

WINTER 2023 UPDATE



Vasantha Krishnan  
General Manager

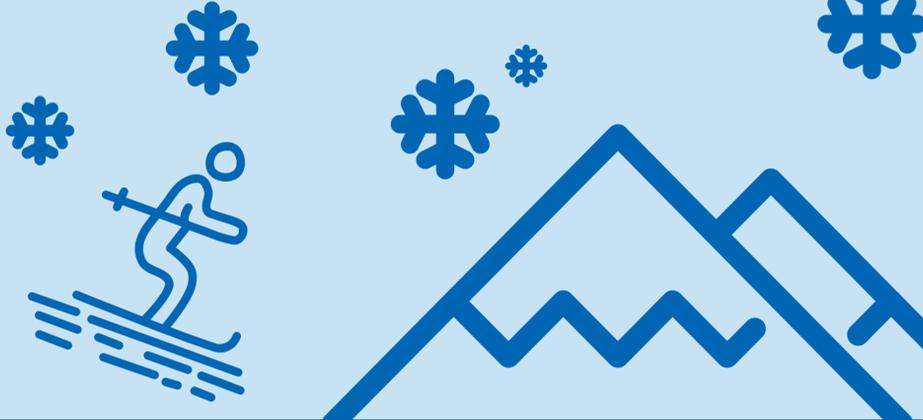
**Kia ora koutou katoa,**

It's hard to believe that we are more than halfway through 2023. The Evidence Centre has been busy this winter, with our first full team day held since COVID, Matariki celebrations and an international speaker.

Alongside the Office of the Chief Social Worker, we hosted Professor Ben Mathews for a visit from Australia. Professor Mathews is the lead researcher for the Australian Child Maltreatment Study, which he presented on at our seminar which we co-hosted with the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families and Children. A link to the recorded seminar is provided below.

We have also published several studies over the past few months which cover a range of topics including healthcare needs of disabled children, and updates to the Caregiver Survey and Transition Support Service Evaluation. I hope you find these reports interesting and useful to you and your work – more details are below.

**Ngā mihi  
Vasantha**



**Our Recent Publications**

*The Evidence Centre works to build the evidence base that helps us better understand wellbeing and what works to improve outcomes for New Zealand's children, young people and their whānau.*



Read the reports here

**Primary healthcare needs of disabled children in care**

An evidence brief on the primary healthcare needs of disabled tamariki and rangatahi (tamariki whaikaha) in care has been published. The brief had a specific focus on equity of access and engagement with primary healthcare services and health literacy.



Read the reports here

**How well is Oranga Tamariki supporting caregivers?**

Since 2019, Oranga Tamariki has provided caregivers with an annual opportunity to participate in a satisfaction survey to better understand their experiences and to provide insights about the support provided to them by Oranga Tamariki. The 2022 survey included the views of 705 Oranga Tamariki caregivers.



Read the reports here

**Transition Support Service evaluation 2022**

The Transition Support Service is for young people moving away from care or custody into adulthood. These reports present findings from the 2022 survey of young people eligible for the Transitions Support Service and the organisations that support them.



Read the reports here

**Te Mātātaki 2023**

Te Mātātaki 2023 presents findings from the second year of the national survey of tamariki and rangatahi in care, and outlines priority areas where action is required to improve experiences for tamariki and rangatahi in care.

**Our Research Seminars**



Vasantha Krishnan, Peter Whitcombe, Professor Ben Mathews and Associate Professor Shayne Walker

**Ben Mathews**

On the 1st of August the Evidence Centre and the Roy McKenzie Centre for the Study of Families and Children jointly hosted a seminar on the Australian Child Maltreatment Study (ACMS). The ACMS was a five-year landmark study of the prevalence of child maltreatment and the findings were launched in April this year. We were delighted to welcome Professor Ben Mathews the lead researcher for the ACMS to Wellington to be our keynote speaker along with a panel discussion featuring Chief Social Worker Peter Whitcombe and Associate Professor Shayne Walker from Otago University's School of Social and Community Work.



The footage and presentation can be seen on our web page here



**Resurfacing earlier research**



Read the reports here

**Child entries into care for mothers with a care and protection history**

This report provides insights into the likelihood of a mother with a care and protection history having a child placed in out-of-home care. The analysis showed that, as at June 2018, almost 90% of mothers with an out-of-home care experience did not have a baby placed into care in the first 2 years of the child's life.

**NEW STARTERS**

**The Evidence Centre has been busy recruiting and is delighted to introduce some of our new starters to you:**

**Meet Kate-Lynne Potiki-Clune**



He uri tēnei nō Te Tairāwhiti, ko Ngāti Porou, ko Te Aitanga a Hauiti ngā iwi. He uri anō hoki tēnei nō Waikato, nō Tapuika, nō Kāi Tahu. I tipu ake ahau ki raro i te maru o Whitireia rūau ko Tarikākā, ā, nā te papatipu nei o Toarangatira rūau ko Whātonga ahau i poipoi, i whāngai, i whakapuāwai. Ko Katerangira Pōtiki-Clune tōku ingoa.

I completed a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Māori resource management, te reo Māori and public policy in 2021, and earlier in 2023 I completed a Master of Indigenous Studies with distinction – from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. My master's dissertation was grounded in a Kaupapa Māori paradigm and explored whakawhanaungatanga among te reo Māori language learners at university, and how relationships and relationship dynamics influence or impact the way students at university learn te reo Māori. My passion for all things Kaupapa Māori has blossomed over time since I began my studies. I am dedicated to improving Māori outcomes in all areas of life, and Kaupapa Māori research has given me a vehicle through which I can contribute to driving some real change for my people. In addition to Kaupapa Māori research, I am a proficient speaker of te reo Māori, and I am very passionate about te reo Māori acquisition and revitalization. In my spare time you will find me tutoring te reo Māori at university, attending my own te reo Māori classes, kura reo or kaupapa reo, watching kapa haka, or spending time with my whānau. Mauriora!

**Meet Freya Bacon-Bootham:**



Kia ora, ko Freya Bacon-Bootham tōku ingoa. I completed a Bachelor of Science majoring in Psychology in 2022 and completed a Master of Science in Society with merit in February 2023 from Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington. I was born in Essex, England but have lived in Wellington since I was 4. I enjoy experimenting with various communication mediums and finding the best way to get research findings out to the most people. I'm passionate about a wide variety of things but primarily constantly wanting to learn more. In my spare time I enjoy writing, constantly listening to music and making a cocktail or two.

**Meet Tran Heskins:**



Kia ora koutou,  
Ko Tran Heskins tōku ingoa. I grew up on the family's industrial plantation farm in rural Binh Phuoc, Vietnam, predominantly with Vietnam's ethnic minority S'tieng people. I spent my childhood amidst poverty and inequality long before I could fully comprehend the world around me. After graduating from Victoria University of Wellington with a Bachelor of Biomedical Science last year, I have been working as a data services executive for Marketing Impact, where I have worked on campaigns for NGOs and charities with a strong focus on children's welfare. I am very excited to join Oranga Tamariki and working towards the vision of improving the well-being of our whānau, tamariki, and rangatahi. I live in Wellington with my partner and our 7kg bunny-daughter Frankfurter.

**Meet Roy de Groot:**

Kia ora, ko Roy de Groot tōku ingoa. I live in Te Mārua where I live with my partner.

I worked for twenty years as a registered nurse in various mental health settings and more recently I have worked at ACC and Manatū Hauora/Te Whatu Ora. I am excited to join the Evidence Centre and to be a part of the new direction Oranga Tamariki is moving in.

**Meet Thuong Nguyen**



Tēnā koutou katoa, ko Thuong tōku ingoa. I am so thrilled to join the Evidence Centre to learn more about the Children Wellbeing Model and do the best I can to help our tamariki and rangatahi in need.

I have come from Stats NZ where I was in the Census Methodology team, working mainly on Census data processing and data integration. My background is in Statistics and Applied Mathematics. Before Stats, I served as a lecturer in Statistics at Victoria University of Wellington after completing my PhD there. My research at the time was mostly mathematical statistics but also about categorical data modelling. I am currently living in a Western suburb of Wellington with my husband and my two lovely kids, An and Sam, who surely keep my weekend even busier than usual. When I have time to sit down, I would love to pick up a book or listen to classical music.