

LET'S TALK PREVENTION: KEEPING OUR CHILDREN SAFE

NEWSLETTER #1 (December 2022)

Updates on the Otago Community-led Solutions for Preventing Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) project¹

COMMUNITY HUI

Since we had worried at one point that we would have to cancel it, it was a very pleasant surprise that nine community organisations were represented at the first project hui in early December; several others gave apologies but want to go on the mailing list.

In addition to offering various kinds of support, the participants suggested that it would be helpful to have some community workshops. We'd be happy to organise them, but **suggestions of topics** would be appreciated.

A great ending for 2022 and beginning for the project!

TRAINING ON 21 JANUARY

We're finally able to confirm that the first training for people interested in being facilitators or recorders at our community hui will be on **Saturday January 21 from 9 – 4**. There will be a second training day in February for those who aren't available in January.

The morning will focus on understanding our approach to this project, which is based on structural analysis (SA), a set of ideas and tools designed to support people to find their own solutions for social justice issues. The afternoon will be activities giving everyone a chance to practice the skills they will need in their roles in the four hui of people affected by CSA to identify prevention strategies for Otago.

Everyone is welcome to attend the training, even if you're not sure yet whether you want to have a role in the hui; so please pass this invitation on to others, but we do need **RSVPs** for catering purposes: admin@taiawa.org.nz. And there may be an option to attend by Zoom if you can't come in person – please tell us if you would prefer that when you confirm your interest.

HOT OFF THE PRESS - OUR LOGO

Thanks to the creativity of our team member and Otago resident Tiera Riki we now have a logo:

- rainbow for hope
- blues for prevention of child and sexual abuse



WHAT NEXT?

Although there is very little research about preventing CSA, it seems clear that one of the major problems is that we don't talk about it; in fact, a major initiative in the US is called Stop the Silence. (And there's a local connection: the US project works with MyRivr, set up by Akerei Maresala-Thomson who experienced CSA growing up in Otago.)

We thought one thing we could do is to be proactive in encouraging conversations about CSA; so we are setting up a website and a social media identity. We hope to distribute these newsletters at least monthly, but it will be even easier to keep up-to-date with the project after January 14 by going to the website: csaotara.org.

¹ If for any reason you'd like to be taken off our mailing list, please advise theproject@csaotara.org