

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Senior Advisor, Mai World
Location:	Office of the Children's Commissioner (Wellington)
Reporting to:	Lead Advisor, Mai World
Issue Date:	26 April 2022
Delegated Authority:	Nil
Staff Responsibility:	Nil

Children's Commissioners' Purpose

The Children's Commissioner is an Independent Crown Entity, appointed by the Governor-General, carrying out responsibilities and functions set out in the Children's Commissioner Act 2003. The Office of the Children's Commissioner advocates for system change so Aotearoa New Zealand works better for mokopuna in every way, throughout their entire life. For us, child wellbeing is about whānau wellbeing.

We are committed to honouring and embedding Te Tiriti o Waitangi in all of our work. Alongside that we have three key roles under the law¹:

- **Advocating** for the rights², interests and wellbeing of New Zealanders under the age of 18, including implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
- **Monitoring** places where mokopuna are detained and services that are provided
- **Ensuring** the voices of mokopuna are heard and acted on by decision makers.

The Children's Commissioner's activities must comply with the relevant provisions of the Public Finance Act 1989, Crown Entities Act 2004 and any other relevant legislation.

The three strategies (rautaki) of the Children's Commissioner are:

- Advocating for the elimination of racism in the public sector as it impacts mokopuna Māori
- Prioritising children's views and increasing public sector capability to listen and act on them
- Advocating for improved mental wellbeing for children, young people, and their whānau

¹ In addition to our functions in the Children's Commissioner Act 2003, we also have specific statutory responsibilities under several other Acts: Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 / Children and Young People's Well-being Act 1989; Oranga Tamariki (Residential Care) Regulations 1996; Crimes of Torture Act 1989 (COTA); Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004.

² As articulated in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Our People and Our Values

The Commissioner's team (the tari) bring specialist skills and expertise to the varied and complex challenges facing mokopuna today. We have the ability to influence government to ensure children's needs are respected and progressed. We have the skills to research and evaluate complex information. We understand the power of strong stakeholder relationships, so we work hard to develop and maintain them. The way that we think, and work is driven by behavioural norms and expectations reflected in the organisational values we collectively hold dear.

To be successful, the values that all the tari employees strive to uphold are:

Aroha – Children are sacred beings, they are our Taonga. They are born with their own inherent dignity and mana; they are shaped by those that care for them. We always act with compassion and empathy, adapting readily to respond to their needs.

Pono – We believe honesty and integrity are key to doing our job well. We always report things as we see them and never as how others want them to be seen. We stay true to one important thing: we do as we say we will.

Tika – We are always about the best possible results for children. We empower others to bring about the best for them. We're independent and always speak out for their interests. We consider the range of needs we have to meet and make every attempt to get it right.

Mātauranga – Children are our reason for being. They are involved, participate, and have input into things we do. We act from a place of knowledge; we work from evidence and advise others based on the things we learn.

These values are supported by a clear performance framework that translates these into clear behaviours that all staff must consistently demonstrate.

Purpose of this Position

As a Senior Advisor - children and young people's participation, you will play an integral role in the Mai World Voices team, within the Strategy, Rights & Advice group. As part of the team, you will contribute experience and knowledge relating to children and young people's participation in Aotearoa. As a Senior, you will also contribute to the development of the growing Mai World team by bringing your unique skillset. You will carry out high quality work that delivers on the Children's Commissioner's responsibility to hear from children and young people.

Key responsibilities may include:

- High level analytical thinking and ability to demonstrate express consideration of rights that children have in Aotearoa NZ (especially Te Tiriti o Waitangi, UNCRC, UNDRIP, UNCRPD).
- Demonstrating excellent child and youth engagement skills and knowledge, bringing practical experience working with children and young people and research skills.
- Demonstrate skills in project design and analysis of voices gathered.
- Championing the rights of Māori as Tangata Whenua.
- Providing advice and support to the broader team in regard to the use of te reo Māori and kaupapa Māori research practices.
- Some project management and supporting others in the team to lead and execute projects.
- Working across the Strategy, Rights & Advice team and the whole of OCC to support the voices and rights of children and young people being integrated into advocacy work and special projects.
- Contributing to the children's sector knowledge base in collaboration with others in the Office.
- Maintaining and developing high quality engagement with networks of children and young people, practitioners, researchers, policy makers, and key decision makers and to champion children's participation and represent the Office of the Children's Commissioner.
- Contributing to work that Influences and promotes the way in which children and young people are seen, supported and given opportunities to participate and have their rights upheld.

Working Relationships

<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children’s Commissioner• Manager, Child-Centred Advice• Director, Strategy, Rights and Advice• Director, Development, Monitoring and Investigations• Corporate Services Manager• Principal Advisors• Senior Advisors• Advisors• Childs Rights Advisor• Mai World team• Other Office staff as required	<p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children and young people and/or agencies representing them• Practitioners• Researchers• Government agencies• Local Government organisations• Academics• Children’s sector• Wider NGO sector• Community partners
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Key Accountabilities

Key Result Areas	Accountabilities
<p>COLLECT AND CO-ORDINATE THE VIEWS OF CHILDREN YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with the Mai World team to execute best practice engagement projects and share resources to encourage others to carry out best practice engagement. Activities include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Carry out best practice child and youth engagement. - Undertake research, analysis and advocacy efforts related to children and young peoples’ rights and well-being and to ensure their views are obtained. - Prepare clearly written papers and reports that promote the views, interests and well-being of children. - Work with a range of communities and agencies and as part of the wider team to promote and protect the rights of children, ensure the engagement of children and young people, and undertake public speaking, training and presentations as required. - Represent the Office on inter-departmental groups on the voices of children and young people, showing a high level of competence and professionalism. - Contribute to the development of the Participation Hub, and the growth of the children and young people’s participation sector.
<p>ADVOCACY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advise and support the CCA Team to bring the voices of children and young people into the centre of the Commissioner’s child advocacy programme. • Work alongside members of the CCA team on joint projects.
<p>RIGHTS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work across the Strategy, Rights and Advice team with a specific focus on advancing the rights work programme. • Provide external advice, contributions, and maintain relationships with the Child Rights Sector. • Offer advice and support to the Child Rights Line on request.
<p>STRATEGY AND POLICY DEVELOPMENT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of policies and strategies for the Office, regarding the input of children and young people’s voices into our advice and activities. • Contribute to the knowledge base on issues and policies related to children’s rights and well-being, and strategies of engagement with young people and children, by presenting to audiences and/or submitting written material to academic journals and other publications.

GENERAL ADVISORY SERVICES AND SUPPORT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide timely and sound advice to the Children’s Commissioner, and management team on children and young people’s participation. • Promote awareness of children’s rights and as part of the wider Office team, promote and protect the rights of children.
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Technical/Professional Knowledge

- Understanding of children and young people’s rights within the context of Aotearoa New Zealand, this includes having a working knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
- Demonstrate experience working directly with children and young people.
- Research (both qualitative and quantitative) and evaluation skills would be advantageous.
- Culturally competent with expertise and experience of working successfully to improve outcomes for children from a diverse range of cultures and backgrounds.
- Expertise and experience in advocating with, and for, mokopuna Māori and their whānau, and working from a Te Ao Māori worldview is highly desirable.
- Fluency or proficiency in te reo Māori is highly desirable.
- Superb relationship management skills and existing networks.
- A confident communicator, presenter and facilitator, with both strong written and verbal communication skills.
- Tertiary qualification, in a discipline with experience in research with children and young people, project design and implementation, policy development and/or equivalent experience relating to children’s participation.
- A working understanding and knowledge of statutory, legislative and public service processes with regards to children’s participation (including UNCRC, UNDRIP, UNCRPD).
- Networks within government, community, the NGO sectors and child and youth focused advocacy groups.
- Experience working collaboratively as part of a cohesive team focused on achieving systemic change that benefits our children and young people and their families, whānau and aiga.

Special Requirements

- Commitment to being part of OCC’s Te Tiriti journey and uphold Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
- Welcomes and values diversity and contributes to an inclusive working environment where differences are acknowledged and respected.
- Willing to travel to fulfil job requirements.
- Willing to work on weekends and evenings where required.
- Preferably holds current drivers’ licence and is prepared to drive vehicles for work purposes if required.