

safekids
Aotearoa

TŪMATAKAHUKI

Policy Watch

September/ October 2021

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Kia ora koutou, Bula Vinaka, Kia Orana, Talofa, Malo e lelei, Malo ni, Fakalofa Atu

On behalf of the Safekids Aotearoa team, we hope that this newsletter finds you and your whānau well this Spring.

Safekids Tūmatakahuki: Policy Watch covers the latest news, research and policy development relevant to our work. It highlights issues that influence unintentional child injuries which directly or indirectly impact child, youth and whānau wellbeing. We send out our updates as a monthly newsletter which you can subscribe to [here](#).

The Meaning Behind the Name

Tūmatakahuki is a vertical stake (rod) that passes down the middle of all well-made traditional tukutuku panels. Tukutuku panelling is a traditional Māori art form that is part of the traditional wall construction used inside Whare tīpuna (meeting houses). The stake is fixed to the face of the panel's horizontal rods by a special stitch. The stitch is considered to have a decorative function,

however, its purpose is fundamental to the structural integrity of the **tukutuku** panel by securing the horizontal rods in place.

The purpose behind an important piece that binds the structure of the **tukutuku** panel enables the different aka (vines) to be weaved through each rod. In this way, the **tūmatakahuki** ensures the structure is solid, safe and integral. We hope that this newsletter is stake that solidifies and strengthens our unintentional injury network. It aims to protect our young tamariki from preventable harm.



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Whānau stories

We love helping to tell the stories of people in our community.

You can watch some of our whānau stories on our [Facebook page](#) or on [our website](#).

Keep an eye out for more of our stories coming to a screen near you soon.

If you want to get involved and tell your story or have people in your lives who have interesting stories to tell, get in touch with us at safekidsaotearoa@adhb.govt.nz.

Dog Bites Survey and Focus group: Have your say

The yearly average of dog bites to children is 2,160. Tell us about your experience with dogs in the community and in private spaces.

We are a part of a group of researchers who are conducting a survey and a focus group of adult caregivers of children, as part of a wider study to explore the perspectives of caregivers about the significance of dogs in their lives, the potential harm caused to children in private spaces, and the potential impact on their use of public resources.

Your participation would be a valuable contribution to our research, and to the prevention of dog related injuries.

Check out starship.org.nz/safekids/dogrelatedinjuriesurvey to read the participant information sheet and complete the survey. If you are interested in being part of the focus group please contact maretah@adhb.govt.nz.

Dates

Thu 11th November, 10 am Kaikohe.

Fri 12th November, 10 am North Shore.

COVID-19

With Aotearoa currently at alert level 2 and Auckland at alert level 3 it means most of us are staying home and keeping to our bubbles. We all still need to be vigilant and keep track of where we have been and where we are going. Symptoms of COVID-19 include **fever, a new or worsening cough, runny nose, loss of smell or taste, sore throat and shortness of breath.**

If you experience any of the symptoms aforementioned please get tested stay home and call Healthline on **0800 358 5453** or your doctor if you are still feeling unwell, especially if you have the symptoms noted above. Healthline is free and available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. You can also refer to the [official COVID-19 website](#) for more information.

Let's do it for our community, for our families and ourselves.

#ProtectOurWhakapapa



Child and Whānau-Centred Policy

15th data report Te pūrongo raraunga 15

Mortality is multi-causal. Usually, no one single factor causes a death. The data in this report and in previous reports of the CYMRC shows the persistence of inequitable disparities for children who experience high levels of deprivation and economic hardship. Māori and Pacific children are more likely to be living with the harsh realities of deprivation and poverty and these are serious risk factors that contribute to higher rates of preventable deaths in tamariki Māori and Pacific children. The 15th data report considers equity as a key priority to protect tamariki Māori and Pacific children from preventable mortality. A system-wide quality improvement strategy is required to reduce inequities and prevent avoidable deaths.

You can read the full report [here](#).

He Tamariki Kokoti Tau: Tackling preterm incidence and outcomes of preterm births by ethnicity in Aotearoa New Zealand 2010–2014

Preterm birth among Māori indigenous peoples causes significant mortality and morbidity, similar to other indigenous peoples internationally. Understanding patterns of privilege experienced by white settler populations allows potential understanding of why Indigenous inequities occur. This then allows for the identification of points of intervention so that the advantages accruing to some can be extended to all members of society. Ensuring equitable access to evidence-based care is one such intervention.

Within Aotearoa New Zealand, advantage to some women is seen with lower rates of birth complications over time. Advantage was also seen in the reduction of perinatally related mortality rates reported for European women.

You can read the full report [here](#).

5590+ The new health insight helping New Zealanders lead Healthier, Longer, Better Lives.

AIA NZ's 5590+ report, evidences the increasing importance of the environment for our health and wellbeing. The report cites lack of environmental interaction as one of five risk factors that lead to the five most common non-communicable diseases: these NCDs represent more than 90% of deaths in New Zealand.

AIA New Zealand is contributing to the critically important work of improving the health outcomes for Kiwis and helping them live Healthier, Longer, Better Lives, through the prevention of five major non-communicable diseases – cancer, diabetes, respiratory diseases, heart disease and poor mental health – and a focus on the modifiable behavioural risks that underpin these – physical inactivity, poor nutrition, smoking, excess alcohol and our interaction with the environment.

You can read the full report [here](#).

New Zealand's immunisation policy fails again and entrenches ethnic disparities

New Zealand has a long history of failing to immunise and protect its children. The last national immunisation survey in 2005 showed overall immunisations rates of 77% at age two years. It also revealed a significant ethnic disparity with overall Māori rates of 69% compared to European rates of 80%. There was an effort to improve overall immunisation coverage rates when the then government made childhood immunisation one of six health targets in 2009. It was hoped that using the National Immunisation Register to identify missed immunisations could raise immunisation coverage levels. There was much celebrating when the Māori and European immunisation coverage rates equalised at the two-year target (93%) in September 2014. However, those who understood how this was achieved and looked at other time points remained concerned that these gains were illusory.

You can read the research [here](#).

Life during Lockdown Findings from the Growing Up in New Zealand COVID-19 Wellbeing Survey. PART 1: HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In March 2020, the New Zealand Government introduced a four-level COVID-19 alert system, with each level considering the immediate level of risk and outlining the required restrictions that legally had to be followed to minimise the risk of catching and/or spreading COVID-19. As the levels increased, restrictions increased on population movement, travel, and gatherings. The alert levels were Level 1 (Prepare); Level 2 (Reduce); Level 3 (Restrict); and Level 4 (Lockdown).

This policy brief draws on findings from a bespoke online COVID-19 Wellbeing Survey delivered early in the first nationwide lockdown in May 2020 when the country was at COVID-19 Alert Levels 2 and 3 and completed by 2,421 children aged 10-11 years participating in the Growing Up in New Zealand longitudinal study. The survey provided the opportunity to:

- 1) determine the children's experiences during Alert Levels 2 - 4, including their health and mental wellbeing, schooling, connectedness, media use, and nutrition; and
- 2) ascertain the level of engagement by the cohort in a bespoke online digital data collection process.

This report focuses on the health and mental wellbeing outcomes from the survey and compares the findings to when the children were approximately eight years of ages.

You can read the report [here](#).

Life during Lockdown Findings from the Growing Up in New Zealand COVID-19 Wellbeing Survey. PART 2: EDUCATION

This is part two of the wellbeing survey which provided the opportunity to:

- 1) understand the children's experiences during lockdown, both positive and negative, by hearing directly from the children themselves and
- 2) ascertain the likely level of engagement by the cohort in an online digital data collection process.

This report focuses on findings related to COVID-19 'bubbles', lockdown activities, family life, school satisfaction, device use and screen time, and connectedness. Findings are compared with responses from

when the children were approximately eight years of age where possible.

You can read the report [here](#).

Hipokingia ki te Kahu Aroha Hipokingia ke te katoa

This report will focus on what has been seen, read, and heard from communities, organisations, stakeholders, whānau, and those with a lived experience. It also reflects the views from the many Oranga Tamariki social workers. The areas of inquiry will focus on the current state of the workforce and future need, systems and approaches currently being taken, and shifting of resources to build capacity and capability of Māori organisations and communities.

With that in mind, and considering the terms of reference, this report focuses on three core areas:

- Oranga Tamariki's relationships with families, whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori;
- Professional social work practices; and
- Oranga Tamariki's organisational culture.

The Government has accepted all the recommendations of the Ministerial Advisory Board set up to provide advice on how to fix the child care and protection system, Kelvin Davis has announced.

You can read the report [here](#).

Upcoming events and conferences



Pacific Language weeks

For more info [click here](#)

If you have an event that you would like us to share email it to safekidsaotearoa@adhb.govt.nz.

Submissions & Bills to add your voice to

[Pae Ora \(Healthy Futures\) Bill](#)

This bill provides for a new structure and new accountability arrangements for the publicly-funded health system, in order to protect, promote, and improve the health of all New Zealanders.

Status: Select Committee

[Hazardous Substances and New Organisms \(Hazardous Substances Assessments\) Amendment Bill](#)

This bill amends the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms Act 1996 to improve the assessment and reassessment of hazardous substances.

Status: Select Committee

[Social Security \(Subsequent Child Policy Removal\) Amendment Bill](#)

This bill proposes to remove the subsequent child policy from the Social Security Act 2018 and Social Security Regulations 2018. The amendment removes the current penalty that kicks in for parents having an additional child while on a benefit.

Status: Second Reading

[Sunscreen \(Product Safety Standard\) Bill](#)

This bill requires the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs to recommend the setting of mandatory regulation under section 29 of the Fair Trading Act 1986 prescribing a product safety standard for sunscreen products.

Status: Second Reading

[Plain Language Bill](#)

This bill promotes the use of plain English in official documents and websites.

Status: First Reading

Product recalls

The following products have been recalled in the month (click on the title for full details):

[Buckyballs Magnetic Toy](#)

If one or more magnets are swallowed they can result in internal injuries that require surgery and pose lifelong health complications.

[HOT RC - ECX brand 1:10 Scale 2WD Radio Controlled Cars](#)

The ECX1024 clutch slipper pads in the ECX series of 1:10 radio-controlled vehicles contain chrysotile asbestos.

Asbestos fibers may be released from the slipper pad in the vehicle through friction and users may be exposed to asbestos fibers if the vehicle is disassembled for repair or maintenance.

Exposure to asbestos can result in asbestos related diseases.

[Riese & Müller Packster 70](#)

There may be too little torque in the clamping bolts of front pulley, which could lead to the steering wire slipping.

If the steering wire slips, it could result loss of steering control and a possible crash hazard and potential serious injury.



News from across the whenua

[Judge Frances Eivers appointed as new Children's Commissioner](#)

Frances Eivers, a District Court Judge, has been appointed as the new Children's Commissioner.

[Dame Cindy Kiro To Be Sworn In As New Zealand's 22nd Governor-General](#)

Dame Cindy becomes Governor-General after a highly distinguished career in academic and leadership positions across a number of fields and organisations.

[Pacific health boost aims to meet urgent and sustained demand](#)

Pacific health providers say a major New Zealand government funding boost is not just a recognition of the critical role they play in reaching Pasifika communities, but of the urgent and sustained response that the Delta variant demands.

[Can Pākehā caregivers provide adequate cultural support for Māori children in care?](#)

Can non-Māori caregivers raise a Māori child in a culturally appropriate way? It's a question that has come to the fore, again, in light of the high profile "Moana" case, in which Oranga Tamariki attempted to remove a 6-year-old Māori girl from the Pākehā couple that has cared for her for three years, because the agency felt they could not provide her cultural needs.

[Toddler who chewed on meth packet barely slept or ate, had no medical care for two days](#)

A woman who found her 11-month-old son chewing on a bag that had held methamphetamine did not seek medical attention for more than two days despite the toddler being distressed and barely sleeping or eating.

[Children standing in aisles of overcrowded rural school buses 'needlessly at risk', mayor says](#)

Queenstown Lakes mayor Jim Boulton says school children are at risk of being injured or killed if they continue to be forced to stand in the aisles of congested buses while travelling on open roads.

[Govt funds 'trailblazer' Ngāi Tahu programme to keep Māori kids out of state care](#)

A South Island iwi is pioneering a new scheme to keep Māori children with their whānau and out of state care, and the Government says it is open to working with other iwi on their own solutions.

[2020 lockdown survey: Children in kitchen and outdoors more than usual](#)

Children did more baking, cooking, and outdoor exercise during last year's national lockdown than prior, a major survey shows. The University of Auckland's Growing Up in New Zealand study also found 10 and 11 year olds spent a lot more time in front of a screen than they did when they were eight.

[Momentum slows in reducing child mortality rates; significant inequity found](#)

Efforts to reduce the number of children and young people dying appear to have stagnated. That is the finding of the government's Child and Mortality Review Committee, which analysed 2666 children aged between 28 days and 24 years, who died between 2015 and 2019.

The committee, which is part of the Health Quality and Safety Commission, also found the mortality rates reflect a significant inequity, with Māori and Pacific children far more likely to die.

[Oranga Tamariki admits children sometimes kept in hospital longer than needed.](#)

Oranga Tamariki has admitted that it sometimes asks District Health Boards to keep children at hospitals longer than they are clinically required while they try to find them a suitable placement. It goes against the advice of the Children's Minister Kelvin Davis who has told the agency a child in care should only be in hospital for a medical reason.

[Digital divide, food costs hit hard for some families after long lockdown](#)

Auckland school kids have been stuck at home for more than two months now - and teachers are doing what they can to help whānau who are struggling.

[Call to change model of welfare for at-risk children](#)

A "child rescue" model unfairly dominates the way decisions are made about the welfare of at-risk children, outgoing Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft says.

[Māori significantly more likely to die after surgery than non-Māori - report](#)

Māori are significantly more likely to die within 30 days of surgery than non-Māori, a disparity a surgeon has described as damning.

The study, led by Otago University's Jason Gurney (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Hine), looked at the 3.9 million surgical procedures carried out in New Zealand between 2005 and 2017.

[Dropping childhood immunisation rates leave children vulnerable, new research says](#)

Immunisation levels are the lowest they have been in decades, according to new research, and experts are calling for an overhaul of the system.

[Whānau Ora's Merepeka Raukawa-Tait wants uplifting of Māori children 'stopped altogether'](#)

The Government has ordered Oranga Tamariki to stop uplifting so many children from their families, demanding that uplifting a child should only be a last resort.

[HRC to stop hearing individual complaints on use of te reo Māori](#)

The Human Rights Commission will no longer consider individual complaints over the use of te reo Māori or the term Pākehā.

['I know the kids are hungry': Teachers say it's wellbeing, not learning, worrying them in lockdown](#)

When lockdown hit, it wasn't the thought of online learning which kept Lou Reddy awake at night - it was his students' wellbeing.

Reddy is the tumuaki (principal) of Wesley Primary School, a 172-student kura in the central Auckland suburb of Mt Roskill.

