

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Senior Engagement Specialist - Mokopuna Voices Group
Location:	Office of the Children's Commissioner (Wellington)
Reporting to:	Lead Advisor Mai World
Issue Date:	May 2022 (Fixed term till June 2024)
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.

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

The Senior Engagement Specialist is responsible for developing and leading a strategic plan of activities and initiatives that support effective and best practice engagement with mokopuna and their whānau, aiga and communities. This role will specifically lead the engagement strategy & model which will facilitate engagement with ākonga and mokopuna through the Mātaiaho New Zealand Curriculum change programme.

The Senior Engagement Specialist will join the Mai World Child and Youth Voices Team, contributing to voices work in the team and across the office.

Working Relationships

Internal: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Children’s Commissioner• Other OCC management and colleagues• Strategy, Rights and Advice Team	External: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ministry of Education• Education sector, schools and kura• Ākonga - mokopuna and whānau• Hapū, Iwi and Māori organisations• Community leaders and experts• Non-Government and community stakeholders – national and local
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Key Accountabilities

Key Result Areas	Accountabilities
Engagement with mokopuna and their whanau, aiga and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recruit children and young people, particularly disabled mokopuna, to participate in youth advisory groups that will advise the OCC and the Ministry of Education. • Build and maintain relationships with key community leaders and stakeholders, with the intention of supporting. hearing and understanding the voices of mokopuna • Design and facilitate workshops and wānanga throughout the year to support children and young people to have their voices heard in the curriculum refresh. • Ensure all engagements with mokopuna are carried out in a way that is considered best practice and ethical, supported by the OCC Mai World Team and the Ministry of Education Curriculum Refresh Team • Proactively identify opportunities for the Commissioner and the tari to engage and collaborate with mokopuna and their whanau, aiga and communities • Work with a range of communities and agencies to promote and protect the rights of mokopuna and ensure the engagement of mokopuna • 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 • Prepare clearly written papers and reports that promote the views, interests and well-being of mokopuna
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support children and young people to share and advocate for their voices and views as part of the curriculum refresh. • Advise and support the tari to ensure the voices of mokopuna are at the centre of the Commissioner’s advocacy programme. • Undertake public speaking engagements, training and presentations as required to support engagement and advocacy for mokopuna • Work alongside members of the tari on joint advocacy projects

<p>Strategy and planning</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a strategic plan for effective recruitment, engagement and support for children and young people to participate in the curriculum refresh. • Work with the OCC Mai World team and Ministry of Education Curriculum Refresh team to support engagement with strategic partners and forums. • Contribute to the development of policies and strategies for the tari, 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 the rights and well-being of mokopuna, and strategies of engagement with mokopuna
<p>Project Management</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project manage and coordinate the mokopuna voices group consisting of 3 youth advisory groups. • Design and facilitate meetings and events for the members of the youth advisory groups including travel, accommodation, meals and koha. • Prepare and monitor wellbeing plan for the project. • Monitor and update the budget for this project. • Project management and supporting others in the team to lead and execute projects.
<p>General advisory services and support</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide timely reports to ensure OCC Mai World and the Ministry of Education Curriculum Refresh team are updated and advised regarding project activities. • Provide timely and sound advice to the Children’s Commissioner, and management team on mokopuna participation. • Promote awareness of children’s rights and as part of the wider Office team, promote and protect the rights of children.

Technical/Professional Knowledge

- Exceptional demonstrable child and youth engagement skills and knowledge, bringing practical experience working with mokopuna children and young people, particularly disabled mokopuna
- Demonstrated experience working directly with children and young people in a youth or social work role
- Strong community ties with well established relationships with whānau, aiga and communities
- Networks within community, the NGO sectors and child and youth focused advocacy groups
- 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.
- 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.
- A confident communicator, presenter and facilitator, with both strong written and verbal communication skills.
- 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.
- Experience in leading or managing projects is highly desirable

Special Requirements

- Values diversity, and contributes to an inclusive working environment.
- A basic understanding of the New Zealand education system and the New Zealand curriculum is preferred.
- Exceptional demonstrable community engagement skills, relationship management, and experience working with multiple stakeholder partners.
- Experience in project management, especially in regards to coordinating activities involving multiple community organisations and youth across the country.
- Commitment to being part of the Office's Te Tiriti journey, including participating in te reo lessons or cultural development activities.
- Willing to travel to fulfil job requirements.