

AUTUMN 2023 UPDATE



Vasantha Krishnan  
General Manager

**Kia ora koutou katoa,**

The first quarter of the year has flown by – helped by all those short working weeks in April! In the spirit of Autumnal consolidation, the Evidence Centre has published a number of reports and resources to help inform the organisation's and wider communities' work. Our work has covered a range of issues from what works in Youth Justice Residences, identifying and responding to child exploitation, therapeutic interventions and understanding training needs of providers in the family violence space.

A longer-term piece that has been published this quarter focused on our caregivers. Caregivers are so important to us, and their contribution is key to meeting the care and protection needs of tamariki and rangatahi in our care. Recently, we have seen significant changes in levels of financial support for caregivers, but we know that non-financial support is also important. Our newly-published survey report of caregivers receiving Orphan's or Unsupported Child benefits reinforces this, and caregiver feedback has been fed into the policy process.

The focus on youth justice continues, with evidence briefs published on international models of residential care and best practice in physical restraint and de-escalation practices.

Our February seminar had a health slant, looking at the persistent ethnic differences in the uptake of child health services. Researchers Prof Gail Pacheco and Dr Nadia Charania of University of Auckland gave a fascinating presentation using complementary qualitative and quantitative tools and approaches.

We have research in the pipeline on a successful family focused therapy pilot, and survey results from users and practitioners of the Transitions Support Service – so keep an eye out on our web page: [Research and insights | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

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

Orphan's and Unsupported Child's benefits: Caregiver survey report

During 2021 we conducted a survey of caregivers receiving these benefits, and received over 2,000 responses. Caregivers told us that they wanted better information, simpler application processes and more support – both financial and non-financial.



Read the reports here

Family and sexual violence training

Oranga Tamariki is charged with improving the Family Start service under Te Aorerekura – the national strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence. To this end, we surveyed Family Start workers to gauge their levels of training, knowledge and confidence in working with whānau experiencing sexual and family violence.



Read the reports here

Victims of offending by children

This research was commissioned to support work around youth offending and engagement in youth justice processes. Case notes for 114 youth justice family group conferences, involving 580 victims, were examined. The report tells us that victims were usually adults, half of youth offences involved motor vehicles and child offenders were usually accompanied by others.



Read the reports here

Youth justice residences – best international practice

These evidence briefs present what is known internationally about best practice in relation to youth justice residence models, frameworks and tools, and physical restraint and de-escalation practices. These findings will be used to help develop policy around a new model of youth justice residential care.



Read the report here

Child exploitation

This summary of an extended literature scan in relation to child labour and sexual exploitation was commissioned to understand the role that welfare agencies play in prevention and intervention. The report looks at child sexual and labour exploitation and human trafficking across the world. Findings will help Oranga Tamariki to improve awareness and education to assist in identifying, preventing and responding to child exploitation.



Read the report here

Rainbow children and youth in care

Rainbow children in care have been identified as an under-researched and vulnerable group. This literature review will help to fill the gaps in our understanding as well as offering ideas for improving services, social work practice and supports for these diverse tamariki and rangatahi.



Read the report here

Pae Whakatupuranga – Family Functional Therapy

The latest evaluation report of this pilot programme is now available, looking at how well the service has achieved its outcomes, and what challenges have been encountered.

Our Research Seminars

**Our February seminar featured two well-known researchers from AUT. Professor Gail Pacheco and Dr Nadia Charania presented their research on *Ethnic differences in uptake of child healthcare services in New Zealand*.**



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

Their presentation discussed both quantitative and qualitative study findings, and also offered up useful policy and practice suggestions.

Our next seminar will be in June and focus on Te Mātātaki – our annual survey of tamariki and rangatahi in care.