

Decolonising Child Protection

Unbinding colonial impacts to create
opportunities for flourishing

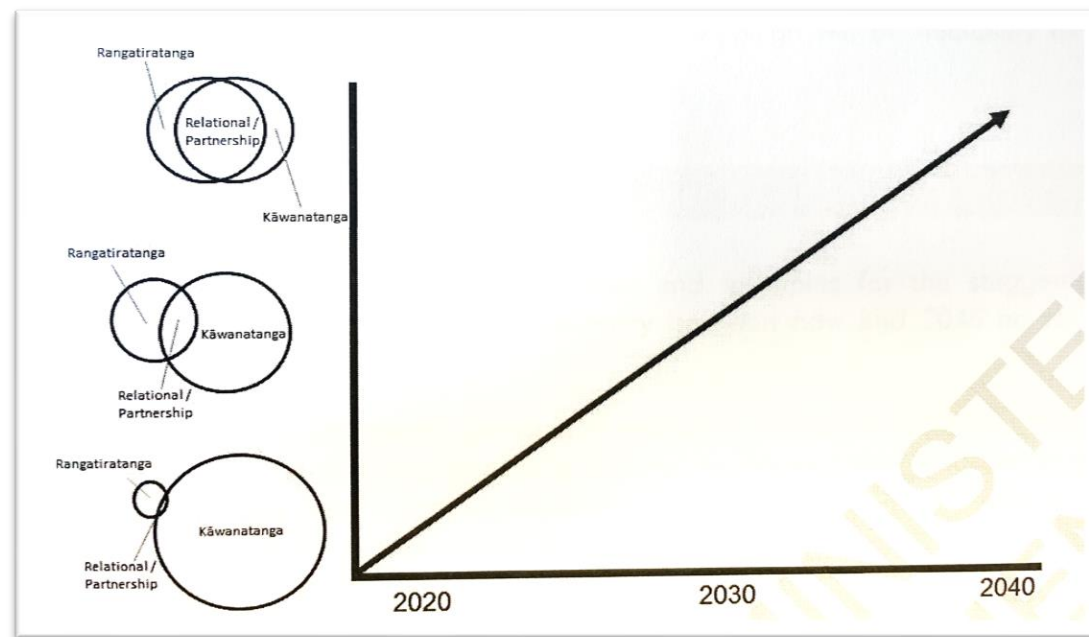
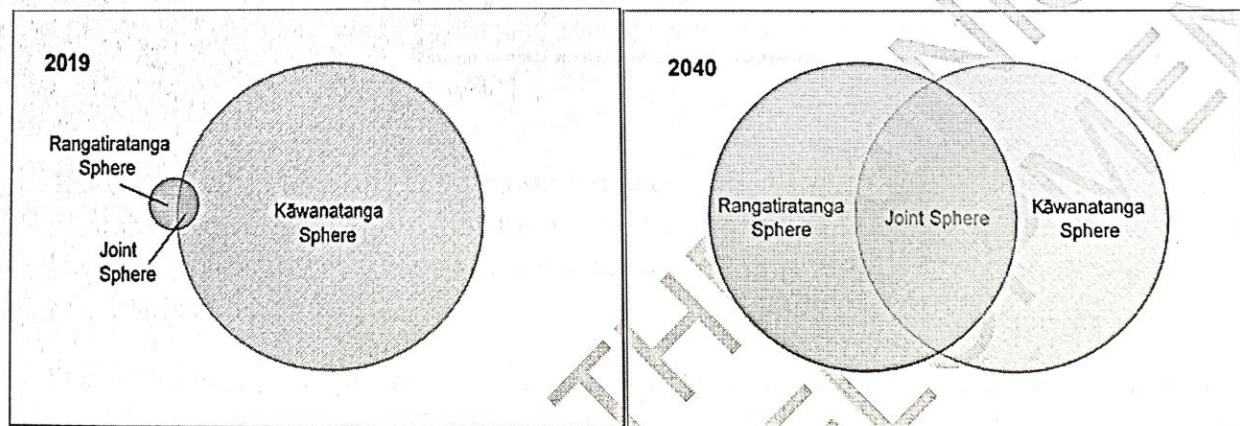


Ko wai au?.



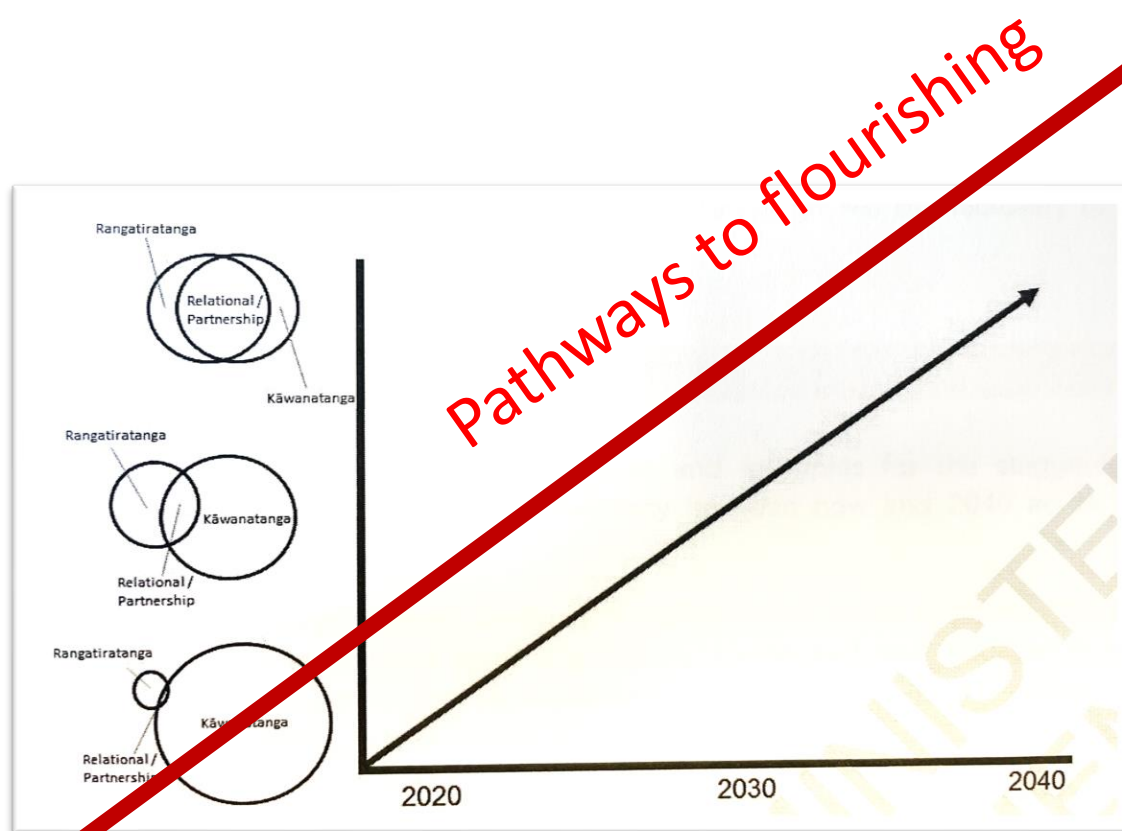
Where we are now, where we are journeying- He Puapua (the road map)

Diagram 1: Rangatiratanga/Joint/Kāwanatanga Spheres



Mauri ora

Flourishing of mind, spirit, body, whānau and environment (Durie, 2016)



From mauri noho to mauri ora

- Culture
 - Te reo
 - Generational transfer of knowledge (he kuru pounamu, mana wāhine)
- Family and whānau
 - Aspirational whānau
 - Healthy lifestyles inclusive
- Societal
 - Protected rights in legislation endorsing Indigeniety and self-determination
- Environmental
 - Safe, healthy and accessible environments

Colonial legacy, colonial violence. Responsibilities for repair and recovery

Child Protection is a tactic of colonisation, colonisation is a system not an event. Indigenous survival threatens colonial completion (Krakouer, 2023).

- Elimination- 1840-1910
 - Refusal to provide services to Māori
 - Desired outcome was “no Māori”
 - Erasure of wāhine narratives and place in society
 - 40% of Māori babies did not reach 1 year old.
- Assimilation
 - Shift towards assimilating Māori into western systems
 - Wāhine birthed in hospital, birthing practices gone
 - Adoption Act removes Māori babies to non-Māori childless couples
- Child Protection system
 - 1960s-1980’s The taking of Māori tāne- Borstals, Lake Alice, Eponi and many more (Royal Commission)
 - 1980’s-now Māori children and babies removal climbing.
- Whole of system
 - Land loss, economic foundation gone, structural racism impacts health, employment, education.

Mana wāhine- Wāhine Māori have worn the brunt of the system (OCC, 2020).



Aotearoa- Indigenous Developments

Wania te ara toroa, Ko tōna manawa, ko tōku

Seek the path of the toroa, Its heart is like mine

Aspirations

- Thriving and living as Māori
- Connected the land and people
- With language and ancestral knowledge
- Emotional wellbeing
- Building our own not supporting social service big business

Legislative change 7AA-

Temporary/ not enough- Karauna determined

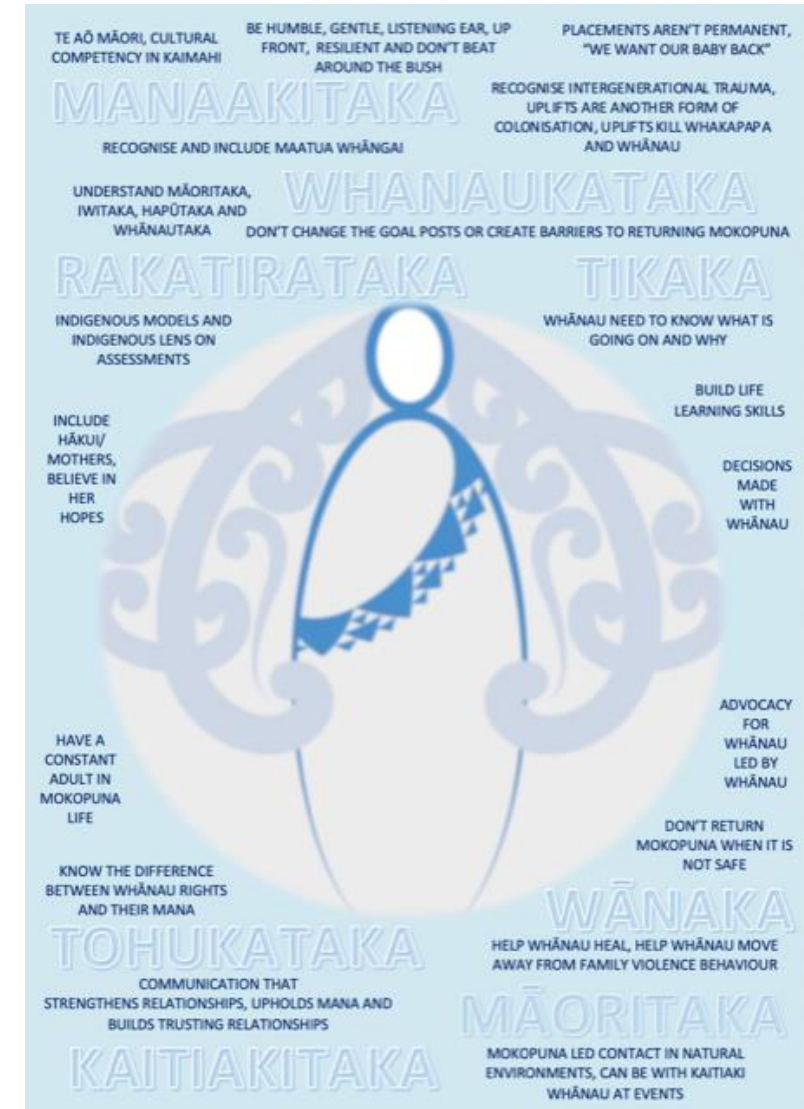
- Share authority and resources with Māori
- Government reporting on reduction of Māori in system

Waitangi Tribunal (Wai 2915) and RCOI

- 'Fund and step aside'
- Devolve to Māori
- By Māori, for Māori, of Māori
- Answers in the kāika.
- RCOI- report to come. Redress to address current system and past experiences
- Whānau, Whakapapa and Whenua

Tribal response- Ngāi Tahu and Tiaki Taoka

- Beyond age and stage
- Bringing our children home
- Tribal authority in child protection system
- Whānau as first navigators



Te Tiriti and United Nations Declaration on Rights of Indigenous Peoples

- Te Tiriti- Founding document outlining shared partnership, shared power and shared authority.
- UNDRIP- Agreement to uphold Indigenous rights

By Māori, for Māori, of Māori

- Māori authority over Māori spaces free from influence
- Tribal family courts
- Jurisdiction defined
- Hapū and iwi define, decide and protect

Rakatirataka

Māori decision making
Article 2

Joint Sphere

- OT
- Reduced role as agreed
 - Iterative to Māori capacity and aspirations

Kāwanataka

Karauna and Māori
Article 1 and 3

50/50 Government (Māori and Pākeha)

- Legislative decision making
- Manage and agree funding

Takata te Tiriti, Takata whenua

- Majority support for constitutional and legislative change needed
 - Takata te Tiriti responsibility here to advocate and stand up for a ToW/ UNDRIP compliant system
- OT and iwi conflicting agendas
 - Hold lightly to a system that upholds white supremacy and make space for iwi development
 - OT as a temporal space- embrace change
 - Identify opportunities to devolve power and authority. Vacancies as an example.
- Hapū and iwi opportunity to grow what flourishing looks like in our communities
 - No road-blocks, no funding requirements, no reporting to the Karauna
 - Self-determination is not dependent on State approval.
 - Workforce development is not confined by western professional frameworks



Acknowledgements

- Frana Chase and her mahi
 - Lead and supported s.396 development with vision, practice and expertise
 - With-out her leadership Tiaki Taoka would not have been possible
 - Example of inside and outside dedication to system change.
 - Trust your experts.
- Contacts: kerri.cleaver@canterbury.ac.nz
- Kā mihi ki a koutou.