

*Care & Protection of our
Māori Children, our Future:*

A Whānau Perspective

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Keeping Vulnerable Mokopuna Safe

- Who?
- Why?
- What?
- Where (to from here)?

Why?

Statistics

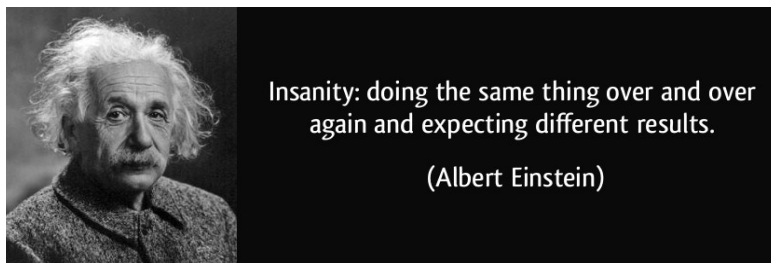
- Care & Protection (Family Court) – Māori children in care = 58%
- Youth Justice (Youth Court) – Māori = 54%
- (District Court) – Māori = 39% convicted
- Prison – Māori males = 50.5%, Māori females = 54%

Law Changes

- The Family Justice System (Introduced March 2014)
- Vulnerable Children (Amendments to Children, Young Persons & Their Families Act 1989)

Raewyn Nordstrum (FGC Co-ordinator Hamilton)

→ Why don't we just ask the whanau?



Literature Review

The review of current literature suggests that in order to improve outcomes for Maori whanau it is necessary to talk to the “client” and ascertain their perspective on what they see as useful or damaging. In essence research into the whanau is of growing importance.

Research Questions

The questions asked included:

If you had child/ren removed by CYFs and then returned to your care. How did you do it?



If you had child/ren removed but they were not returned to your care. What do you think would have helped you?



What did the whanau say?

- **Lack of knowledge**
- **Lack of information**
- **Lack of communication**
- **Lack of accountability**

What worked well

"I heavily relied on my uncle. ... Because he, he, yeah, like I said he's worked in there, iwi service, he's in iwi service himself and he knows the process. And he knew when CYFs had me backed in to a corner. So he would be my backbone pretty much. ..."

What didn't work well

"The white people. If it, if it got down to a cultural thing then definitely it, it was a white thing. And, and, and that's what it ended up being. It's like I'm brown, you're white, I'm fucked. I'm just gonna sit here, feel ashamed, let you all stare at me and go you should be ashamed cos that's exactly how you feel. That's exactly how these Child Youth and Family, lawyers and the judge make you feel, so ashamed."



**“...that you do for me, without me, you do to me.”
Jeffrey Brown (Ted Talks May 2015)**

Reference to old Burundi adage.