



McKenzie Centre

Realising a child's potential

ANNUAL REPORT

2022





MCKENZIE CENTRE BOARD CHAIR REPORT 2022



Our McKenzie Centre staff and whānau had yet another challenging year where they showed how important their resilience, determination and commitment are to the tamariki we support.

As a board of trustees, it is our role to provide cultural and strategic leadership which makes it easier for our staff to meet those challenges on behalf of our wider community and help realise our children's potential.

To do that, we must all be able to assess and pivot in the face of change. It is this adaptability which has kept McKenzie Centre so relevant for nearly 40 years.

Over the year we farewelled some long-standing staff members and welcomed new ones into the centre.

They stepped in seamlessly and this is due to the working environment under centre director Trisha Benge and her management team. The board congratulates the team for their dedication. We are proud of your achievements.

They in turn had the support of Enrich Group chief executive and kaitiaki Karen Scott and her Enrich Group Management Services team who provided financial, human resources, IT and communications/marketing support for McKenzie Centre.

I want to make special mention of all our volunteers, supporters, funders and donors who help us work together to achieve the best outcomes for our families.

McKenzie Centre is a not-for-profit, community-based

organisation that received funding from the ministries of Health and Education in this financial year.

But to maintain our buildings and provide much-needed equipment and services, we rely on our community partners who are so integral to who we are at McKenzie Centre.

We looked forward to the establishment of Whaikaha – the Ministry of Disabled People on 1 July 2022.

At last, we have our own ministry whose job it is to prioritise the rights of all disabled people, but especially our birth to school age children who have additional learning needs because of their disabilities or developmental delays.

At McKenzie Centre children of all abilities and cultural backgrounds learn together and begin to understand the value of inclusive communities. Our programmes and resources help families take control of their own learning and achieve positive outcomes.

This remains at the very heart and soul of everything we do.

Ngā manaakitanga

Paul Bennett

Chair



MCKENZIE CENTRE DIRECTOR REPORT 2022



MISSION: Realising a child's potential



VALUES: Care, respect, partnership



STRATEGIC GOALS:

Te Aranga (Structure) - Our systems and resources support high quality services

He Tangata (People) - Our people and whānau are empowered and capable

Te Kotahitanga (Sustainability) - We are responsive to community needs through growth and innovation

McKenzie Centre has continued to thrive during the past year.

We are passionate about our commitment and contribution to whānau who have young children with disabilities and our services are well subscribed.

There can be no doubt this past year presented challenges nobody could have foreseen.

The Covid 19 pandemic places additional pressure on organisations operating on the front line.

The priority for McKenzie Centre was to figure out ways in which we could support our people adapting to the new situation which compounded the existing challenges whānau raising a child with a disability were already facing.

Whaikaha, the Ministry of Disabled People, was established in July 2022 to lead the realisation of a true partnership between the disability community and government.

McKenzie Centre, as a child disability service, transferred from the Ministry of Health over to the new ministry.

continued

HIGHLIGHTS

- Over the year we cemented our kaupapa, and this gave greater clarity and purpose to what we do.
- Through evaluation we established our focus is on education, connections and advocacy and these are the three activities that guide us with our mahi.
- We are a family centred service, and intentionally increased our involvement with parents and caregivers. An example of this is our initiative to employ Peer Worker staff. These staff members are employed because of their lived experience as parents of children with disabilities. What this has enabled us to do is increase the authentic voice of whānau in the activities we provide and the impact that these make.
- McKenzie Centre has a wealth of experience and talent to share. Our vision is to use our knowledge to create change, and the change we would like to see in our community is the inclusion of people with disabilities so they can realise their potential just like everyone else. We delivered a range of parent workshops, and are beginning

to deliver workshops to professional groups e.g. early childhood teachers. These workshops have been online, so are able to reach a wider audience and keep people safe during times of health crisis.

Our intent is to ensure our mahi is responsive to the current and evolving requirements of the communities we serve to ensure our people realise their potential. Our systems and resources have been developed and many of our systems are now fully merged with Enrich Group, however, we have retained our uniqueness with certain activities remaining 'in house'.

We have changed our administration team structure and created a Business Support Coordinator position. This change, along with the expertise of staff from Enrich Group, successfully meets our business needs.

THANKS TO

Funders

Our families have been through a lot in the past year, but the generosity of our funders reminds us that there is support in our community for people who are struggling and need care. To help them on the journey to a brighter future.

Trustees

We are extremely grateful to the Board who provide expert advice and support.

Staff

We are very fortunate to have such a dedicated and talented team of staff working to make a difference.

Whanaungatanga

There are many people who make the work of the centre possible and without them we could not begin to accomplish even a portion of what we set out to achieve.

I am thankful for the generosity, expertise and dedication that our whānau and community extend towards us every day.

Ngā mihi nui

Trisha Bengie

Centre Director





OVERVIEW OF 2022



highlights

- > Our tuakana and peer workers hosted eight hangouts to build social connections and friendships with other parents and lessen feelings of isolation
- > We held three Dads' hangouts, facilitated by one of our dads, and most of them were online. They focus on the things that are important to the special dads in our children's lives
- > Matariki celebrations. We hosted a whānau evening to strengthen connections and celebrate our culture.
- > 18 workshops were held with 167 participants. All of our workshops are designed to build skills and confidence to assist children's learning and development
- > We developed 107 individual plans to support children's learning
- > 170 early childhood and other community visits
- > We provided 188 early intervention sessions



age range

Preschool children and their whānau



geographic

38 families live beyond Hamilton City Council's boundary and 111 inside.



diversity

Numbers of whanau supported across a wide range of ethnic and cultural backgrounds with:

- > 55 reported as Maori
- > 3 reported as Pacifica
- > 58 reported as New Zealand European
- > 30 reported as Asian
- > 3 reported as other



supported

We have supported 149 families, with our range of service options.

FAMILY FEEDBACK 2022



"The love and support we receive is amazing. I also love the parent interactions! For a stay at home Mum who struggles with my own difficulties, McKenzie Centre helps me feel a bit more 'normal' and I really appreciate that."

"All of the professionals and families who are friendly and supportive of us. Freedom to play."



"How welcoming the staff are"

"Being able to access support and expertise from Richard the psychologist"

"To watch my daughter interact with others"

"The staff, the wide range of courses on offer, meeting other parents at a similar stage to us"



"Feeling supported by our Tuakana". Linda

"The feeling of acceptance and support from the centre in general"

"To see my daughter having fun and look forward to attending"



"The comfort that comes from a no judgement environment. It allows me to go in with less tension and more open to strategies and information that is useful to our family"

"The people! And the way my kids feel comfortable and have autonomy in the space they've created"



THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS 2022

SPONSORSHIP



Delivering business and
accounting solutions

We thank BES - Business Enabling Systems for their ongoing
and generous sponsorship support.



SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS

GM Hatwell
C Taylor & B Carrol
Fonterra Te Rapa Laboratories
S Hayward
R Lugton
General donations
Payroll giving Received

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Richard Bennett - carpentry & repairs
Richard Stewart - grounds & repairs
Eli Martin - grounds
Carina Wassenaar - admin
Ron Bint - grounds
Leanne Moyes - fundraising

FUNDERS

