



Child Matters

EDUCATING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Annual Report 2025

The Role of Child Matters

In contrast to many other countries, New Zealand does not currently mandate child protection training for professionals or volunteers who work with children. Consequently, individuals such as teachers, coaches, and even social workers may not receive the necessary training to recognise the signs of child abuse or to respond appropriately when concerns are identified.

Child Matters plays a critical role in addressing this gap. The organisation equips those who work with or interact with children with the knowledge and skills required to identify signs of vulnerability and abuse, and to take informed and appropriate action.

Child Matters engages collaboratively across all sectors including professionals, community organisations, educational institutions, and families and whānau, providing training, policy advice, and expert consultation on matters relating to child protection.



Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Child Matters is committed to Te Tiriti o Waitangi being a core value that underpins all services and relationships with iwi, hapū, and whānau. Child Matters recognises its obligations under Te Tiriti and seeks to provide culturally appropriate and supportive services.

Chair and Chief Executive's Report



This year has brought many of the familiar challenges associated with working in the charitable sector. The social dynamics that contribute to child abuse remain unchanged, but added pressures – such as economic uncertainty, natural disasters, and sector-wide funding constraints – have intensified the environment in which Child Matters operates.

Over the past 30 years, Child Matters has successfully navigated change by maintaining a sustainable and adaptable service delivery model. Recent growth in consulting work, the introduction of investigation services, and an increased focus on the education sector have brought fresh perspectives and enhanced the expertise of our team. We continue to provide independent public commentary on child abuse issues and actively monitor international trends and best practices.

This work is made possible by a committed and knowledgeable Board whose governance is informed by experience across the legal, business, tertiary education, and social sectors. Their strategic oversight has been invaluable, and we extend our sincere thanks for their dedication and passion for Child Matters.

We also want to acknowledge and thank our team – the heart of Child Matters. We are proud of the depth of knowledge, experience, and compassion they bring to their work each day. The topics they deal with are often confronting and tragic, yet they always respond with professionalism and empathy, supporting organisations across the country to identify and respond to child abuse and neglect.

Our purpose – effecting change to prevent abuse and neglect – remains as vital today as it was at our founding. While our services and delivery methods have evolved to meet rising costs and the shift to online engagement, our commitment to driving proactive change to protect our most vulnerable tamariki remains unchanged. As we enter our 31st year, we do so with a clear understanding of the challenges ahead and a strong sense of optimism for positive change.

Edgar Wilson, Chair
Jane Searle, Chief Executive



Statement of Service Performance

The year at a glance

TRAINING STATISTICS

2	10	4	6	84	35	13
NZ Diploma in Child Protection (6 blocks)	Public 5-day Programmes	In-house 5-day Programmes	Public 1-day Workshops	In-house Workshops & Presentations	Working Together for Vulnerable Kids Seminars	Public Webinars
(2 in 2024)	(18 in 2024)	(5 in 2024)	(15 in 2024)	(98 in 2024)	(41 in 2024)	N/A
108 attendances	149 people	81 people	121 people	2,094 people	607 people	210 people

3,370 people trained face-to-face and live online
3,314 people trained via pre-recorded online training

6,684 total people trained
(6,231 in 2024)



Training Locations

From July 2023 to June 2024, Child Matters ran 179 child protection diploma blocks, programmes, workshops, seminars and presentations. From July 2024 to June 2025, Child Matters ran **158** child protection diploma blocks, programmes, workshops, seminars, presentations, and webinars. **The statistics below represent the regions of the 3,370 people trained face-to-face and live online.** Pre-recorded online training of the remaining 3,314 people is not represented.

Northland 1 (5 in 2024)

Auckland 28 (56 in 2024)

Bay of Plenty 15 (17 in 2024)

Waikato 46 (28 in 2024)

Gisborne 1 (4 in 2024)

Hawke's Bay 16 (7 in 2024)

Taranaki 3 (1 in 2024)

Manawatu-Wanganui 3 (3 in 2024)

Wellington 9 (16 in 2024)

Nelson-Tasman 0 (3 in 2024)

Marlborough 2 (2 in 2024)

West Coast 0 (2 in 2024)

Canterbury 12 (25 in 2024)

Otago 6 (7 in 2024)

Southland 3 (3 in 2024)

Public Webinars 13

Financial Matters

In the 2025 financial year, Child Matters had an income of \$1,227,804 and made a loss of \$66,280. The financial loss was primarily attributable to a decline in revenue from service fees, student fees and grant income reflecting broader challenges in the charitable sector.

Six Year Results		Sources of Income	2024		2025	
2020	\$71,023	Student Fees	\$272,902	17%	\$183,745	15%
2021	\$135,171	Grants & Scholarships	\$191,043	12%	\$149,058	12%
2022	-\$19,693	Government Funding	\$137,121	9%	\$126,688	10%
2023	-\$1,089	Fee for Services	\$928,512	58%	\$698,321	57%
2024	\$162,129	Other	\$73,707	4%	\$69,992	6%
2025	-\$66,280	Total	\$1,603,285		\$1,227,804	

Restatement of Comparative Service Performance Information

During the 2025 reporting period, the Trust reviewed the financial-related disclosures within the Statement of Service Performance. As part of this review, it was identified that the comparative figures for Student Fees and Fees for Services required reclassification to more accurately reflect the nature of each measure.

Accordingly, the comparative information has been amended. This adjustment is consistent with the requirements of PBE FRS 48 Service Performance Reporting, which permits changes to previously reported service performance information where such changes result in information that is more relevant or provides a more faithful representation.



Farewells

This year, Child Matters farewelled two valuable members of the team who combined had given almost 40 years service to the organisation.

John Bailey, Trustee

John Bailey retired from the Child Matters Board of Trustees in February 2025, after over 20 years of dedicated service. Based in Pukekohe, John diligently travelled down to Hamilton every month to attend Board meetings and brought a wealth of experience from the education and public sectors. John is a champion for youth, education, and the greater good for everyone, and made a significant difference to many. The Board and staff of Child Matters are incredibly grateful for his encouragement and selfless commitment.



L-R: Anthea Simock, Andrea Twaddle, Edgar Wilson, Tuaine Bailey, John Bailey, Jane Searle, Brendon McLean, Andrew Clements

Moyna Fletcher, Child Protection Consultant

In December 2024, Moyna Fletcher retired after 17 years, 5 months and 2 days with Child Matters. Her unwavering commitment to protecting tamariki and rangatahi, and tireless efforts in advancing child protection made a lasting impact on everyone. Moyna trained over 21,000 people in her time with Child Matters, and was an invaluable part of the team. Her legacy of advocacy, knowledge and compassion will continue to inspire us all.



Governance

Edgar Wilson, a highly accomplished professional, serves as a Justice of the Peace and a Marriage Celebrant. With over 40 years of experience in teaching and educational leadership, Edgar has significantly contributed to secondary education both in New Zealand and the United Kingdom. He is presently contracted to Wintec as Community Advisor through the process of Wintec being reestablished as a stand-alone Institute of Technology. His leadership skills are demonstrated through his recent tenure as Chair of trust Waikato, and Chair of K'aute Pasifika, a community organisation dedicated to supporting Pacific peoples in New Zealand. Currently, Edgar holds several key positions: he is the Chair of Child Matters, an organisation focused on child protection studies, and a Trustee of the Waikato Housing Initiative (WHI), contributing to the development of housing solutions in the Waikato region. His extensive experience and dedication to various sectors underscore his commitment to community service and leadership.

Andrea Twaddle is a director at DTI Lawyers, a specialist employment lawyer and workplace investigator. Andrea has extensive experience advising and representing clients on people and culture matters, including privacy and health and safety. Andrea has a special interest in the education and mental health sectors, and acts in Coronial Inquiries. She is a Deputy Chair of New Zealand's Sports Tribunal. Andrea is an educator on legal issues and a member of the New Zealand Law Society Employment Law Committee, which monitors and makes submissions on proposed changes to employment legislation and maintains a close relationship with the judiciary and relevant government departments.

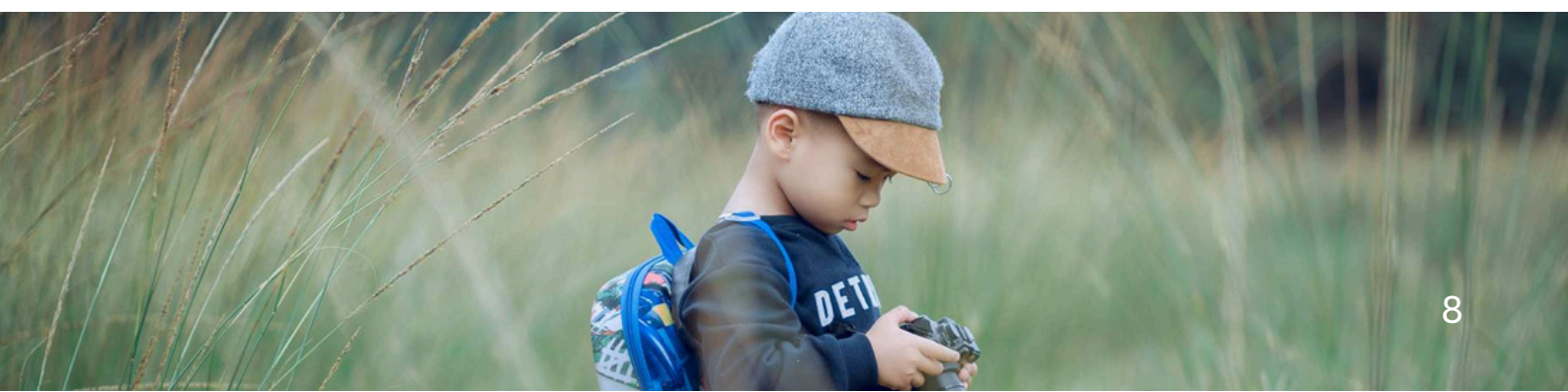
Siaki Tokolahi is a Registered Social Worker and a member of the Professional Conduct Committee (PCC) for the Social Workers Registration Board of New Zealand. He currently serves as the Practice Manager for the Te Haumirimiri Ngākau Mokopuna program, a partnership initiative between Kirikiriroa Family Services Trust, K'aute Pasifika, Tuu Oho Mai, and Oranga Tamariki. This program responds to Reports of Concern in central Hamilton and works alongside whānau to develop strategies that enhance child safety and wellbeing. Siaki has previously held several leadership positions within District Health Boards (DHBs), often pioneering innovative roles that were the first of their kind. Siaki is of Tongan descent, he brings both a strong work ethic and a deep commitment to strengthening the wellbeing of children and communities across the region.

Anthea Simcock has a background in both education and child therapy and was the founding chief executive officer of Child Matters, a role she held for 23 years. In 2012 she was awarded an ONZM for services to children. She has held many local and national roles, memberships and appointments in the social services and NFP sectors and now brings her knowledge and experience to a governance role on the Child Matters board.

Brendon McLean is the Head of Procurement and Sales Operations Planning at Prolife Foods. Brendon has extensive experience in the fast-moving consumer goods industry in New Zealand, Australia, and Asia, bringing with him strategic and commercial knowledge. Brendon has a Bachelor of Commerce in marketing and management. He was also a member of the Community and Enterprise Leadership Foundation programme in 2016, whose mission is to build future leaders who can reimagine a stronger Waikato from asocial, environmental, cultural, and economic perspective.

Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai (Te Rarawa, Waikato) – Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Maori at the University of Waikato. Sarah-Jane's PhD was in Maori Studies with a focus on Maori success in education. She has over 20 years' experience in the tertiary sector as a lecturer, researcher and executive leader working in university and wananga as well as 7 years as inaugural academic director of the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development, an iwi-led academic and research institution. She is passionate about working in spaces that connect and enable her to contribute to advancing the needs of Māori and indigenous communities in Aotearoa and worldwide.

Andrew Clements Director/Lawyer and Notary Public at Grayson Clements Lawyers. Andrew regularly advises businesses, business families, private wealth clients (domestically and internationally), and charitable entities. He specialises in structural design, family governance, trusts and succession. He is a past New Zealand editorial advisor to the British Trusts and Trustees Law Journal and a full member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners (TEP). Andrew has managed national and local training providers and consulted at the board level in the STEM, educational and philanthropic sectors.





Child Matters

422 Te Rapa Road
Hamilton 3200

www.childmatters.org.nz

07 838 3370

info@childmatters.org.nz