Child Matters

EDUCATING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Child Protection in Practice

2027 Course Information

About Child Matters

Child Matters is a national charitable trust that exists to upskill those working and interacting with children, young people, and their families and whānau so that they can identify risks concerning vulnerability and abuse and have the knowledge and confidence to take appropriate action.

Our purpose is effecting change to prevent abuse and neglect.

Child Matters are national experts in child protection and safeguarding, and provide tailored support to individuals, community groups, and Government organisations. Child Matters uses a child-centric, evidence-based and trauma-informed approach, grounded in culturally responsive practice that is reflective of the diverse cultural contexts of children, whānau, and communities.

Course overview

Overview

Child Protection in Practice is a six-week Level 3 NZQA certified micro-credential. Delivered by Child Matters, this course provides practical professional education in child protection and advocacy.

The purpose of this course is to build on existing foundational knowledge and skills for those working with children and young people. Participants will explore the wider context of child abuse in Aotearoa and strengthen their understanding of child protection practice, immediately applicable to their mahi.

Participants will gain the skills and confidence necessary to support safe practice within their organisation and contribute appropriately to the wider child protection system.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this micro-credential, learners will be able to:

- Apply knowledge of the social, cultural, and systemic context of child abuse and family violence in Aotearoa, to identify and explain risk, vulnerability, protective and resilience factors relevant to their workplace setting.
- Apply child-centred and trauma-informed principles in practice, including recognising the impact of trauma and ACEs on development and behaviour.
- Respond appropriately to child protection concerns using best practice guidelines, including managing disclosures, documenting accurately, and escalating concerns appropriately.
- Apply knowledge of relevant child protection legislation and information-sharing provisions to workplace scenarios.



Who is this course designed for?

- Anyone who has completed foundational child protection training and is looking to upskill further.
- Kaimahi holding the role of Designated Person for Child Protection or Child Protection Lead within their organisation.
- Those already working with or hoping to enter roles working with children and/or young people.
- Kaimahi wishing to develop their knowledge and skills in practical, applicable child protection responses.

Course information

Content

- Foundations of child protection
- Response frameworks
- Relationship-centred practice
- Building a child-safe culture
- Practical tools and skills for implementing learning into daily practice



Delivery

Child Protection in Practice follows a blended learning approach. Learners will be required to complete four self-paced eLearning modules, covering theory-based readings and activities. We estimate these modules take learners approximately six hours to complete, over the course of five weeks.

Learners will then attend a 2-day in-person workshop, designed to embed learnings from the eLearning modules, taking theory into practice.

Assessments will be undertaken during the 2-day workshop.

Course dates

Child Protection in Practice will be delivered in eight locations around the motu in 2027.

Cohorts are centred around the 2-day workshop; learners will register for the workshop date and location that suits them best and will then be given access to the eLearning modules.

2027 workshop dates and locations

Auckland:	17-18 March 2027
Christchurch:	15-16 June 2027
Gisborne:	13-14 July 2027
Hamilton:	25-26 August 2027

Fees

Fees are $825 + GST per learner.

This price includes resources, access to eLearning, a light morning tea at the 2-day workshop, and a certificate of completion.



How to apply

Application process

1. ONLINE APPLICATION

Complete the online application form on the Child Matters website.

2. SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

You will be asked to submit proof of NZ citizenship or residency* (NZ Birth Certificate, NZ Passport, or overseas passport and eligible Visa documentation). You will also need to provide proof of completion of foundational child protection training (details overleaf).

*Unfortunately, we are currently unable to accept international learners, unless on a Work Visa and the course is required by their employer (a supporting letter is required).

Application process (continued)

2A. PROOF OF FOUNDATIONAL TRAINING (PRE-REQUISITE)

Prior to completing the Child Protection in Practice course, learners must have completing one of the below foundational child protection courses, and provide proof (usually a certificate) of having completed it within the 2 years prior to registration.

Approved foundational courses:

- Child Protection Essentials: Identify, Respond, Report (Child Matters)
- Introduction to Child Protection (Child Matters)
- Fundamentals of Safeguarding and Child Protection (Safeguarding Children)
- Safeguarding and Child Protection Seminar (Safeguarding Children)

Application process (continued)

3. APPLICATION IS REVIEWED

Upon receiving your application and supporting documentation, the Child Matters team will review your application and we will let you know whether you have been accepted onto the course.

4. REGISTRATION

If your application is approved, you will be sent an email requesting you create a registration*, which gathers information to be used for auditing and reporting purposes. During this process, you will also create an order, which generates and invoice for your fees to be sent to you.

* Please note, you will only receive the invitation to create a registration 6 weeks before the 2-day workshop date, to ensure the eLearning is completed close to the workshop dates, and information is fresh in your mind.

Frequently asked questions

FAQs

Is Child Protection in Practice right for me?

If you're completed foundational training and are looking to further your confidence and skills in child protection, then yes – it's definitely the course for you!

The learning you will receive from this course is immediately applicable to your mahi and will increase your confidence and knowledge around child protection.

What IT equipment will I need to complete the course?

You will need a computer / laptop and reliable internet access.

FAQs

What is included in the eLearning?

This component includes videos, readings, knowledge checks, and pre-recorded check-ins from one of our Consultants to guide you through the eLearning journey.

What if I miss the workshop?

You will be required to attend the missed day(s) in another region in order to complete the requirements of this course. Please let us know as soon as possible and we will work with you to find a suitable replacement workshop.

Meet your tutors

Alan McGlade

Child Protection Consultant

Prior to emigrating to New Zealand, Alan worked in the United Kingdom Prison Service.

In New Zealand, Alan has 25 years' experience with the New Zealand Police. After he qualified as a detective, Alan specialised in serious child abuse investigation.

Additionally, Alan spent five years as the domestic violence mentor to Vanuatu, spending time both in-country and remotely driving improvements in legislation, policy and best practice.



Karen Rogers

Child Protection Consultant

Karen began her foray into social services in the 90's working in a community agency where she facilitated family violence groups prior to returning to tertiary education in 1996. Karen then joined Oranga Tamariki and has built up 20 years' experience as a frontline worker at Oranga Tamariki.

Karen has worked in a number of roles at Oranga Tamariki and brings a wealth of knowledge and expertise in the area of child protection.

Karen has is committed to improving outcomes for all tamariki throughout Aotearoa.



Brooke Dawson

Child Protection Consultant

Brooke is a registered Social Worker with more than 11 years of experience supporting tamariki, rangatahi, and their whānau. Throughout her career in the NGO sector, she has held a variety of roles across Care and Protection and Therapeutic Foster Care services. Most recently, Brooke worked as a trainer, delivering training to for practitioners working closely with tamariki and those that care for them.

Brooke is passionate about supporting people to gain the knowledge, skills, and confidence to keep tamariki safe and is committed to promoting trauma-informed and therapeutic approaches that strengthen outcomes for tamariki.



Other Child Matters training

eLearning and Webinars

Child Matters understands the need for accessible and digestible child protection training for busy kaimahi. Our webinars allow you to learn child protection basics from the comfort of your own home or office and offer a chance to ask questions specific to your mahi.

MORE INFORMATION



NZ Diploma in Child Protection

The New Zealand Diploma in Child Protection is a one-year Level 5 NZQA Certified qualification. Delivered by Child Matters, this course provides comprehensive, practical professional education in child protection and advocacy.

The purpose of the Diploma is to provide Aotearoa with graduates who can protect and advocate for the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi, and shape the child protection culture within their organisation.

MORE INFORMATION



In-house workshops

Child Matters trains your staff (you can invite your network or community) and the training can be tailored to meet your needs. As a starting point, we recommend the half-day **Child Protection Essentials: Identify, Respond, Report** workshop.

MORE INFORMATION



Applications open 30 September 2026

Contact ainsley@childmatters.org.nz if you have any questions or for more information.