



Tangata Whenua
Social Workers Association

**PRESS STATEMENT: TANGATA WHENUA SOCIAL WORKERS
ASSOCIATION**

KO TE AHUREI O TE TAMAITI
AROHA O TATOU MAHI

Let the uniqueness of the child
Guide our work

E nga Rangatira,
Tena koutou katoa.
He mihi kau ana matou i a koutou katoa i roto tenei kaupapa tino nui.

MINISTERIAL ADVISORY BOARD: ORANGA TAMARIKI: PURONGO: TE KAHU AROHA

The Tangata Whenua Social Workers Association wishes to express its tautoko of the purongo of the Ministerial Advisory Board for Oranga Tamariki, which has been released today by the Honourable Kelvin Davis, Minister for Children.

We first want to convey our gratitude to the Board for their diligence, inclusivity, attention to care but most importantly, remembering the focus of this mahi and that is the tamariki, nga uri otira nga rangatira apopo.

The time has been constraining, the kaupapa extensive but the mahi essential to the future generations of Aotearoa. Kei te mihi mahana matou i a koutou katoa.

While Te Kahu Aroha is heavy in its substance, challenging in its content, it is nonetheless indicative of the importance that is being attributed to the mahi and the origin of the mahi. This is about learning from the past so that the present can facilitate constructive change, to secure the future for and wellbeing of tamariki, whanau, children and families.

The Association acknowledges the demands of the mahi and the absolute commitment of the frontline social workers, who often respond to very trying situations with resilience and

tenaciousness, sometimes at great personal cost. Kei te mihi tautoko matou i a koutou katoa.

We believe the knowledge and training of social work both as a profession and as scopes of practice, alongside tangata whenua knowledge and practices are imperative to the raising and strengthening of the mauri and workforce capability of the organisation and the mana of the people that service the organisation.

It is also in our opinion, essential that the kaimahi of the organisation are matatau (skilled) in how to work with tangata whenua tamariki and whanau. This is not just about competence or relying on the mohiotanga of tangata whenua colleagues but as well, how the integration of knowledge is evident in social work practice, so that the privilege of working with tangata whenua tamariki and whanau is clearly demonstrated.

Finally, as an Association, we are under no illusion as to the considerable mahi that lies ahead, to implement the recommendations of Te Kahu Aroha but, we are also confident of the commitment of us all to the kaupapa of the wellbeing of tamariki, whanau, children and families and it is this that will make the work less daunting.

Mauriora i a koutou otira mauriora i a tatou katoa!

29 Mahuru 2021