

# MANA AKE

## QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

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May 2022

### **What is Mana Ake?**

Mana Ake is a programme developed and rolled out across Canterbury, including Kaikōura, originally to support earthquake-affected communities. It provides school-based mental health and wellbeing support for children in primary and intermediate schools across Canterbury and Kaikōura.

Kaimahi (workers) have a diverse range of skills and include psychologists, social workers, counsellors, teachers and youth workers. It includes whole of classroom approaches as well as individual and group-based supports. Support can include helping children learn skills such as coping with change or challenges, managing their emotions, building positive relationships and overcoming grief and loss.

### **What are some of the outcomes that have been achieved from Mana Ake in Canterbury?**

Around 10,500 children have now been supported by Mana Ake either individually and/or in groups since its establishment.

Early findings of an external evaluation indicate that Mana Ake has made positive changes to the systems that support children in Canterbury and Kaikōura such as improved networking between providers, improved consistency of wellbeing approaches across schools and improved access to wellbeing support and outcomes for children and whānau.

### **What did the process of co-design look like? And why was it necessary?**

The co-design process was led by district health boards in partnership with iwi, the local Ministry of Education personnel, schools, and local health and social service providers. The co-design process prioritised local ownership and the inclusion of a range of voices.

Co-design is necessary so that the services meet the specific needs of local communities.

### **What are the five areas and how were they chosen?**

The five areas are Northland, Counties Manukau, Bay of Plenty, Lakes and West Coast (in addition to continuation of services in Canterbury and Kaikōura). The areas were chosen based on a mix of population demographics and existing capacity within the district to get the programme up and running quickly.

### **When will services be up and running, and will they be in every school?**

Our aim is to have the first of the services in place in the second half of 2022 and ramp up from there. The full rollout will be phased, dependent on recruitment and on how the programme has been designed for each community. The phasing will be agreed with each area, but we expect

full service delivery to be in place by the end of the school year in 2024. The intention is that mental wellbeing supports will be available in every primary and intermediate school in each of the DHB areas it is rolled out in.

### **What services and supports are provided by Mana Ake?**

The mental wellbeing supports provided by this initiative will vary by area, reflecting the needs of each community and their local context (eg, other supports that may be available). Generally, they are likely to include a range of supports including whole-of-classroom approaches to promote mental wellbeing and increase resilience across the whole school population, as well as targeted initiatives delivered face-to-face for children experiencing mild to moderate levels of distress. There will also likely be group-based supports and support for whānau.

### **Will schools be required to let Mana Ake supports be provided in their schools?**

No, schools are able to decide whether and how to implement any supports provided through Mana Ake.

### **How many children are currently eligible for Mana Ake in the areas it's being delivered?**

<b>Areas</b>	<b>Estimated number of primary and intermediate school aged children</b>
Northland	22,110
Countries Manukau	70,960
Bay of Plenty	28,720
Lakes	13,620
Canterbury and Kaikōura	56,710
West Coast	3135
Total (including existing coverage in Canterbury and Kaikōura)	195,255

Source: District Health Boards Ethnic Group Population Projections 20/21, produced by Statistics New Zealand according to assumptions specified by the Ministry of Health.

### **How will the Vote Health funding spread out across the four years?**

<b>Year</b>	<b>2022/23</b>	<b>2023/24</b>	<b>2024/25</b>	<b>2025/26</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>Vote Health Funding (\$m)</b>	<b>14.333</b>	<b>21.817</b>	<b>24.456</b>	<b>28.734</b>	<b>89.340</b>

Note: this is a cross agency initiative with \$660,000 over four years provided to Vote Education for departmental/implementation support, bringing the total funding allocated to the initiative to \$90 million over four years.

