



# update

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**Ma mahi tāhi tātou** working together for children and young people with high and complex needs

## **Kia ora tātou**

In this Update you will find information on:

- Manager of the HCN Unit
- Staff changes
- CYF High Needs Services
- Final comments

## **Manager of the HCN Unit**

In January I started a six-month secondment as the Manager for the HCN Unit. I am looking forward to working with you through the rest of this financial year.

My home agency is Child, Youth and Family. I am a registered social worker and in the last few years have held regional and national advisory and management positions. My first involvement with the HCN Unit was when it was a project and I was an advisor in Child, Youth and Family's National Office. It was an exciting time!

The HCN Unit is a very busy place with an experienced team. It is a pleasure to work with you and I appreciate the support you have given me as I settle in. I can see there continues to be opportunities to build on our collaborative relationships and that the needs of some children and young people are truly complex.

The Pathways Survey conducted in 2011 identified the need to streamline the HCN Unit processes. Less paperwork and a more timely process are right up there for improving what we do. It is also important that interagency plans better reflect the voice of the child/young person's and their family.

My contact details are on the [website](#) – please feel free to contact me any time.

## **Staff changes**

On 17 February we say farewell to Emma Petry, our Administration Support person. Emma is an HCN Unit stalwart, having been with us for a number of years. She has been instrumental in developing, maintaining and improving our financial systems and processes. Emma is moving to Perth to finish her degree, and her knowledge, skill and vibrant personality will be missed. We are fortunate to have [Meronea Rona](#) moving into the Administration Support role.

The Leader Professional Practice and HCN Advisor for the Wellington, Whanganui and Taranaki region vacancies have been advertised. Information about these positions can be found on our [website](#).

This is an exciting time of change and, while a little unsettling, I am confident that when the vacancies are filled we will have a vibrant team to support you.

## **CYF High Needs Services**

The Child, Youth and Family, National Office is also undergoing some change with a re-organisation of teams. The purpose of this is to better align the national services and functions. As a result, the HCN Unit now comes under the umbrella group – Residences and High Needs Services.

This group brings together a number of initiatives which support children and young people with high and complex needs. This group represents a national hub and will result in better coordination around those children and young people known to Child, Youth and Family who present with high needs. Currently 82% of HCN Unit plans have Child, Youth and Family as the lead agency.

Jo Field is General Manager Residences and High Needs. Jo was, until recently, the chair of the HCN Governance Board and so she has a good understanding of our work.

## **Final comments**

On the new projects front, are you aware of the Gateway Assessment process being rolled out through Child, Youth and Family? This is an inter-agency project with Health and Education so, if it is available in your area, do find out more.

In terms of continued improvement, keep your eyes out for ideas around having the voice of the child, young person and their family reflected in their plans.

Thanks to those of you who include a photo of the child/young person in their plan. It is great to know who we are talking about – keep it up.

**Carmel McKee**  
Manager, HCN Unit