



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021

He Mahi Rangatira

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HEI MIHI

*Mauri Ora ki te rangi
Mauri Ora ki te whenua
Mauri Ora ki a tātou katoa*

*Mā te wairua o ngā tūpuna e tiaki i a tātou
kia noho haumarua ko te katoa
Āio ki te Ao tukupū*

*Aotearoa whānui, nei rā te mihi maioha ki
a koutou*

*Ko ngā whakairinga kōrero te ngako o
tēnei pūrongo*

*Kia kite mai ai, e matomato ana te tupu
mai a ngā hua i tiritiria i te tau kua huri nei*

*Ānei te puna o te kōrero hei kai mā ōu
koutou mata*

*Kia piki te ora, Kia piki te kaha
I tēnei wā o te mate Urutā*

Tihei Mauri Ora

[English]

*Vitality to the heavens
Vitality to the earth
Vitality to all*

*May the spirit of the ancestors provide
comfort*

*So that all are safe and well
Peace be to the universe*

*We acknowledge all of Aotearoa
The presentation of stories is the
substance of this report*

*To showcase the abundant growth of the
organisation and the fruits of the hard
work completed over the past year*

*We present this report as sustenance for
you*

*May wellness and strength be with us all
During this time of COVID*

Behold the breath of life



STATEMENT FROM THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL - TAU TUATAHI:

The Tau Tuatahi Youth Council began their tenure with VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai in January 2021 and met every month for a weekend. In their first year, the Council was focussed on getting to know each other, understanding their individual stories and aspirations for joining the council, training and refining their skills and knowledge.

Together they identified what matters most to them and created these 5 focus areas:

- Ensure the voices of care and youth justice experienced youth are heard in all decisions that could affect them
- Ensure that young people have access to EVERYTHING they need to THRIVE
- Suitable accommodation for ALL youth. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Providing families with additional supports
 - Reviewing placements to ensure wellbeing, safety and voice of youth are being met
- Increasing the visibility of care experienced young people and creating connections within the care experienced community
- Lifelong mental health services for ANYONE who is care experienced

The Tau Tuatahi group is full of young, capable, care experienced youth that want to create change within the system and see an impact through their actions. They have learned and experienced more about the care system in New Zealand than they thought they could have, thanks to VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai. The council was proud to participate in a number of advocacy projects

Highlights have included codesigning a project to review the ETRR initiative (Entitlement To Remain or Return to Care) within the Transition Support Service; and speaking to the Select Committee opposing the Youth Justice Demerit Points Amendment Bill, which was later withdrawn.

The group is encouraged to be working alongside people who genuinely care. They are especially thankful to those they work closely with; in particular Jamie, Kerry and Mattie who have been there for the council from the beginning and have done more than what is required of them. The Tau Tuatahi group are also grateful to be able to work so closely with the CEO, Tracie Shipton, whose appearance in the monthly meetings demonstrates the importance of the council to the organisation. Going into next year, the group will enter into their second year on the council and will be Tau Tuarua, where they are expecting to be even more involved in advocacy work.



Jennifer Thonrithi
Co-chair of VOYCE - Whakarongo
Mai Tau Tuatahi Council

NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL - TAU TUARUA:

The number of opportunities available for National Youth Council involvement are increasing each year.

Members of both Tau Tuatahi and Tau Tuarua have had a chance to work on various exciting new projects including the Ministerial Advisory Board consultant group, Adoption Law Reform (in collaboration with The Hive), and both interviewing and being interviewed as part of VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai's (VWM) research into the low uptake of the transitions service (ETRR). The key Tau Tuarua project for this year was training social workers in the importance of transparency. This project is very close to being ready to launch, despite COVID interruptions. In general, the number of opportunities available to the young leaders of this organisation makes me excited to see what they achieve next year.

As someone who has been part of VWM for a few years, I am happy to say that I have seen VWM achieve an enormous transformation from a single office with a few temporary staff up in Auckland in 2017. Throughout my time I have learned enormous amounts about our care system and the experiences other people have in it, had the chance to be involved in a huge variety of projects from the 6 Promises campaign to the transparency curriculum, and had a chance to meet key decision-makers. Most of all, I have met some great people and had the chance to be part of an organisation that has a vision I really believe in.

The NYC is a great opportunity for rangatahi to gain leadership experience, connect with other care-experienced young people, and provides a key source of expertise on what it is like to experience the care system now for VWM to tap into. I would encourage future members to continue to expand the role and take it in new directions, because as the voice of care-experienced rangatahi, they really are the heart of what VWM is all about.



Isaac Heron
Co-chair of VOYCE -
Whakarongo Mai
Tau Tuarua Council



STATEMENT FROM CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD

Kia ora koutou katoa

The Board is proud of the awesome and challenging work our kaiwhakamana and teams accomplished across the country, despite this year not being what we had hoped for after the difficulties of 2020.

Individual advocacy is endlessly critical for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau who are going through tough times. It was crucial that VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai remained a consistent and helpful voice to sit alongside tamariki and rangatahi to support them to:

- Rangatiratanga - live and breathe an understanding that every young person can have rangatiratanga (leadership) over their own lives and deserve to be given every support to share what they think and to access what is most important to them.
- Tūhono - connect with people they trust, including other tamariki or rangatahi who have been through the care system who are able to speak to their experiences. This is achieved through VOYCE's tūhono events (including over lockdown where much of the activity was done on social media).
- Whakatairanga - ensure VOYCE is on the precipice of new policies and legislation coming out which may impact on those currently in care and those who may go through care in the future. Our National Youth Council represented VOYCE and their own experiences at Select Committee on multiple Bills to change laws; a powerful way of ensuring their voices are not forgotten or missed.
- Whakamana - continue advocating to ensure we get the full picture and are as helpful as possible, particularly in instances of gaps in support when it is urgently needed.
- Whai Pūkenga - ensure that steady relationships and supports are put in place so that when the day comes where help isn't needed, young people have the ability to determine their own path safely.

The year was challenging in terms of the work that happened behind the scenes. As Co-Chairs of the Board of Trustees for VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai, we were active in ensuring that tamariki and rangatahi voices were heard at every level, including with Ministers and their Advisory Boards. VOYCE alumni were loud and strong as they were supported by the Chief Executive and her leadership team to ensure that whatever Oranga Tamariki's future model, the voices of tamariki will be embedded in every decision for their wellbeing. We are in awe of these young people as they walk in their own mana motuhake. Their voices are having impact and they are changing the future for Aotearoa.

To those who fund and support this mahi, we thank you for your continued commitment to the tamariki, rangatahi and whānau we serve. Through good stewardship and wise planning, the Chief Executive and senior leadership have mitigated some of the effects of COVID-19 and enabled us to ensure kaiwhakamana and teams around the country were well supported in their important work. Their trust and flexibility allowed us to pivot and respond effectively.

To the tamariki, rangatahi and whānau that allow us to journey with them, we thank you for your trust in our staff. We learn from each other and grow together; a privileged position we hold precious.

We would like to say another huge thank you to everyone who worked tirelessly across Aotearoa, especially those impacted by the lockdowns. Your mahi is not lost on the lives of the tamariki you support. Your support help make their lives better. On behalf of the Board, and everyone in the VOYCE Whānau, thank you.

Ngā manaakitanga.

Shayne & Mana

Co-chairs of VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai Board



ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

ACKNOWLEDGMENT TO PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai exists because of its unique partnership with Government and the Philanthropic sector.

It is the support of our philanthropic partners that allows VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai the freedom to operate as a truly independent body without the constraints of the public sector. Furthermore, it is the support of our philanthropic funders and other contributors that allows us to afford some of the most exciting opportunities to our care experienced community. Our heartfelt thanks and gratitude go out to:

- Foundation North
- Tindall Foundation
- Todd Foundation
- Te Rourou, Vodafone Aotearoa Foundation
- L'Oréal
- The University of Auckland
- Ministry of Social Development - Community and Capability Fund
- Sport Canterbury - Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa Investment
- Trust Power Ltd.
- The many donors who supported the Voyage for VOYCE campaign
- The many donors who supported the Six Promises campaign



VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai staff members at Waitangi Treaty Grounds commemorating Waitangi Day, February 2021



WHAKATAIRANGA

Promote the collective voice of children and young people in care.

RANGATAHI TOLD US:

“Promote our collective voice as children and young people in the care system. Help us understand and tell our collective story. Help us to share this story in ways that are safe for us and can influence others. Use the themes and issues we raise to drive system change, by linking to other monitoring and oversight mechanisms in the system.”

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai has built strong foundations from which to influence the care system. We are increasingly finding opportunities to promote the collective voice of care experienced tamariki and rangatahi and to affect systemic change. We are seeing real change and impact as a result of elevating the collective voices of care experienced tamariki and rangatahi.

Our status as an independent organisation, with philanthropic funding, separate from the government, has been critical in ensuring that we have the freedom to elevate the voices of our care experienced community, to stand up to systemic challenges and to influence change.

As VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai has continued to expand and build relationships in the care communities across Aotearoa, our ability to build an understanding of collective issues impacting the care community has increased. January 2021 saw the establishment of the Insight and Impacts Team. This Team combines specialist expertise in research, evaluation, stakeholder engagement, impact and communications with a view to allowing VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai to strategically and systematically input the collective voices of our tamariki and rangatahi into matters that are important to them.

WHAKATAIRANGA IN ACTION

The 6 Promises for 6000 Campaign, launched September 2020

ADVOCATES:

VOYCE National Youth Council and Alumni

The 6 Promises For 6000 campaign and petition called all those running for elected office to agree to uphold six basic asks to make the care system a more caring system and to ensure that the incoming Government delivered on these promises.



IMPACT:

The campaign is ongoing with the petition having collected over 3,000 signatures and counting, receiving national news coverage in the run-up to the election.

Opposing the Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice Demerit Points Amendment Bill, March 2021

ADVOCATES:

National Youth Council and Alumni: Hamish Falekaono, Tupua Ulrich and Jennifer Thonrithi

Our VOYCE Insights and Impact team worked with care experienced rangatahi on a submission calling to scrap the proposed youth justice demerits bill. Current VOYCE Youth Council and Alumni members represented the care community at the Government Select Committee Hearing, to strongly oppose the proposed Youth Demerits Bill.

IMPACT:

Following submissions, the Select Committee released a report recommending to scrap the Bill while calling for “Oranga Tamariki to continue to pursue improvement” of the current youth justice system. The bill was later withdrawn.



Waitangi Tribunal Report - He Pāharakeke, he Rito Whakakīkinga Whāruarua, April 2021

ADVOCATES:

VOYCE youth advocates Lakeisha Cummings and Tanisha Batten

Oranga Tamariki policies and practices inconsistent with Te Tiriti o Waitangi have caused significant and irreversible prejudice to tamariki Māori taken into State care, as well as their whānau, hapū, and iwi. Lakeisha and Tanisha acted as witnesses and shared their experiences of state care with the Waitangi Tribunal. The inquiry addressed claims regarding the disproportionate numbers of tamariki Māori being brought into State care and protection, and the functioning and cultural orientation of this system.

IMPACT:

The tribunal has recommended that an independent Māori Transition Authority be created to reform the agency's care and protection system for tamariki Māori.



Advocating for an End to Strip Searching in Oranga Tamariki Residences, May 2021

ADVOCATES:

National Youth Council - Hamish Falekaono

Newshub released a story on 8th May about the extensive practice of strip-searching children in Youth Justice residences. VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai National Youth Council member and former resident of a youth justice residence, Hamish Falekaono, spoke up and advocated for an end to the traumatising practice of strip searching children in residences in Aotearoa.

Oranga Tamariki strip-searching children in Youth Justice



Watch the full report. Credits: Newshub Nation.

IMPACT:

In response to the news report, Minister for Children Kelvin Davis made a statement that Oranga Tamariki were committed to phasing out strip-searches in Oranga Tamariki facilities, aiming to stop this practice by the end of the year.

Royal Commission Inquiry into Abuse in State Care Redress Recommendations, June 2021

ADVOCATES:

National Youth Council and Care Experienced Rangatahi

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai sought the views of care experienced rangatahi and the kaimahi who support them to inform a submission to the Royal Commission on redress scheme recommendations. Rangatahi have requested an independent redress scheme, providing survivors with holistic and tailored rehabilitation to meet individual needs, in order to restore health and wellbeing.



IMPACT:

Our Rangatahi voices and recommendations were presented via the Royal Commission's central submissions and at the Redress Roundtable hui in July 2021 and will inform the Royal Commission's report on redress recommendations to government in October.



WHAKAMANA

Advocate with children and young people in care.

RANGATAHI TOLD US:

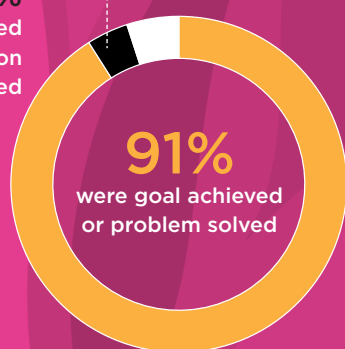
“Advocate with us as individual children and young people in care. Make information about rights and support services available in ways we understand. Support us to advocate for ourselves and others. Support our voice to be heard in decision making and resolution of our concerns. Support our trusted adults to undertake advocacy with us or become that trusted person for us.”

SNAPSHOT OF ACTIVITY

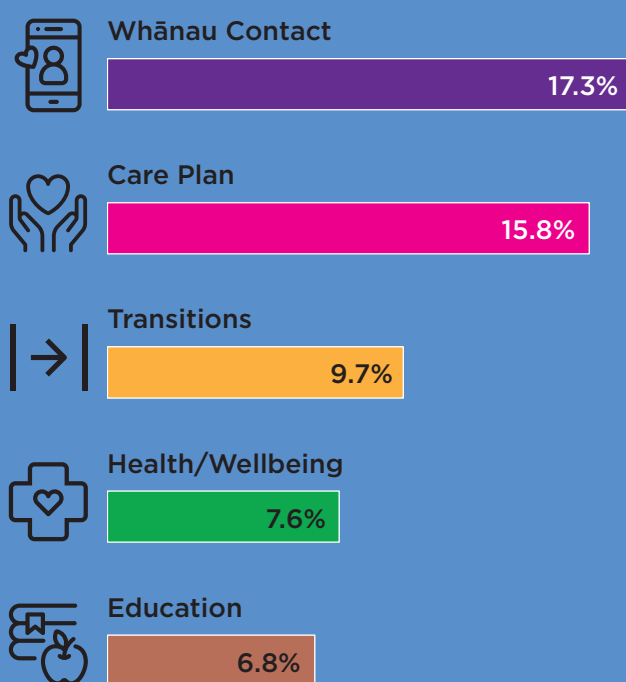
760 advocacy goals...

between young people and their Kaiwhakamana completed.

4% were resolved as information was provided



THE KEY ADVOCACY THEMES THAT EMERGED FROM 2020 / 2021 WERE:



Practice and Evaluation Framework

The original vision for VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai included “a bespoke model of connection and advocacy” (Care Connection p.18) and “a competencies and standards framework... to support provision of advocacy which is robust, of a high quality and which adds protection for children and young people” (Care Connection, p.21). A practice framework is a “conceptual map that brings together, in an accessible design, the organization’s approach to... practice. It links the foundational philosophical and theoretical underpinnings with the practice interventions used to support desired outcomes” (Connolly, 2006, p.827). A ‘practice model’ is a key component of our ‘practice framework’, which sets the tone for the overall practice approach and kaupapa of our organisation.

In 2020-21 work intensified to draw together the various strands of our practice into a cohesive framework and bring this to life. A Practice Framework working group was formed, with representation from Kaiwhakamana, Kaiārahi and Kaiwhakahaere, and support from the Insights and Impact team and Executive Leadership Team. The group drew from a range of sources in order to identify and prioritise the key elements to be incorporated in our practice model and framework. The group has developed key concepts, outcomes, scopes and definitions which are ready to be translated into visual and interactive media. Work is now under way to explore options for concept design and communication of the framework and model. The working group will continue to lead this mahi and bring the project to fruition in the near future.

Work in Residences

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai made significant inroads in terms of building relationships and ensuring a presence across all Youth Justice and Care and Protection Residences across New Zealand. Kaiwhakamana provide one-to-one support and advocacy for tamariki and rangatahi in residences including grievance advocacy where required.

VOYCE Kaiwhakamana have worked tirelessly to support the ten young residents of Te Oranga through recent turbulence caused by the planned closure following released footage of excessive force being used by residence staff.



Tāngata Whaikaha team commenced June 2021

Tāngata Whaikaha is a new advocacy team funded under an additional contract from Oranga Tamariki. The team is made up of a National Manager and four Specialist Kaiwhakamana who provide advocacy for disabled tamariki and rangatahi with significant communication needs. Kaiwhakamana are based in Pōneke, Tāmaki Makaurau, Hawke’s Bay and Te Wai Pounamu.

WHAT YOUNG PEOPLE SAY ABOUT THEIR KAIWHAKAMANA:

QUOTE FROM CAREGIVER:

“SOOOO PLEASED TO HEAR THAT [TAMAITI] MAY GET TO SEE HER FAMILY, THE SOCIAL WORKER CONTACTED AND WILL BE SEEING HER EARLY NEXT WEEK TO DISCUSS CONTACT. [TAMAITI] IS REALLY EXCITED “THEY LISTENED TO ME! THEY LISTENED TO ME!” ...HER WORDS!”

THANK YOU VOYCE ❤️❤️

QUOTE FROM YP:

“YOU’RE NOT JUST A SERVICE THAT HAS A HIDDEN AGENDA, IT FEELS GENUINE AND THAT YOU’RE ACTUALLY JUST WANT TO SEE US, NOT THAT YOU’RE HAVE TO.”

QUOTE FROM A YOUNG PERSON IN RESIDENCE:

“VOYCE IS GANGSTA BECAUSE VOYCE IS THE ONLY ONE WHO’S GOT OUR BACKS.”

QUOTE FROM YP:

“THINGS ARE GOING SO WELL! IT’S CHANGED MY LIFE! THANKS VOYCE.”



TŪHONO

Connect children and young people in care with each other and with their significant others.

RANGATAHI TOLD US:

“Connect us as children and young people in care together. Reduce the isolation that we can experience in the care system. Help us to establish an identity through fostering a sense of belonging to a wider community of children and young people in care. Demonstrate that we are valued by providing opportunities and experiences that are fun and challenging.”

Targeted events held nationwide to engage tamariki and rangatahi with VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai, build connection and provide meaningful experiences. In 2020-21 VOYCE held more than 100 events across Aotearoa! Many of these were made possible by the generosity of our communities in donating both their time and resources which allowed for some amazing opportunities.

NUMBER OF EVENTS & PARTICIPANTS BY REGION

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai held **107 events** with **1353 attendees** nationwide.



Aotearoa (National/ Online)

1 events,
10 participants

Tāmaki Makaurau/Te Tai Tokerau (Auckland/Northland)

25 events, **460** participants

Waikato and Wairariki (Midlands)

22 events, **202** participants

Te Waipounamu (South Island)

24 events,
303 participants

Te Taihauāuru me Ikaroa Rāwhiti (Lower North Island)

35 events,
378 participants

Experiencing Marine Reserves, Bay Of Islands, November 2020



Colour Run, Whangarei, December 2020



Sailing, Whitianga, April 2021



Matariki, Tāmaki Makaurau, July 2020



Whānau Fun Bike Day, Tāmaki Makaurau, March 2021



Tawhitinui Marae Sleepover, Ōmokoroa, November 2020



“NEXT TIME WE DO THIS WE HAVE TO GET MY **SISTER TO COME**, SHE WOULD LOVE THIS TOO.”

“THIS HAS BEEN THE **BEST WEEKEND EVER**.”

“I DIDN'T THINK I WOULD LIKE IT, BUT I HAD A **REALLY GOOD TIME!**”

Zoo, Pōneke, April 2021



“I HAD **SO MUCH FUN** TODAY.”

“THANK YOU I **REALLY ENJOYED** TODAY AND THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME BRING MY COUSIN.”

“THANK YOU SO MUCH FOR LETTING US **TAMARIKI COME** TODAY.”

“THANK YOU FOR **TAKING ME OUT** N DOING SOMETHING **ACTIVE**.”

“IT WAS **REALLY FUN** TO **SPEND TIME** WITH YOU AND MY FRIENDS.”

“I WAS **REALLY** LOOKING FORWARD TO COME TO THE **MOVIES** AND THAT I GOT TO **SEE MY FRIENDS** FROM LAST YEAR.”

“I **HOPE** I GET TO **SEE YOU AGAIN** BECAUSE I **REALLY ENJOYED** IT.”

“I **ALSO LIKED** **MAKING NEW FRIENDS** TOO.”

“THANK YOU FOR LETTING ME HAVE THE **OPPORTUNITY** TO **MEET OTHERS** IN CARE.”



WHAI PŪKENGA

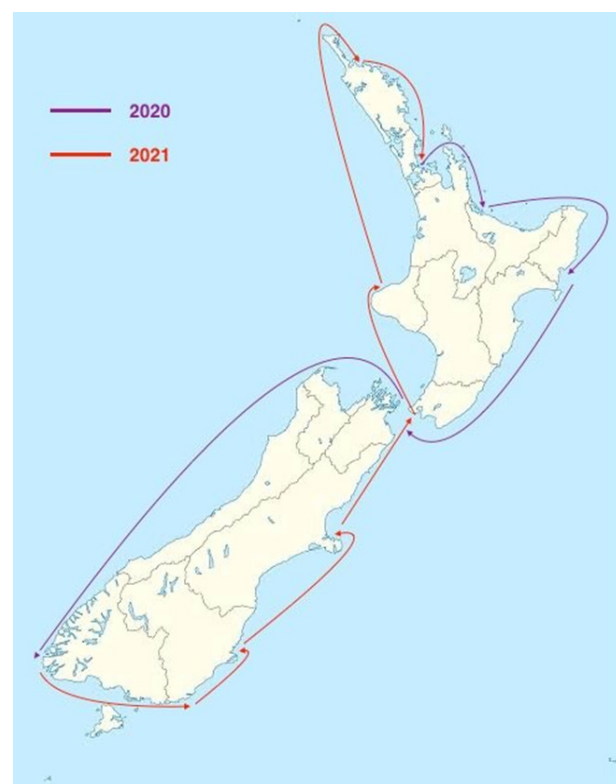
Help equip children and young people in care for their future.

RANGATAHI TOLD US:

“Equip us for our future. Teach us skills that can promote our wellbeing; our health, our relationships, our recreation, our education and employments. Partner with others so that we can benefit from opportunities and experiences that are fun and challenging.”

Voyage for VOYCE

Elana (a care experienced international sailor) approached VOYCE offering to complete her voyage - solo sailing a “figure 8” around Aotearoa New Zealand - as a fundraising and promotional tour on our behalf. Elana has raised nearly \$50k for a Scholarship Fund which will be used to support rangatahi to complete a life changing 10 day voyage on the Spirit of Adventure tall ship.



When not sailing, Elana completed inspiring speaking engagements with both care experienced young people and with local yachting communities - encouraging them to contribute to the scholarship fund. 140 young people were able to meet Elana on her voyage and National Youth Council members climbed aboard her vessel and sailed the final hour of her voyage with her as she came into Auckland.



L'Oréal Face your Future

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai partnered with L'Oréal and Caring Families to support a large number of care experienced young people to attend L'Oréal's Face Your Future event. An inspirational 2 day event designed for young people who will benefit from inspirational speakers and tutorials covering skills to succeed in the workplace and/or tertiary study.



The relationship between VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai and L'Oréal has now spanned several years and is a testament to their exceptional commitment to tamariki and rangatahi in care. It is not just the time and energy that goes into planning and executing this amazing and life changing two day event, but L'Oréal provides further support to the community by gifting pallet loads of personal care and make up products on a regular basis.

CARE EXPERIENCED INTERNS

SAPPHIRE - INTERN @ VOYCE - WHAKARONGO MAI (ŌTAUTAHU)

“Being an intern at VOYCE has given me a placement to help towards the certificate I'm working on. It's been an amazing learning experience being able to facilitate tūhono events, visit places like Nelson and meeting some awesome young people in care. I've also had the opportunity to mentor some young people through VOYCE which has been a real highlight. I've had lots of support through my study and well as personally, and have had lots of encouragement. It's been really nice to know I have a team around me that encourages me and supports me. I've also loved working alongside my Kaiwhakamana Tayla and getting to work alongside all the other Kaiwhakamana in the Te Waipounamu team. I've also had the opportunity to be on some interview panels which has been a cool experience.

Overall this internship has had its ups and downs as it's been a huge learning curve, but I've grown so much and would definitely recommend it to others.”

TANISHA - INTERN @ VOYCE - WHAKARONGO MAI (TE TAI TOKERAU)

“As an intern for VOYCE in 2020 I learnt many key skills that have prepared me for working full-time. Some of these skills include initiative, working within a team and creative problem solving. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, the initial lockdown and immense restrictions that followed many of the plans VOYCE had for the year were canceled and I missed out on a large amount of fun stuff. Despite all this, I still had the opportunity to meet and work alongside many amazing people, including the National Youth Council.

Just as many others did that year, I worked from home and even came to enjoy the experience. VOYCE was very considerate of my prior commitments of studying and ensured that my work hours never overlapped or came in the way of that. Overall, my internship at VOYCE was one of the best opportunities I have ever had and the environment was so healthy, fun and caring.”



RANGATIRATANGA

Build leadership among children and young people in care.

RANGATAHI TOLD US:



“Build our leadership as children and young people in the care system. Invest in our training and development to grow our ability to be leaders in our own lives. Support our role in shaping, evaluating and holding to account services provided to children and young people in care and the wider care system. Involve us increasingly in the leadership, governance and delivery of this service and others.”

National Youth Council

The VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai National Youth Council (NYC) grounds the organisation and keeps the voice of young people at its core. In forming the NYC, VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai created a group of empowered leaders and organised those leaders to have an impact on rangatahi, key players in the care system and the operations of VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai itself.

Our training programme is a model to other youth organisations on how to train and support lived-experience experts to make meaningful and substantial contributions to the work of agencies and to go beyond low-impact feedback engagements. We have organised these national leaders to give direction to the work of key players in the care system.

The VOYCE National Youth Council has an especially strong contingent this year, Tau Tuatahi, who are working through a carefully developed leadership development curriculum to build their capability to represent care experienced tamariki and rangatahi and speak into different forums around key issues; and Tau Tuarua, who work in a tuakana/teina role with the new council members and speak into key issues.



“BEING IN THE COUNCIL HAS BEEN ABSOLUTELY INTEGRAL IN THE **LEAPS AND BOUNDS OF GROWTH** I’VE MADE THIS YEAR IN EVERY WAY SHAPE AND FORM.” - ALBIE, TAU TUATAHI

“I CAN FEEL MYSELF **BLOSSOMING** AND BECOMING MORE **CONFIDENT**.”

“I LEARNT HOW TO **WRITE MY OWN PEPEHA** AND HOW TO ACTUALLY **USE IT** IN DIFFERENT CONTEXTS.”

“I LEARNT HOW IMPORTANT IT IS TO USE THE POWER OF **TIKANGA** TO **CREATE EMPOWERING CHANGE**.”

“I AM INSPIRED BY THE **OPEN CONVERSATION** AND **INCLUSIVENESS** IN THE NATIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL.”

Regional Youth Council

Regional Youth Councils are up and running in Ōtautahi and more recently Pōneke, with plans underway for Tāmaki Makaurau/Te Tai Tokerau and Midlands in the near future.

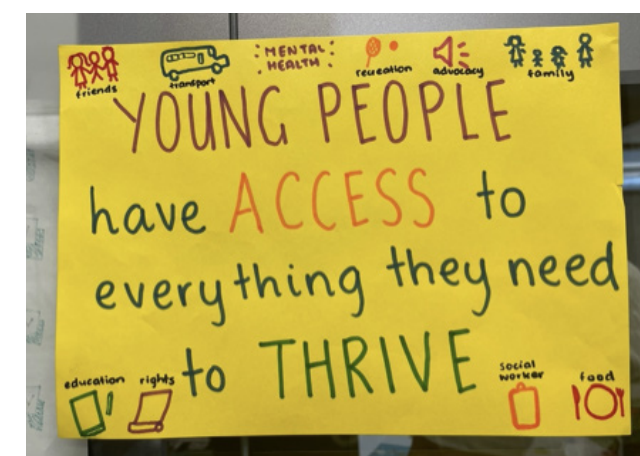
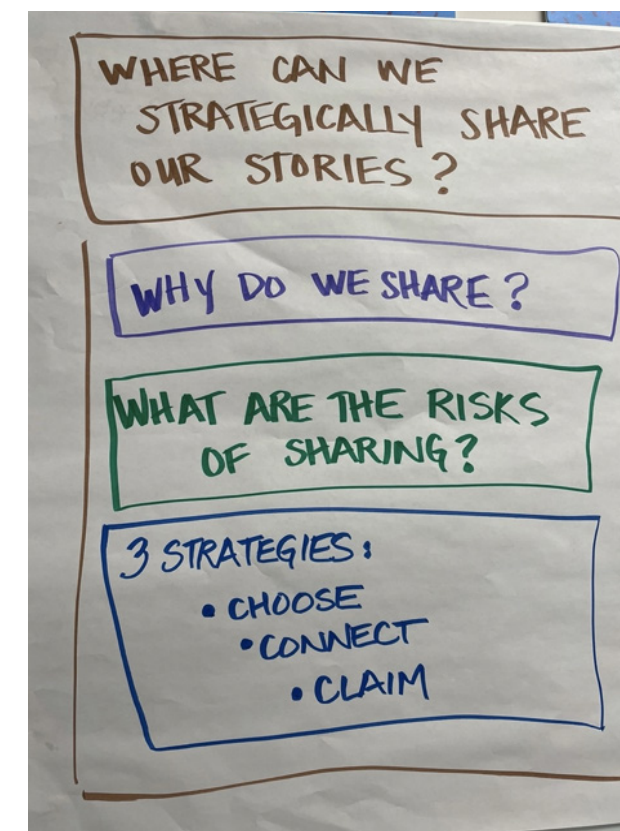
SPOTLIGHT ON ŌTAUTAHĪ:

The design and development of a Regional Youth Council came into fruition at the start of 2020 with a steering group made up of care experienced rangatahi, VOYCE National Youth Council members, and kaimahi.

The process has been intentionally slow and thoughtful, and as a result we have reviewed our Terms of Reference multiple times to ensure we have representation that includes a wide scope of people from right across areas within Te Waipounamu, with their own unique care experiences and backgrounds.

During discussions about who should be on the future Regional Youth Council, we advocated for young people under the age of 18 to be included in this space. This was taken on by kaimahi, and after a lot of deliberation to understand potential barriers, we are happy to report that we have a current age range of 16-24 included. It is a good first step that would not have been possible without the support of our Te Waipounamu leadership.

The Regional Youth Council has already achieved so much, and we are really excited to be moving forward from development to delivery.



COOL THINGS THE REGIONAL YOUTH COUNCIL HAS DONE:

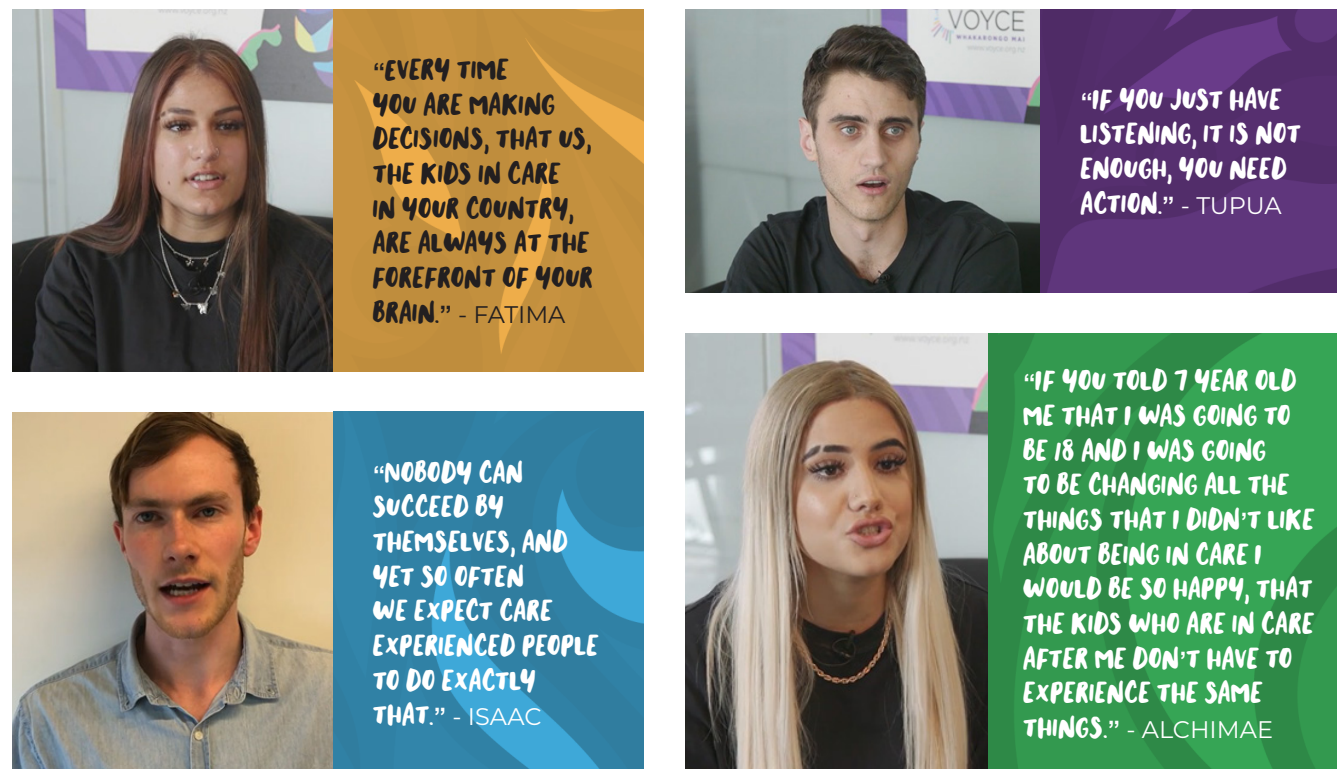
- Introduced young people under 18 into the RYC
- Young people led fundraisers
- Young people led call to actions
- Young people with a keen interest in supporting other young people; especially those not in the room, and those within residences or group homes.
- Supported the amendments to the Bill on conversion therapy
- Consulted and gave feedback on a digital storytelling app

“RYC HAS BEEN **AMAZING**, IT’S A GREAT WAY THAT WE CAN **SHARE OUR VIEWS** AS A COLLECTIVE.” - 16 y/o

“RYC IS DOING PRETTY **GOOD** SO FAR.” - 19 y/o

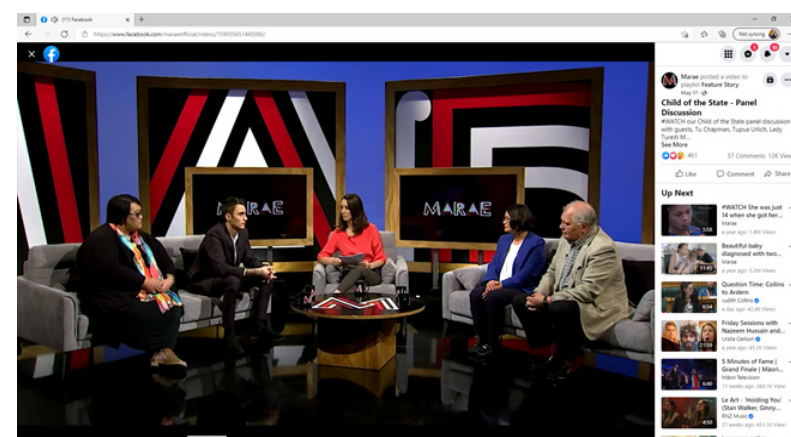
Kempe Conference – October 2020

Our VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai rangatahi continue to be great advocates for change and improvements in the care sector. Tupua, Alchimae, Fatima and Isaac presented to the Kempe Conference in October 2020. Their impact was so great that VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai has been invited to deliver a keynote presentation in 2021.



Marae – Child of the State

Tupua, VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai Alumni, bravely shared his story of growing up in state care on an episode of TVNZ's Marae. He followed this up by participating in a live Child of the State panel discussion with guests Tu Chapman, Lady Tureiti Moxon, and the Acting Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki, Ta Wira Gardiner.



9 GROWTH / LOCATIONS



Website visits have grown...

+27%

30% returning traffic



Top 4 referral sources to the VOYCE website:

1. Facebook
2. LinkedIn
3. Oranga Tamariki website
4. Instagram



Social media



Page reach: **86,464**
(up 210.5% on the previous year)



Page likes: **2.3K**



Page reach: **13,987**
(up 210.5% on the previous year)



Followers: **1.3K**
(across both VOYCENZ and VOYCEuhono)



VOYCE LinkedIn for Annual Report period

- » 550 followers, with an average 15 new followers per month
- » Posts had total reach of 32,500
- » Average engagement rate of 0.76% (double the industry average)
- » Total of 985 likes across content



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- f VOYCEWhakarongoMai
- t voycenz
- i VOYCENZ
- in VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai

LOCATION MAP



MAP LEGEND:



Operating offices



Satellite sites



STATEMENT FROM THE CEO

For VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai, 2020/2021 will be remembered as the year of the Bold and Courageous. Despite the omnipresence of COVID-19, the voices of our young people were centre stage in the organisation's evolution. The limitations of the pandemic spurred on the determination of our rangatahi, who were ever present in their advocacy via media and policy and their diligent application to research, international think tanks and conference presentations.

A highlight was the growth and momentum of the National Youth Council as they developed expertise and confidence. This growth was supported by the masterful leadership of Jamie Evans, National Youth Council Leadership Trainer. Development of the Six Promises for 6000 campaign demonstrated the commitment of the young people, as did their presentation to Select Committee on the Youth Justice Demerits Bill and their involvement at the Waitangi Tribunal hearings. These were examples of how our young leaders positioned their passion and determination to positively impact and influence state care.

In February, our entire national team went to Northland for our annual Wānanga; a time to reflect, plan and create space for new learning. This was enhanced by a trip to the treaty grounds on Waitangi Day and it was a pleasure to experience this as an organisation. We had the privilege of having the Children's Commissioner, Judge Becroft, and the Assistant Māori Commissioner for Children, Glenis Philip-Barbara, join us. They validated our mandate to challenge the inequities experienced by children in care. Partnership with the Office of the Children's Commissioner saw the first ever secondment of a VOYCE Care Experienced Consultant who joined OCC's policy team for nine months.

Change was another theme for the year as the significant shifts in Oranga Tamariki leadership presented challenges for our organisation and affected all children in care. I am indebted to our leadership team for their agility in responding, at pace, to the changes as well as nurturing their teams and encouraging the young people to continue to speak their truth with confidence.

All the achievements, and they were significant this year, saw our organisation create, grow and hold the space envisioned by care experienced young people to be powerful advocates for systems change.

This, and our significant geographical spread (VOYCE is now present in all major cities in Aotearoa), could only be achieved with our philanthropic partners: Vodafone Foundation, Todd Foundation, Tindall Foundation and Foundation North. Our philanthropic partners are more than funders, they are champions for the rights of young people, and they provided us significant opportunities to build leadership with our rangatahi and tamariki. I want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank L'Oréal New Zealand, who host an annual two-day event for our rangatahi. 'Face Your Future' is about building the skills, confidence and beauty of young people through understanding oneself.

2020/21 was a year of global challenges with a pandemic that had far reaching impacts, not the least being the effect on mental wellbeing. The pandemic crisis highlighted the need to be connected to our vulnerable communities. The VOYCE Kaiwhakamana team, who contacted and connected with young people during this time of lock downs and created alternative connection events, showed real advocacy at work. I extend my deep thanks to the entire team: to our innovative and steady Board of Trustees, our incredible staff, our community champions, and our young people. You have all demonstrated resilience and dedication in these unprecedented times.

*Ko te ahurei o te tamaiti ārahia ō tātou mahi.
Let the uniqueness of the child guide our work.*

Stay safe,



Tracie Shipton
VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai
CEO



FINANCIALS

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE REVENUE AND EXPENSES FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2021

	2021 \$	2020 \$
INCOME FROM NON EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS		
Donations and Grants Received	331,545	446,461
INCOME FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS		
Contract Income	5,387,742	4,149,500
Dividends Received	280	0
Interest Received	16,754	35,543
Other Income	30,525	26,757
Total Income	5,766,846	4,658,261
LESS EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	8,525	15,346
Donations and Koha	1,638	4,920
Employee Expenses	3,320,146	2,593,785
Lease Expenses	85,823	30,074
Rents	221,636	218,742
Service Delivery Expenses	1,213,686	1,123,726
Trustees Fees and Expenses	124,120	106,311
Total Expenses	4,975,574	4,092,903
Net Surplus Before Depreciation	791,272	565,358
LESS DEPRECIATION ADJUSTMENTS		
Depreciation	234,000	222,183
Loss on Sale	523	
	234,523	222,183
NET SURPLUS	556,749	343,175

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2021

CURRENT ASSETS	2,704,348	3,233,697
Cash and Cash Equivalents	33,404	31,787
GST Refund Due	32,076	
Accounts Receivable	33,951	32,767
Prepayments	2,803,779	3,298,251
Total Current Assets		
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	637,253	646,023
TOTAL ASSETS	3,441,032	3,944,274
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	189,809	150,948
Accrued Expenses	60,463	29,971
Accrued Expenses - Employee Entitlements	259,893	180,735
Income in Advance - Current	176,498	1,385,000
Total Current Liabilities	686,663	1,746,654
TOTAL LIABILITIES	686,663	1,746,654
NET ASSETS	2,754,369	2,197,620
Represented by:		
TRUSTEES FUNDS - Retained Earnings	2,754,369	2,197,620
TOTAL TRUSTEES FUNDS	2,754,369	2,197,620



**KO NGĀ PAE TAWHITI, WHAIA KIA TATA.
KO NGĀ PAE TATA, WHAKAMAUA KIA TINA.**

The potential for **tomorrow** depends on what we do **today**.



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