



Child Rich | KIA WHĀNGAIA TE RITO,
COMMUNITIES | KA PUĀWAITIA TE HARAKEKE
THE WELLBEING OF CHILDREN, WHĀNAU AND COMMUNITIES ARE CLOSELY INTERCONNECTED

Giving Voice to tamariki and rangatahi- child and youth community action

CRC online kōrero 26/5/22 - Comments from Breakout rooms (10 rooms)

How do we better enable the voices of tamariki and rangatahi to be central to our community development kaupapa?

- kids love a feed! make sure we feed them when we ask their opinions! And ask the same question in many ways. get a picture or a song that tells their answer.
- We discussed the importance meeting young people in their own place – targeted engagement with young people – what is the best way to engage? How do we enable young people to engage with government – a reciprocal relationship. Consider how to make it accessible for young people.
- Having a shared context and seeing it as partnership – mutual discovery.
- Voices are lost through the process - how do we keep that voice heard?
 - Setting the expectations of what to expect - time etc
 - Kids don't see their voices in action
 - journeying with the young people, follow up with the rangatahi so that they see the whole process and HOW their voice was used instead of just being heard once to 'tick a box'
 - planning for the kids of the future and being able to articulate that upfront
 - starting things again and rebuilding credibility - cancel generation who just think things will be cancelled because of covid etc. loss of hope and trust in wanting to get involved. taking time to build relationship again.
- We discussed developing a framework that ensures projects have opportunities for choices and flexibility, always revisiting what worked well what needs to be done

differently, also being short and sharp in timeline was beneficial so people could see the progress quickly.

- From our breakout group - using dual engagement strategies; changing mindsets for people, working in partnership, asking age-appropriate questions without leading and then following through
- Arts-based engagement should be utilised for tamariki to engage and raise their voice through. Adults need to spend time advocating for a mindset shift in places of power so that youth voice is taken seriously as an important part of process. Be really clear about parameters and manage expectations when engaging with young people and pay them for their time, build up their talent so they can go out and mentor others.
- We also learnt that there are different answers to different platforms for the question...and only certain groups of children/young people will respond to surveys, or come to forums, or joining a chat group online etc...so using a variety of engagement methods, as well as thinking creatively about how to ask the question through art and creative outlets (a play? some kids love drama!!) is super productive
- Also, campaign for lowering the voting age
- We focused our chat on how important it is to slow down, create space, go with the flow and be permeable. We circled back to Tupua's points on being real with young people, not just your professional, serious self or the role you play at your workplace. Tamariki and Rangatahi need a chance to have their own experiences, passions and opinions heard in a safe and authentic space where they can then take the lead on projects, and we come in more from the role as a facilitator and listener.
- We discussed: For adult services, or those not in contact with youth but wanting to know how their service is affecting their lives - Use community organisations that are already working with tamariki and rangatahi and collaborate with them to gain their views