



POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position	Senior Engagement Specialist – Te Aorerekura Project
Location:	Te Whanganui-a-Tara
Reporting to:	Manager – Mai World
Issue Date:	March 2024 (Fixed term until November 2024)
Delegated Authority:	Nil
Staff Responsibility:	Nil

Our Organisation

Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission is an independent advocate for all 1.2 million mokopuna aged under 18 in Aotearoa New Zealand and care-experienced mokopuna aged up to 25. Mana Mokopuna was established in July 2023, but the organisation was previously the Office of the Children's Commissioner, and we have a rich whakapapa built on the commitment of former Children's Commissioners since 1989.

The Commission is an Independent Crown Entity governed by a board of six Commissioners led by the Chief Children's Commissioner. It advocates for children's rights to be recognised and upheld, provides advice and guidance to government and other agencies, advocates for system-level changes, ensures children's voices are heard in decisions that affect them and monitors places where young people are detained.

Our name, Mana Mokopuna, describes who we are and what we stand for. At its heart, Mana Mokopuna recognises the many elements that will support mokopuna to thrive. It focuses on children and young people in the context of their family, whānau, hapū, iwi and wider community. It also recognises that their participation in decisions that affect them is vitally important.

Our Vision and Values

Our moemoeā is *Kia kuru pounamu te rongō* - All mokopuna live their best lives. We want to see every child in Aotearoa, regardless of their background, growing up knowing they belong with their whānau, having what they need to live their best life. It means mokopuna have a say about what matters for them, and that their rights are honoured by those in power.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is central to our work. Honouring and reflecting Te Tiriti is one of the core values that drives us. We have a tikanga framework with four values-based principles that guide our mahi and behaviour:

- **Aroha:** Mokopuna are taonga. They are born with their own inherent mana. We will 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 will 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 results for mokopuna. We empower others to bring about the best for them. We're independent and will always speak out for their interests. We consider the range of needs we have to meet and make every attempt to get it right. We never shy away from the hard stuff.
- **Mātauranga:** Mokopuna 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.

Purpose of this Position

The Senior Engagement Specialist is responsible for both supporting and undertaking a strategic plan of engagements and activities that support effective and best practice engagement with mokopuna and their whānau, aiga and communities.

This role will specifically support work related to our 'Te Aorerekura Engagement Project' and will facilitate engagement with mokopuna, whānau and their communities to determine 'what good looks like' for mokopuna accessing services and supports in the Family Violence and Sexual Violence sectors in Aotearoa. They will work closely with the Project Lead, Practice Lead and the wider Mai World team throughout the duration of the project.

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

Working Relationships

<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Manager Mai World • Practice Lead and Project Lead • Leadership Team • Mata Māori • Other Senior Advisors and Advisors • Communications Team • Corporate Services Team • Human Resources Manager 	<p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mokopuna and agencies and organisations representing them • Whānau, hapū and iwi • Te Puna Aonui • Community partners within the family violence and sexual violence sectors
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Key Accountabilities

Key Result Areas	Accountabilities
Engagement with mokopuna and their whānau, aiga and communities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build and maintain relationships with key community leaders and stakeholders in the Family Violence and Sexual Violence sector - with the intention of supporting, hearing and understanding the voices of mokopuna • Support engagements with mokopuna to be carried out in a way that is considered best practice and ethical, in conjunction with the Mai World Team and the project's Ethics Panel • Facilitate interviews and focus groups to support children and young people to have their voices heard in the ongoing development of Te Aorerekura • Carry out best practice engagement with mokopuna • Support the preparation of clearly written reports, recommendations, including mokopuna friendly collateral, to promote the views, interests and well-being of mokopuna • Contribute to the development of the Commission's participation and engagement work, and the growth of the children and young people's participation sector
Project logistics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support others in the team to lead and execute the engagements • Support the coordination of logistics for engagements and events related to the project, including travel, accommodation, meals and koha • Assist the Project Lead with monitoring and updating the budget for this project
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 development of Te Aorerekura • Support the tari to ensure the voices of mokopuna through the Te Aorerekura project are part of the Commission'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, with a particular focus on Te Aorerekura • Use your strong networks to engage on issues impacting mokopuna, with the view to influence positive change

Key Result Areas	Accountabilities
General advisory support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the provision of timely and sound advice to the Manager Mai World and other managers as required on issues that impact on mokopuna • Represent the Commission on inter-departmental groups, advocating for and amplifying the voices of mokopuna, showing a high level of competence and professionalism • Provide mentoring and coaching to more junior kaimahi
Te Tiriti partnerships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Champion the rights of Māori as Tangata Whenua • With the support of the tari, actively work to improve skills and knowledge of Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori
Strategy and policy development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of long-range policies and strategies, sharing expertise and knowledge freely
Project support and other duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in projects and perform other duties as required

Technical/Professional knowledge and skills

- Exceptional demonstrable experience in engaging ethically and positively with children, young people, and their families, particularly mokopuna Māori and whānau
- Demonstrated experience working directly with children and young people in a youth, social worker, or related role, with particular experience in the Family Violence and Sexual Violence sectors in Aotearoa
- Demonstrated experience working in project environments
- Demonstrated experience supporting on projects and where appropriate, coaching and mentoring colleagues
- Excellent engagement, relationship management and inquiry skills
- Well established networks within government, community, the NGO sectors and child and youth focused advocacy groups
- Culturally competent with demonstrated experience of working effectively to improve outcomes for mokopuna Māori and Pacific mokopuna
- Expertise and experience in advocating with, and for, mokopuna Māori and working from a Te Ao Māori worldview is highly desirable
- A confident and skilled communicator, presenter, and facilitator, with strong written and verbal communication skills
- Analytical skills and a proven ability to synthesise information, draw conclusions and make clear recommendations
- Research (both qualitative and quantitative) and evaluation skills
- Understanding of children and young people's rights within the context of Aotearoa, this includes having a working knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child
- Proficiency in Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori, or a commitment to broadening your knowledge in these areas
- Experience in intersectional advocacy, including advocating with, and for, groups who face discrimination in Aotearoa, including lived experience

Special Requirements

- Experience in supporting/implementing projects is highly desirable
- An Understanding of, and demonstrated ability to affect change within the machinery of government, policy, and legislative processes is preferred
- Demonstrated commitment to embedding Te Tiriti based practice within previous roles, and commitment to progressing the Te Tiriti journey of the Commission, including participating in te reo lessons or cultural development activities
- Welcomes and values diversity, and contributes to an inclusive working environment
- Willing to travel to fulfil job requirements