

EARLY CHILDHOOD SURVEY 2010

SUMMARY REPORT

PURPOSE OF SURVEY

- Obtain up to date statistics reflecting participation in early childhood education in the Maniototo area
- Decide on the feasibility of establishing a kindergarten service in Ranfurly

KEY FINDINGS

- Results of the survey indicate a low participation in licenced early childhood education in Maniototo at 34.5%. Maori participation in early childhood services is less at 26.6%
- 24 of the children not attending are aged 2, years to 4 years of age. 3 children aged 4 years were only enrolled in Early Childhood Correspondence
- A low participation in early childhood by Maori has been demonstrated with 11 out of 15 Maori children not attending a service
- The key reasons why people chose not to use a service in order were; personal choice, child too young to attend, the right type of programme for my child and operating hours
- 30% of children in the survey were enrolled in a licenced Ranfurly based service for 6 hours or more, and of these 36% were enrolled for more than 6 hours
- The majority, 69% of respondents live outside of Ranfurly
- Families accept traveling as a part of rural life and most have a vehicle. Distance was a little more of an issue but this was not a significant factor in service choice
- 50 respondents (families) out of the sample of 71 surveys indicated that they would use Kindergarten, this sample representing 55 children, 24 of whom are currently under age 2 years
- Families often indicated that they would use more than one licenced service
- Two and three days a week was the most popular preference
- 39 children would be likely to use the kindergarten between 9am and 3pm
- No clear finding for service demand over the school holidays is found, but sufficient to indicate a possible interest for a service to consider a school holiday programme

STATISTICS

Estimated total number of children in area with age break down in 2010.¹

Under 1 year	25
1 year	22
2 year	26
3 year	24
4 year	22
TOTAL under 5	119
Margin for Error 10%	108

Numbers of children under five years in the Maniototo have increased from 2008 and 2006. Total numbers have ranged between 90 and 120 historically. Population is fairly stable.

PARTICIPATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

This survey found participation rate in licensed early childhood education in the Maniototo area to be 34.5%

Maniototo Tiny Tots Preschool and Nursery opened on the 24 November with a roll of 25. Of these children, 10 were not otherwise enrolled in a service. The participation figure for Maniototo is higher in Dec 2010, when this report was released than it was when the survey was actually carried out, because this new centre was not yet open when the survey was done. In December 2010 when this report was released, the participation in early childhood licensed education in this area was approx 56.5%² while the national average in 2010 is 94.5%³.

The national average is based on children's participation in any type of early childhood education which can include community playgroups. The Maniototo has a number of playgroups operating, a funded playgroup at Oturehua and a well established playgroup at Patearoa operating out of the old school building. There is also a Plunket Playgroup operating out of the Presbyterian Church Hall in Ranfurly. The Church also runs a popular weekly Music & Movement (*M&M*) programme.

RESULTS

Number of survey returns returned from 105 that were distributed.	71
Estimated Number of children aged 0 - 4 in area	108
Number of children aged 0 - 4 represented in survey returns	84
Representation of total number of children aged under five years in the district in relation to participant returns	77.7%

¹ Sourced from health statistics) This number could be less than reported if data bases not updated. The Well Child Nurse estimates there are 108, which would be 10% less.

² This was calculated by multiplying the total licenced service roll numbers of 93 by 35% to allow for double enrolments

³ Reference from Ministry of Education website documents: school entrants who have participated in ece 2010

Demographics

Q1 Where do you live? Please circle

Options: Ranfurly, Naseby, Kyeburn & Pig Route area, Patearoa, Paerau, Wedderburn, Waipiata, Gimmerburn, Hyde, Poolburn, Oturehua and Becks

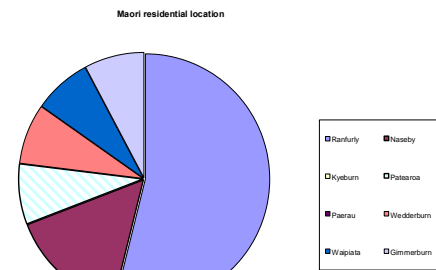
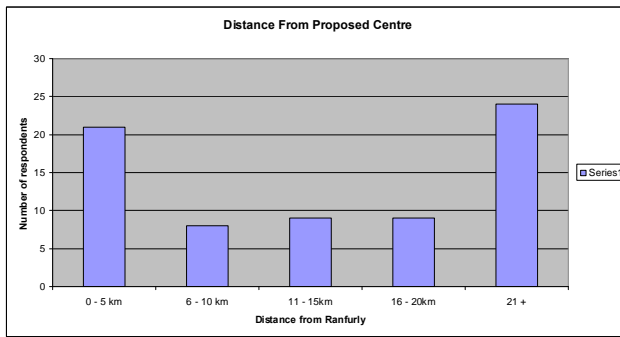
The majority, 69%, of respondents reside outside of Ranfurly. Question 3 asks about distance from Ranfurly which is a better measure than district names, as these varied considerably for each locality. For example from Patearoa one respondent was at 6 -10k, three at 11 -15k, three at 16 -20k and five at 21 plus kms from Ranfurly.

Q2 How long have you lived on the Maniototo

While 18 respondents have lived on the Maniototo for 2 years and under, 10 have lived there for 3 to 4 years and 20 respondents at 5 to 10 years. 22 are long term residents, many born there, some having left for a while and then returned, so the population is fairly stable.

Q3 How far away from Ranfurly do you live?

Thirty three families live over 15km from Ranfurly, which means many families will be travelling to access centre based early childhood education. Of the thirteen families with Maori descent 7 resided in Ranfurly with the next largest number in Naseby.



Q4 Which ethnic groups does your family descend from? Please circle all those applicable

NZ European and New Zealander categories were grouped together, a total of 54. Maori and NZ European/Maori were grouped together a total of 13 for analysing the data. The other main ethnic backgrounds in this survey were Indian and Phillipine.

[NOTE: Questions 5, 15 and 16 have been grouped together under Employment on page 5]

Q6 At present do you have children who are under 5yrs of age in your care?

11 of the 71 respondents did not have children.

Yes	60
No (No go to Q9)	10
pregnant	1

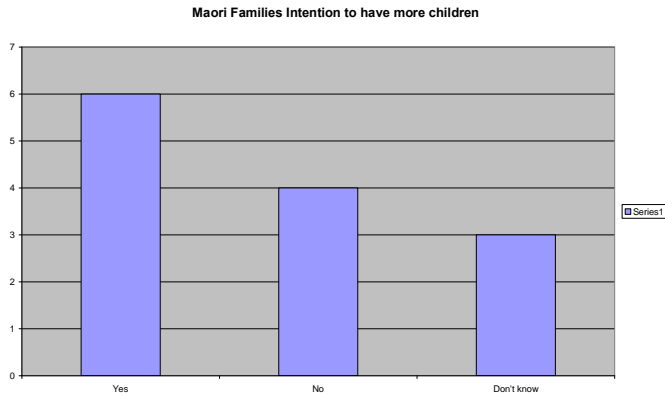
Q7 Do you plan to have more children in the next 5 yrs

Yes	27
No	30
Don't know	13

[Note: Question 9 for respondents who did not have children under 5 years; *Do you plan to have any children in the next 5 years?* have been grouped with question 7.]

Working with the responses from families who had children under 5 years; 28 families either intend to or responded don't know to having another child, and 29 responded no. Overall, 40 families either did intend to have more children or weren't sure which was 10 more than not.

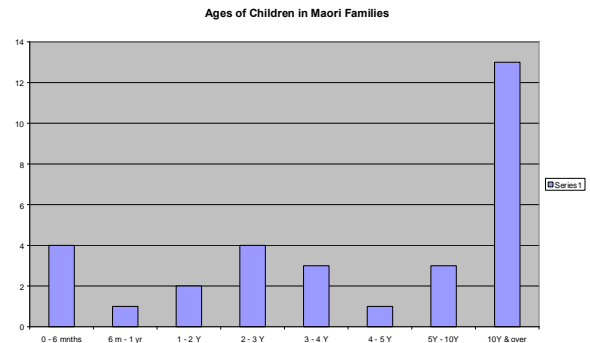
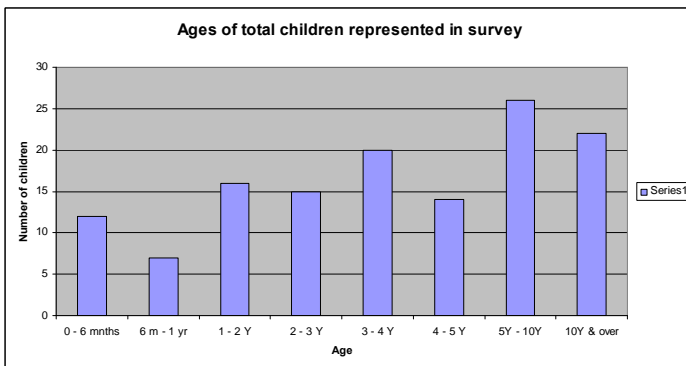
Of the 13 Maori families in the survey 9 responded either *Yes* or *Don't Know* to having more children.



Q 8 Please indicate how many children at each age you have in the boxes below

0-6mths	12	3 - 4yr	20
6mths- 1yr	7	4 . 5yr	14
1 - 2yr	16	5-10yrs	26
2 - 3yr	15	10years or over	22

There were 84 children aged less than 5 represented in the survey. The graph below illustrates the relatively even number in each age cohort. By separating the first 6 months to the 6 -12month group this gives an indication that more babies have been born recently but a total under one figure of 19 is relatively similar to other age cohorts.



Employment

Questions 5, 15 and 16

5 Which best describes your current situation?

work	18
Self employed	21
Study	3
Volunteer	7
Caregiver/Parent	21
Full time	14
Part time	40
Paid	12
Unpaid	20

The questions relating to employment provoked a variety of responses often with multiple responses. It would be hard to draw any solid conclusions from these results. Many responded ~~parent~~ which wasn't an option on the survey so I grouped these with caregiver.

Part time employment at 40 responses and self employed at 21 were both of interest as this provides an insight into the nature of employment in the district, being principally small business, often family businesses where often both partners work.

Q 15 If a suitable ECE service that suited your needs was available how likely are you to:

Return/enter the workforce/family business?

<i>Very likely</i>	27
<i>Quite likely</i>	21
<i>Not likely</i>	7
<i>Don't know</i>	6

Spend more time in Voluntary activity

<i>Very likely</i>	8
<i>Quite likely</i>	20
<i>Not likely</i>	12
<i>Don't know</i>	8

Increase your hours in the paid workforce?

<i>Very likely</i>	19
<i>Quite likely</i>	21
<i>Not likely</i>	7
<i>Don't know</i>	6

Undertake further education

<i>Very likely</i>	13
<i>Quite likely</i>	19
<i>Not likely</i>	14
<i>Don't know</i>	9

Summarising this data; 48 respondents would be very or quite likely to return to the workforce, and 40 increase their hours should a child care and education service be available. This would indicate a potential significant impact to the economy as a result of an additional service

Q 16 Has/ or will) the lack of any formal early childhood services in Maniototo (been/be) a barrier to you seeking opportunities work/study?

Yes	30
No	28
Don't know	7

Participation in Early Childhood

Current early childhood education arrangement

Q 10 At present are any of your children attending/using a licensed early childhood education service in the Maniototo? (Playcentre, Kidstart, Correspondence)

Yes	27
No (go to Q 13)	32

A surprisingly large number of respondents were not using early childhood services.

Q 11 Please indicate which service your child/ren are enrolled with, how many sessions a week you attend and the number of your children that are enrolled?

	Number of children enrolled
Barnardos Kidstart home-based care	12
Correspondence	10
Playcentre	18

The hours were recorded separately and responses relating to sessions were converted into 3 hours per session. 18 children of respondents were attending Playcentre, 12 Barnardos KidStart home based care and education and 10 on the correspondence school.

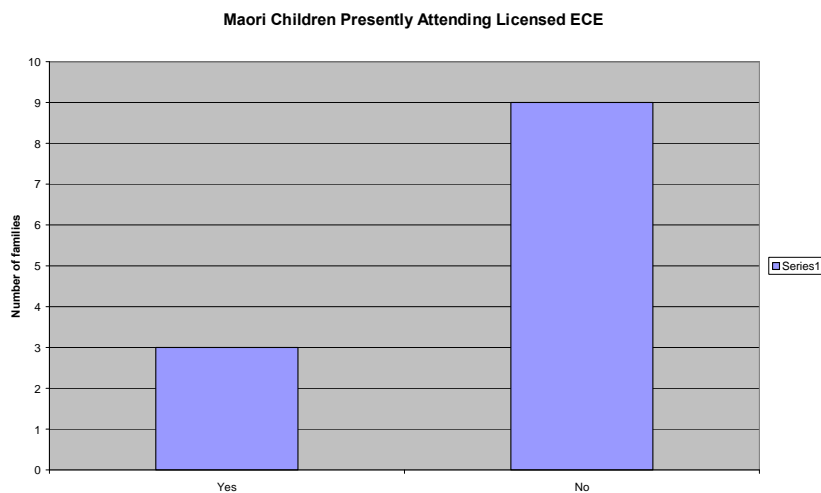
Hours of attendance

Where sessions were indicated I have entered 3 hours per session. Hours were not counted for Correspondence or non licensed services. 25 children were enrolled for 6 hours or more and 16 of these children received 6 hours a week.

Group	3 Hrs	4 hrs	6 hrs	9 hrs	10 hrs	12 hrs	18 hrs	20 hrs
Playcentre	3	2	9		4			
Kidstart			7	1		1	2	1

Maori Children Hours of Attendance

The three family respondents of Maori descent who are participating in early childhood services reported 4 children attending licenced services, each participating in 6 hours a week.



The nine Maori families not participating in an early childhood service was quite high. However when we break down the ages of the children and their pattern of attendance this is more useful. 4 out of 15 children are participating in a licenced service.

The ages of the children from these families were;

Age	Number attending	Not attending
0 . 6 month	1	3
6m . 1 year	0	1
1 . 2 year	1	1
2 . 3 year	0	4
3 . 4 year	1	2
4 - 5 year	1	
TOTAL 11 Maori children not attending		11

Taking the results as a whole, of the 84 children represented in the sample, 55 children were not participating in a licenced early childhood service.

Age of child	Number participating	Not participating
0 - 6months	1	11
6month - 1 year	0	7
1 year	3	13
2 years	1	14
3 years	12	8
4 years	12	2
Aged 4 & attending Early Childhood Correspondence only	Three (already in data above)	
TOTAL	29	55

Q 12 When thinking of the services mentioned above that your child/ren do attend, how important were each of the following in your decision to use that service?

	Very Important	Quite Important	Not Important
Affordability	9	9	6
Child/ren too young to attend	3	6	12
Convenience of Location	8	11	3
Days of the week available	8	12	4
Operating hours	7	12	4
Parental involvement	8	12	5
The right type of programme for my child/ren	17	5	1
Transport availability	4	3	15
Travelling distance	7	5	11
Waiting List	1	4	14
Other (<i>please comment</i>)			

15 respondents indicated transport availability was not important and comment indicates that while many families have to travel, they often accept this as a part of rural life and do have a vehicle. Distance was a little more of an issue but was not a significant factor in their decision for a service.

For those families that did not use a service, the following results indicate that parents are choosing to wait until their child is older to enroll them in a service, and that choosing the right type of programme for them is an important factor. However personal choice was the most common reason why parents chose not to use a service, for a variety of reasons including values and beliefs.

Q 13 Which, if any, of the following were reasons for not attending one/none of the licensed early childhood education services in the Maniototo?

	<i>Please tick any reasons that apply</i>
Affordability	3

Child/ren too young to attend	14
Convenience of Location	4
Days of the week available	6
Operating hours	12
Parental involvement	11
Personal Choice	21
The right type of programme for my child/ren	12
Transport availability	3
Travelling distance	8
Waiting List	3
Other (please comment)	

Of the key reasons why people chose not to use a service the majority (21) was personal choice, followed by Child/ren too young to attend (14), The right type of programme for my child/ren (12) and Operating hours at (12)

Q 14 In the future, which of the following early childhood services are you interested in/intend to use?

Barnardos Kidstart home based care	17
Correspondence	13
Maniototo Kindergarten	50
Playcentre	23
Tiny Tots	22

Breaking down the age range of those respondents choosing kindergarten 55 children, 24 of who are currently under age 2 years, would be likely to use the kindergarten. These figures do not include one undecided family. A clear preference for Kindergarten was found with 50 respondents (families) indicating an interest in using this service.

The following table shows the ages of children of respondents choosing the kindergarten preference, either alone or as a combination of enrolments choices.

AGE	Would use kindergarten
0 - 6 months	9
6 m - 1 yr	5
1 - 2 Y	10
2 - 3 Y	11
3 - 4 Y	9
4 - 5 Y	11
TOTAL	55

[Question 15 and 16 see Employment section on pages 13 and 14]

Establishing a new early childhood service in the community

Q 17 The Committee is interested in your views on the kindergarten which will be on the grounds of the Maniototo Area School. The building will be fitted out specifically for preschool children. ...

What are your overall impressions of this Kindergarten project? What other things do you think the Establishment Committee need to consider?

A clear majority of 43 comments were in support of the Kindergarten, 5 were mixed or undecided, and 5 negative. Many of the mixed and negative comments related to concerns about needs since the development of the Tiny Tots Preschool and Nursery project.

For example,

“This is a huge project to undertake and the need for it is great. There are so many families with very young children and parents are very restricted due to the limited resources available.”

“I can’t see our area needing this kindergarten with Tiny Tots, playcentre and at home cares I feel that is more than enough for our area.”

“I think that for our generation the kindy is a good option, mums interested in getting back out into the workforce/study etc will have a good child support option. My only worry being that we seem to all of a sudden have too many preschool services for our area (maybe I am wrong with that opinion, not sure!)”

Professional concerns about school entry readiness also came through in comments, for example;

“This Kindergarten is needed. As a new entrant teacher I see many children come to school unable to follow routines, complete simple tasks, interact with other children appropriately and find becoming part of a group difficult as opposed to an individual. The kindergarten approach will address many of these areas.”

“It is an essential and necessary project that will cater for the multi-cultural community that the Maniototo is. As a teacher I feel it is important for a structural programme that will ensure students are ready mentally, emotionally and even in a spiritually (Hauora) manner for all including our Maori students. Small things such as blends, alphabet, pencil/scissors being held correctly make the transition for students a lot easier. This kindergarten project is exactly what the community needs to better the educational future of the area.”

Q 18 Let’s just say the kindergarten was open now – how many days a week do you think you would use it (for each child)?

	DAYS A WEEK WOULD USE THE CENTRE				
	1	2	3	4	5
For a child aged 6 months to 2 years	5	9	4	2	3
For a child aged 2 years	5	9	5	0	0

For a child aged 3 years	4	10	5	0	3
For a child aged 4 years	2	9	4	3	2
Totals	16	37	18	5	8
<i>plus one respondent chose 20hrs for child aged 3 and 4</i>					

8 respondents indicated they would use it 5 days a week and 5 for 4 days. The most popular number of days a week is three days with 18 respondents. The number of days a week selected increases with age.

For children in the 2 years to 4 years age group; 11 children could use kindergarten for 1 day a week, 28 children could use a kindergarten for two days a week, 14 for three days a week, 3 for four days and 5 children for five days a week.

Q 19 What times of the day would you be likely to use it (for each child

9am-12noon	AGE	9am – 3pm	
under 1	2	under 1	5
1	6	1	3
2	4	2	6
3	4	3	15
4	0	4	10
8.30am-1.30pm		8.30am-4pm	
under 1	1	under 1	4
1	1	1	1
2	2	2	5
3	0	3	9
4	2	4	7

The most popular time for each age group is indicated in the table below:

	<i>Age of child</i>
9am . 12pm	1 year
8.30am . 1.30pm	2 and 4 yrs
9am . 3pm	3 years
8.30am . 4pm	3 years

39 children would be likely to use the kindergarten between 9am and 3pm 26 children between 8.30am and 4pm and 16 children between 9am and 12 noon. Only 6 children were indicated for 8.30am . 1.30pm

Q 20 The kindergarten will be closed for one week of each of the primary school term breaks. How likely or unlikely would you be to use the kindergarten for one week of the school holidays?

Very Likely	11
Likely	10
Don't know	9
NOT LIKELY	36

While 21 thought it likely they would use the kindergarten during school holidays, 45 reported not likely and don't know.

Discussion

The survey identified lower than desirable participation in early childhood services at 34.5%, including low Maori participation in early childhood services at 26.6%. This is an issue of concern. Looking forward to the current situation at the time of writing this report, current roll numbers of all services, including the new private *Tiny Tots Preschool and Nursery Centre* which opened 24 November 2010, participation in early childhood licenced services is 56.5%

There is clear support for a kindergarten to be established, with trained teachers, and reliable hours. Despite the private service, *Tiny Tots Preschool and Nursery* being in the process of establishment while the survey was underway, there was still significant support for the kindergarten, with many respondents indicating they would use more than one type of service.

The main concern people have is around the viability of establishing a kindergarten with the recent establishment of the new *Tiny Tots* service. Distance and travel time could be a factor in participation particularly for more than two to three days a week as the majority of respondents live outside of Ranfurly.

The effort of the kindergarten committee and community over the past two years through surveys, public events, fundraising and media reports highlighting the issue has resulted in raised awareness of early childhood education. This has in itself increased participation in early childhood services, with a 30% increase in the Ranfurly Playcentre roll and the establishment of the private licenced centre.

The need for services to work together in cooperation with a district wide approach has been identified. A strategic planning group was formed, holding its first meeting on 4th August 2010. A vision and strategic plan has been developed with a series of action points identified for 2012 and beyond.