McKenzie Centre

Realising a child's potential

ANNUAL REPORT

2024 - 2025

MCKENZIE CENTRE

2024 - 2025

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 / Sustainabiltiy: We are responsive to community needs through growth and innovation

CELEBRATING 40 YEARS

McKENZIE CENTRE

BOARD CHAIR REPORT '24 - '25

It is my pleasure to present the McKenzie Centre's Chair Report for the year 2024-2025.

McKenzie Centre Trust was established in 1982 with donations from the McKenzie Education Foundation and the Telethon Trust and started in 1984. For the past 40 years, McKenzie Centre has supported thousands of families / whānau, students, and professionals.

We celebrated this wonderful milestone with our staff and the wider community that have all contributed to our success on November 2nd, 2024. About 200 people attended the celebrations, with families from today mingling with those from yesterday.
Trisha Benge, our long-serving Centre Director was one of four speakers on the day. She said, "We have always involved families and parents and thought of the whānau as experts on their children. Our jobs have been to add what we know to the family, so they have the skills and the support necessary to realise their child's potential."
Ken Williamson, a trustee for 30 years said, "I've witnessed the profound impact we've had on countless children and their families and together we've built this very special place where lives are transformed, and futures reimagined."

Claire van der Most spoke on behalf of the Chair (who was an apology) said: "In line with a person-centered approach, Enrich Group and McKenzie Centre complement each other. Essentially by joining with Enrich, the families whose children are supported by McKenzie Centre can be assured of quality services throughout the entirety of their child's life."
Rae Hooper, who was the Ministry of Education official who issued the centre's first licence, said Waikato was fortunate to have such a wonderful service.

Although the service delivery model has changed over the years, McKenzie Centre's mission has remained unchanged since its opening in 1984. At the heart of everything we do is our purpose: 'Realising a Child's Potential'. We remain focused on early intervention for children from birth to six who have disabilities or developmental delays.

Looking ahead, we are fortunate with having a new CEO, Mark Goldsmith, who in the current year has sourced an expanded contract that enables us to support more children and their families; while ensuring we have a stable staff and all professional standards are met.

I would like to express my heartfelt expression of gratitude for the unique contributions of the dedicated staff of McKenzie Centre, together with the Enrich Group members who interact with staff at the Centre.

To our committed volunteers I say: “We are grateful for your willingness to give your time, energy, and talents. Without you we would not be able to deliver the support necessary to realise the potential of the many children who come through our doors.”
To our board members I say: “They are passionate ambassadors of the McKenzie Centre, and I thank you for that.”

Each donor and grant provider plays a critical role in fulfilling our mission: without your support, we would not be able to deliver our services to such a consistently high standard.
When we all take responsibility for helping children reach their potential, we collectively create a positive future for that child and their family.

Each one of us can make a significant difference in the lives of many children and their families. Together we can make change for the better.

I leave you with one last thought: Reflect on the past to build the future. Before looking ahead, take time to celebrate how far you've come.

Ngā manaakitanga

Paul Bennett

Chair

SIOBHAN PATTERSON

INTERIM SERVICE MANAGER'S REPORT '24 - '25

A Year of Connection and Growth at McKenzie Centre

It's been another busy and exciting year at McKenzie Centre, filled with meaningful progress and heartwarming moments. One of the standout highlights has been the celebration of our 40th anniversary. The event featured food and refreshments, bouncy castles, raffles, and plenty of fun and festivities which provided a wonderful opportunity to celebrate and reconnect with current and past families and staff.

Since it opened McKenzie Centre has been an early intervention service dedicated to supporting children with disabilities and has helped children achieve both short-term goals and long-term success.

Over the decades, thousands of children and their families have benefitted from the centre's family centred, team-based approach.

This service delivery model which incorporates a transdisciplinary approach effectively assesses each child's unique needs and connects them with a highly trained team of professionals through parent-led and tailored planning.

Another standout highlight this year has been the success of our playgroup. This initiative has become a vital space for families on our waitlist—those not yet enrolled in our full Early Intervention programme—to connect, share, and feel supported.

We understand how isolating it can be for families navigating life with a child who has extra needs. The playgroup offers a welcoming environment where everyone "gets it." Children are free to explore in their own time and their own way, and parents can find comfort in knowing they're not alone. It's a place where understanding and empathy are at the heart of every interaction.

Another valuable outcome has been the smoother transition for families who later join our full programme. Having already spent time in the McKenzie Centre environment, these families arrive with a clearer understanding of the commitment and collaboration needed to support their child's development. This early connection helps build trust and confidence, setting a strong foundation for future progress.

Perhaps most inspiring has been watching friendships blossom among families. As they grow more confident in expressing their needs and advocating for their children, we see a community forming—one built on shared experiences, mutual support, and hope.
We're deeply grateful to Greenlea for making this possible and to every family who has joined us on this journey. Your courage and openness continue to shape McKenzie Centre into a place of belonging and possibility.

We would also like to acknowledge and thank all our funders who generously supported McKenzie Centre in the 2024-25 year. Your support is never taken for granted and makes a significant difference in the lives of everyone who comes to the Centre.

COGS Waikato South
COGS Waikato West
DV Bryant Trust
Greenlea Foundation
NZ Lottery Grants Board
The Tidd Foundation
Trust Waikato
Waikato WDFF Karamu Trust
WEL Energy Trust

Ngā mihi,

Siobhan Patterson
Interim Service Manager

McKENZIE CENTRE OVERVIEW OF '24 - '25

HIGHLIGHTS

- Our Tuakana and Peer Workers hosted eight hangouts to build social connections and friendships with other parents and lessen feelings of isolation.
- At the start of the calendar year we held a Meet and Greet BBQ to which 26 people came.
- Matariki celebrations; we hosted a whānau evening to strengthen connections and celebrate our culture, with 67 attendees.
- Diversi-TEA was held in early September to celebrate the diversity within our whānau with 58 people attending.
- We also held an 'End of Year' party for all whānau, including siblings and grandparents, in December - 64 came to this.
- 26 workshops comprising 54 sessions were held with 348 attendances. All of our workshops are designed to build skills and confidence to assist children's learning and development.
- 130 parents attended Parent Focus Sessions held every term.
- 293 Individual Plans were developed and reviewed to support children's learning.
- 265 early childhood and other community visits took place.
- We provided 199 early intervention sessions.
- We also provided 23 parent-led playgroups.

GEOGRAPHIC

53 families live beyond Hamilton City boundary and 113 inside the city.

DIVERSITY

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

- 56 reported as Maori
- 9 reported as Pacifica
- 58 reported as New Zealand European
- 24 reported as Asian
- 9 reported as other.

AGE RANGE

Preschool children and their whānau.

SUPPORTED

We have supported 166 families who have preschool aged children with disabilities this year with our range of service options.

FAMILY FEEDBACK

"We are just so lucky to have a resource like this available for our children and whanau. Such wonderful, helpful and knowledgeable staff. My child has come such a long way with his development thanks to their support"

"Mckenzie [Centre] has been amazing in guiding us on our son's new journey. They have made us feel important and cared for, always ensuring we have the support we need. Without Mckenzie's guidance, we would be lost. We are incredibly grateful to be part of the McKenzie family and for the unwavering support they provide. Their dedication and care have made a significant difference in our lives, and we can't thank them enough for their invaluable assistance."

McKenzie Centre have reinforced and strengthened my ability to understand my daughter through basic play. Already my whanau is engaging with her through specific ways of playing and we have felt it has made us feel more confident

“I feel heard and seen here. Thank you!”

“[We] would quite honestly be lost without the services and support McKenzie Centre provides. George has grown and achieved so much in the time we have been here.”

“McKenzie Centre is an amazing facility to helps [sic] support tamariki and whanau navigate the complexities and challenges of neurodiversity. It is nice to have a listening ear and reassurance that we are not alone in this journey.”

“Keep doing this for us please. It is life changing and has made our lives better.”

THANK YOU
TO OUR SUPPORTERS 2024 -25

SPONSORSHIP

BES Delivering business and accounting solutions

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

CONTRACTS

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION
TE TĀHUHU O TE MĀTAURANGA

Whaikaha
Ministry of Disabled People

SIGNIFICANT DONATIONS

Mini Waikato Inc
Susie Nyika
Payroll Giving

AMAZING VOLUNTEERS

Richard Stewart (grounds and repairs)
Eli Martin (grounds)
Richard Bennett (carpentry and repairs)
Carina Wassenaar (admin)
Ron Bint (grounds)

FUNDERS

THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR WONDERFUL SUPORT

Trust Waikato
TE PUNA O WAIKATO

Greenlea Foundation Trust

WEL ENERGY TRUST
www.welenergytrust.co.nz

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