



**TE4CL
KIAEKE**

Tertiary Education
For Care Leavers

STRATEGIC PLAN | 2025 - 2027

Vision

An equitable Aotearoa where care experienced individuals thrive and realise their potential through education and lifelong learning.

Mission

To make it so that TE4CL - Kia Eke is no longer needed to support care leavers, because all other relevant institutions have taken on this role

Purpose

We empower care-experienced people to access and thrive in tertiary education in Aotearoa through support, connection and advocacy.

Values

Mohiotanga | Delivery

Whakamana | Empower

Whanaungatanga | Relationships

Strategic Plan 2025 - 2027

Values	Mohiotanga Delivery	Whakamana Empower	Whanaungatanga Relationships
What we do	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We push for systemic change to remove barriers and maximise support for care leavers to access tertiary education. • We encourage and support key players in care leavers' tertiary education journey to implement concrete changes that will support care leavers to access tertiary education. • We undertake coordinated advocacy efforts to leverage change among key stakeholders, including developing briefings and reports aimed at education and awareness raising. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We seek to raise the expectations of the care-experienced community to know that they can succeed, and tertiary education is one (of many) options available to them. • We put care leavers' access to tertiary education on the public radar as an important issue in Aotearoa. • We support care leavers to know their options and maximise their chances of achieving their educational dreams through leadership and mentoring. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We build and maintain strong relationships with aligned organisations, including iwi and hapu, care sector organisations, tertiary education organisations and philanthropic funders, to achieve practical change to benefit care leavers. • We ensure all of our work is conducted in a way that accounts for Te Tiriti and the unique needs of Aotearoa's majority Māori care-experienced population.
Partners	Universities, Wānanga, and Polytechnics; VOYCE Whakarongo Mai; Clare Foundation; Te Mana Akonga; Iwi Māori organisations; Oranga Tamariki, Raising Expectations, the care-experienced community and others with relevant lived experience & knowledge; the Tertiary Education Commission; Media; Philanthropic Organisations.		
Pillars	<p>Thriving in Tertiary Education</p> <p>We support tertiary education institutes & other key stakeholders to implement tangible policies and practices to support care leavers to access and excel in tertiary education.</p>	<p>Setting Sustainable Foundations for Success</p> <p>We seek care leavers to be recognised as a protected group throughout their educational journey, and support highschool practitioners to support care leavers into tertiary pathways.</p>	<p>Building Community Recognition</p> <p>We recognise, celebrate and support care leavers accessing tertiary education & provide practical support and guidance ranging from mentorship to scholarships.</p>

Appendix One: How our values work in practice

<p>Mohiotanga Delivery</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We bring about tangible and practical change, always aiming to plug gaps, challenge thinking and inspire outcomes • We work with stakeholders to deliver outcomes for care leavers into and during tertiary pathways • We identify the nationwide levels of change that are required and advocate for that change, including with key partners • We identify international best practices and adapt them to Aotearoa's circumstances. • We work diligently to build our capacity to support care-experienced people to and through tertiary education. • We raise awareness amongst the general to the public of Aotearoa, including through the importance of tertiary education for care leavers, including how it is currently neglected and how it needs to change • We ensure the care-experienced community know what scholarships and options are available to them and can access them
<p>Whakamana Empower</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We seek to raise the expectations of the care-experienced community to know that they can succeed, and tertiary education is one (of many) options available to them, including by speaking greatness over rangatahi Māori. • We ensure the care-experienced community has regular input into our major policy proposals. • We embed a strengths-based approach so even if rangatahi do not see themselves as academics in the classroom, they are supported to be a lifelong learner. • We recognise an individual's effort to become educated despite their difficulties. • We prioritize the voice of care-experienced students and provide a safe forum for care-experienced students to express their concerns and suggestions. • We communicate stories of success of care-experienced students/alumni and opportunities for action and change.
<p>Whanaungatanga Relationships</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We bring together a unique partnership of key stakeholders across Oranga Tamariki, VOYCE Whakarongo Mai, Iwi Māori and the tertiary sector (universities, wānanga and polytechs). • We prioritise collaboration wherever possible, doing our best to build on each other's superpowers. • We look to share information and resources with others within and beyond the care sector where appropriate. • We uphold te Tiriti o Waitangi in all our practices, including honouring the kōrero and matauranga of iwi and hapu • We actively seek to apply indigenous wisdom and knowledge for all care leavers in tertiary education • We have an individual and collective responsibility to engage with others with kotahitanga, aroha and manaakitanga. • We actively seek sustainable and aligned funding sources to add continuity to our initiatives.

Appendix Two: What our impact looks like

<p>Pillar One: Thrive</p> <p>We support tertiary education institutes & other key stakeholders to implement tangible policies and practices to support care leavers to access and excel in tertiary education.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Clear policy wins at the central government to support care leavers into tertiary education • Getting all tertiary institutions in Aotearoa to implement key changes in their practice • Creating a solid research base of evidence for how care leavers do and can thrive in tertiary education (research scholarship) • Government funded scholarships or financial aid aimed at care leavers
<p>Pillar Two: Foundations</p> <p>We seek care leavers to be recognised as a protected group throughout their educational journey, and support highschool practitioners to support care leavers into tertiary pathways.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care leavers being recognised as a protected status group, having their engagement tracked throughout their education • Care experienced students will have better information and resources during their high school education journey, including through teachers and guidance counsellors • Those helping care experienced students plan their post-care journey (e.g. transition workers, caregivers, social workers) make it clear tertiary education is an option available to them, and give them key information about how to access it
<p>Pillar Three: Community Recognition</p> <p>We recognise, celebrate and support care leavers accessing tertiary education & provide practical support and guidance ranging from mentorship to scholarships.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creation of community-originated scholarships (private companies, persons and organisations) • Partnering with/supporting aligned organisations to hold events • Assisting potential and current care leaver students' needs who could have fallen through the cracks (grants) • Developing knowledge of care experienced journeys amongst the New Zealand public • Mentoring programmes for supporting students during their journey (optionally tied to scholarships)