

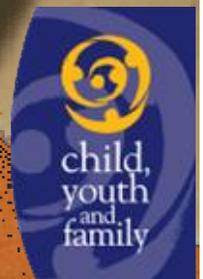
Family group conferencing in New Zealand

Restorative Practices in Action
Conference – 01 May 2015

By Chris Rurawhe-Gush

Kaiwhakatara FGC Senior Advisor –
Child Youth and Family, Ministry of
Social Development NZ

mā mātou
mā tātou
Changing young lives



We need consistent quality of practice, so that our FGCs are the best they can be.

1. Quality social work practice

“We want to be involved, we want people to talk to us about what they are going to do – we could help make decisions.”

Our practice is always about doing what's best for children and young people. When it's strong, our work with them is unashamedly child-centred, family are engaged throughout, and we're working closely with all the people who care about their happiness.

Quality practice means strong assessment, in-depth planning, and interventions that work. It's what we come to work to do. When we're able to make a difference in a young life, these are the memories that stay with us forever.

In the three years 2012 to 2015 we will:

- ! Deliver world leading Family Group Conference practice and one single, integrated plan for each child.
- ! Establish a new outcomes framework that measures quality practice and real results for children and young people, and an enhanced practice and knowledge system to deliver it.
- ! Reduce the number of children progressing into the youth justice system by working early with them, their siblings, whānau, and others.
- ! Develop a first class care system, so children and young people can be the best they can be.



*“We will deliver world leading family group conference practice”
Mā mātou mā tātou”*

mā mātou
mā tātou
Changing young lives



REINVIGORATING FAMILY GROUP CONFERENCE

Law and policy

Tools

Multi-agency accountability

Iwi and community led

Workforce development

Strengthening practice



1. Meaningfully engaged whānau



“Good preparation begins with getting to know the family, building trust with them, and making sure they understand the concerns.”

Coordinator

2. The right support people



3. All information



“Quality assessment provides us with a roadmap for change - it provides the focus for our interventions and informs quality decision making and planning.”

4. Mokopuna voices



*“It’s important to build trust - talking to us, keeping in contact.”
Young person*

5. Engaged victims



“I felt very nervous, even though I was prepared and went in with an open mind, I was still nervous. It was a big thing for me.”

Victim

6. Empowered whānau



~~Impossible~~
 ~~achievable~~

“It’s good to go in feeling prepared - like how else can you help this situation, help your child?”

Grandfather

7. Effective facilitation



“One of the important parts about the family group conference is making sure the room is comfortable, it’s prepared really well.”
Coordinator

8. Active plans



“Once a plan’s been agreed, the next step is to keep the momentum and energy going, to make sure everyone does what they say they’ll do.”

We have recruited Kaiwhakatara/ Senior Advisors



“We have experienced and passionate people, that champion the FGC and inspire and support staff.”

Family Group Conferencing in New Zealand

FGC Videos Youth Justice

<http://www.practicecentre.cyf.govt.nz/supervision-learning/family-group-conferences-dvd-chapters/youth-justice-family-group-conference-dvd-chapters.html>