

Skylight: sharing and learning through partnership. Let's ride the wave together.

Presenters: Heather Henare, Skylight chief executive, with colleagues Ariella Moscoso-Lira and Caroline Speight.

In this workshop, Heather will talk about how she and her team at Skylight have faced the challenges of partnering and building trust and resilience as they have moved towards a collaborative model that delivers benefits for all partners and clients.

Skylight is a national organisation that supports children, young people, whānau, families and friends as they work through trauma, loss, and grief. It is working to build on the existing culture of partnership to improve outcomes for Skylight, its funders, partners, and, most of all, its clients. As an organisation with a culture of evaluation, Skylight aims to understand whether it is meeting the needs of clients – and expects its partners to follow this lead.

An example of this is the Travellers resilience building programme designed for Year 9 students across New Zealand, primarily delivered by partnering with high schools. In 2016, Skylight redesigned the Travellers Partnership Agreement to clearly outline the expectations and responsibilities being agreed to by both parties.

Skylight is developing a New Zealand-wide partnership network from Northland to Invercargill for its programmes and now has counsellors and community organisations to refer people to around the country so they can get the help they need. Skylight's Library and Resource Centre is well-known and provides high-quality information to more than 900 people and organisations annually. Skylight is seeking ongoing funding for this service so it can be an expanded and sustainable resource for us and our network of partners.

Heather Henare is a qualified senior social worker, has held positions at Child Youth and Family as a Senior Practice Consultant and Senior Advisory Officer, and worked for the Commissioner for Children. Heather was appointed to chief executive officer of Women's Refuge in 2005 and was a founding member of the Ministerial Taskforce for Action on Family Violence. She joined Skylight Trust as CEO in February 2015.

Ariella Moscoso-Lira is clinical leader at Skylight. She is a clinical psychologist with a Master's Degree in Family, Couples, and Individuals Psychotherapy. Ariella lectures part-time at WelTec and has 12 years' experience of working with loss and grief, both in Chile (where she is from) and in New Zealand.

Caroline Speight is contracts manager at Skylight. She has considerable central government experience and, in 2017, gained the Graduate Diploma in Not-for-Profit Management.