



EVIDENCE CENTRE

TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

PROFILE

UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS FOR TAMARIKI

The Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre helps build the evidence base to better understand wellbeing and what works to improve outcomes for children, young people and their whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.





OUR CONTRIBUTION

We provide an informed voice on evidence about child wellbeing and what works to improve it. We will:

- Build a strong and relevant **evidence base** to support the design of new and existing interventions, so that we can be confident they are contributing positively to tamariki wellbeing
- Embed a **learning culture** of evidence-informed decision-making in Oranga Tamariki, to facilitate continuous improvement as we transform the system.
- Use our **wellbeing model** to identify groups of children in need of services to help direct resources where they are most needed



WHAT WE DO

The Evidence Centre is structured around four teams that work collaboratively, but with a primary focus on:

- **Analytics and Insights**
 - Strategic advice and insight from operational data
 - Strategic advice and insight from population and wellbeing data
- **Life-course and Systems Analytics**
 - Understanding the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi in Aotearoa New Zealand throughout their life course using the Integrated Data Infrastructure
 - Collaboration on cross-sector research
- **Social Research and Analysis**
 - Exploratory research, monitoring and building the evidence base around programmes and services that Oranga Tamariki and our partners deliver. We utilise both structured and unstructured data to draw insights
 - Evidence briefs harnessing international and local understanding and analysis of key issues
 - **Research Survey & Design** (sub-team): Specialist survey design advice and support, survey running and commissioning, helping us to gain insights from a variety of Oranga Tamariki stakeholders, partners, staff and general public
- **Evaluation and Insights**
 - Organisational capacity and capability building to better understand the difference we are making for tamariki
 - Commissioning, monitoring and undertaking evaluations



ANALYTICS & INSIGHTS

The Analytics and Insights team are the experts in providing advice and insights from Oranga Tamariki operational data and other relevant population datasets.

They perform deep dives into particular analytical questions to support and inform decision-making; explore and interpret a range of data, developing findings up into clearly communicable products; and are able to set up dashboards and reporting based on Oranga Tamariki operational data.



LIFECOURSE & SYSTEM ANALYTICS

The Life-course and Systems Analytics team are the experts in providing advice and insights from the Children’s Wellbeing Model. The Model is created using Stats NZ’s Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) data and is specifically designed to answer questions about tamariki and whānau. For example, the model can be used to examine potential outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi and how planned interventions may impact these outcomes.

The team is home to the Insight and Measurement Quality Assurance function. This is a new function providing a dedicated focus on the intent and method of measurement of our most strategic and important key measures. They also work with other agencies who are interested in outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi, especially for IDI-based research.



SOCIAL RESEARCH & ANALYSIS

The Social Research and Analysis team provides evidence and insights from primary and proactive research. With a range of mixed method skills, the team's expertise helps Oranga Tamariki understand the 'why' and the 'how' of policy programmes and service interventions.

The team helps to address critical knowledge gaps in the data sources we have, including undertaking in-depth analysis to explore social work practice using unstructured CYRAS data.

We answer key questions through exploratory research, data analysis and evidence reviews.

We manage the survey monitoring programme and the Longitudinal Study.

The team includes an important survey function (see next slide).



RESEARCH & SURVEY DESIGN

The Research and Survey Design team is a sub-team within the Social Research and Analysis team. They provide expert advice in designing and conducting survey research, as well as training, analysis and support with commissioning or running surveys.

Two core areas of work for this team are:

- The Survey Monitoring Programme – overseeing a suite of surveys designed to gain insights from Oranga Tamariki stakeholders
- The Longitudinal Study – beginning to develop and test the potential to set up a longitudinal study. This will allow us to better understand the life courses and pathways that tamariki and whānau who come in to contact with Oranga Tamariki can experience



EVALUATION & INSIGHTS

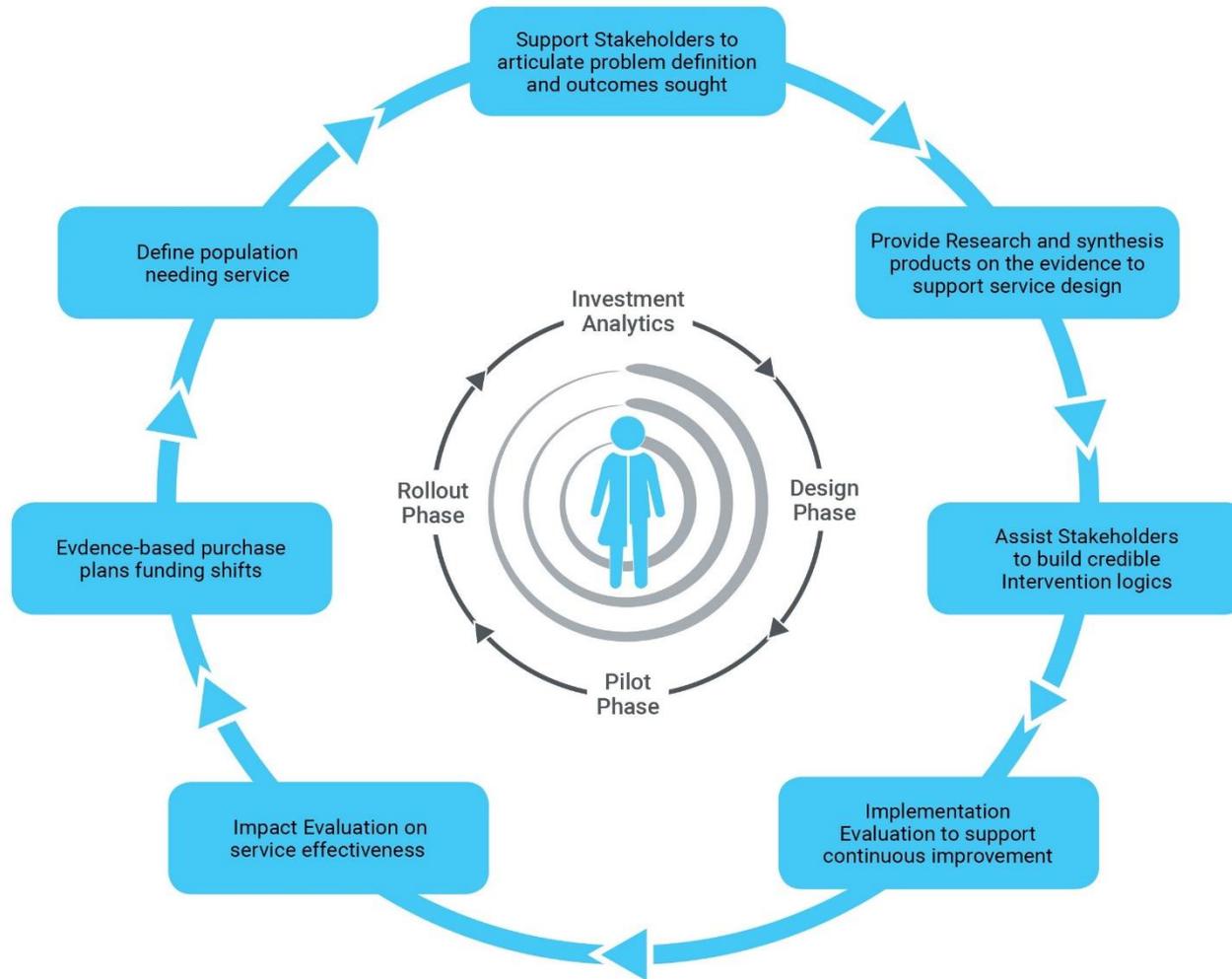
The Evaluation and Insights team are the experts in commissioning, monitoring and conducting evaluations (of programmes, policies and interventions).

We work from problem definition, to intervention logic, to evaluate designs that assess how our services are implemented in the real world, and how the work done makes a real difference for tamariki.

As evaluation is a valuing exercise, we can make sure that the voices and values of all relevant stakeholders are included in our evaluations. We strive to ensure that those with least power are supported to add their voice about issues that concern them.



INSIGHTS AND EVIDENCE PLATFORM



A TE AO MĀORI WORLDVIEW

Acknowledging a te ao Māori worldview in the generation and dissemination of knowledge and evidence

In the design, generation and dissemination of evidence we need to respect the value of different knowledge streams and, more importantly, for there to be dialogue between these knowledge streams. We acknowledge a te ao Māori world view in the generation and dissemination of knowledge and evidence*. This is critical to providing a nuanced understanding of ‘what works for whom and in what context’.

**Bridging Cultural Perspectives*, published by Superu, is a framework that will help us work with integrity with the knowledge that we generate and use.

<http://www.superu.govt.nz/publication/bridging-cultural-perspectives>



RESEARCH AND DATA ACCESS COMMITTEE (RADA)

The Evidence Centre's Research and Data Access Committee (RADA) considers research access requests. This includes requests from:

- university-based researchers
- post-graduate research students
- international visiting researchers
- Oranga Tamariki staff undertaking research as part of their academic studies
- researchers employed by government agencies (other than Oranga Tamariki)
- commercial researchers.

Find our application form here:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/research-access/>



PUBLISHING RESEARCH

Timely and appropriate communication and dissemination of research and evaluation findings is fundamental to the success of Oranga Tamariki.

For this reason, we ensure a transparent approach to the publication of Evidence Centre products (supported by our publication process guidelines).

To see all of our latest research, please visit:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/>



RESEARCH SEMINARS

We host regular cross-agency seminars showcasing new research from those working in areas that impact tamariki and whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For more information, please visit:

<https://orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/seminars/>



QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

We publish a quarterly newsletter that includes updates on recent research, events, past seminars, and our team – with a wealth of online resources. Past editions can be viewed on our Research web page.

To get on the mailing list, please email:

research@ot.govt.nz





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READ OUR RESEARCH:

Check out the Research web page at
<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research>

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