



## Futures Network Wellbeing Survey Overview

Recently the Futures Network members took part in a survey to look at kaiako wellbeing in Canterbury.

Findings included:

- Over 80% of our 95 respondents, and 90% of our 41 centre managers/leaders, regularly work outside of their contracted hours to get their tasks done
- Almost half say they are working more extra hours now than they were three years ago - including many people who have been working in early childhood for over 15 years
- Most people rate their overall wellbeing (physical and mental) as moderately okay; around a quarter are struggling
- Half of our respondents are more stressed than they were a year ago. One major reason for this is the number of significant changes that have had to be implemented over the last two years: the update to Te Whaariki, Standards for the Teaching Profession, the Code of Professional Responsibility, changes to appraisal requirements for registered teachers, the Vulnerable Children's Act, the Health and Safety at Work Act...
- The amount of documentation required by various agencies, justifying what we do, is time not spent with children
- As well as the sheer quantity of work to get through, other stressors include the numbers of children with high needs in our settings, and the complexity of families' needs. "I feel like more of a counsellor or a social worker these days" was a regular comment
- There was recognition of the flow on effect from stressed children and families, and numbers of children with high learning needs, to stressed teachers and teams, which affects every child's experience through the impact on curriculum and the setting.

Those at the last Futures Network meeting were interested to note the close similarity in the results of this survey, and that of the 2017 NZEI Primary Principals wellbeing survey. The same story of hardworking, education professionals putting in many extra hours to get their tasks done has emerged.

There was a call from the meeting to make use of these results by sharing them with NZEI Te Riu Roa, the Ministry of Education and other regional early childhood organisations who may be interested to replicate the survey.

The survey results will also be made available to all Canterbury Futures Network members in the near future.