



13 October 2022

MEDIA STATEMENT

Healthy Families NZ Systems Change Webinar Series: Neighbourhood Play Systems - Cobham School, Gisborne

Healthy Families East Cape and Sport Gisborne-Tairāwhiti are proud to have our Regional Play Systems Lead, Anna Tolich, presenting on the Neighbourhood Play System Prototype (NPS).

As part of the Healthy Families New Zealand Systems Change 2022 webinar series, the online webinar presentation will be live on Wednesday 19 October at 11.00 am.

Healthy Families NZ Systems Change in Action webinars. Harnessing Collective Impact to bring Community Change. The Systems Change in Action Webinar Series aims to explore locally-led initiatives designed to improve the health and wellbeing of communities across Aotearoa.

The aim is to provide our audience with an overview of our Healthy Families NZ approach, share the systems thinking and showcase systems change in action at a local level. This is a chance for attendees to deepen their understanding of systems change, learn new insights and think about ways to become more effective in their mahi as well as inspire a movement for collective change.

Sport New Zealand Ihi Aotearoa, Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti and Healthy Families East Cape are committed to increasing the opportunities for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to access quality play opportunities and experiences.

With the support of Sport NZ, ARUP and Gisborne District Council, Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti and Healthy Families East Cape explored and tested the Neighbourhood Play System Blueprint of play sufficiency within the suburb of Elgin and the neighbourhood surrounding Cobham School.

The comprehensive assessment of the neighbourhood and the surrounds of Cobham School has evaluated the opportunities identified through an assessment and consultation process for creating playful neighbourhoods through tamariki-led play initiatives.

The Blueprint is a radical approach to urban design in that it places the key stakeholder, our tamariki, at the centre of the design process.

The Blueprint takes a Te Ao Māori view of the health and well-being of the Elgin Community and the broader play system. This reflects a high proportion of Māori who live, learn, work,

and play in Elgin and the holistic approach of the Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti Manawakura kaupapa. Utilising the Te Ao Māori framework of Te Whare Tapa Whā as a tamariki-friendly urban design tool has allowed the tamariki to identify five opportunities for a healthy and equitable Elgin Neighbourhood Play System:

- **Where I am – Tākaro Taiao (Nature Play):** – Reynold Creek Restoration
- **Who I am – Tākoro Hapori (Village Play):** – Elgin Shops Revitalisations
- **What I am – Huarahi Tākaro (play Corridors):** - Rail Corridor Active Transport Network
- **How I am – Te Ara Tākoro (Play on the way):** - Te Waharoa Gateway to the City
- **Why I am – Papa Tākaro (School Ground Play):**- Te Whare Tapere – Community 'House of Entertainment'.

A presentation by Anna at the Operations Committee at Gisborne District Council last month signalled extensive support from Council members for the prototype. We are excited to understand what a collaborative approach with Council will look like for the momentum of the kaupapa.

As we move into the next phase of the Neighbourhood Play System prototype which seeks to experiment and test opportunities identified by the tamariki, we are excited to explore a partnership with mana whenua to both uphold the mana of tangata whenua, and bring to life the insights and opportunities set out by our tamariki.

More information about the Neighbourhood Play System can be found [here](#).

Link to the webinar series can be found here:

<https://www.healthyfamiliesnz.org/systems-change-in-action>

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See Media Note on the following page.

Media Note:

About Healthy Families New Zealand

A healthier Aotearoa New Zealand starts in the places where we live, learn, work and play. In healthier environments, children learn better, workplaces are more productive, people are healthier and happier, and communities thrive. Healthy Families NZ is a Te Whatu Ora funded prevention initiative, operating in ten locations across Aotearoa to support change for better wellbeing and wellbeing outcomes in places where we live, learn, work and play.

Each location works to strengthen the prevention system by harnessing the power of locally-led collaboration and co-design. System innovators work with local leaders to identify, ideate and implement systems change to support people to make healthier choices in places we spend our time, including; schools, workplaces, places of worship, marae, community spaces and more. Each location has chosen its priorities for improving health and well-being based on the unique needs and strengths of the community it serves.

Within the Healthy Families, NZ workforce is the Kāhui Māori, a collective with an explicit focus on improving equity and health outcomes for Māori, using frameworks that sit within a Māori world view, te ao Māori.

- Mātauranga Māori (Indigenous knowledge)
- Te reo Māori (Māori language)
- Tikanga Māori (protocols and customs)
- Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi)

By taking a systems approach to reducing risk factors of preventable chronic disease, the approach aims to improve health outcomes and increase health equity through key focus areas; improved nutrition, physical activity and mental health, smoke-free and reduced alcohol-related harm. The 10 Healthy Families NZ communities come from areas with higher-than-average rates of preventable chronic diseases (such as diabetes), higher-than-average rates of risk factors for these diseases (such as smoking), and/or high levels of deprivation.

Healthy Families East Cape is delivered by Te Ao Hou Trust, a community provider in the Ōpōtiki district offering quality services to inspire our whānau and community to flourish.

The Regional Play Systems Lead is a partnership and co-funded role between Healthy Families East Cape and Sport Gisborne Tairāwhiti. Anna Tolich has held this role since 2020 with an explicit focus on elevating the opportunities for Play in the region. Anna has led the NPS prototype's work since 2021 with the tamariki of Cobham School, Elgin, Gisborne. This is one of four sites where the prototype is being tested around the country.

For more information about Healthy Families East Cape please visit;

www.healthyfamilieseastcape.co.nz.

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