



WHAT
COLLABORATION
LOOKS LIKE

KO WAI TATOU? / WHO ARE WE?

Lesley

Born in Ōtepoti to parents who had immigrated from Yorkshire in England.

I have spent many years leading Youth Groups including Cubs.

Working between Invercargill and Christchurch in Child and Youth Mental Health, Private practice in counseling, Adult Mental Health Crisis Respite. Back to Ōtepoti meeting my Wife and sharing our blended grandchildren.

I am currently the Service Leader (Social Worker) for Facility Respite Cosy Cottage at Corstorphine Baptist Community Trust providing respite for Tamariki and Rangatahi with Intellectual and Physical disabilities. Working collaboratively with Oranga Tamariki.

Jude

Originally from Birmingham, England, my husband and three children moved to Aotearoa 21 years ago. In those 21 years I have engaged in Foster Care and currently have 2 children in my care, both of whom have disabilities.

I have worked in the social service sector for many years in the fields of health, disability, maternal mental health and education.

My current Role with Oranga Tamariki is Regional Disability Social Worker for the lower south. My work encompasses mental health as well as health and disability along with the collaborative work between Oranga Tamariki and Corstorphine Baptist Community Trust.

CONTENTS

- Introduction
- How Cosy cottage came to be.
- How, Cosy Cottage and Oranga Tamariki worked together.
- Areas of disadvantage and focus
- Future planning
- No children were harmed in the making of this presentation, and all identifying features have been removed

COSY COTTAGE

In 2017 the respite service was established in Dunedin for Tamariki and Rangatahi with intellectual and physical disabilities.

Cosy Cottage was established as part of a pilot along with two other services in the North Island.

Cosy cottage was the only service where Oranga Tamariki requested that a registered social worker be appointed, given the significance of the support being provided to the families/whānau and their Tamariki and Rangatahi.

Cosy cottage has been in operation for nearly seven years and the only service from the pilot still providing support to Tamariki and Rangatahi and their families/whānau, in this capacity.

COSY COTTAGE

- Overnight respite service for Tamariki and Rangatahi with disabilities
- Accepts Tamariki and Rangatahi between the ages of 1-21years
- Referrals come from Oranga Tamariki and Needs Assessment Service Coordination-NASC (Kia Roha)
- Supports family/whānau and foster carers who provide care to support the long-term placement by providing much-needed respite.
- Provides child observations to assist in securing additional support for the family/whānau.
- Provides a safe environment for Tamariki and Rangatahi to allow families/whānau and foster carers a chance to re-charge or spend time with their other children in activities that may be missed when supporting their disabled children
- The respite is planned in advance



WHO DO WE SUPPORT

BEAUTIFUL TAMARIKI/RANGATAHI WHO HAVE DISABILITY OR CHALLENGES AND NEED TO HAVE A PLACE ALTERNATIVE FROM HOME WHERE THEY CAN BE THEMSELVES.

FAMILY/WHĀNAU AND FOSTER CARERS WHO SUPPORT TAMARIKI/RANGATAHI .

AGENCIES WHO ARE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING TAMARIKI/RANGATAHI

HOW DO WE DO THAT?

WITH AWESOME STAFF, SUPPORTIVE MANAGEMENT AND A PASSION TO SEE THE LIVES OF TAMARIKI/RANGATAHI BEING ENHANCED WITH THE SUPPORT GIVEN.



Fostering relationships, being creative



Adapting activities to the needs of the young person

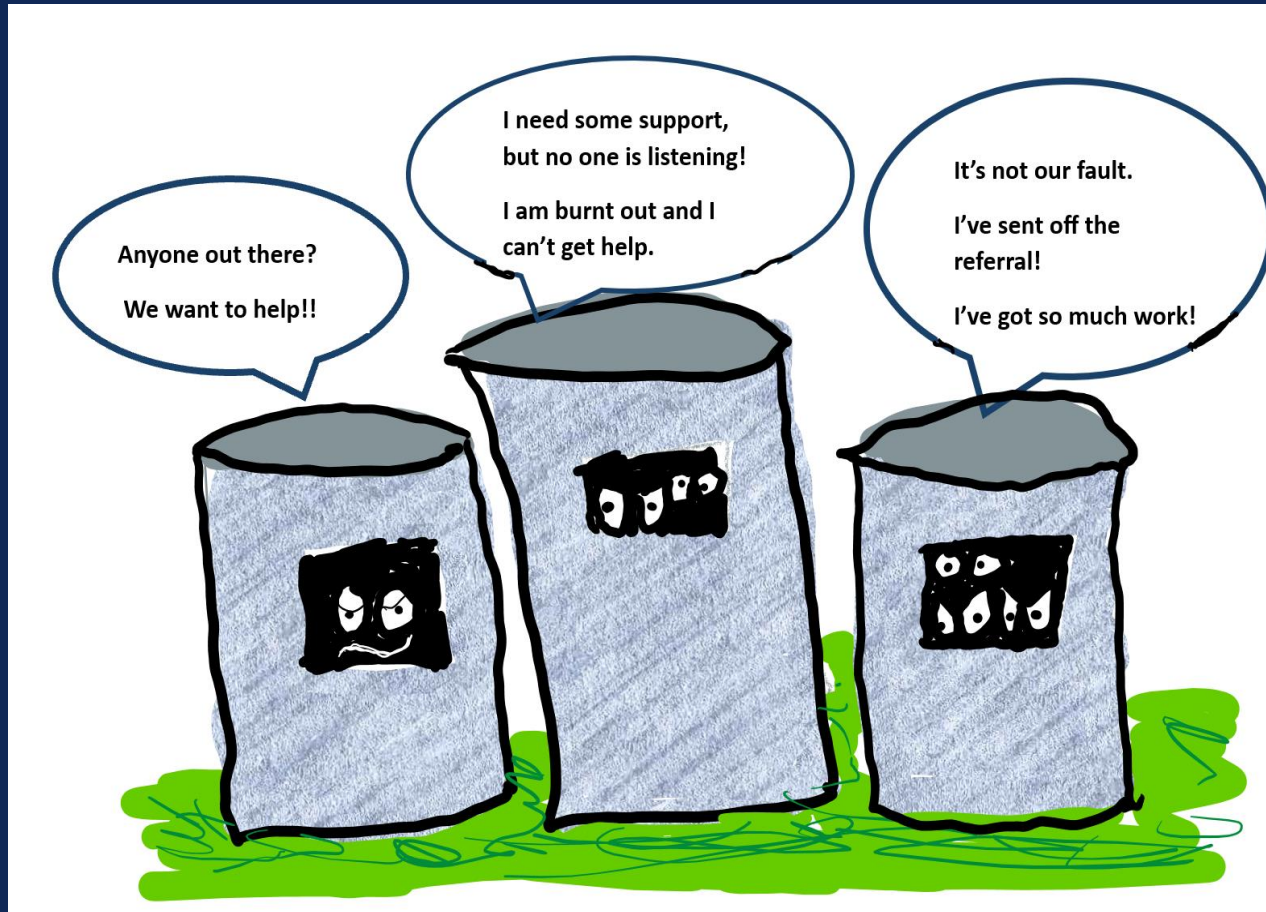
“ ALONE WE CAN DO SO
LITTLE, TOGETHER WE CAN
DO SO MUCH. ”

Helen Keller



WORKING IN SILO'S

What it looked like



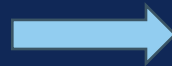
- Historically the information in the referral was limited to a need-to-know basis that had been derived from historical processes. It exacerbated the disconnect between NGO service and Statutory services that was in turn disrespecting the needs of those we were both trying to support.
- The disconnect was impeding on best practice models and duty of care. The lines of communication were poor, the lack of information impacted families/whānau who were not able to access the appropriate services for their Tamariki/rangatahi who could utilise the service.



AREAS OF DISADVANTAGE AND FOCUS

Disadvantage

- Oranga Tamariki had no insight to the process within the Cosy Cottage Service
- Oranga Tamariki didn't understand the Kaupapa and the rationale for decisions made.
- Both organisations held their own bias
- Disconnect between Oranga Tamariki and Cosy Cottage
- Increase access to Cosy Cottage for Tamariki and rangatahi in care.

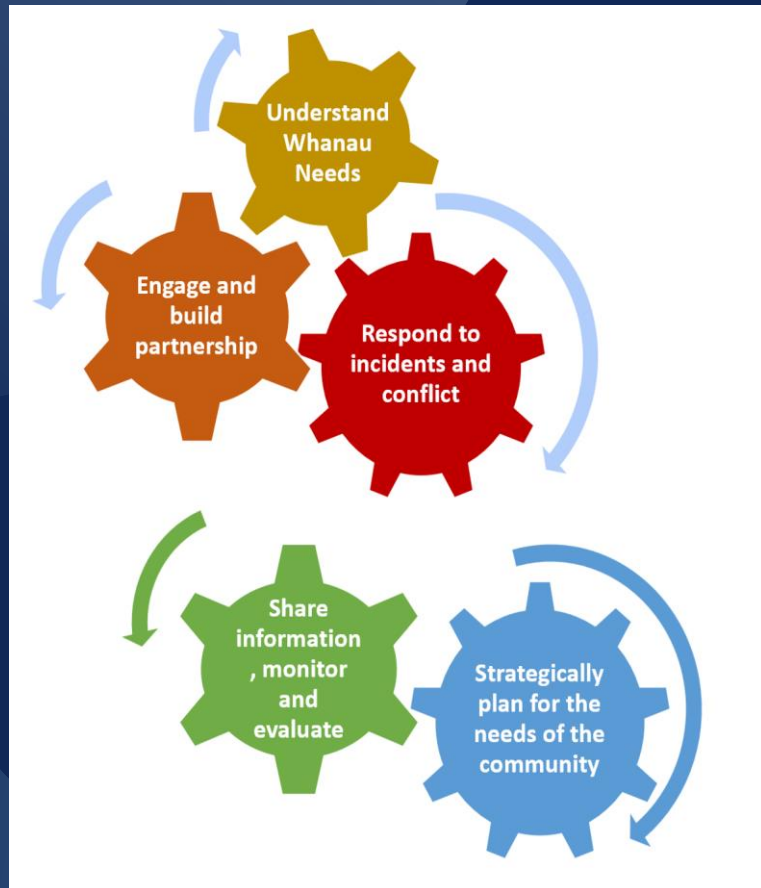


Focus

- Improve lines of communication
- Share important and relevant information
- Keep the tamariki/rangatahi and family/whānau at the core
- Understand the purpose and role of Cosy Cottage
- Develop a cohesive connection

HOW DID WE GET THERE?

What it looked like



What we did

- Establish foundation of safe and purposeful mahi
- Establish objective goals
- Identify barriers
- Respect and represent the Mana of those we work alongside of
- Increase collaborative connection
- Honest open and respectful communication
- Addressed conflict as soon as it became apparent
- Evaluate risks and safety plan

Utilise resources

- Information was shared inclusively
- Risks were identified early, and safety plans put in place.
- Education was provided to both Cosy Cottage staff and Oranga Tamariki social workers
- Identified the barriers that were broken utilising professional insight, open discussion and solution focused approaches.
- Weekly meetings between Oranga Tamariki and Cosy cottage

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE LOOK LIKE?

- Foster carers have the ability to have regular respite.
 - Tamariki and Rangatahi to develop friendships
- Family/Whānau included in the initial engagement. Information package on Cosy Cottage provided, at the initial stage of becoming a care giver.
 - Future proofing the collaboration with Oranga Tamariki and Cosy Cottage



So, the outlook is positive and full of opportunities when working with a collaborative focus. Meaning the ongoing support for family/whānau, Tamariki/Rangatahi and the wider community can and will have a brighter future

So, what does
Cosy Cottage
look like?





It looks like home



THANK YOU

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Please don't hesitate to approach and chat with us after this session.