

Whakamanawa 2026

WORKSHOP PROGRAMME Friday 25/9

	Four Winds Theatre	Breakout Room 1	Breakout Room 2	Breakout Room 3	Breakout Room 4
9.00am	Transforming Justice Pathways Through Tikanga Māori Ngāti Hine Health Trust	From Fragmented Data to Integrated Services: Unlocking Insights for Better Whānau Outcomes Anupama Wijesundara	A Community-Led, Place-Based Strategy Transforming Family and Sexual Violence Prevention in Ethnic Communities in Counties Manukau SAMER+ Collective	Integrated Practice Accelerator: A relationship-driven path to workforce sustainability, shared language, and integrated practice in Ōtepoti Dunedin The Accelerator	Suicide postvention support within communities – what can we all do? Te Aho
9.50am	Better data. Better decisions. Better outcomes. Social Investment Agency	Building Pasifika Enterprise: What happens when systems supercharge hardship? The Generator	Working with traumatised males who use violence in intimate relationships within the context of a patriarchal society Presbyterian Support Northern	Abuse in Care – our collectivism to eliminate abuse in care Te Pai Ora SSPA	When kids fall through the gaps: practical, child-centred support for neurodiversity, grief & trauma Skylight Trust
11.00am	Lived Experience of Abuse in Care with Eugene Ryder Survivor Experiences Service	From whānau voice to system change: the Tairāwhiti Navigator project Manaaki Tairāwhiti	Generative AI for social sector leaders: perspectives, challenges & food for thought. Te Pai Ora SSPA & ANZASW	Skills for Safety: Assertiveness, Deescalation and Self Defence taster workshop Kia Haumarua	Working together for inclusive emergency management systems in our communities Disability Rights Commissioner

Whakamanawa 2026

9am WORKSHOPS

Four Winds Theatre

Transforming Justice Pathways
Through Tikanga Māori

*Linda Hepi, Padrae Brown,
Taura Cherrington, Bo McGee
(Ngāti Hine Health Trust)*

Te Ara Whakapiri is a kaupapa Māori Justice Workshop supporting gang-impacted whānau, including tamariki and rangatahi, to transform life narratives through tikanga and cultural reconnection. Delivered through wānanga and in-school kaupapa, the programme builds identity, resilience, and emotional wellbeing while disrupting early pathways into offending. Tamariki engage in strengths-based learning that reinforces belonging, positive behaviour, and engagement in education. Whānau participate in trauma-informed, culturally grounded sessions incorporating kōrero, karakia, and rongoā. This holistic approach strengthens whanaungatanga, restores mana, and creates intergenerational change, empowering whānau to move from cycles of harm toward wellbeing, stability, and positive futures.

Breakout 1

From Fragmented Data to Integrated
Services: Unlocking Insights for
Better Whānau Outcomes

*Anupama Wijesundra,
(TWOW/KITES)*

Data silos can quietly limit an organisation's ability to understand what is happening across services, respond to emerging needs, and continuously improve outcomes for whānau. Drawing on qualitative research across health and social service teams within a New Zealand not-for-profit, this session explores how fragmented systems, externally mandated systems, access constraints, and KPI pressures shape service delivery and decision-making. The session will explore how breaking down data silos can improve collaboration, strengthen decision-making, and support more responsive services for whānau.

Breakout 2

A Community-Led, Place-Based
Strategy Transforming Family and
Sexual Violence Prevention in Ethnic
Communities in Counties Manukau

*Ireen Rahiman-Manuel, Vishal Rishi
(SAMER+ Collective)*

What happens when communities design the solution, not the system? SAMER+ Collective is a first-of-its-kind, place-based strategy developed by ethnic communities in Counties Manukau to prevent and eliminate family and sexual violence. Grounded in over 1,000 community voices, it shifts from fragmented, service-led responses to a collective, culturally anchored approach. This workshop shares the SAMER+ journey, what makes it different, and what it takes to enable prevention, early intervention, and healing. Attendees will leave with practical insights on building trust, shifting power to communities, and designing approaches that deliver meaningful, intergenerational change.

Whakamanawa 2026

9am WORKSHOPS

Breakout 3

Integrated Practice Accelerator: A relationship-driven path to workforce sustainability, shared language, and integrated practice in Ōtepoti Dunedin

Anna Parker (*The Accelerator*),
Carmen Batchelor (*OYWT*), **Melanie McNattie** (*Catholic Social Services*)

This presentation introduces the Integrated Practice Accelerator as a community-centred collaboration for professional learning, innovated by and for Ōtepoti Dunedin's social sector. Over 15 weeks (one day per week per cohort), participants from across health, social services, community, and education come together to learn, share, and connect with local services. Grounded in ako, the Accelerator builds a shared language, a whole-person approach to practice, and sustainable, cross-sector collaboration to improve outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau. Key learnings include a replicable framework and model for building integrated practice, a low-burnout workforce built on strong relationships, and practical insights for applying trauma-informed, whānau-centred approaches.

Breakout 4

Suicide postvention support within communities – what can we all do

Kirsty Loudon, **Berea Morrison**
(*Te Aho*)

The Suicide Prevention Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand holds a shared vision: every life matters, and together we can work towards a future without suicide. Supporting people bereaved by suicide is part of all our mahi across the social sector. Drawing on over 20 years of experience, Te Aho will explore practical ways to offer safe, compassionate support within communities. This workshop will share what helps, what matters most to those bereaved, and how we can respond with confidence. Attendees will leave with a clearer understanding of their role, and the tools and resources available to support this work.

Whakamanawa 2026

9.50am WORKSHOPS

Four Winds Theatre

Better data. Better decisions.
Better outcomes.

Charlotte Rose,

Luke Scullion

(Social Investment Agency)

This workshop introduces the data products the Social Investment Agency has produced for iwi and Social Investment Fund partners, and how they support earlier decisions for better outcomes. It covers the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) and how SIA uses this data alongside social science and lived experience to see what's coming, understand what works, and adapt investment in practice. The session will outline how data is made accessible, how we respond to Māori Data Sovereignty principles, and how insights are used to support learning rather than compliance. Attendees will gain a clear picture of SIA's role, our data led approach, and how these products are used in practice.

Breakout 1

Building Pasifika Enterprise: What happens when systems supercharge hardship?

Therese Ireland,

Theresa Alaimoana, Ana Tonga

(The Generator)

Through two powerful Pasifika whānau stories, The Generator reveals how financial, employment, tax, and justice systems can trap people in cycles of disadvantage. Discover how advocacy, financial coaching, mentoring, business support, and seed funding help Community Services Card holders build sustainable self-employment pathways and reclaim agency. Leave with practical strategies to challenge systemic barriers, restore mana, and support whānau agency to move from surviving to thriving.

Breakout 2

Working with traumatised males who use violence in intimate relationships within the context of a patriarchal society

Ian Tomkins

(Presbyterian Support Nothern)

The overseas Duluth Model provided an important step forward in relation to keeping females safe. But the assumptions in this model have thread through to present practice in a changed world and understanding of intimate violence in Aotearoa. This workshop considers those assumptions, how they still permeate practice, and how fresh ideas are needed in working with male users of violence. This workshop will consider 'what works' when trauma and violence are present, and a family want to stay together.

Whakamanawa 2026

9.50am WORKSHOPS

Breakout 3

Abuse in Care - our collectivism to eliminate abuse in care

Sonya Hogan, Belinda Himiona
(Te Pai Ora SSPA)

This session is an opportunity to find out more about A Commitment to Move from Darkness to Light, a collective movement led by Te Pai Ora SSPA, and supported by 35 providers, to eliminate Abuse in Care. We welcome those who have joined the commitment, and those who are interested in joining, to share what they have been doing and for a kōrero about how we progress this critical work together.

Breakout 4

When kids fall through the gaps: practical, child-centred support for neurodiversity, grief & trauma

Beth Buxton
(Skylight Trust)

Children and young people experiencing neurodiversity, grief, loss, and trauma are falling through the gaps, and the community sector is feeling it. They're waiting for diagnoses that may be years away, sitting with parents who don't know how to help, and living in communities where specialist services are already overwhelmed. This session draws on Skylight Trust's 30 years of frontline experience to share what actually works: practical, evidence-informed approaches that organisations can take back and use the very next day. This workshop will cover:

- A long-running national programme model — what 25+ years of delivery teaches you, and how responsive, community-led practice evolves over time.
- A multi-modal support toolkit — when and why different therapeutic approaches work for tamariki and rangatahi, and how organisations can broaden their practice beyond a single modality.
- Neurodiversity before, during, and after diagnosis — including trauma-acquired neurodiversity, grief intersections, and practical support for families in the waiting period.

Whakamanawa 2026

11am WORKSHOPS

Four Winds Theatre

Lived Experience of Abuse in
Care with Eugene Ryder

Eugene Ryder
(*Survivor Experiences Service*)

Join Eugene Ryder as he shares his lived experience of abuse in care and the impact it has had throughout his life. Through his personal story, participants will gain a deeper understanding of the realities faced by Survivors and their whānau, the long-term effects of trauma, and the importance of safe, Survivor-centred support. This workshop offers an opportunity to listen, learn, and reflect on how individuals and organisations can contribute to healing, advocacy, and meaningful change for Survivors of abuse in care

Breakout 1

From whanau voice to system
change: the Tairāwhiti Navigator
project

Leslynn Jackson
(*Manaaki Tairāwhiti*)

Communities are locked into a failing social services system that they have very little power to change. The voices of those most affected by overly complex and bureaucratic systems are often unheard. Too frequently, people are shut out of support by rigid settings and shifting political priorities. Aotearoa New Zealand's safety net is no longer functioning as it should. Instead of providing security, it can increase risk for those whose lives are shaped by government intervention. The social contract promises security for the vulnerable, care for the sick, and justice for those who have been harmed. What the Manaaki Tairāwhiti Navigator project has shown is that half of all needs that whānau wanted help with were met with a barrier in the system that hindered or halted access to support. That level of system failure is unacceptable. Communities must demand greater accountability on behalf of whānau who are facing challenges. The project has now concluded and in the final report, recommendations are made relating to community commissioning.

Breakout 2

Generative AI for social sector
leaders: perspectives, challenges &
food for thought

**Clare Docherty (Te Pai Ora SSPA),
Nathan Chong-Nee (ANZASW),
Johnny Crawford (Te Pai Ora SSPA),
Lani Evans (Fundsorter)**

Our recent survey of social service providers found that our workforce is seeking greater guidance and leadership on the use of Generative AI in our mahi. In this session, we share perspectives from three organisations who have been grappling with the role they can play in facilitating this guidance and leadership. Te Pai Ora SSPA Policy Advisor Johnny Crawford will share findings from our recent AI survey, Fundsorter's Lani Evans will share her learnings from running an NGO using AI technology and Nathan Chong-Nee from ANZASW will share insights as the leader of his organisation's work to develop AI guidance for social workers. This session is aimed at those in social sector leadership roles but open to everyone. Attendees will have an opportunity to participate in small group discussions and offer feedback about the issues, challenges and insights presented by the speakers.

Whakamanawa 2026

11am WORKSHOPS

Breakout 3

Skills for Safety: Assertiveness,
Deescalation and Self Defence
taster workshop

Vivian Chandra
(*Kia Haumaru*)

This practical session will introduce evidence-based principles and tools for navigating difficult interpersonal situations that may arise for kaimahi in the social service sector. With a focus on supporting the safety and wellbeing of everyone involved, participants will get a chance to practice physical, mental and verbal strategies for safety and empowerment and share experiences and ideas with others.

Breakout 4

Working together for
inclusive emergency
management systems in our
communities

Prudence Walker
(*Disability Rights*
Commissioner)

Join Disability Rights Commissioner Prudence Walker for a discussion on how together we can involve and connect more with disabled people in our communities and ensure Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the collective good is the foundation of our emergency management system and strategies. We can all support the voices of those most affected in areas that you work in and that marginalise people in emergencies like poverty, poor housing, lack of accessibility or options.