



MANA MOKOPUNA

Children & Young People's Commission

POSITION DESCRIPTION

Position:	Principal Advisor Māori
Location:	Te Whanganui-a-Tara
Reporting to:	Pou Whakahaere o Te Tīma Mata Māori
Issue Date:	July 2023
Delegated Authority:	Nil
Staff Responsibility:	Nil

Our Organisation

Mana Mokopuna - Children and Young People's Commission is an independent advocate for all 1.2 million mokopuna aged under 18 in Aotearoa New Zealand and care-experienced mokopuna aged up to 25. Mana Mokopuna was established in July 2023, but the organisation was previously the Office of the Children's Commissioner, and we have a rich whakapapa built on the commitment of former [Children's Commissioners](#) since 1989.

The Commission is an Independent Crown Entity governed by a board of six Commissioners led by the Chief Children's Commissioner. It advocates for children's rights to be recognised and upheld, provides advice and guidance to government and other agencies, advocates for system-level changes, ensures children's voices are heard in decisions that affect them and monitors places where young people are detained.

Our name, Mana Mokopuna, describes who we are and what we stand for. At its heart, Mana Mokopuna recognises the many elements that will support mokopuna to thrive. It focuses on children and young people in the context of their family, whānau, hapū, iwi and wider community. It also recognises that their participation in decisions that affect them is vitally important.

Our Vision and Values

Our moemoeā is *Kia kuru pounamu te rongō* - *All mokopuna live their best lives*. We want to see every child in Aotearoa, regardless of their background, growing up knowing they belong with their whānau, having what they need to live their best life. It means mokopuna have a say about what matters for them, and that their rights are honoured by those in power.

Te Tiriti o Waitangi is central to our work. Honouring and reflecting Te Tiriti is one of the core values that drives us. We have a tikanga framework with four values-based principles that guide our mahi and behaviour:

- **Aroha:** Mokopuna are taonga. They are born with their own inherent mana. We will always act with compassion and empathy, adapting readily to respond to their needs.
- **Pono:** We believe honesty and integrity are key to doing our job well. We will always report things as we see them and never as how others want them to be seen. We stay true to one important thing: we do as we say we will.
- **Tika:** We are always about the best results for mokopuna. We empower others to bring about the best for them. We're independent and will always speak out for their interests. We consider the range of needs we have to meet and make every attempt to get it right. We never shy away from the hard stuff.
- **Mātauranga:** Mokopuna are our reason for being. They are involved, participate, and have input into things we do. We act from a place of knowledge; we work from evidence and advise others based on the things we learn.

Purpose of this Position

The role of Principal Advisor Māori is to provide mātauranga Māori advice, guidance, and leadership to ensure the Commission is well positioned to deliver on statutory obligations and strategic priorities, with the ultimate goal of achieving our moemoeā; kia kuru pounamu te rongo – all mokopuna live their best lives.

The Principal Advisor Māori will be part of the Tīma Mata Māori and will support the Pou Whakahaere to lead the development and delivery of a programme of activities that will move the tari towards a genuinely Te Tiriti based operating model.

A key part of this role will be to work alongside the Chief Executive to establish and maintain positive connections with iwi, hapū whānau and Māori organisations and promoting and protecting the rights of mokopuna, through engagement, public speaking, training, and presentations.

Working Relationships

<p>Internal:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pou Whakahaere• Senior leadership team• Kaimahi across the tari	<p>External:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whanau, hapu and iwi• Government agencies, particularly: Treasury, DPMC, Oranga Tamariki, Ministry of Social Development, Independent Children’s Monitor, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry of Justice, NZ Police• Academics and Māori and community researcher• Child Advocacy sector• Wider NGO sector• Mokopuna as individuals and as members of a collective – both directly and indirectly through youth-led and other organisations
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Key Accountabilities

Key Result Areas	Accountabilities
Mātauranga Māori	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mātauranga Māori advice, guidance, and leadership to ensure the Commission is well positioned to deliver on statutory obligations and strategic priorities • Provide leadership and advice for the Commission with regard to tikanga and mātauranga Māori • Contribute mātauranga Māori expertise to the development of a programme of policy, funding and legislative mechanisms which would make the biggest strategic impact for mokopuna Māori with the view to advocating for changes within these mechanisms • Contribute to discussions with key leaders within whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations, with the view to affect positive change for mokopuna • Lead or support advocacy efforts and research related to children’s rights and well-being, particularly in the area of better outcomes for mokopuna Māori • Support the Commission to continue to engage effectively with mokopuna Māori in accordance with appropriate tikanga • Represent the Commission on inter-departmental groups, presentations, and community fora, showing a high level of competence and professionalism
Obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the development of a programme of strategic activities and initiatives that move the Commission towards a genuinely Te Tiriti based operating model • Contribute to the achievement of the programme by both leading and undertaking key activities • Work with the Senior Leadership Team to embed Te Tiriti across all areas of work within the Commission • Support the development and implementation of a development programme which focuses on understanding Te Tiriti obligations, and improving Te Reo and mātauranga Māori across Commission • Work across the Commission to ensure that the everyone is well supported in their Te Tiriti journey

Key Result Areas	Accountabilities
Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contribute to the engagement strategy for the Commission ensuring that engagement with and input from whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori organisations is central to the work of the Commission • Work alongside the Pou Whakahaere to support the development of strong connections between the Commission and leaders of iwi, hapū, whānau and Māori organisations
Advocacy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide mātauranga Māori expertise and sound judgement in the development of advocacy planning and advice • Provide internal and external mātauranga Māori guidance on the analysis of policy, funding, and legislative mechanisms to determine the impact on mokopuna • Provide expert mātauranga Māori advice and support in the preparation and presentation of submissions, briefings and position papers on issues relating to the interests and wellbeing of mokopuna and the work of the Commission
Projects and systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in and lead as appropriate, projects and areas of work prioritised by the Chief Executive • Contribute to office wide systems that improve the effectiveness of the Commission in affecting change for mokopuna
Relationship management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain excellent working relationships with stakeholders, with particular focus on relationship with iwi, hapū and whānau and Māori organisations • Maintain excellent internal working relationships • Make best use of networks to ensure the Commission has the information and resources needed from a mātauranga Māori perspective to deliver positive outcomes for mokopuna • Make best use of networks to identify potential opportunities to influence positive change for mokopuna
Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide briefing and support to the Chief Executive to enable them to undertake media and stakeholder engagements to best effect
Other duties	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Perform other duties as required

Technical/Professional knowledge and skills

- Demonstrated experience in advocating with, and for, mokopuna Māori and working from a Te Ao Māori worldview
- Highly proficient in Te Reo Māori and Tikanga Māori
- High level of mātauranga Māori with evident wisdom and good judgement
- Well respected within Te Ao Māori with strong connections and networks across ngā iwi o te motu and/or Māori organisations
- A strong critical and strategic thinker who is politically savvy
- Highly developed analytical skills and a proven ability to synthesise information, draw conclusions and make clear recommendations
- Strong relationship management skills
- Relevant project management skills as well as a demonstrated ability to lead others to deliver tasks. Research and evaluation skills would be advantageous
- Understanding and knowledge of Te Tiriti o Waitangi and how this can be implemented in policy, research, monitoring, participation, and advocacy work
- Ability to provide coaching and support to others
- Strong written and verbal Te Reo Māori communication skills with the ability to communicate complex information clearly, tailored to the needs of the audience
- Strong organisational and planning skills
- Tertiary qualification or experience in mātauranga Māori

Special Requirements

- Demonstrated commitment to embedding Te Tiriti based practice within previous roles, and commitment to progressing the Te Tiriti journey of the Commission, including participating in Te Reo lessons or cultural development activities
- Welcomes and values diversity, and contributes to an inclusive working environment where differences are acknowledged and respected
- Willing to travel to fulfil job requirements