

LEADERSHIP HIGHLIGHTS

WELCOME!

Kia ora, we're excited to bring you the last edition of the [Child Protection Network](#) Highlights for 2025 - a space to share updates, key initiatives, and important work happening across the motu. This newsletter aims to make our work more visible, strengthen connections and keep you informed. We welcome your insights and contributions as we strengthen child protection across Aotearoa.

SATELLITE DAY 2025

The Child Protection Clinical Network and Neurodevelopmental Clinical Network jointly hosted 130 attendees at our joint Satellite Day at the Due Drop Events Centre in Manukau on Tuesday 4th November, preceding the main PSNZ ASM. Speakers included:

- Dr Florina Chan Mow, Annie Ualesi and colleagues, who presented the Soālaupule Model.
- Heather Muriwai and Elizabeth Harte, who presented on decolonising Māori birth and parenting.
- Dr Tanya Wright, who presented on Developmental Trauma and Neurodiversity.
- Deborah Woodley, Nicolette Dickson and Dr Jin Russell presented on behalf of Te Whatu Ora, Oranga Tamariki and Manatū Hauora.
- Dr Fiona Turnbull from the New Zealand Child and Youth Epidemiology Service presented the first New Zealand national data on neurodevelopmental conditions.
- Wane Wharerau chaired a lively panel discussion with Flo, Annie, Deborah, Nicolette, Jin, Russell and Leanne Franklin.



All speakers were excellent and exceeded expectations. We are so very grateful.

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DAME KAREN POUTASI REVIEW OF THE DEATH OF MALACHI SUBECZ

Cabinet agreed in October to accept 14 of Dame Karen's recommendations following her review.

These include mandatory training in and reporting of child abuse and that Te Whatu Ora Health NZ (HNZ) join the Child Protection Protocol (CPP). PSNZ CP CRG chair Dr Russell Wills chairs the HNZ Child Protection Clinical Governance Group, which has oversight of the workstreams that follow Cabinet's decision.

The HNZ Board agreed in October to join the CPP in two stages, initially at a governance and training level. Russell released a survey to Paediatric Departments on Monday 17th November to estimate the current paediatric workload from referrals from Oranga Tamariki and Police and capacity to see more referrals.

The survey will inform HNZ's advice to Ministers on what will be needed for HNZ to fully join the CPP.

NCPHISS

A great deal of work has been undertaken this year on what we used to call the National Child Protection Alert System (NCPAS). Our thanks in particular go to Miranda Ritchie, Patrick Kelly and the NCPAS Governance Group.

Following an extensive privacy impact assessment and evaluation the NCPAS has been renamed, reflecting that its purpose is to share information that exists in the clinical record, particularly when children move between centres. Training and a manual are being produced which will help consistency of practice between NCPHISS (National Child Protection Health Information Sharing System) multidisciplinary teams.

TE WHATU ORA HEALTH NZ CHILD PROTECTION POLICY

The HNZ Executive and Board have signed our first National Child Protection Policy.

The policy commits Health New Zealand to child protection as core business and requires the executive to report to the Board annually on the degree to which the policy has been implemented. It specifies accountabilities at all levels, from ward to board.

The Child Protection Clinical Governance Group is tasked with developing metrics to give the board confidence that the policy has been implemented well. "Settlement agreements", whereby a staff member suspected of child abuse can resign with no further action, will not be tolerated.

Reporting of child abuse remains mandatory under the policy.

Other workstreams underway include:

- A review of the model of care in Oranga Tamariki residences
- Information sharing in child protection
- Tiered training in child protection
- The Gateway Programme review

2026 will be a busy year for child protection in Te Whatu Ora Health NZ. There will be opportunities to contribute so please watch this space.

On behalf of the Child Protection Clinical Network - Have a wonderful festive season!

Russell Wills



The Paediatric Society of New Zealand
Te Kāhui Mātai Arotamariki o Aotearoa