealanders have looked up at the skies to identify the Matariki cluster and other stars and planets visible to the naked eye. In Wellington I've been awed by the generosity of members of the Wellington Astronomical Society who have gathered at the Poneke lagoon with their personal telescopes to enable others to view and learn about the Matariki cluster and other planets currently in alignment in our dawn skies.

In line with this spirit of sharing our knowledge, the Evidence Centre has published a number of studies over the past few months which shed light on a range of topics including best practice in home visiting services, Transitions Support Services, accommodation options of young people, complex issues associated with children who come into care, impacts of raising the age of care, supporting children and young people with disabilities and latest findings from the evaluation of the Intensive Response Service. I hope you find these reports useful to you and your work - more details are below.

Ngā mihi  
Vasantha

Welcome To New Staff  
In The Evidence Centre



Meet Janet Collier-Taniela:

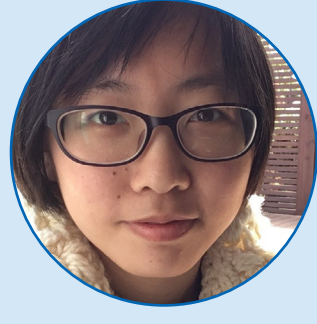
Janet Collier-Taniela  
Ko wai au?  
Ko Hikurangi taku Maunga  
Ko Waiapu taku Awa  
Ko Horouta taku Waka  
Ko Tina Toka taku Marae  
Ko Ngāti Porou taku Iwi  
Ko Janet Collier-Taniela taku ingoa  
No reira, tēnā koutou katoa-

My career as a registered nurse has offered me the privilege to work in the areas of health, tertiary education, and across the justice sector. My research background utilises Kaupapa Māori Methodology with a focus on wāhine Māori and their support systems after release from prison. It is my intention to reimagine and redefine support services that truly meet the needs of he iwi Māori. My star sign is scorpio and I love chocolate.



Meet Purvashi Mahajan:

Kia ora, My name is Purvashi Mahajan. I have come from Ministry of Health where I worked across measures such as Mental Health & Addiction, B4SC (Before School Checks), Self Harm, Oral Health (age 5 & year 8 Children), Primary care etc. Problem solving is something that drives me and motivates me to optimize processes and day to day things. I love coding, cooking/ baking, doing artsy stuff and spending time with kids & pets.



Meet Akika Takada:

Kia ora, ko Akika Takada taku ingoa. I'm thrilled to join the Evidence Centre from Ministry for the Environment. I was born and grew up in Taiwan, while being raised mainly by my Japanese mom. I have challenged myself to take on different career adventures with experience in auditing, science, data and policy. My aspiration is to pursue a career that matters to me and create a better future for our next generations. I'm also a keen advocate for diversity, equity and inclusion. Korean has been the fourth language I learned and I'm keen to get Te Reo onto my list.



Meet Petra Fersterer:

Kia Ora, my name is Petra, I originally joined Oranga Tamariki in 2020 as part of the Transitions Team. After going on maternity leave in 2021 I was excited to get the opportunity to join the Evidence Center. I have a background in Theoretical Physics, but made the change into data due to a desire for my work to have a more immediate real world impact. Chat to me about cats and crafting.

Whats New?

Whiti – a new data tool for the front line

Our organisation's new performance reporting suite, Whiti, is currently being rolled out to sites nationwide. Whiti pulls together the information kaimahi need to manage their day-to-day work from core systems like CYRAS (Oranga Tamariki's case management system). This supports better planning by making information about work on hand, work coming up and work overdue, accessible and easy to interpret. It enables kaimahi to focus their time working with tamariki and to work with whānau and leaders to make informed decisions about resources and partnerships. The tool gives enhanced internal visibility of information about the tamariki and rangatahi we work with, including tamariki and rangatahi in care. Early trials of Whiti have shown that easy access to this information supports improved practice and recording in the CYRAS system, as it provides real time visibility about our performance and makes it easier for site leaders and kaimahi to see what information is missing.

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.



Intensive Response Developmental Evaluation

The Intensive Response initiative is being carried out by Oranga Tamariki in collaboration with partners in several communities. Intensive Response supports iwi, Māori partners, and communities to work together with whānau to achieve the shared purpose of designing their own local models of support.



Success factors for a home visiting programme

This evidence brief explores factors that are critical for a successful home visiting programme. The brief and accompanying report with case studies will be used as a resource to better support Family Start programme partners in providing effective services to whānau receiving the programme.



Accommodation options for rangatahi leaving care

Finding appropriate and stable accommodation for young people leaving care can be difficult. This literature review summarises what other jurisdictions are doing, and synthesises the strengths and challenges encountered.



Transitions Support Service evaluation

This suite of reports provides the findings of the evaluation of the support service for young people moving from care to independence which was introduced in 2019.



Complexity of tamariki interacting with Oranga Tamariki

This analysis explores the complexities of the families of children at different stages of interaction with Oranga Tamariki.



Good practice for disabled tamariki and rangatahi in care

This literature review focuses on identifying good practice for disabled tamariki and rangatahi in out-of-home care (OOHC).



Our Research Seminars

Our April seminar featured two presentations on the findings from the second *Just Sayin'* Survey of young people who are eligible for a transition support worker.

*Just Sayin'* has been developed as a survey to hear the voices of rangatahi about how they are being supported, what difference the support has made for them, and to understand their living situations.

The first presentation, from Paris Porter of Malatest International, on the overall results from the *Just Sayin'* 2 survey.

The second presentation from Kanchana Subedi of the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre explores further on the *Just Sayin'* 2 results for rainbow youth, Māori and Pacific young people, and those about to leave a Youth Justice residence.



Next seminar (1 August)

Sonia Sharp, Georgina Gates and Paula Ghilardoti from EY in Melbourne will present insights and share learnings to date on COVID-19 and business continuity and support for children and families in other jurisdictions. An exploration of trends and responses for children with high and complex needs will also be covered.

To register please email [research@ot.govt.nz](mailto:research@ot.govt.nz)