

Relevant Calls to Action

- Early Childhood Education
- Te Korowai Manaaki
- Educators and Communities

WAITAKERE WELLBEING SUMMIT

ALL YOUNG PEOPLE IN WAITAKERE ARE ABLE TO MAKE POSITIVE LIFE CHOICES

Potential Focus Areas: Parenting, Early Childhood, Education, Transition

HOW ARE WE DOING?

Issues & Indicators:

Parenting programmes

A range of parenting and home visiting programmes are in place in Waitakere although they are not all available Waitakere-wide. Although some have good evaluations, on the whole, there is limited evidence that they are reaching their full potential in improving outcomes for young children and families.

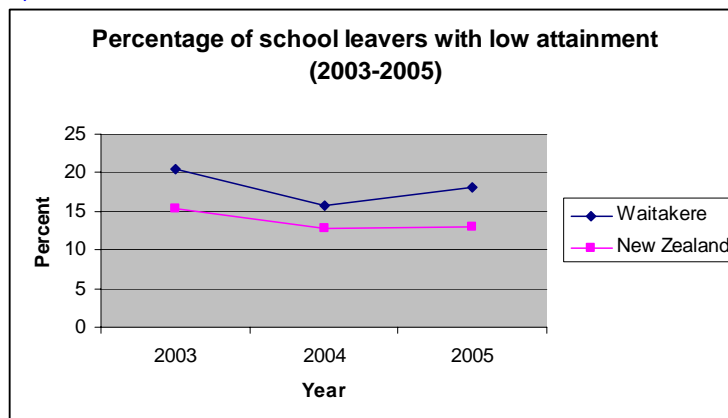
Refer: Home visiting and Parenting Project Report (Waitemata District Health Board) 2006

Early Childhood

- Approximately 3% of NZ European, 7% of Asian, 8% Maori, 16% of Pacific and 15% of other ethnic group do not attend ECE centres, higher overall than the national average. Asian and 'other ethnic' groups have significantly lower attendance than nationally.

Education

- Waitakere has a higher percentage of school leavers (17%) with low attainment than nationally (12%).



Suspensions and stand-downs from school:

- Stand downs, and exclusions from school are higher in Waitakere than nationally.
- Rates of suspension and stand-down for Maori are dramatically higher than for European. Pacific rates are also high and rates for 'other' ethnic groups appear to be increasing. All of these trends are consistent with national trends.

Teenage Pregnancy

- Currently around 60 babies are born each year in Waitakere to mothers who are under 18 years old. The rate of live births to mothers under 18 has decreased between 2001 and 2006 in Waitakere despite an increase in the rate for New Zealand as a whole.

HOW CAN WE MAKE A DIFFERENCE – WHAT WORKS?

Proven & Promising Strategies & Activities:

Parenting programmes

In general these services need to be flexible, comprehensive in scope and integrated with other strategies to support effective parenting for better outcomes for children.

Refer: Home visiting and Parenting Project Report (Waitemata District Health Board) 2006

Early Childhood Education

- The value of quality early childhood education to develop social and learning skills for young children has demonstrated improved educational outcomes and life opportunities.
- Culturally appropriate early childhood care and outreach to new migrants such as Selwyn College's multicultural ECE centre have shown enhanced learning and social benefits for the families and school.

Education

- Programmes to lift educational achievement and address disproportionately high rate of suspensions and stand-downs amongst Maori students such as the Te Kotahitanga programme operating in several Waitakere City high schools show great promise in addressing students' needs in the learning environment.

Refer: Russell Bishop and Mere Berryman 2006: Culture speaks: cultural relationships and classroom learning, Wellington, N.Z. Huia

Transition

- Successful youth transition support services to help young people successfully move from school to tertiary training /education or employment have been developed in other parts of NZ and are now operating in Waitakere.
- Mentoring programmes to support the development of young people have been shown to be beneficial in fostering skills and confidence.

Teen Pregnancy

Successful approaches to addressing teen pregnancy involve multi faceted approaches:

- Supporting teenage mothers with their babies to remain in education
- Providing support and family planning services to prevent subsequent unplanned pregnancies.
- Providing readily accessible information, support, and contraception for all teenagers.

Refer: Tillamook County case study, http://www.raguide.org/RA/tillamook_county.htm