



UPDATE: 30 July 2010

MANUKAU EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION TASKFORCE

Increasing Participation in Early Childhood Education in Manukau :
A Tomorrow's Manukau: Manukau Apopo Project

PROGRESS REPORT

Prepared for the 2nd Manukau Early Childhood Education Summit, July 2010.

At the first Early Childhood Education Summit in April 2008, 168 participants came together to share and explore the challenges for early childhood education in our communities. Significant delivery gaps and issues were highlighted, and participants were invited to provide feedback about how the community should respond.

Four key elements emerged from Summit discussions:

- More centres are needed
- Council processes need streamlining so new centres are easier to establish
- More trained and qualified staff, particularly Pacific and Maori educators, will be needed for centre expansion
- More community involvement in early learning will drive up demand for services

The Summit called for the establishment of the **Manukau Early Childhood Education Taskforce**.

Members of the taskforce in 2010 have been: Councillor Colleen Brown (Chair); Barbara Ludlow, Manukau Leisure Services; Karen Shields, Franklin Kindergarten Association; Aolele Sua-Aloese, Tautua Aoga Amata; the late Nancy Tapaeru McCartney and Kathryn Elliott of Barnardos; Leanne Nathan, Clendon Park School; Michelle Pratt, Living and Learning Foundation; Rex Hewitt, Manukau City Council; the late Allen Chang, Bernardine Vester, Ofa Nai-Saulala and Susan Warren, COMET.

Participants at six well-attended community forums hosted by the Taskforce during 2009 provided regular input.

A Project Implementation Team, chaired by the Ministry of Education, was established to provide support for Ministry commitment to the Counties-Manukau Project. The team worked alongside the Taskforce. Team members in 2010 are: Jilly Tyler, Ngaire Putamainu, Ngawai Beasley and Rosemary Mose, Ministry of Education; Councillor Colleen Brown, Manukau City Council Councillor; Rex Hewitt, John Adams, Helen Slater, Tania Tarawa, Lisa Endersby, James Rowe and Sarah Perry, Manukau City Council; Fuimaono Tuiasau and Linda Aumua, Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs; Manu Pihama, Ministry of Social Development; Bernadine Vester, the late Allen Chang and Susan Warren, COMET.

The Taskforce and Implementation Team have together provided a platform for collaborative and innovative action, with the Ministry of Education, the Manukau City Council, the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs, the Ministry of Social Development, early childhood organisations and centres, and COMET all working together towards the common goal of increasing participation, most especially among Maori and Pacific families in selected parts of Manukau.

Summit 2008 Recommendations	Working Together	Scorecard
Establish a Taskforce to lead action and bring the community together	The Taskforce is chaired by Cr Colleen Brown and includes representatives from ECEs, Council and COMET. It hosted a series of six forums on a range of topics relevant to the sector during 2009, and an ECE Budget rally in June 2010.	Achieved
Improve Council red tape	Council Managers and staff, led by HWM Len Brown and Cr Colleen Brown, have established new streamlined processes for resource and planning consents for early childhood centres.	Achieved
There aren't enough centres	35 services have been established from April 2008 to June 2010 in Manukau. Population growth keeps this process urgent. At a recent Taskforce meeting, the viability of smaller centres was discussed in the light of budget changes. This needs to be carefully monitored for impacts in Manukau.	Improving
We need more [trained and qualified] EC teachers in Manukau	A working group attempted during 2009 to facilitate Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) for teachers from the Pacific Islands. Teach New Zealand scholarships are now targeted to services in lower socio- economic areas, and for services with a Maori or Pasifika bilingual or immersion programme. There is no clear data tracking mechanism for the EC workforce in Manukau, and it is not clear how realistic targets might be set.	Target not set, and data to track growth yet to be defined.
Co-locate centres with schools or on council land	An initiative to establish centres on crown or council land is supported by Ministers. New policy work in the Ministry of Education is accompanying centre development at 9 school locations in Counties-Manukau. 6 of these building projects are under way, with more work to be done to progress the final three.	Promising
Support governance and management of small centres	MIT is developing a course specifically targeted to quality management and governance of early childhood centres in our community. Course development has been supported by the Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs and the Ministry of Education.	In progress
Encourage better attendance patterns	The 20 Hours Free Policy has had an impact on attendance and participation patterns for children who are already enrolled. Data about this is still emerging.	Unclear
Promote the value of ECE to parents and community	Council has supported community events that highlight services to families, e.g. the very successful Toddlers' Day Out in 2009. A number of Play Days to promote services, led by the Ministry of Education, were held in shopping malls / community places during 2009. The Ministry of Education Promoting Participation Project (PPP) has been withdrawn. Many centres are full.	Some progress
Support diversity of services	Parents support services that reflect their social and cultural values. The Counties Manukau Project Implementation Team has taken diversity into account in planning for new services. Supported playgroups have been highlighted as a possible starting point for parent involvement in children's learning.	In progress

Between 2006 and 2009, 51 new centres were established and ECE enrolments in Manukau increased from 11,450 to 13,291. 36 of the new licensed services are privately owned. 11 of the new licensed services are community-based. The population of under-fives has grown over the same period from over 29,000 to nearly 32,000. This means that **as a proportion of under-five-year-olds, ECE enrolments have increased slightly, from 38.9 enrolments per 100 children in 2006 to 41.6 in 2009.** Although centre enrolments in Manukau are keeping up with growth, the baseline gap in service remains.