

Qualitative Process Evaluation of Mokopuna Ora: Summary

Prepared for: Oranga Tamariki

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Tirohia, tirohia

Ko te taitamaiti nei

Hīkina, tauawhina kia aroha

Hipokina e te wairua o nehe

Te āhurutanga o kui mā, o koro mā, o whānau mā

Kia mana, kia ora taitamaiti e, mokopuna e

Heoi, mihia kau atu mātau ki te take o tēnei arotakenga, arā, ko Mokopuna Ora. Nā te tokomaha noa atu i whāngai, i rākei – e te Kīngi me ngā kāhui whakapapa o Waikato, kaimahi o te Karauna, ngā whānau, ngā taitamaiti, ā, pēpi mā hoki. Koutou katoa kei roto i te whakapapa o tēnei kōkiringa. Nā mātau te honore kia whakapapa tonu atu.

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Summary Report

This report presents the findings of a qualitative process evaluation of the Mokopuna Ora pilot, a partnership between Waikato-Tainui and Oranga Tamariki (formerly known as Children Youth and Family or CYF).

The partnership between Waikato-Tainui and Oranga Tamariki is driven by the tribe's belief that a collaborative approach is best placed to achieve the desired outcomes for Waikato-Tainui mokopuna, namely:

- to educate and support whānau to ensure mokopuna remain in whānau care
- to ensure mokopuna who are in Child Youth & Family custody are placed back with whānau.

The partnership also seeks to raise standards of practice and to ensure that services meet the cultural needs of mokopuna and whānau¹.

Qualitative process evaluation

We used a mixed method Kaupapa Māori approach to evaluate the Mokopuna Ora Pilot. We visited Hamilton, Ngaruawahia, Papakura, and Wellington, and interviewed whānau, whakapapa whānau and mokopuna. We also interviewed national and regional Oranga Tamariki staff and Waikato-Tainui Management and Iwi Support Advisors, and reviewed documents and data relating to the Mokopuna Ora Pilot.

The evaluation questions were:

1. How well are the Mokopuna Ora processes working and what are the critical success factors?
2. How well is the partnership between Waikato-Tainui and Oranga Tamariki working and what might be improved?
3. What are the early impacts of Mokopuna Ora and how do we know?

Key findings

Where possible, findings were assessed against the Mokopuna Ora Outcomes Framework presented at the end of this summary report.

The key findings were:

- The evaluative evidence showed that Mokopuna Ora is an innovative partnership model that has achieved immediate success for Waikato-Tainui and Oranga Tamariki, but more importantly for Waikato-Tainui mokopuna, whakapapa whānau and whānau caregivers. Mokopuna Ora is worth investing in further because it is having a positive impact on whānau and mokopuna outcomes, i.e. preventing mokopuna from coming into care and increasing the number of whakapapa whānau caregivers.
- Mokopuna Ora was implemented differently across the three pilot sites and the factors that enabled and impeded implementation included: strong innovative and

¹Waikato-Tainui and CYFS Memorandum of Understanding, 2013.

open leadership; collaborative planning and co-design of staff workshops, training and tools; robust preparatory work to build Oranga Tamariki staff understanding and awareness; and dynamic Iwi Support Advisors.

- There are early indications that Mokopuna Ora is supporting whānau to come up with their own solutions through the development of whānau plans and discussions with Iwi Support Advisors who are linking whānau and mokopuna to their Waikato-Tainui whakapapa and extended whānau.
- Mokopuna Ora is helping to challenge and shift entrenched behaviours and attitudes among Oranga Tamariki staff.
- Mokopuna Ora is testing what partnership between a Government Agency and Iwi looks like in both theory and in practice and the challenges in developing, maintaining and sustaining this partnership.
- Mokopuna Ora is supporting whānau and mokopuna to feel empowered and supported within a system where they have traditionally felt marginalised and disenfranchised.
- Mokopuna Ora is helping to connect mokopuna to their Waikato-Tainui whakapapa and whānau whānui.
- The extent to which Mokopuna Ora is creating a safe, stable, and caring environment for mokopuna staying in care, in the medium to long-term; and the experiences of whakapapa whānau caregivers, are two key areas worth exploring in future monitoring and evaluation activities.

Recommendations

The following recommendations link to the key findings and evidence presented in this evaluation report:

Process

- Continue to build a robust monitoring and reporting framework and use shared data collection and reporting tools across the four Mokopuna Ora sites.
- Develop a blueprint outlining what works and identifies the critical enablers of implementation success.
- Review how Iwi Support Advisors are resourced and supported to better reflect the scope and scale of their role.

Partnership

- Review governance and leadership structure for Mokopuna Ora to ensure consistency and shared understanding of what partnership means across the different levels of both Oranga Tamariki and Waikato-Tainui.
- Work together to explore how best to build cultural competency and understand what is needed to change organisational culture to enhance the strategic and operational relationships between Oranga Tamariki and Waikato-Tainui.

Impacts

- Build on the positive early impacts achieved as a result of the pilot by focusing effort and resource on addressing the process and partnership recommendations.

- Consider how data which speaks to the achievement of short, medium, and long-term Mokopuna Ora outcomes will be collected, measured and evidenced.

Appendix 1: Mokopuna Ora Partnership Goals

Table 1 presents the simplified Mokopuna Ora evaluation outcomes framework focused on short-term outcomes across three domains – mokopuna, whānau (nuclear family) and whakapapa whānau (wider family outside the nuclear unit with genealogical connection). The critical role that the ISAs play in the effective delivery of Mokopuna Ora is embedded in the partnership outcome.

Table 1: Mokopuna Ora Simplified Outcomes Framework

<h1>Mokopuna Ora</h1> <h2>Simplified Outcomes Framework</h2>			
LONG-TERM OUTCOMES	Waikato Tainui: Mokopuna thrive in a safe and nurturing whakapapa whānau environment Oranga Tamariki: Tamariki are in loving whānau and communities where oranga tamariki can be realised		
The Partnership between Waikato Tainui and Oranga Tamariki is strong			
SHORT-TERM OUTCOMES	MOKOPUNA	WHĀNAU	WHAKAPAPA WHĀNAU
	Mokopuna are registered tribal members, able to access opportunities and increase knowledge of their Waikato Tainui whakapapa, tikanga, te reo, marae, hapū Mokopuna placed with whakapapa whānau have their care needs met, develop strong relationships and retain a strong whakapapa identity	Whānau gain knowledge about statutory processes, roles, rights, and responsibilities, and how to meet the needs of their mokopuna, so that they can safely remain in their care Whānau are empowered to make better decisions and use strategies that will enable a safe and loving environment for their mokopuna, and to remain within whānau Whānau use knowledge gained to fully participate in care and custody decisions and planning about their mokopuna at hui ā-whānau, whānau hui, and at Family Group Conference	Whakapapa whānau understand how to care for their mokopuna, are equipped and supported to confidently provide for their needs and to build relationships Whakapapa whānau are identified and accessed as potential caregivers for their mokopuna Whakapapa whānau and hapū are identified. Mokopuna who are in care are aware of the opportunities for connection Whakapapa whānau provide sustained placements that are safe, loving and stable and are connected with other whānau caregivers as a network of peer support

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