

Te tapu o ngā mokopuna: Mokopuna maltreatment prevention

“No adults bashing you every hour... just aroha, aroha everywhere, everywhere. There's aroha spreading through the house, through the rooms, the kitchen, even in the toilet sometimes. Yeah. Aroha everywhere. That's what I wish for the whole country to be – aroha.”

Mokopuna¹

We want to see an Aotearoa New Zealand where every mokopuna feels cherished, protected, and respected as taonga, confident in the knowledge that they can trust the adults in their lives, and that they are safe wherever they learn, play and grow.

The rights of mokopuna (all children and young people) to grow up safe from all forms of abuse and harm and to reach their full potential are universal, inalienable, and indivisible.² Yet mokopuna in Aotearoa New Zealand experience some of the highest rates of harm, abuse, and neglect in the world, affecting tens of thousands of mokopuna in our country every year.³

Repeated failures to prevent, respond to, and enable healing from child maltreatment is a long-standing issue for Aotearoa New Zealand. In its 2023 Concluding Observations on New Zealand, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child highlighted its ongoing concerns about “the persistent rates of abuse and neglect of, and violence against, children” in our country.⁴ Mokopuna Māori, Pasifika, LGBTQI+, disabled mokopuna, and those who have been involved in State care and youth justice, and/or are living in poverty, are disproportionately represented within these rates.⁵

Structural and institutional barriers continue to interfere with the right of all mokopuna to be safe and free of all forms of maltreatment and enjoy their right to life, survival, and development (Article 6, UN Convention on the Rights of the Child). These barriers, which require urgent systemic attention include, for example, poverty – especially food and housing insecurity, harmful attitudes and beliefs about children, racism and the enduring impacts of colonisation, exposure to family violence, and unmet mental health and addiction prevention and support needs.⁶ All families and whānau have inherent strengths and must be well-resourced and well-supported to care for their mokopuna.

As a nation, we have a legal and moral obligation to protect mokopuna from all forms of child maltreatment. This includes ensuring safer environments for children in all circumstances, at all times. It also requires shifting our beliefs and behaviours towards ways of being that prevent children from experiencing abuse, harm and violence from happening in the first place.

Aotearoa New Zealand has a huge problem when it comes to child maltreatment

- On average, a child is killed in Aotearoa New Zealand every 4-5 weeks.⁷
- In the last decade, approximately 113 children aged 0-17 were killed by homicide. Two thirds of these mokopuna (66%) were aged under five years, showing younger children are most at risk.⁸

We have one of the highest rates of children killed by homicide in the world

- Global data comparisons show that in 2023, New Zealand had one of the highest rates of deaths of children under 5 years by homicide, about 7.3 x higher than the UK, 3.5 x higher than Australia, and 2.6 x higher than Canada.⁹

Violence against children is increasing in our country

- More children under 15 years were recorded as victims of violence in 2024 than in previous years.¹⁰
- During 2024, New Zealand Police data logged 1,493 common assaults against children, 7,014 serious assaults against children, and 1,833 aggravated sexual assaults against children. These numbers are significantly higher than five years ago.¹¹
- In 2024/25, Oranga Tamariki received 108,032 reports of concern (ROCs) for 63,103 children compared with 74,941 ROCs for 53,638 children in 2023/24.¹²

What is child maltreatment?

Child maltreatment refers to any form of harm, abuse, or neglect that occurs during childhood and affects mokopuna wellbeing.¹³ It includes all types of physical and/or emotional ill-treatment, sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence, neglect, negligence and commercial or other exploitation, which results in actual or potential harm to the child's health, survival, development or dignity in the context of a relationship of responsibility, trust, or power.¹⁴

Child maltreatment is not confined to a single type or extent. Many mokopuna can experience multiple forms of maltreatment occurring within a context of other forms of individual and structural violence.¹⁵

Children who have been subjected to maltreatment and other Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)¹⁶ are more likely to experience mental illness and neurocognitive difficulties, and as they grow into adulthood, experience mental, physical, and emotional wellbeing difficulties, poorer educational and employment outcomes, along with increased likelihood of using and/or experiencing violence later in life.¹⁷ As well as the direct impacts on mokopuna and whānau, child maltreatment comes with significant costs to society at a collective level, including from an economic and productivity perspective.¹⁸

Underlying drivers of child maltreatment

Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), including abuse, neglect, and other traumatic experiences in childhood¹⁹ affect thousands of mokopuna in our country every year, and the New Zealand adult population has a significant prevalence of ACEs.²⁰ These experiences have lifelong impacts, contributing to some of the highest rates of anxiety, depression, and suicide in the world – rates that sit alongside high levels of unmet need for mental health care²¹ – as well as education and employment outcomes.²²

While ACEs occur across all socio-economic backgrounds, mokopuna growing up in deep or persistent poverty are most at risk.²³ The relationship between Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs), poverty, and inequality is mutually reinforcing, and can perpetuate cycles of trauma and disadvantage. Alcohol has also been found to be a key contributing factor to family violence in our country.²⁴

Significant numbers of mokopuna are growing up in poverty in our country

Of the approximately 1.23 million mokopuna under 18 years of age living in Aotearoa New Zealand:

- 157,048 mokopuna live in a household experiencing material hardship.²⁵
- Almost a quarter of mokopuna Māori (23.9%) live in material hardship, as do 28.7% of Pacific children, compared with 10.1% of Pākehā children.
- Disabled children are almost twice as likely as non-disabled children to experience material hardship.²⁶

The risks of poverty are most acute among mokopuna Māori, Pacific and disabled mokopuna, those who have been involved with Oranga Tamariki, closely followed by refugee mokopuna.²⁷

In te ao Māori, violence and maltreatment of children are profound violations of the mana and tapu inherent in all children, with consequences that extend beyond the individual to affect the wellbeing of the entire whānau.²⁸ The Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care (2023) has identified racism – both interpersonal and structural – as a direct driver of the disproportionate prevalence of maltreatment of mokopuna Māori.²⁹

Evidence across decades reinforces this reality. Dame Karen Poutasi's independent review report, *Ensuring strong and effective safety nets to prevent abuse of children* (2022),³⁰ the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care (2023),³¹ and *Puao-te-Ata-Tū* (1988),³² United Nations' findings,³³ and our own research³⁴ all document the persistent and pervasive systemic and structural discrimination post-colonisation, and personal experiences of racism and discrimination that have perpetuated cycles of disadvantage, inequity and intergenerational trauma toward mokopuna Māori and their whānau.³⁵

Our calls to action

Throughout our many engagements around the motu with mokopuna who have experienced family violence and/or sexual violence, mokopuna have consistently told us they need strong whānau support systems to help ensure they grow up safe and well – they recognise that when their families and whānau are thriving, they are more likely to thrive too.

Mokopuna want parents and caregivers to receive wraparound support to help them develop parenting skills that provide alternatives to violence, address mental health needs and addiction, and alleviate financial hardship. For themselves, mokopuna who have experienced family violence and/or sexual violence want access to age-appropriate and culturally safe support to help them heal.³⁶

Mokopuna recognise that it is often the systemic factors of stress – poverty, insecure housing and unmet mental health and addiction needs – that create the greatest risk for ACEs. Their insights underscore the urgent calls from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child for strengthened, system-wide primary prevention efforts by the New Zealand Government, *"specifically, primary prevention [of violence against children], through public health, education, social services and other approaches"*.³⁷

To ensure the prevention of all forms of child maltreatment in New Zealand at the systemic level, we call for:

- **Coordinated and comprehensive data collection about child maltreatment in all its forms (including child homicide), and transparent and coordinated publication and tracking of this data.** The Government should invest in a comprehensive national prevalence study about child maltreatment, to ensure better data and understanding to inform policies and investments to prevent child maltreatment on an ongoing, systemic basis.
- **Greater investment into supporting families and whānau in the first 2000 days of mokopuna life,** informed by what families and whānau say works and giving practical effect to the commitment outlined in the Child and Youth Strategy.³⁸
- **Urgent follow-through by the Government on its priority to reduce child maltreatment in the Child and Youth Strategy, and the accepted recommendations made by Dame Karen Poutasi,**³⁹ by ensuring an integrated cross-agency response and that all parts of the child protection system – across iwi, hapū, community and government – are resourced and working

in ways that are effective and responsive, so that no child remains invisible when help is needed.⁴⁰

- **On a cross-Parliamentary enduring basis, committing to whole-of-society primary prevention and early intervention approaches** that strengthen protective factors within whānau and communities. Through [The Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention](#) and [Te Aorerekura – The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence](#), we have national frameworks to enable work to prevent and eliminate family violence and sexual violence. The following is crucial to ensure this work is sustained:
 - Enduring targeted investment that is long-term, cutting across general election cycles.
 - Synthesised disaggregated data to enable informed decision-making.
 - Community-led primary prevention programming tailored to the unique cultural contexts of families and communities, including by Māori for Māori prevention initiatives.
 - Comprehensive, culturally relevant response services and supports to equip parents, caregivers and whānau to build on their strengths and care for their mokopuna, and therapeutic supports to help mokopuna heal if they have experienced maltreatment.
 - Comprehensively integrate into prevention approaches effective strategies to reduce alcohol-related harm, shaped by communities with a focus on protection of mokopuna.
- **In all instances of Police attending family violence situations where mokopuna are present, always ensure mokopuna presence is recorded, and that effective, timely wraparound support is provided for mokopuna and whānau.** This recognises the impacts of exposure to violence on mokopuna, will bring greater visibility to this group of mokopuna and is important for preventing further harm, and supporting mokopuna and whānau to heal.⁴¹
- **Strengthen legal and policy provisions to more clearly affirm the safety of mokopuna** by broadening child protection and safeguarding clauses in the Children’s Act 2014 to better reflect the rights and needs of mokopuna. This includes:
 - Mandatory police vetting and reference checking for everyone who works or volunteers with mokopuna
 - Removing the distinction between ‘core’ and ‘non-core’ children’s workers within the Children’s Act 2014,⁴² to ensure that anyone providing services to mokopuna, whether paid or voluntary, is appropriately vetted and trained to keep mokopuna safe
 - Mandatory child safeguarding and protection provisions within recruitment and employment policies, including for volunteers⁴³
 - Ensuring that all relevant legislative changes recognise the risks and protective factors that are unique to the safety of mokopuna Māori.⁴⁴
- **Involve mokopuna in shaping solutions and responses**
 - Ensure mokopuna are meaningfully involved in the design, implementation, and monitoring of all child maltreatment and wider violence prevention and response strategies.
 - Centre the perspectives and lived experiences of mokopuna Māori, Pacific, LGBTQI+, disabled mokopuna, mokopuna involved in State care and youth justice, and those experiencing material deprivation in all policy and practice decisions.
 - Invest in holistic responses to support healing of mokopuna who are victim-survivors of all forms of child maltreatment, informed by the mokopuna-led solutions in [A place to talk peacefully: Mokopuna voices on healing from family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa](#)

[| Mana Mokopuna](#) and based on the findings of the Family Violence Death Review Committee.⁴⁵

- **Mandate child protection and safeguarding training, alongside police vetting**, for all individuals, groups and organisations working across the children’s system and engaging with mokopuna, whether through paid work or as volunteers.⁴⁶

Keeping children safe is our collective responsibility

As UNICEF and the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child state, “No violence against children is justifiable; all violence against children is preventable.”⁴⁷ It is positive that preventing harm of mokopuna is a Government priority under the Child and Youth Strategy. Alongside this, change requires urgent and ongoing action from us all – no single agency, sector, or individual can do it alone.

That’s why, alongside our continued systemic advocacy, on 08 December 2025 the Children’s Commissioner launched [Dear Children](#), our nationwide advocacy campaign drawing public attention to the problem and prevalence of child maltreatment in our communities, to help to create a ripple of change to keep all mokopuna safe. *Dear Children* sends a clear message to all mokopuna that they have a right to be safe at all times and calls for every adult in Aotearoa New Zealand to play a part in preventing the maltreatment of mokopuna, and provides resources to support this.⁴⁸

We are calling for every adult to play their part to keep children safe.⁴⁹ This includes:

- **Speaking up** if you see or hear something that feels unsafe.
- **Being present** – look out for children, listen, believe them, and check in regularly.
- **Creating safer environments** in homes, schools, and communities.
- **Championing stronger child protection** in workplaces, schools, and community groups.
- **Supporting families and whānau** with extra care when stress or hardship is emerging, to help prevent crisis occurring. As mokopuna have told us, “You need to get in early, as soon as you see people struggling.”⁵⁰
- **Normalising asking for help** and remove stigma around seeking support.
- **Stepping in with support** – say “that’s not ok” and encourage help-seeking together.
- **Keeping child safety visible** through national conversations in homes, workplaces, and media.
- **Working collectively** – whānau, neighbours, teachers, coaches, leaders, and friends all play vital roles.
- **Deepening public understanding** to drive enduring policy, service, and community changes that build on the strengths of families and whānau and uphold the rights of mokopuna.

What mokopuna say

Throughout our engagements with mokopuna over the years, mokopuna have consistently told us that family violence and abuse, along with poverty, are their biggest barriers to wellbeing across all stages of childhood.

In 2024, Mana Mokopuna published two mokopuna voices reports: [“A place to talk peacefully: Mokopuna voices on healing from family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa”](#) and [“You need to get in early, as soon as you see people struggling”: Understanding the life-course journey](#). Across both of these reports, mokopuna share their insights into what helps them feel safe, supported, and loved, what they need for their whānau, and what gets in the way.

"A home to feel safe in and a loving and supporting family to encourage you to do things you enjoy."⁵¹

"Living in a safe environment where everyone is treated how they want to be treated, having a trusted adult, friend or sibling to talk to when you need help with something or if you are being bullied."⁵²

"That's what makes me feel safe, being around trust[ed] ones."⁵³

"People that listened and cared and loved for me."⁵⁴

"Tikanga keeps us safe from getting hurt, feeling bad, feeling sad sometimes... I have a whānau and tikanga. Yeah, that's what feeling safe and feeling good means to me."⁵⁵

"A safe place with no drugs and alcohol and no violence."⁵⁶

Mokopuna emphasise the importance of having parents who understand the importance of parenting without violence. They want to see more opportunities for parents to learn.

"How to parent and what to do with your child"⁵⁷ and "How to be better parents and not abusive."⁵⁸

"I believe that parents that struggle with stress, relationship and money problems should get more support financially and more guidance. Reason being [that] parents struggle with financial emotional and relationship problems, eventually generate an unhealthy environment for any child within the environment."⁵⁹

"...Show parents not to take everything out on their kid."⁶⁰

Mokopuna highlight that safety and wellbeing from maltreatment requires support for the whole whānau, supportive youth friendly services, and the inclusion of te ao Māori approaches.

"A lot of support for mental health and for parents who can't handle stress as well with their anger. Lots of counselling at school and at home for young people. We need to break the cycle by providing these needs."⁶¹

"I think getting help means mahuru te atu wairoa ...you go find wisdom, mātauranga, kōrero."⁶²

"A better environment for our whānau and parents creates a positive and better environment for our children."⁶³

Mokopuna describe their experiences of growing up in environments without the protective factors described above.

"Parents that ignore... not paying attention."⁶⁴

"It was hard trying to handle my parents when they were hitting me and giving me hidings."⁶⁵

"Scary strangers in the house."⁶⁶

"[Feeling] unsupported, abuse, unsafe homes, family arguments, neglect."⁶⁷

Mokopuna are also highly aware of maltreatment within the very systems set up to protect them.

“What I had at home, even though that was dangerous, almost felt safer, than when I was in this foster home. It was hell. It was like I was a prisoner. [...] It was the worst nine months of my life.”⁶⁸

“[Staff] just not having a lot of, like, compassion. Like, I remember when I was being uplifted, I definitely felt like a job to them, it didn’t actually feel like they were there for me.”⁶⁹

See more of our recent mahi on this issue

Submissions to Parliament

- [Submission on the Evidence \(Giving Evidence of Family Violence\) Amendment Bill](#) (December 2024)
- [Submission on the Victims of Sexual Violence \(Strengthening Legal Protections\) Legislation Bill | Mana Mokopuna](#) (October 2023)
- [Evidence to Social Services and Community Committee on the Petition of Safeguarding Children: Amend the Children’s Act 2014 to protect children from abuse](#) (unpublished) (September 2024)

Mokopuna engagement and research

- [“A place to talk peacefully: Mokopuna voices on healing from family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa](#) (November 2024)
- [“You need to get in early, as soon as you see people struggling”: Understanding the life-course journey](#) (November 2024)
- [Children and young people: Analysis paper to inform the development of Te Aorerekura: National strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence](#) (March 2022)
- [Review of mokopuna voices for Te Aorerekura Action Plan Two](#) (October 2023)

Harm prevention monitoring in the places where mokopuna are deprived of their liberty

Mana Mokopuna is a designated National Preventive Mechanism as per the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman, Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT). We monitor places where mokopuna are deprived of their liberty, to ensure they are safe and treated with dignity and respect. These places include care and protection residences, youth justice facilities, remand homes, youth mental health forensic facilities and intellectual disability units. To learn about our findings from these monitoring visits, go to: [Monitoring of Places of Detention in Aotearoa](#).

Endnotes

¹ Mana Mokopuna (2024). [A place to talk peacefully: Mokopuna voices on healing from family violence and sexual violence in Aotearoa](#). (“A place to talk peacefully”)

² This includes the following articles within [The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#): Article 19: to be safe and protected from violence; Article 24: to afford the highest possible standard of health; Articles 33-39: to be safe from all forms of abuse, sexual assault and exploitation, war, drugs and the drug trade, kidnapping, torture, cruel and harmful punishment. These rights intersect with alternative care, protection from sexual exploitation, and support for healing from violence. Ensuring equitable experiences, safety, and outcomes, of mokopuna in state care are encapsulated within Articles 2, 3, 7-9 and 37 and under Article 3 of Te Tiriti o Waitangi. For a mokopuna-friendly version of these rights, see [All rights under the Children’s Convention - Mana Mokopuna](#).

³ Te Puna Aonui (2022). [Analysis: Children and young people](#); New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (2024). [Te Kōrero mō ngā Tamariki: Exploring the context of middle childhood in Aotearoa New Zealand](#) and [Supporting tamariki & whānau: Community insight report](#)

⁴ See Mana Mokopuna (2023). [The UN’s Concluding Observations to Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

⁵ Abuse in Care: Royal Commission of Inquiry (2024). [Factors that contributed to Māori suffering abuse and neglect in care](#); Hunt, M., Herbert, S., Wilson, M., Ameratunga, S. (2021). [Kawa haumarū: a mātauranga Māori approach to child safety in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

⁶ Reil, J., Lambie, I., Becroft, A. & Allen, R. (2022). [How we fail children who offend and what to do about it: ‘A breakdown across the whole system’ Research and recommendations](#); Fleming, T., Archer, D., King-Finau, T., Ormerod, F., Clark, T.C (2021). [Health and Wellbeing of young people who have been involved with Oranga Tamariki: Home and Housing](#). VOYCE Whakarongo Mai (2022). [Children in State Care: Thematic Report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child](#); Health New Zealand (2021). [Kia Manawanui Aotearoa: Long-term pathway to mental wellbeing](#)

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- ⁷ New Zealand Police admin data (2025).
- ⁸ *ibid*
- ⁹ Derived from the [Global Burden of Disease 2023](#) dataset.
- ¹⁰ New Zealand Police admin data (2025).
- ¹¹ New Zealand Police (2024). [Police Victimisation data](#) as cited in [Table 6a: Recorded violent offences against children aged under 15 years old—2019–2024](#), in Salvation Army (2025). [State of the Nation 2025](#)
- ¹² Oranga Tamariki (2025). [Annual Report 2024/25](#); Oranga Tamariki (2025). [Statistics about how we work with children](#)
- ¹³ [The Australian Child Maltreatment Study \(ACMS\)](#) (2023) identifies five key types of child maltreatment: physical abuse; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; neglect; exposure to domestic violence. To find out more, see [The entire ACMS primary findings set](#).
- ¹⁴ World Health Organisation (2024). [Child maltreatment factsheet](#)
- ¹⁵ Haslam D et al. (2023). [The prevalence and impact of child maltreatment in Australia: Findings from the Australian Child Maltreatment Study: Brief Report](#). Australian Child Maltreatment Study, Queensland University of Technology; Felitti, V. J., Anda, R. F., Nordenberg, D., Williamson, D. F., Spitz, A. M., Edwards, V., ...Marks, J. S. (1998). [Relationship of childhood abuse and household dysfunction to many of the leading causes of death in adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACE\) Study](#). *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 14(4), 245–258.
- ¹⁶ See for an overview of ACES: [Adverse Childhood Experiences: Understanding their effects - Brainwave Trust Aotearoa](#)
- ¹⁷ See fn.15, above.
- ¹⁸ Le, D. Q., Le, L. K.-D., Yap, M. B. H., Haslam, D. M., Higgins, D. J., Malacova, E., Scott, J. G., Lawrence, D., Mathews, B., & Mihalopoulos, C. (2025). [Impact of child maltreatment on the costs of health service use and productivity loss: Findings from the Australian child maltreatment study](#). *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 171, 107818.
- ¹⁹ The initial [Adverse Childhood Experiences \(ACEs\) Study](#) in 1998 looked at seven categories of adversity: psychological, physical, or sexual abuse; violence against mother; living with household members who were substance abusers; mentally ill or suicidal; or ever imprisoned.
- ²⁰ Fanslow, J., Hashemi, L., Gulliver, P., McIntosh, T., Adverse childhood experiences in New Zealand and subsequent victimization in adulthood: Findings from a population-based study, *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 2021, July, 117.
- ²¹ Fleming, T., Ball, J., Bavin, L., Rivera-Rodriguez, C., Peiris-John, R., Crengle, S., ... Clark, T. C. (2022). [Mixed progress in adolescent health and wellbeing in Aotearoa New Zealand 2001–2019: a population overview from the Youth2000 survey series](#). *Journal of the Royal Society of New Zealand*, 52(4), 426–449.
- ²² Zeanah, P. et al. (2018). [Addressing Adverse Childhood Experiences: It's All about Relationships](#); Brainwave (2018). [Why should we care? The abuse and neglect of children in New Zealand](#); Brainwave (2025) [The lifetime effects of child maltreatment](#)
- ²³ Skinner, G. C., Bywaters, P. W., & Kennedy, E. (2023). [A review of the relationship between poverty and child abuse and neglect: Insights from scoping reviews, systematic reviews and meta-analyses](#); New Zealand Child & Youth Epidemiology Service, [Intentional injuries of children and young people in Aotearoa 2023 - University of Otago](#); Brainwave (2025) [The lifetime effects of child maltreatment](#)
- ²⁴ For example, see: Family Violence Death Review Committee, [FVDR6thReport_FINAL.pdf](#); and Alcohol Healthwatch, [Violence F Sheet.pdf](#).
- ²⁵ Statistics New Zealand (2025). [Child poverty statistics: Year ended June 2024](#)
- ²⁶ Mana Mokopuna (2025). [We're failing on child poverty reduction, but it's not too late for action](#)
- ²⁷ Ministry for Social Development (2024) [Child Poverty Report 2024 reports on data from 2022–23 and previous data with detail relating to household make up](#); Statistics NZ (2025). [Child poverty statistics: Year ended June 2024 reported by ethnicity and disability status](#) and [Child poverty statistics: Year ended June 2024 primary measures report](#); de Vries, H.P., Wellalage, N., Ranabahu, N., Samujh, R.H., and Rajapakshe, S. Refugee Orientation Centre Trust, (2023). ["We want to contribute": Former refugees' perspectives and aspirations on economic integration](#); Rafferty, R. Burgink, A., Anderson, V. (2020). ["Do we really offer refuge? Using Galtung's Concept of Structural Violence to Interrogate Refugee Resettlement Support in Aotearoa New Zealand"](#).
- ²⁸ Wilson, D. (2023). [Violence within whānau and mahi tūkino – A litany of sound revisited](#). Te Pūkotahitanga, Tangata Whenua Advisory Group for the Minister of the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence; Cooper, E. & Wharewera-Mika J., (2009). [Maori Child Maltreatment: A Literature Review](#); Jenkins, K., Mountain Harte, H., Mana Ririki, Te Kahui (2011). [Traditional Māori parenting – A historical review of literature of traditional Māori Childrearing practices in pre-European times](#)
- ²⁹ Wilson, D. (2023). [Violence within whānau and mahi tūkino – A litany of sound revisited](#). Te Pūkotahitanga – Tangata Whenua Advisory Group for the Minister of the Prevention of Family Violence and Sexual Violence; Cooper, E. & Wharewera-Mika J., (2009). [Maori Child Maltreatment: A Literature Review](#); Jenkins, K., Mountain Harte, H., Mana Ririki, Te Kahui (2011). [Traditional Māori parenting – A historical review of literature of traditional Māori Childrearing practices in pre-European times](#)
- ³⁰ Poutasi, Dame Karen (2022.) [Ensuring strong and effective safety nets to prevent abuse of children \(The Poutasi review\)](#).
- ³¹ Abuse in Care: Royal Commission of Inquiry (2020–2024). [Reports produced by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in Care](#)
- ³² The Māori Perspective Advisory Committee (1988), [Puao-Te-Ata-Tū \(Day break\): the Report of the Ministerial Advisory Committee on a Māori Perspective for the Department Of Social Welfare](#)
- ³³ Te Puna Rangahau o te Wai Ariki | Aotearoa New Zealand Centre for Indigenous Peoples and the Law (2022). [Rights of Tamariki Māori – New Zealand's 6th Periodic Review under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)
- ³⁴ Mana Mokopuna (2020). [Te Kuku o Te Manawa, Parts One and Two](#); Reil, J., Lambie, I., Becroft A., & Allen R. (2022). [How we fail children who offend and what to do about it: 'A breakdown across the whole system' Research and recommendations](#)
- ³⁵ Since the 1989 publication of [Puao-te-Ata-tū](#), the Crown has acknowledged its failings towards mokopuna Maori and their whānau. This acknowledgement led to the [Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989](#), the establishment of Child Youth

and Family in 1999, the 2017 replacement of Child Youth and Family with [Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children](#), and the introduction of the (now-repealed) s7AA in 2019.

³⁶ Mana Mokopuna (2024). [“A place to talk peacefully”](#)

³⁷ See Mana Mokopuna (2023). [The UN's Concluding Observations to Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

³⁸ [The Child and Youth Strategy 2024-2027](#)

³⁹ [The Poutasi review](#) (2022).

⁴⁰ Aroturuki Tamariki (2024). [Towards a stronger safety net to prevent abuse of children - In-depth review](#)

⁴¹ See for further discussion, [Centre for Justice Innovation—The Silent Victims of Family Violence: The Children](#)

⁴² See Section 26 (1) and Section 31 of the [Children's Act 2014](#)

⁴³ Ministry of Education and Child Matters (2024). [Safer recruitment, safer children](#); Commonwealth of Australia, Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, (2021). [Keeping our kids safe: Cultural safety and the national principles for child safe organisations](#)

⁴⁴ Abuse in Care – Royal Commission of Inquiry (2024). [Factors that contributed to Māori suffering abuse and neglect in care](#); Hunt, M., et al. (2021). [Kawa haumarū: a mātauranga Māori approach to child safety in Aotearoa New Zealand](#)

⁴⁵ Family Violence Death Review Committee, *An ongoing duty to care He Tauwhiro haere te mahi*, February 2023, [FVDRC eighth report final WEB-v2.pdf](#)

⁴⁶ Child protection and safeguarding training is key to ensuring that all adults in contact with mokopuna through work, voluntary or recreation activities are aware of child protection issues and can commit to creating safe spaces that prevent and minimise the risk of harm to our mokopuna. This is one of the recommendations of the Poutasi Review accepted by the Government, but it is unclear if it will extend to volunteers working with mokopuna.

⁴⁷ Committee on the Rights of the Child (2011), [General comment No. 13, The right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, U.N. Doc. CRC/C/GC/13](#)

⁴⁸ Recommendation 13 of [The Poutasi review](#) (2022).

⁴⁹ Recommendation 13 of [The Poutasi review](#) (2022). Regular public awareness campaigns should be undertaken so the public is attuned to the signs and red flags that can signal abuse and are confident in knowing how to report these so children can be helped. Aotearoa society needs to hear the message “don't look away”.

⁵⁰ [You need to get in early - voices report | Mana Mokopuna](#)

⁵¹ The Office of the Children's Commissioner and Te Puna Aonui (2022). [Children-and-Young-People-Analysis-Paper.docx](#)

⁵² ibid

⁵³ ibid

⁵⁴ Mana Mokopuna (2024). [“A place to talk peacefully”](#)

⁵⁵ ibid

⁵⁶ Mana Mokopuna (June 2021). [What makes a good life for tamariki and rangatahi Māori?](#)

⁵⁷ ibid

⁵⁸ ibid

⁵⁹ ibid

⁶⁰ ibid

⁶¹ ibid

⁶² Mana Mokopuna (2024). [“A place to talk peacefully”](#)

⁶³ Mana Mokopuna (2024). [“You need to get in early, as soon as you see people struggling”](#): Understanding the life-course journey. (“[You need to get in early](#)”)

⁶⁴ ibid

⁶⁵ ibid

⁶⁶ ibid

⁶⁷ ibid

⁶⁸ Mana Mokopuna (2024). [“A place to talk peacefully”](#)

⁶⁹ Mana Mokopuna (2024). [“You need to get in early”](#)