



CASE STUDY 1

TWO WAIKATO SERVICES SEEK TO EMPOWER WHĀNAU WITH KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS

Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka

PROVIDING whānau with a place to feed on knowledge is the aim of a Hamilton-based kōhanga reo involved in the Parent Development and Support project.

Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka is one of 18 services participating in the three-year project across the country. Its namesake is the godwit (or kuaka) – a seabird that visits Waikato’s coast to feed each spring before returning to its birthplace in Alaska.

Kōhanga tumuaki Tere Gilbert says the project’s aim draws on the godwit’s example. She explains: “The kuaka reminds us how important it is to have a place where nourishment can be found as we journey through life.

“The kuaka also reminds us about the joy of returning again and again to that place. Whānau, like the kuaka, come to Waikato to feed on mātauranga.

“In this project we want to give whānau a place to find the information, support and tools they need to be great parents. We also want to foster among them a sense of whakawhanaungatanga – to ensure they keep coming back and their children do, too.”

The Parent Development and Support project’s main aim is to improve the support available to vulnerable families across New Zealand through early childhood education services. The programme is part of a package of early intervention services led by the Ministry of Social Development and supported by the Ministry of Education.



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Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka tumuaki Tere Gilbert (Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Atiawa) and PDS family worker Kathleen Harawira (Ngāti Awa).

■ WE'RE ALSO TALKING MORE ABOUT HOW TO HELP THEIR CHILDREN GAIN THE EARLY LITERACY AND NUMERACY FOUNDATIONS THEY NEED TO SUCCEED AT SCHOOL. ■

Tere's teacher-led kōhanga has been part of the project for more than a year. In that time they have made contact with dozens and dozens of whānau, surveyed whānau about their information and support needs, run weekend and evening parenting workshops, hosted guest speakers, organised children's events and coordinated on-site baby checkups by health professionals such as Plunket, dental nurses and ear clinic specialists.

The kōhanga activities reflect the project's emphasis on the important role early childhood education services can play in building up the knowledge and skills of parents. Evidence suggests children benefit from a connection between the home and early childhood education setting and when parents are engaged in their children's learning and development.

For the past six months, Kathleen Harawira has been the project's main coordinator after taking over from Parehau Richards earlier this year. She says the range and timing of activities reflect the needs and wants of the kōhanga whānau, most of whom spend long days working or studying.

At the outset, Kathleen provided parents with information about babies' health, learning and development. But, as their babies have developed and grown, parents' interests have changed, too.

"At the moment they're keen to know more about helping their child make a successful transition to the neighbouring kura or school. We're also talking more about how to help their children gain the early literacy and numeracy foundations they need to succeed at school," she says.

Te Whānau Pūtahi Childcare Centre

ACROSS TOWN, another early childhood education service and Christian family support centre, Te Whānau Pūtahi Childcare Centre, has spent more than a year participating in the Parent Development and Support project.

Here, the project is helping the centre to inject new hope into the lives of whānau.

Project coordinator Rarangi Carr explains: "Our whānau are predominantly single parents who need intense support – both for themselves and their tamariki. They want the best for their children but don't always have the confidence to do that. We

provide the nurturing, encouragement and support they need to get to that place."

Valuing tamariki as tomorrow's leaders is part of our approach to providing services, she says. "Ko ngā tamariki o enei rā, hei rangatira mō apopō."

Rarangi says the project has helped the centre extend the services and support they provide to whānau.

This year, the centre continued to run their subsidised annual summer camp at Ngāruawahia, where children and their whānau spend a week holidaying and accessing family and educational support, as needed. For many whānau, it is their only holiday.

Families have taken part in workshops on self-esteem to help them face the world again. They have participated in Toolbox parenting courses to help build up their skills. Mums Matter, a weekly parenting support group run by the centre this year, has given attendees the chance to network, hear a range of speakers and take part in fun activities. Meanwhile, a new men's drop in service has seen a good turnout, too.

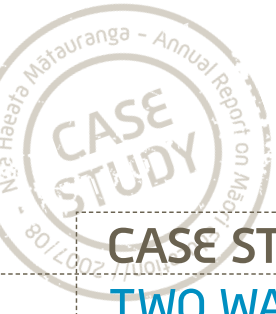
The centre continued running their counselling, foodbank, budgeting and childcare services. It also continued running its afterschool club for primary-aged children, a drop in service for intermediate and secondary school students, a school holiday programme and its adult literacy, numeracy and driver's licence courses.

Te Whānau Pūtahi Childcare Centre has also continued to offer a crèche for children whose parents attend centre workshops and courses, which parents are finding is a great first step to smoothly transitioning tamariki into regular early childhood education.

"We strongly believe in the power of early childhood education to help children grow up as competent and confident learners and communicators – healthy in mind, body and secure in their sense of belonging," says Rarangi.

"We want our tamariki to have a positive experience here – and for that positive feeling to influence their later early childhood and school experiences. We see our role as providing a strong foundation for success later in life."

"This project really supports our belief that children learn best in a positive, safe, caring and stimulating environment, where



Te Whānau Pūhahi Childcare Centre PDS coordinator and whānau worker Rarangi Carr (Ngāti Raukawa).



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they receive encouragement and develop a sense of belonging,” says Rarangi.

She says all the Parent Development and Support project activities are underpinned by this philosophy.

Building on the interagency services and support available at the centre has been another major achievement over the past year. The centre has fostered close working relationships with Child, Youth and Family, Work and Income New Zealand, Plunket, Te Ara Hou, Women’s Refuge, and Community Mental Health – all for the purpose of providing whānau with the support they need to grow and develop as parents.

“My dream is for all tamariki to have the opportunities they need to grow and develop confidently and spiritually. I’d like to keep building on the services we provide to support Māori potential and independence. My ultimate goal is to see whānau ‘own’ this place by helping others on their journey through life, as the centre has done for them.”

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Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka

KO TE WHĀINGA o tētahi kōhanga reo i Waikato i raro i te kaupapa Whakapakari Mātua, ko te whakarite āhuatanga hei whāngai i ngā hua o te mātauranga ki ngā whānau.

Ko Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka tētahi o ngā rōpū whakarato 18 o te motu kua uru atu ki tēnei kaupapa, toru tau te roa. Nō te manu kuaka tonu tōna ingoa – te manu ka tau mai ki ngā tai o Waikato i ia koanga ki te kai, ā, ka hoki atu ki tōna kāinga, ki Arakaha.

Hei tā Tere Gilbert, te tumuaki o te kōhanga, ka noho ko ngā tikanga o te kuaka hei tohu mō te kaupapa nei. Hei tāna, “Ko tā te kuaka, he whakamahara i a tātou, me whai kāinga pātaka kai hei waiū mō tātou i ngā kōpikopiko haeretanga i te ao.”

“Ko tā te kuaka anō, ka rite te manaaki, ka rite te hoki ki taua kāinga anō. He rite ngā whānau ki te kuaka, ka hokihoki tonu atu ki Waikato ki te kai mātauranga.”

“Ko tā mātou mō te kaupapa nei, he whakarite wāhi mō ngā whānau hei whare kimi kōrero, hei pou tautoko, hei wāhi whai tikanga hoki hei whakapakari i a rātou hei mātua. Ko te whakawhanaungatanga te kawa – māna rātou e poapoa, e whakarata kia hokihoki mai me ā rātou tamariki.”

Ko te whāinga matua o te kaupapa Whakapakari Mātua he whakapai ake i ngā ratonga hei āwhina i ngā whānau e noho whakaraerae ana puta noa i Aotearoa mā ngā akoranga kōhungahunga. Koinei tētahi o ngā kaupapa o te kete kaupapa wawao moata e kawea nei e Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora, ā, e tautokona ana e Te Tāhuhu o Te Mātauranga.



“ Ko tā mātou mō te kaupapa nei, he whakarite wāhi mō ngā whānau hei whare kimi kōrero, hei pou tautoko, hei wāhi whai tikanga hoki hei whakapakari i a rātou hei mātua. ”

Ngā kōrero mō te whakaahua: Te tumuaki o Te Kōhanga Reo o Ngā Kuaka, ko Tere Gilbert (Ngāti Kahungunu, Te Atiawa) me te kaimahi whānau PDS a Kathleen Harawira (Ngāti Awa).



Ngā kōrero mō te whakaahua: Te kaiwhakarite PSD, kaimahi whānau hoki, a Rarangi Carr (Ngāti Raukawa) o Te Wharetiaki Tamariki o Te Whānau Pūtahi



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Neke atu i te kotahi tau e noho ana ki te kaupapa nei, te kōhanga e kawea ana e ngā kaiako a Tere. Nō roto i taua wā, e hia kē nei ngā whānau kua whakapāpāhia e rātou, kua uiuia mō ō rātou hiahia hei kōrero, hei tautoko i a rātou anō, kua whakahaeretia e rātou ngā wānanga āwhina mātua i ngā mutunga wiki, i ngā pō hoki, kua whakaritea he tāngata hei kaikōrero, kua whakahaeretia ngā kaupapa mō ngā tamariki, ā, kua whakaritea hoki ngā whakamātauranga hauora mō ngā pēpi e te hunga hauora pērā i a Plunket, i ngā nēhi tiaki niho, i ngā tākuta tiaki taringa hoki.

Ko ngā mahi a te kōhanga nei e whakanui ana i te whai wāhinga mai o ngā ratonga akoranga kōhungahunga ki te whakapakari i ngā mātua kia mātau, kia mārama, kia whai pūkenga anō hoki. E ai ki ngā kōrero taunaki ka whai hua anō ngā tamariki menā ka noho whanaunga te kāinga me te akoranga kōhungahunga, ā, ka hou mai ko ngā mātua ki roto i ngā mahi ako, whakapakari tamariki.

Nō roto i ngā marama e ono kua hipa, nō muri mai i te hekenga o Parehau Richards, ka noho a Kathleen Harawira hei kaiwhakarite matua mō te kaupapa nei. Hei tāna, kei te whānuitanga, kei te putaputanga mai hoki o ngā mahi te āhua

o ngā hiahia o ngā whānau o te kōhanga, ko te paunga tērā o te rā i a rātou te mahi, te akoako rānei.

Nō te timatanga mai ka tukuna e Kathleen he kōrero ki ngā mātua mō te hauora, te tikanga ako, te tipu o ngā pēpi. Engari, ka tipu ake ngā pēpi, ka tipu anō hoki ngā aronga o ngā mātua.

Hei tāna, “I tēnei wā, kua kaha hiahia rātou ki te mōhio ki ngā tikanga hei āwhina i te whakawhitinga o ā rātou tamariki ki te kura e tata ana. Kei te nui hoki ā mātou kōrero mō te āwhina i ā rātou tamariki kia pakari ki te tākupu, ki te tatau hei pārekereke mō rātou i te kura.”

Te Wharetiaki Tamariki o Te Whānau Pūtahi

Kei wāhi kē atu o te taone tētahi akoranga kōhungahunga, whare Karaitiana āwhina whānau, ko Te Wharetiaki Tamariki o Te Whānau Pūtahi, kua neke atu anō i te kotahi tau e noho ana ki te kaupapa Whakapakari Mātua.

Kei konei te kaupapa e whakakipakipa ana, e whakahihiri ana, e whakaihihi ana i ngā whānau.

“ Kei te nui hoki ā mātou kōrero mō te āwhina i ā rātou tamariki kia pakari ki te tākupu, ki te tatau hei pārekereke mō rātou i te kura. ”

■ PONO TONU ATU MĀTOU, KA MANA NGĀ TAMARIKI I NGĀ AKORANGA KŌHUNGAHUNGA HEI TANGATA KAHA KI TE AKO, MĀIA KI TE WHAI MĀTAURANGA, PAI KI TE WHAKAWHITI KŌRERO – ORA ANA TE HINENGARO, TE TINANA, TE MANA WHAKAPAPA HOKI. ■

Hei tā Rārangi Carr, kaiwhakarite o te kaupapa nei, “Kotahi anō te matua o te nuinga o ō mātou whānau, heoi, kia nui rawa ngā āwhinatanga – mō rātou tahi me ā rātou tamariki. Kei te hiahiatia kia whāia e ā rātou tamariki ngā pae tawhiti o te pai, engari ka heke te wairua i ētahi wā. Ko tā mātou, he āwhina, he tautoko kia māia, kia manawanui ko rātou.”

Hei tāna anō, ko te whakamana i ā tātou tamariki hei rangatira mō āpopō tētahi o ā mātou tikanga, “Ko ngā tamariki o enei rā, hei rangatira mō āpopō.”

Ko tāna hoki, nā te kaupapa nei kua whānui kē atu ngā āwhinatanga a te wharetiaki mō ngā whānau.

I tēnei tau, ka whakahaeretia tonutia tō rātou noho puni raumati ā-tau ki Ngāruawāhia, he wā whakatā mō ngā whānau, he wā hoki ka whai wāhi ki ngā āwhinatanga ā-whānau, ā-mātauranga hoki e hiahiatia ana. Koinei anake te hararei mō ngā whānau e maha nei.

Kua uru atu ngā whānau ki ngā wānanga whakamana whānau kia tū anō rātou hei whānau, hei tangata i te ao. Kua uru anō hoki ki ngā kaupapa āwhina mātua, arā, ko Te Kete Whakatika³⁷ hei whakapakari i ō rātou pūkenga. Kua whakahaeretia e te wharetiaki i ia wiki i tēnei tau te kaupapa tautoko mātua e kīa nei ko Mana Māmā, ā, he whakawhanaunga te tikanga, he whakarongo hoki ki ētahi kauhau, he ngahau anō hoki te mahi. Heoi, he autai te putaputa mai o ngāi tāne ki te ratonga hou mō te tāne.

Ka whakahaeretia tonutia e te wharetiaki ā rātou kaupapa kōrero āwhina, pātaka kai, tiaki pūtea, tiaki tamariki hoki. Ka whakahaeretia hoki ko ngā kaupapa tamariki, te karapu mō muri i te kura mō ngā tamariki o te kura tuatahi, te wāhi hei torotoro mā ngā tamariki o ngā kura waenga, kura tuarua hoki, te kaupapa hararei kura, ngā kaupapa tākupu, tatau, whai raihana taraiwa hoki mō ngā pakeke.

Ka noho tonu Te Wharetiaki Tamariki o Te Whānau Pūtahi ki te tiaki i ngā tamariki o ngā mātua e uru ana ki ngā kaupapa ako o te whare, e mea ana ngā mātua he pai rawa mō te whakamāmā i te whakakāinga i ā rātou tamariki ki roto i ngā akoranga kōhungahunga.

Hei tā Rārangi, “Pono tonu atu mātou, ka mana ngā tamariki i ngā akoranga kōhungahunga hei tangata kaha ki te ako, māia

ki te whai mātauranga, pai ki te whakawhiti kōrero – ora ana te hinengaro, te tinana, te mana whakapapa hoki.”

“Me pai rawa te noho o ā mātou tamariki ki konei – mā tērā e pai ake ai i ngā tau kōhungahunga, kura rā anō. Ko tā mātou, he whakatakoto i te pārekereke e kaha ai te tipu, ā pakeke noa.”

“Ka tino tautoko mai te kaupapa i tā mātou e whakapono nei, ka ora te ako o te tamariki mēnā kua tau te noho, kua pai, e manaakitia ana, e whakahikohikohia ana te wairua, e whakamanahia ana, e noho tangata whenua ana,” hei tā Rārangi anō.

Hei tāna hoki, ka whārikihia ngā mahi katoa o Whakapakari Mātua e tēnei kaupapa.

Ko tētahi kaupapa nui i tutuki i a rātou i tēnei tau ko te whakanui atu i ngā here whanaunga ki ngā āwhinatanga o ngā momo tari mō te wharetiaki. Kua mahi tahi rātou me te Tari Āwhina Tamariki, Taiohi, Whānau, Te Hiranga Tangata, Plunket, Te Ara Hou, Te Whakaruruhau Wāhine, Te Mana Hauora Hinengaro i Te Hapori, – hui katoa he āwhina whānau te tikanga kia tipu ai hei mātua pai.

“Ko tāku e wawata nei, kia whāia e ngā tamariki katoa ngā hua angitu o te ao, hei whakatipu, hei whakapakari i a rātou e rangatira ai te noho, e mauritau ai te wairua. Ka whakatipu tonu ahau i ngā āwhinatanga hei tautoko i ngā pūmanawa tino rangatiratanga o te Māori. Ka mutu, ka tangata whenua mai a Māori ki tēnei wāhi ki te āwhina i ētahi atu, pērā i ngā āwhinatanga anō i a rātou, kia tipu hei tangata ki te ao.”