## Mana Ake – Stronger for Tomorrow

Enhancing wellbeing and mental health for tamariki in school years 1-8



A summary of discussions at September's Mana Ake Service Level Alliance (SLA) meeting. For more information, please contact the Mana Ake project team (details below).

## 1 SHAPING THE FUTURE OF MANA AKE

The Mana Ake team continues the co-design journey, using feedback from schools and providers to shape how Mana Ake will look in the future.

Responses to a survey carried out by the Ministry of Education earlier this year showed that schools rated support for individual tamariki, group interventions and support for parents as the highest priority activities for Mana Ake going forward. It also confirmed the importance of an approach that promotes equity, while recognising that decile and socio-economic status are not the only considerations for achieving equity.

Several clusters have developed ways of agreeing how best to allocate resource equitably for their context and have been implementing sustainable working practices to ensure capacity is used to support the tamariki and whānau who need it the most. This includes:

- Teachers and school staff using <u>Leading Lights</u> as a first port of call for tools and resources for use in the classroom, as well as information to share with whānau.
- Offering parent drop-in sessions with kaimahi, in person or online, prior to considering a Request for Support.
- Education staff and general practice teams continuing to use ERMS Online to share information about any health-related concern for a child/young person.

It's important that Mana Ake remains a highly flexible and responsive initiative so support best meets the needs of our tamariki and their whānau.

## 2 SUPPORTING THE NATIONAL ROLL OUT OF MANA AKE

Members of the Mana Ake Service Level Alliance have been approached to share learnings from Canterbury by key people in the five DHB areas – Counties Manukau, Northland, Bay of Plenty, Lakes, and West Coast – where planning is underway to develop wellbeing support models for their tamariki.

Denise Torrey, Principal of Somerfield School and school sector perspective on the SLA, has presented to the Principals from these areas, providing a picture of how Mana Ake works in the Canterbury context. Denise has shared insights about learnings in in Canterbury, as well as outlining some of the barriers and pitfalls. Each area has been encouraged to use Canterbury's experience but co-design for their own context.

Dr Bronwyn Dunnachie, Senior Advisor for Werry Workforce Whāraurau and specialist mental health perspective on the SLA, has attended hui in Counties Manukau and Northland to share key learnings to inform their local co-design.

Murray Roberts, Canterbury's implementation lead, has been appointed as the Education Lead supporting the engagement and planning on the West Coast.