



ANNUAL REPORT

2022-2023

He Mahi Rangatira

CONTENTS

1	YOUTH VOYCE
2	STATEMENT FROM CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD
3	ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
4	WHAKAMANA
5	TŪHONO
6	WHAKATAIRANGA
7	WHAI PŪKENGĀ
8	RANGATIRATANGA
9	GROWTH/LOCATIONS
10	STATEMENT FROM THE CEO
11	FINANCIALS

WHĀRANGI

3
4
5
6
9
12
16
18
21
22
23

HEI MIHI

Tihei mauri - ora
 E nga mana, e ngā reo, rau rangatira mā
 Tēna tātou katoa

 Ka tau ngā tauwhirotanga
 Ki runga ki te whenua
 Āio ki te aorangi

 Tangihia ngā mate
 Haere koutou whakangaro atu rā

 Ko VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai
 E poho koreru ana
 Kua eke ā tātou mahi ki taumata kē atu

 Nō reira e te tī, e te tā
 E tau ana!

 Mauri Tū Mauri Ora e!



AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Behold the breath of life
 To the authorities, voices and many chiefs
 Greetings

 May compassion
 Settle on earth
 Peace be to the universe

 Lament those who have passed on
 Go forth - Farewell

 We of VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai
 Proudly acknowledge
 The ascendance of our work to another level

 And so to all directions
 Our purpose has been realised

 May there be health and wellbeing to all!



YOUTH VOYCE

At the end of 2022, the 2021-2022 National Youth Council cohort met for the final time. The wero they gave to the organisation was a need to shift from a National Youth Council to a more representative Regional Youth Council model.



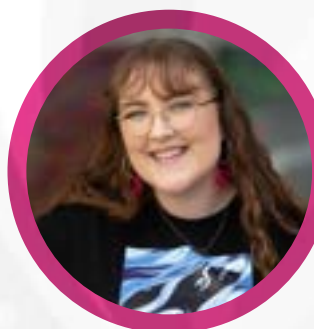
They wanted to make sure that VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai was providing opportunities for more young people to be involved in collective advocacy and grow as young leaders. They also wanted to see greater impact, through regional and national initiatives.

Mary-Lynn, previous National Youth Council member, has since joined VOYCE full-time to support the organisational shift and ensure care experienced voices (past and present) continue to be part of the fabric of VOYCE. We're now building a movement of young leaders across the country. This is a poem Mary-Lynn has written to summarise the shifts and changes over the past 12 months.

RIISING RANGATIRA // VOYCE'S AMPLIFIED

Poem written by:

Mary-Lynn Huxford
 National Care
 Experienced Youth
 Participation Advisor



*our advocacy is sharing the stories
 that you might not see
 challenging narratives // entrenched
 in our new zealand psyche*

*we blink // tamariki shifted
 from one end of the country
 to the other
 dissed and placed
 dis-placed
 where is our place?*

*kaimahi shine their light
 in the darkest of spaces
 wrap around awhi
 no corner or crevice left unturned
 government starting to relearn
 and yearn
 for change*

rangatira atawhai rising

*our chorus of voices
 heading straight to the beehive
 where honey is made
 and meant to heal our children*

*grab us a mop
 we dunk ourselves
 head first, into trauma
 it's time to clean up
 this state-legislated mess*

*seat us at the right hand
 create space for us
 at the decision making table*

*we whisper in the ears of politicians
 guide / direct
 avoid the dire effect
 of our lived experience
 not being included
 in your decisions*

hope // our driving force

*we chart a path forward
 amplifying stories and voices
 leveraging system change
 glimmers of light
 shining towards better days*



STATEMENT FROM CO-CHAIRS OF THE BOARD

Tēnā koutou katoa,

Once again we've had another huge year as a whānau at VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai. For all our kaimahi, from the awhi and support of our kaiwhakamana who often this year went out of their way to make sure tamariki and rangatahi got the support they needed, all the way through to our care experience advisors who diligently helped us build a space for regional councils to exist and contributed hugely into some of the change programme work, like Manaaki Kōrero, within the system itself.

As a Board we wanted to shout out to the intentional and challenging work by the Executive Leadership Team to continue balancing the need for growth, including to more places (shout out to the Te Taihū!) while also stewarding the fiscal sustainability of our organisation. We especially wanted to show our appreciation for Tracie and the brilliant team of leaders who continue to oversee the mahi we do here. Every year we write this we're reminded how lucky we've been as a Board to have them prepare the organisation and us for the mahi at hand, so Tracie and team, thank you.

Every year, there are big challenges that we know require hard work and quick action. Another shout out to our teams in East Coast, Tairāwhiti | Gisborne, the Waikato, Te Tai Tokerau and the broad range of whānau who were impacted by the floods this year. We stand with you and are grateful for your hard work, which we know comes at a personal cost to you and your whānau.

We wanted to acknowledge all our kaimahi and the huge group of rangatahi who supported the Six Promises campaign in Wellington. Mana, Isaac and a few others were stoked to hiko alongside you, laugh alongside you, and talk about the hard stuff with you. We want to congratulate you on a hugely successful day, met by all major and minor political parties in the House of Representatives. It was your day in the end, and that is the enduring message for years to come.

Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tuohu koe, me he maunga teitei

Seek the treasure that you value most dearly, if you bow your head, let it be to a lofty mountain.

We know it's been rough, and there's heaps going on everyday in the media and it always feels like we're hearing about decisions to make it harder for our whānau to succeed. Just remember, your experiences and strength are yours, are undeniably powerful and have lasting impacts for policymakers and politicians alike. Together we must continue to make sure there is a better place for us to go, that we are holding all decision-makers to account for decisions which affect whānau.

Finally, we want to leave a wero for the future. As a board our strategic priorities for VOYCE, as an independent voice for care experienced people, are that VOYCE will continue to be:

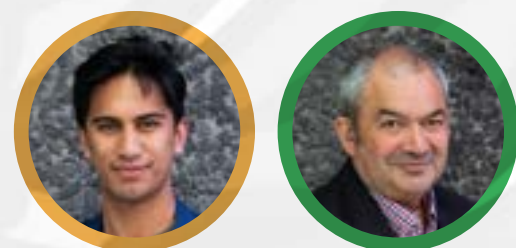
- a trusted provider of advocacy for rangatahi and tamariki
- care experienced informed across all our services
- an authority on advocacy
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi informed
- Focused on supporting our people through manaakitanga.

We want to hold firm our place in making sure rangatahi know we exist, trust that we will action their concerns, input into service changes, and advocate at a systems level when things are not doing enough for young people right across government. We know you are already doing all of these things but we are also aware that things could change quickly, and so we know we need a clear and unshakable focus on doing the basics really well, and remaining resilient in the face of likely change.

Hei konā mai (Goodbye for now)

Mana & Shayne

Co-Chairs, VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai



ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai and the care experienced community would love to acknowledge the generosity of our community partners. Ngā mihi nui. It would not be possible to provide the opportunities to care experienced young people, nor to create the waves required for true systemic change without your support.

PHILANTHROPIC PARTNERS

- Foundation North
- THE J R MCKENZIE TRUST
- The Tindall Foundation
- Todd Foundation
- One New Zealand Foundation
- Sky City
- Clare Foundation
- Entrust
- Givealittle
- Hawkes Bay Power Consumer Trust
- NZPPTA
- One New Zealand Group
- One New Zealand
- And other individual donors

GRANTS/CONTRACTS

- Oranga Tamariki - Ministry For Children
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in State and Faith Based Care
- The University of Auckland

DONATIONS AND GIFTS IN KIND

- AWWA
- One New Zealand
- L'Oréal
- Buddle Findlay

Donations from L'Oréal:



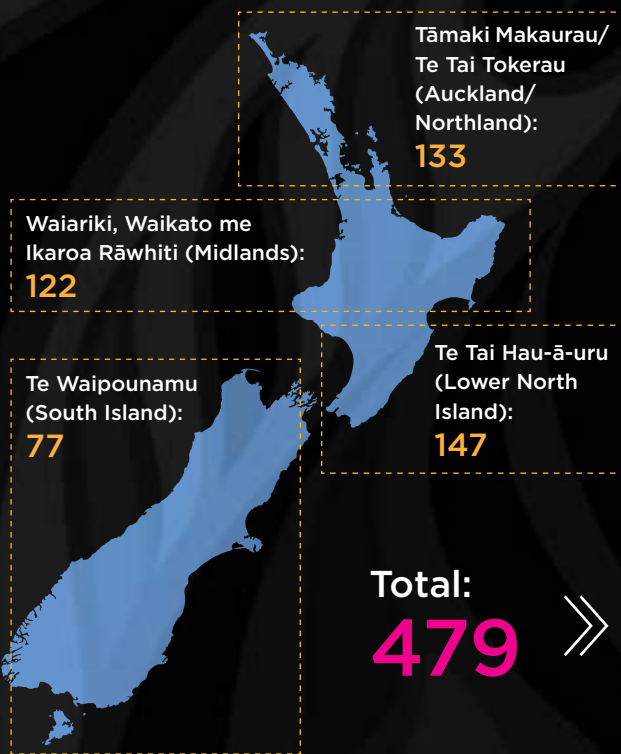
4 WHAKAMANA

Advocate with children and young people in care.

66 RANGATAHI TOLD US:

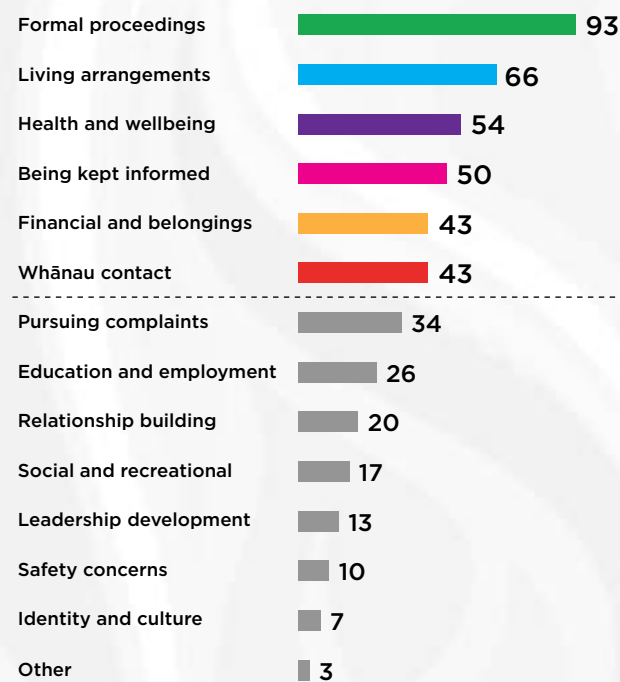
"Advocate with us as individual children and young people in care. Make information about rights and support services available in ways we understand. Support us to advocate for ourselves and others. Support our voice to be heard in decision making and resolution of our concerns. Support our trusted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

NEW ADVOCACY CASES:



CASE THEMES:

TOTAL: 479

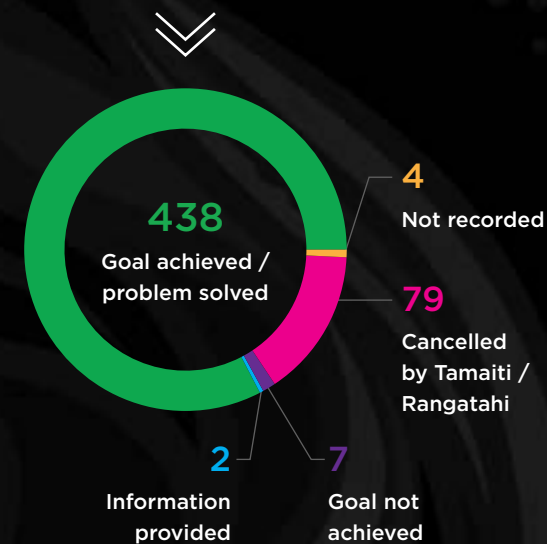


TOP 6 THEMES:



ADVOCACY OUTCOMES:

530 advocacy requests were closed during the period 1/7/2022 – 30/6/2023



Care plans - specifically in residences

Feeling unheard by OT and wanting support

CASE EXAMPLES:

Case 1:

A young person reached out for support regarding accommodation as they were being asked to leave their family accommodation and had nowhere to stay. A Kaiwhakamana supported them to attend Work and Income, who provided a list of emergency housing contacts, and worked through options. The Kaiwhakamana attended viewings and supported the young person to obtain additional information to support their application.

Suitable accommodation was able to be sourced within two days and the Kaiwhakamana gave the young person a housewarming gift of L'Oréal shampoos and makeup. The Kaiwhakamana continued to check on the young person and supported them to sign the paperwork and access additional financial support.

Whānau connections/ reconnections

Case 2:

VOYCE supported one of our rangatahi to make a complaint to the Oranga Tamariki Feedback and Complaints team.

The young person was not happy that between their interview and the outcome meeting there had been little to no update given to them. When the young person did receive the outcome of the complaint, Oranga Tamariki did not arrange for the Kaiwhakamana to be present. The young person said the outcome meeting was 'awkward and confusing' and did not make sense to them. Oranga Tamariki admitted to wrongdoing and poor practice in the outcome letter. However, it was very brief and some aspects of the young person's complaint were not addressed.

The young person was not happy with the process or the outcome, so the Kaiwhakamana supported them to escalate to both Oranga Tamariki Claims and the Ombudsman.

Access to mental health supports



Sibling
contact

Case 3:

A Kaiwhakamana contacted a young person who had recently moved into the area to let them know that VOYCE was a service still available to them if they needed it. During this call, the young person disclosed that they had been restrained by members of staff at the new service they were with. They described the incident, which appeared to include unlawful physical restraint and verbal taunts. The young person advised the incident had escalated and they had gotten into a physical fight with the staff members and police were called.

As it appeared there could be a safety risk, the Kaiwhakamana advised they would need to make a report of concern and what would happen. After ensuring the young person's immediate safety, their social worker was advised.

When the Kaiwhakamana followed up a few days later, the young person said that things were going a lot better and they had not worked with or seen the staff involved in the restraint since. The young person is no longer working with the staff who assaulted them. Oranga Tamariki were able to investigate and address the concerns raised.



Necessities
– shelter, kai,
water, love

Transitioning
back home

Case 4:

A young person approached VOYCE to help them make a complaint to Oranga Tamariki about physical, mental and emotional abuse they and their siblings suffered in the care of numerous caregivers. The Kaiwhakamana talked them through the different avenues available and they decided they wanted to make an official written submission to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in Care. A complaint about one of their social workers would also be included in the submission.

The Kaiwhakamana sought the help of Community Law who have specialised lawyers to support young people through this process.

The young person was supported to outline the need for reparations and reimbursement of the costs that they incurred to get the help they were entitled to while they were in care.

Placements
and next
steps

Case 5:

A kaiwhakamana supported a sibling group (plus older tuakana) over several months through their court discharge processes. Informing them about and representing them at Family Group Conferences, completing Transition to Independence referrals and working with the National Transitions Team to ensure that the service and response met the needs of the rangatahi and the whānau.

Bail
conditions

Education and
employment



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.”

NUMBER OF EVENTS BY REGION:



VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai held
46 events nationwide.



Aotearoa (National)

Regional Youth Council Wānanga,
17-21 April 2023, Launch of Te Waka Rangatira

Hosted at Te Kotahitanga Marae, Port Waikato. This four day event represented the first camp hosted by VOYCE attended by care experienced young people from across Aotearoa. 20 rangatahi attended alongside VOYCE kaimahi (staff) and guests.



Across the Regions

Website Redesign Photoshoots, May/June 2023 (various dates)

A series of photoshoots were held across Aotearoa to give rangatahi the opportunity to have some beautiful photos taken of themselves, and to spend time with other care experienced rangatahi from their region and have some fun. The photos will be used on the new VOYCE website (coming soon) so care experienced young people can see themselves, or people like them, represented. 65 care experienced young people participated from Te Waipounamu, Te Tai Tokerau, Tāmaki Makaurau, Midlands/Central East Coast and Te Tai Hau-ā-uru.



Tāmaki Makaurau/Te Tai Tokerau (Auckland/Northland)

Billie Eilish Concert, 8 September 2022

VOYCE was lucky enough to be gifted tickets to the Billie Eilish concert and 13 care experienced young people from Tāmaki Makaurau were supported to attend.

L'Oréal Face Your Future, 28-29 September 2022

VOYCE once again partnered with L'Oréal and Caring Families to support 33 care experienced young people to attend the L'Oréal Face Your Future event in Tāmaki Makaurau.



Women's Rugby World Cup, October/November 2022

The Northland Rugby Union has been a great supporter of VOYCE, and during the 2022 Women's Rugby World Cup gifted several tickets to allow care experienced tamariki and rangatahi to experience the event along with their whānau. 242 care experienced young people were supported to attend fixtures in Te Tai Tokerau.



Teddy Bear's Picnic, 3 December 2022, Te Tai Tokerau

20 care experienced tamariki and their whānau were able to join VOYCE for a teddy bear's picnic to kick off the summer season.



Waiariki, Waikato me Ikaroa Rāwhiti (Midlands)

Mau Rakau, 13 July 2022

One of our Kaiwhakamana ran a Mau Rakau session in Te Maioha o Parekarangi for 19 care experienced young people.



Te Tai Hau-ā-uru (Lower North Island)

Pizza Tūhono, 22 June 2023

A fun pizza gathering was held in Epuni Care and Protection Residence for 13 care experienced young people and staff in Te Tai Hau-ā-uru.



Te Waipounamu (South Island)

Magazine Launch, 15 & 16 December 2022, Ōtautahi

To celebrate the new VOYCE Tamariki magazine, and the several young people from the Ōtautahi RYC who helped to make the magazine, VOYCE held mini celebrations around the motū where tamariki enjoyed cake, dressing up as superheroes and getting involved in some of the crafts and cooking that are featured in the magazine.



Winter Chills: Pride, 22 June 2023

VOYCE held a chill and hang out event in the Ōtautahi office, where young people and kaimahi did crafts, shared kai and got to celebrate who they are! Six care experienced young people joined us for this event.



6 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.”

KEY WHAKATAIRANGA ACTIVITIES:



Manaaki Kōrero



Oranga Tamariki partnered with VOYCE to seek input from tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and caregivers on a ‘fit-for-whānau’ feedback and complaints system.

We completed a series of engagements with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and caregivers across the country and shared the insights with Oranga Tamariki.

The project explores ‘Huarahi ki te mana tangata ake ake tonu’ - What does the journey look like where mana can prevail for tamariki and rangatahi when raising their needs and concerns with Oranga Tamariki? The final report is being prepared for publication and findings videos are being prepared for tamariki and rangatahi participants.

Oranga Tamariki convened a Joint Steering Group to oversee the implementation phase of Manaaki Kōrero co-chaired by Oranga Tamariki and VOYCE. The joint steering group includes key decision makers from Oranga Tamariki and influential stakeholders from Māori, Pacific and Disability Communities. VOYCE will support the implementation, ensuring communities are included in the design and testing of solutions identified to address their insights.

Media Coverage

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai has regularly been approached by mainstream media to provide a lived experience perspective on topical issues relating to the care sector.

North & South Article: The Misery-Go-Round

Journalist and VOYCE ally, Aaron Smale, featured Tupua Ulrich as part of his in-depth article ‘The Misery-Go-Round,’ covering the history and present day issues of the NZ state care system. Published 13 August 2022.

2023 Budget Announcements

Tupua Ulrich and Mary-Lynn Huxford made press release statements about how the cost-of-living crisis affects rangatahi atawhai.



VOYCE Interview with University of Canterbury Journalist

Two rangatira in Ōtautahi were interviewed by a 3rd year UC student putting together a portfolio interviewing different marginalised communities/individuals. The two rangatahi spoke on their experiences in care.



Collaboration

Creating the Care System that our care experienced tamariki and rangatahi need and deserve is a sector wide responsibility. VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai seeks to collaborate with other organisations to leverage each others capacity and capability to maximise impact.

Aroturuki Tamariki (Independent Children’s Monitor)

VOYCE has partnered with Aroturuki Tamariki to facilitate youth participation in each of the regions to align with the monitoring schedule. The intention is to leverage the opportunity to create connections with tamariki and rangatahi atawhai in communities. Regional teams are actively coordinating monitoring visits with key stakeholders, ensuring the safe involvement of tamariki and rangatahi with support from VOYCE.



Oversight of Oranga Tamariki

The Hive Creative have been commissioned to develop a video explaining the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki, the roles and responsibilities of the different agencies and how they function together. Rangatira Atawhai from VOYCE have been working with the team to ensure the video is suitable for 8-16 year olds.

Family for Every Child

VOYCE is working with the Family for Every Child national and international network, who offered to facilitate collaboration with local organisations working towards shared advocacy goals including Care System Reforms and Reducing Family Violence.



Collaboration, continued

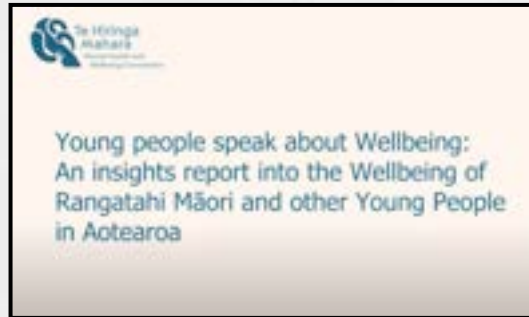
A Boy Called Piano

Some members of VOYCE Youth Councils and Oranga Tamariki's Youth Advisory Group attended a feedback session relating to the film "A Boy Called Piano" and how it could be used as a training tool for Oranga Tamariki Social Workers. Four care experienced rangatira flew to Wellington and met with Fa'amoana and his aiga who the film is about, the Conch theatre company who made the documentary, and Oranga Tamariki DCE Service Delivery. This was a fruitful hui with ideas both about the use of the documentary for training, but also how the Conch could support other creative avenues for storytelling and creative advocacy for rangatahi atawhai.



DPMC Child and Youth Wellbeing Unit

The Te Waipounamu Regional Youth Council engaged in a Te Hiranga Mahara (Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission) review hui in 2022 regarding improving the way government engages with rangatahi to support decision-making. Subsequently, Te Hiranga Mahara published a [youth wellbeing insights report](#)¹, 'Young people speak out about Wellbeing: An insights report into the Wellbeing of Rangatahi Māori and other Young People in Aotearoa'. The final report was shared with the Te Waipounamu Regional Youth Council and released at Parliament for Youth Week.



Submissions

Written submissions are another tool used to share the perspectives of tamariki and rangatahi atawhai in relation to policy decisions being made that will impact the care system.

UNCRC Thematic Report

VOYCE submitted a thematic report on 30 August 2022 in response to how the NZ Government is meeting its obligations under the UN Convention of the Rights of the Child. The submission from VOYCE shared insights from various collective voice projects with care experienced rangatahi and was structured around the VOYCE 6 Promises.

Insights Summary on Youth Justice

A written submission was developed in response to the Justice Sector Public Consultation regarding their 'Long-Term Insights Briefing Document' covering the changing needs of people in prison, over-representation of Māori, the use of custodial remand, the evolution of rehabilitation, reintegration and the role of the community.

Oranga Tamariki issues papers for the Residences Amendment Bill

One of our care experienced rangatahi and VOYCE Kaiwhakamana shared experiences of rangatahi in residences to inform an issues paper to Oranga Tamariki to support policy decisions in the next Oranga Tamariki Amendment Bill.

Research

VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai supports research to ensure tamariki and rangatahi insights inform systems change. This year VOYCE has led, partnered on, supported and promoted numerous research projects relevant to the care community.

Trauma-informed care in residences

VOYCE has rangatahi and kaimahi representation on the Research Governance Group for Victoria University research into the mental health and wellbeing needs of rangatahi in residences and group homes.

Oranga Tamariki thematic advocacy

Oranga Tamariki and VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai are working together to take a more strategic approach to thematic issues being identified as a result of the one-to-one advocacy undertaken with tamariki and rangatahi in line with Action 1.8 of the Future Directions Plan. The first issue explored was experiences of Family Group Conferences. A new theme will be explored every quarter.



Making Ourselves Visible: The Experiences of Takatāpui and Rainbow Rangatahi in Care

This piece of community-led research was commissioned by Oranga Tamariki and led by Point and Associates along with a community design team. VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai supported this project by connecting with Rangatira Atawhai to sit on the community design team; providing advice and feedback on the research design, ethics process and final report; and connecting Takatāpui and Rainbow rangatahi with care experience to the project as participants, supporting them with giving informed consent, participating in interviews and following up with any advocacy issues that arose.

The [report](#)² is now publicly available and was officially launched via a [webinar event](#)³ on 14 June 2023. The report includes a series of recommendations for Oranga Tamariki to transform care systems by prioritising cultural safety, inclusive practice, and upholding the mana and self-determination of takatāpui and rainbow rangatahi. Oranga Tamariki has accepted the report's recommendations and is working on a plan to address them, including recruiting three new staff to lead this work.



Links:

¹ Youth wellbeing insights [Report], www.mhwc.govt.nz/our-work/youth-insights-project

² Making Ourselves Visible [Report], www.tengakaukahukura.nz/report-launch-making-ourselves-visible

³ Making Ourselves Visible [Webinar], www.tengakaukahukura.nz/report-launch-making-ourselves-visible

7 WHAI PŪKENGA

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

66 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.”

NYC Curriculum Development

Members of the 2021 and 2022 National Youth Council developed a curriculum training for kaimahi who work in the care sector titled, “What I Wish I Knew: Promoting transparency between social workers and tamariki atawhai.” The inaugural training was held in the Tāmaki office in October 2022 and was attended by kaiwhakamana. The workshop is also going to be presented at the 2023 Social Workers Conference.



AWWA Designed to Give Campaign

VOYCE received 150 pairs of period underwear from AWWA to distribute to care experienced wāhine to help them overcome period poverty and the many other challenges of navigating periods while in care. The donation was through the AWWA Period Underwear ‘Designed to Give’ donation programme.



The Bank Accounts project with Oranga Tamariki and Westpac

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai and Oranga Tamariki have been working with Westpac and other key stakeholders to try to increase the ability of tamariki and rangatahi in care to be able to open and access their own bank accounts to support them to build their financial literacy and independence. Westpac have offered to share their learnings across the banking sector to try to ensure solutions can be applied across all the major banks. A series of workshops were held, centred around the voices and experiences of care experienced rangatahi and caregivers, to design a solution to improve access to bank accounts. With some good progress made with those in the 15-17 year age group. The next phase will focus on building on this process to pick up 12-14 year olds.



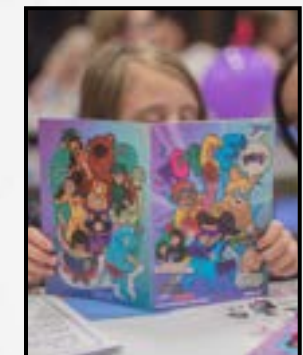
Shifting narratives around crime and justice

Rangatira Atawhai participated in an online short-course offered by JustSpeak from April to May 2023. The course focused on election preparation, campaign planning, and developing the skills necessary to engage the public and enlist their support for advocacy campaigns in the 2023 election.



The VOYCE Magazine

The VOYCE magazine was created as a child friendly resource that would be something fun and give tamariki a sense of belonging, while also introducing VOYCE and our work to them. It was created over a period of months with a panel of care experienced rangatahi who contributed to every aspect of the design and content. The magazine is now published and in circulation. Whangārei, Hawkes Bay and Ōtautahi all held tūhono with under-12s where the magazine was launched, and members of the magazine design group were recognised and celebrated.



Face Your Future

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai partnered with L'Oréal and Caring Families to support a group of care experienced rangatahi to participate in the two-day Face Your Future “camp-style” conference hosted by L'Oréal. Face Your Future is a mixture of fun interactive workshops and inspirational speakers. It focuses on positive and inspiring stories from people who have pushed through tough times in their lives to go on and be super successful in their personal lives, businesses, and careers.



8 RANGATIRATANGA

Build leadership among children and young people in care.

66 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.”

Royal Commission of Inquiry into the Abuse in State and Faith Based Care

In December 2022, VOYCE and the Royal Commission launched a Rangatahi Rōpū to bring youth voice into the Royal Commission Report Recommendations. 11 rangatahi joined the rōpū and met over three wānanga between January and June 2023. The rōpū are named “Te rōpū Kaitiaki mō ngā teina, e haere ake nei” (The guardians of our siblings who come after us). During their tenure, they met the Chair and Commissioners in person, learned more about the kaupapa from key leaders, shared their lived experience with each other and delivered their position statement ‘Korowai Aroha’. This statement belongs to the rōpū. It was delivered to the Royal Commission in Wellington on 25 June 2023. The cover was designed by one of the rōpū members. The statement includes their key asks to the Government and Royal Commission. ‘Korowai Aroha’ will be incorporated into the Commission’s final report.



Youth Parliament 2022

VOYCE 2022 National Youth Council member, Albany Lockie, and Te Waipounamu Regional Youth Council Chair, Ihorangi Reweti-Peters, were selected to be part of Youth Parliament 2022. In their speech to the House, Albany Lockie called on the government to honour its parental duties to those in state care and uphold the 6 Promises for 6000. Ihorangi Reweti-Peters spoke about the intergenerational failings of the government for those who are in and have been through the state care system and called for better mental health support.



Te Waka Rangatira Wānanga

From 17 – 20 April, VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai had our very first ‘Te Waka Rangatira’ (the Chiefly Canoe) Wānanga, where young leaders with experience of the state care system united to be seen, heard and connected to others with experiences of the care system.

Rangatira and VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai kaimahi from across the motu were welcomed on to Te Kotahitanga Marae in Port Waikato, by mana whenua, Ngāti Tiipa. A highly interactive gathering, including wānanga, kōrero, kai, and the Pou Games (participants were grouped into teams named after our five Pou Ārahai: Whakamana, Whakatairanga, Whai Pūkenga, Rangatiratanga, Tūhono); it was a time of deep reflection, inspiration, learning, and fun.



Throughout the four days rangatira were guided to:

- Consider “Who am I?” through context of the waters inside us and all around us, via Nga Tatai Haere o te Whakapapa o te Wai: No hea te wai, Ko wai au – Pepeha (The genealogies, origins and connections of water: Where the water comes from).
- Explore our kaupapa Māori values: what they mean to everyone, and how they weave together to keep us safe.
- Reflect on their strengths despite the challenges of the care system and share their hopes, dreams and aspirations for others who’ve had similar experiences.
- Meet with inspirational young rangatira, Pania Newton, at Ihumātao in Tāmaki Makaurau, where they learned about how a small rōpū of young whānau members drew on their whakapapa and Te Tiriti o Waitangi principles to successfully put an end to plans for a major disruptive development on their sacred whenua.
- Connect with the practice of tuakana-teina, hearing from five rangatira (joined by Chief Executive, Tracie Shipton)—who have helped pave the way for collective advocacy since the very early creation of VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai—who pieced together our whakapapa from their time with VOYCE.
- Learn about different avenues and approaches to collective advocacy based on differing interests and skillsets.
- Be gifted with the ira that Timoti Moran is making for every tamariki and rangatahi atawhai in Aotearoa: Taonga by Timoti.

Our rangatira shone throughout, and everyone left humbled, inspired, connected, and uplifted from an amazing and memorable time together.



Youth Week: Rangatira mō āpōpō? Rangatira i tēnei rā!

Event 1: Te Tai Hau-ā-uru

Two Rangatira Atawhai attended Parliament for the launch of Youth Week and were able to connect with influential people about the needs and interests of rangatahi atawhai.



Event 2: Te Waipounamu: Rangatahi tū Rangatira

Te Waipounamu organised a youth forum in Nelson, inviting care experienced rangatahi from right across the Tasman, Marlborough and West Coast regions. They had an awesome rōpū of rangatira from across the region together for one day to start talking about youth voice in the region. They had a Q+A with care experienced staff and were challenged by young people to be more present in the region! Our rangatira in the Upper South are keen to get involved and have their say, and did just that. They gave feedback on what tūhono and leadership opportunities they wanted in the area, and what they want to change about the Oranga Tamariki System. The team sent their feedback to all of the Oranga Tamariki managers in the Upper South, who are keen to keep hearing the voices of their local rangatira.



Youth Councils Update

In August 2022, members of the VOYCE National Youth Council, Regional Youth Councils and tuakana met online to discuss the future direction of Youth Participation at VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai. The rōpū drafted vision, mission and purpose statements to guide the organisation as VOYCE shifts from a National to Regional model for councils and leadership opportunities.

The final National Youth Council hui was held in Tāmaki in December 2022. All the members were honoured for their advocacy over the past two years.

In 2023, VOYCE is focusing on building Regional Youth Councils across the country. A collective of youth participation lead kaimahi across the regions have come together to form a community of learning to support youth participation activities, including the establishment of Regional Youth Councils. This will be a place to share, learn, grow and inspire so we can provide the best support to tamariki and rangatahi atawhai who want to connect and participate in collective advocacy. A core curriculum, grounded in Te Pūtake Kōkiri and the function of youth councils, is being shaped and will form the foundation for all VOYCE Youth Council members.

Te Waka Rangatira kaimahi are supporting the regions to establish their councils, as well as working with rangatira in the regions on various advocacy and leadership opportunities.



9 GROWTH/ LOCATIONS

Social media



Followers:
1,184

Posts Total Reach:
27,491

Posts Total Likes:
4,183



People who Like/
Follow VOYCE:
6.3K

Facebook Reach:
219,299



Followers:
1,743

Instagram Likes:
6,167

Instagram Reach:
60,942



Website

76,127
views



BIGGEST REFERRALS:

1. VOYCE Facebook
2. Oranga Tamariki website
3. VOYCE LinkedIn



0800 486 923 | [voyce.org.nz](https://www.voyce.org.nz)

VOYCEWhakarongoMai

voycenz

VOYCENZ

VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai

LOCATION MAP



MAP LEGEND:

Operating offices



STATEMENT FROM THE CEO

The unwavering commitment of our VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai kaimahi to advocating for the tamariki and rangatahi of Aotearoa New Zealand is front of mind as I reflect on this past year.

As the CEO, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to our exceptional team for their dedication during another transformative and impactful year. I also extend my thanks to the Board of Trustees for their continued vision, courage and support, and for always keeping young people at the centre of the conversation.

This year has proven to be transformative in our Youth Participation and Youth Council spaces. Te Waka Rangatira, our youth participation strategy, stepped closer to being realised moving from a single National Youth Council towards a more representative model with Regional Youth Councils across the country. The new regional approach was officially launched in April, with a 4 day wānanga at Te Kotahitanga Marae in Port Waikato.

Our kaiwhakamana teams deserve special recognition for continuing to support and empower our rangatahi to share what is on their mind. They have skillfully engaged with whānau, Oranga Tamariki and other key decision makers, ensuring that the voices of our tamariki are not only heard but honoured.

Our team members have been working to build a regular and consistent presence in Youth Justice and Care and Protection residences, and have fostered strong connections with rangatahi, helping keep them informed, to understand their rights, to have a say in important issues, transition planning and nurturing their visions for a brighter future.

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai continues to push for the voices of our care experienced community to be heard and considered central to policy and decision making across the care sector. With an ever-growing community, a building reputation and with a bit of grit and a lot of heart. We have never been more influential in advocating for the rights of tamariki and rangatahi. We thank our supporters and funders for their unwavering commitment.

I want to acknowledge and thank the Executive Leadership Team for their dedication, capability, optimism and drive to make a difference. I can do this job because of you.

To the tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau who trust in us, you are the reason we exist and grow year after year.

Ngā mihi nui.

Tracie Shipton
Tumu Whakarae
Chief Executive, VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai



FINANCIALS

Statement of Comprehensive Revenue and Expenses For the year ended 30 June 2023

	2023 \$	2022 \$
INCOME FROM NON EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS		
Donations and Grants Received	809,558	534,357
INCOME FROM EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS		
Contract Income	6,701,219	4,724,222
Interest Received	85,087	14,987
Other Income	5,460	24,040
Dividends Received	543	460
Total Income	7,601,867	5,298,066
LESS EXPENSES		
Audit Fees	5,450	9,300
Donations and Koha	21,596	23,827
Employee Expenses	3,795,054	3,666,101
Rents	320,950	254,479
Service Delivery Expenses	1,422,084	982,782
Trustees Fees and Expenses	86,857	61,165
Total Expenses	5,651,991	4,997,655
Net Surplus Before Depreciation Adjustments	1,949,877	300,412
LESS DEPRECIATION ADJUSTMENTS		
Depreciation	199,415	204,386
Loss on Disposal	5	5,573
	199,420	209,959
NET SURPLUS	1,750,457	90,452

Statement of Financial Position As at 30 June 2023

CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash and Cash Equivalents	4,693,216	2,966,524
Accrued Income	17,647	3,547
Trade and Other Receivables	101,988	54,745
GST Receivable	46,972	22,173
Prepayments	42,883	41,149
Total Current Assets	4,902,706	3,088,137
NON-CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant and Equipment	593,866	529,272
TOTAL ASSETS	5,496,572	3,617,409
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Accounts Payable	253,031	156,397
Accrued Expenses	35,573	41,087
Accrued Expenses - Employee Entitlements	333,900	298,134
Income in Advance - Current	278,791	276,971
Total Current Liabilities	901,295	772,589
TOTAL LIABILITIES	901,295	772,589
NET ASSETS	4,595,277	2,844,821
EQUITY		
Retained Earnings	4,595,277	2,844,821
TOTAL EQUITY	4,595,277	2,844,821

ME MAHI TAHI TĀTOU MŌ TE ORANGA O TE KATOA

Working **together** for the wellbeing of **all**.



voyce.org.nz

0800 486 923

 VOYCEWhakarongoMai

 voycenZ

 VOYCENZ

 VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai