

Our Journey So Far

Over the past 18 months, Kindergarten Taranaki and Whānau Manaaki have worked closely to explore how we can best support tamariki, whānau, and communities into the future.

Through a detailed and collaborative due diligence process, we've found strong alignment in values, systems, and aspirations, a shared commitment to high-quality, community-led early childhood education.

We believe the opportunity to merge reflects a thoughtful, future-focused step toward a stronger, unified kindergarten movement in Taranaki.

Your Voice Matters

As a member of the Kindergarten Association, you have a vote on whether we merge with Whānau Manaaki.

This flier summarises what we believe are the significant benefits to merging.

Creating a stronger, more resilient organisation to secure better outcomes for tamariki and whānau

If you have any questions about the merger you can send an email to
ktfutures@kindergartentaranaki.co.nz

www.kindergartentaranaki.co.nz
www.wmkindergartens.org.nz



Merger between Kindergarten Taranaki and Whānau Manaaki Kindergartens

Key Points


Whānau Manaaki

Ko Wai Tatou?

Kindergarten Taranaki

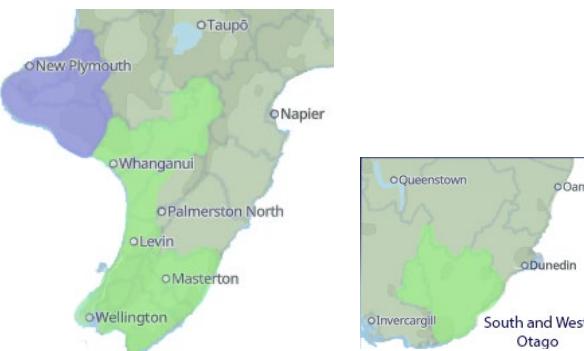
Kindergarten Taranaki has been in the Taranaki region for over 70-years.

- 24 Kindergartens from Pātea to Waitara to Ōkura
- Approximately 1,300 tamariki attending
- 150 teaching staff and 45 non-teaching staff
- One support office in New Plymouth

Whānau Manaaki

Whānau Manaaki has been an established association for 120 years.

- 112 services (111 kindergartens and 1 Pacific Home-based service) in South and West Otago, then from Seatoun through to Northern Manawatu, Wairarapa, Whanganui, and the Central Plateau
- Approximately 5,200 tamariki attending
- Over 850 teaching staff and 250 non-teaching staff
- Support offices in Porirua, Levin, Whanganui and Balclutha



The Due Diligence Process

The due diligence process was a collaborative effort between Kindergarten Taranaki and Whānau Manaaki and was overseen by a Working Group made up of Board Members and Senior Leadership of both organisations.

The due diligence was undertaken to assess aspects of both our organisations for alignment and to identify whether joining with Whānau Manaaki would provide better outcomes for our tamariki than remaining autonomous.

Why has the Board voted to progress the merger to a membership vote?

Our Board have seen compelling evidence through the due diligence activities, that a merger with Whānau Manaaki would realise significant benefits.

The benefits we believe can be achieved include:

- Better outcomes for tamariki
- Better outcomes for staff
- Long term financial security
- A stronger unified voice in advocating for early childhood education, locally, regionally and nationally
- A stronger organisation with the ability for kindergartens to maintain their special character and relationships with communities
- The ability for our strategic aspirations to be delivered, in particular cultural capability.

Key Benefits

For Tamariki

- Greater access to high quality early childhood education.
- Wider range of learning resources and environments.
- Cultural diversity and inclusion.
- Localised curriculum and identity prioritised

For Whānau

- Enhanced whānau support services.
- Increased communication and involvement opportunities.
- Establishment of a local Kaitiaki Group to consider developments in the Taranaki region, in addition to two (2) positions on the Whānau Manaaki Board
- Potentially increasing the number and types of services available in Taranaki

For Teachers and Staff

- Greater professional development opportunities.
- Sharing of best practice.
- Increased job security and growth potential.
- Simplified and more efficient administrative processes
- Increased access to support office team members
- Access to in-house learning support network
- Systems and processes that can support teaching and learning
- Access to a broader range of support office functions and people