



He amorangi

Māori Sector Leaders' Day 2025

Ko te taurima o te mokopuna, he taurima o te ao.
To nurture the child with care is to tend the world itself.



This resource summarises the three keynote speakers korero at the 2025 He amorangi – Māori Sector Leaders' Day and gives you actionable suggestions on how to use the learnings in your mahi.

Speakers:

Judge Sandra Aloffivae

District Court Judge, District Court of New Zealand

Sandra is a barrister, serving as a Judge on the Manukau District Court, and was formerly Commissioner to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Historical Abuse in State Care.

Samoan born and raised in Māngere, Sandra is a tireless advocate for children, families, and youth. She has also been a major driver for child protection reforms and continues to champion justice, equity and system accountability across multiple sectors.



Dr Moana Eruera

Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Ruanui | CEO, Ngāpuhi Social Services

Moana has more than 30 years of experience in social and community work including family violence prevention, child safety and protection, youth justice, Ngāpuhi based violence prevention, and research.

She is committed to strengthening whānau, child safety and wellbeing, reclaiming and application of indigenous frameworks and practices in social and community work, youth intimate partner violence prevention approaches, and the development of Māori and indigenous peoples.

Moana holds a PhD in Indigenous Studies.



Ihorangi Reweti Peters

Ngāti Tūwharetoa, Ngāti Tahu-Ngāti Whaoa, Ngāti Kahungunu | Rangatahi Advisor, VOYCE Whakarongo Mai

Ihorangi is a passionate youth advocate and advisor, who played a key role in the Abuse in Care Inquiry. He shared his lived experience to push for change, championing trauma-informed mental health support and greater system accountability for rangatahi in state care and youth wellbeing spaces.

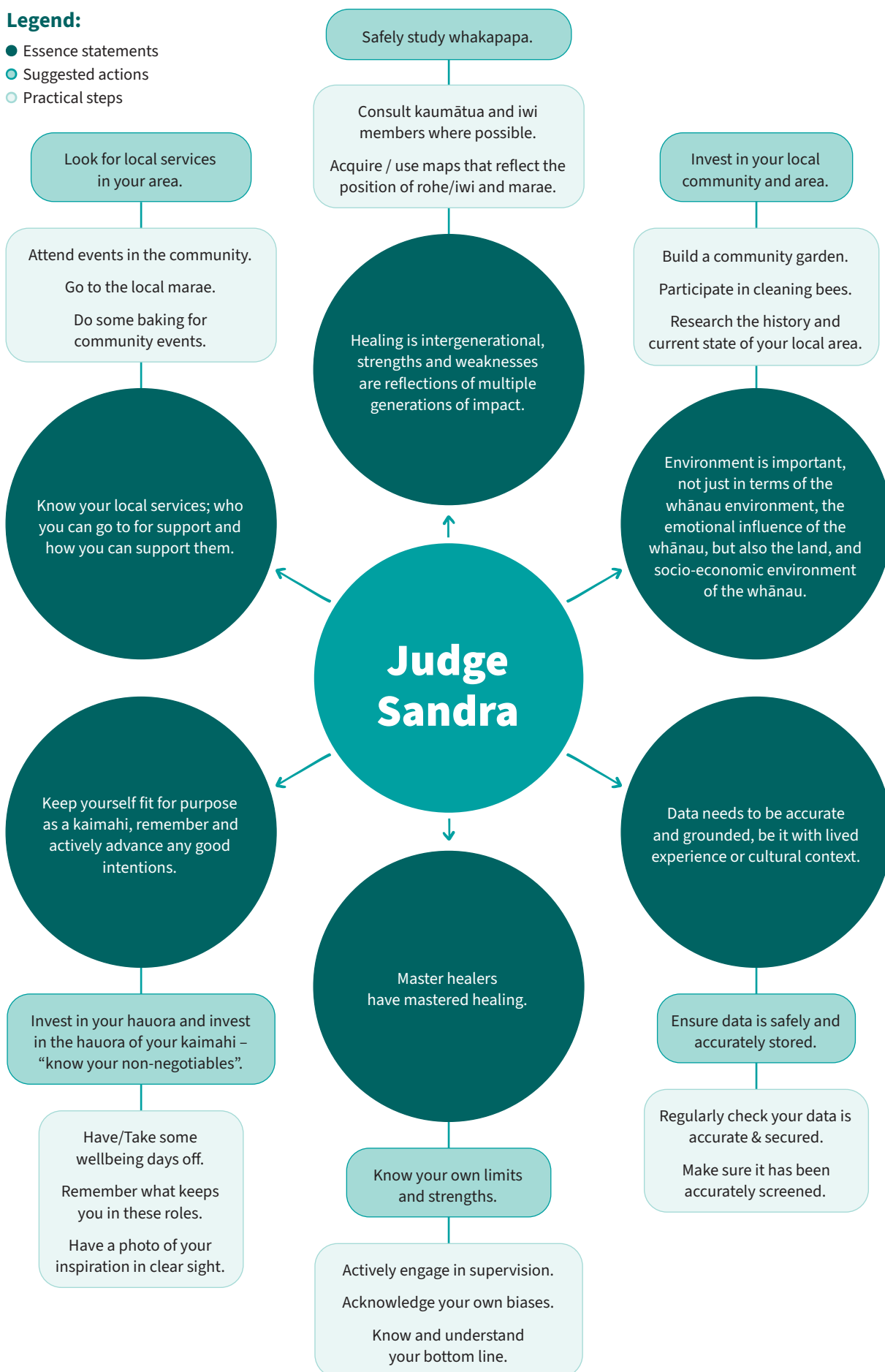


Kua eke te punga, kua mau ki ngā hoe, kua kori katoa

The anchor was aboard, they took hold of their oars and they all moved into action

Legend:

- Essence statements
- Suggested actions
- Practical steps



Stories, quotes & table talks

Inspiration from Judge Alofivae's kōrero

In 2019, Judge Sandra spoke to a tangata whaiora in his 80s, living in an elderly care facility. He had entered state care before reaching double digits and carried lifelong trauma—from boys he lived with who stole from him to the adults who disciplined him. He felt fortunate to finally share his story and to be believed. But the stories of the children he lived alongside did not survive—only his did. This loss underscores the urgent need for stronger data retention, so the experiences of those in state care are recorded, preserved, and able to be heard.



Quotes Judge Alofivae

“Healing of the land leads to healing of the people”

“What are my ‘non-negotiables?’”

“Am I fit for purpose?”

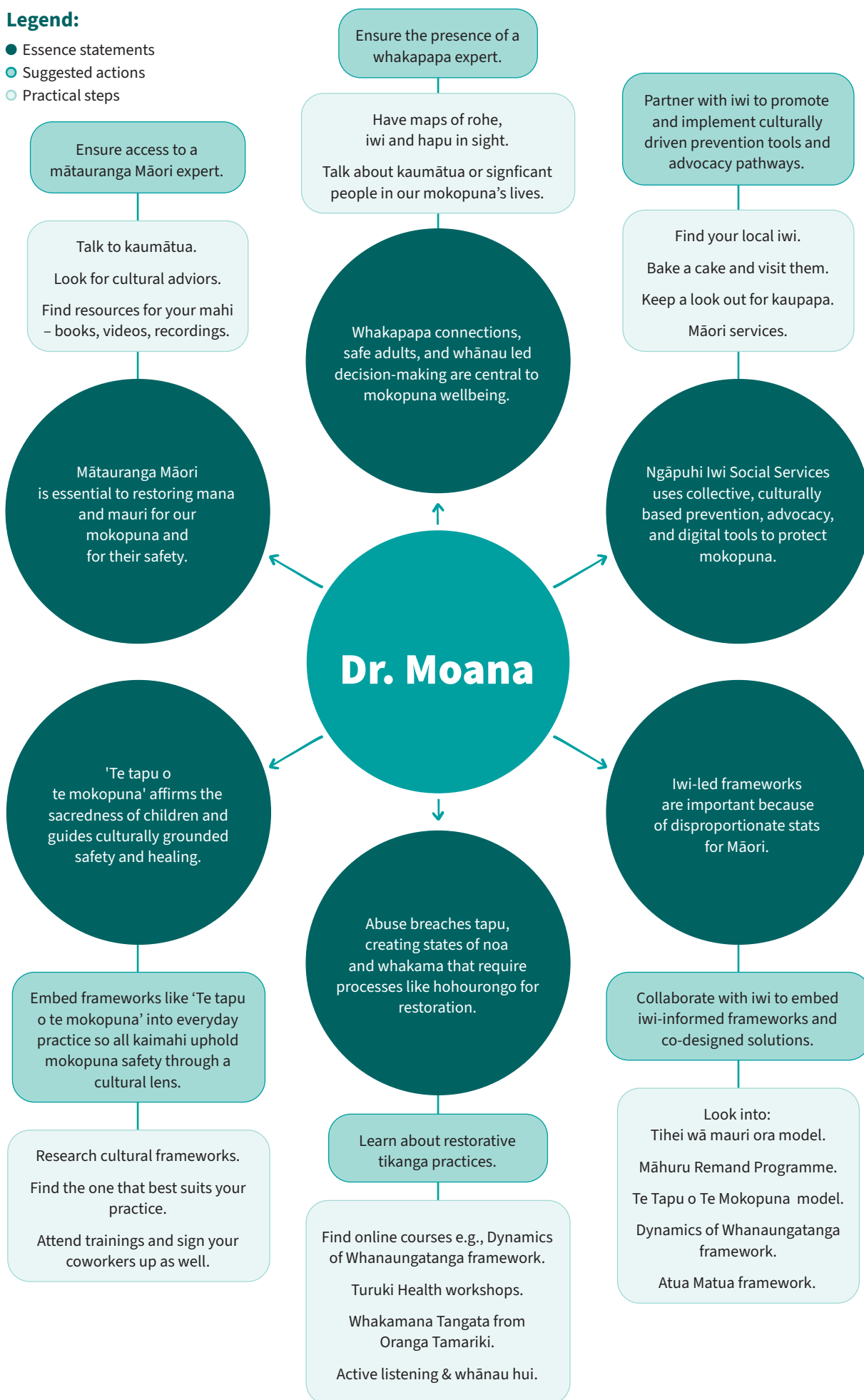
“Everyday I was blown away by the courage and strength of children.”

Inspiration from table talks

- » 650,000 in care – up to 200,000 were abused or neglected from 1950 to 2019: These are the parents and grandparents of today’s generation.
- » Recordkeeping is important. Loss of records is not uncommon so we need to accurately and safely preserve factual information from the tamaiti.
- » Even our land needs to be healed.

Legend:

- Essence statements
- Suggested actions
- Practical steps



Stories, quotes & table talks

Inspiration from Dr. Moana's kōrero

Dr. Moana previously worked at Oranga Tamariki, where she witnessed many tamariki being moved between multiple homes. As someone from Ngāpuhi, she often felt a deep sense of disbelief when Māori children were placed far from their own whānau.

One case in particular stayed with her. Faced with yet another Ngāpuhi child being shifted away from their people, she challenged the decision. With such a large Ngāpuhi population across the motu, she struggled to understand how the system could conclude that not a single whānau member was available. That moment made clear to her how far practice could drift from the realities of Te Ao Māori.



Quotes from Dr. Moana

“150,000 Ngāpuhi and you can’t find 1 whānau member?”

“He uri koe nā Rahiri, he mokopuna koe nāku.”

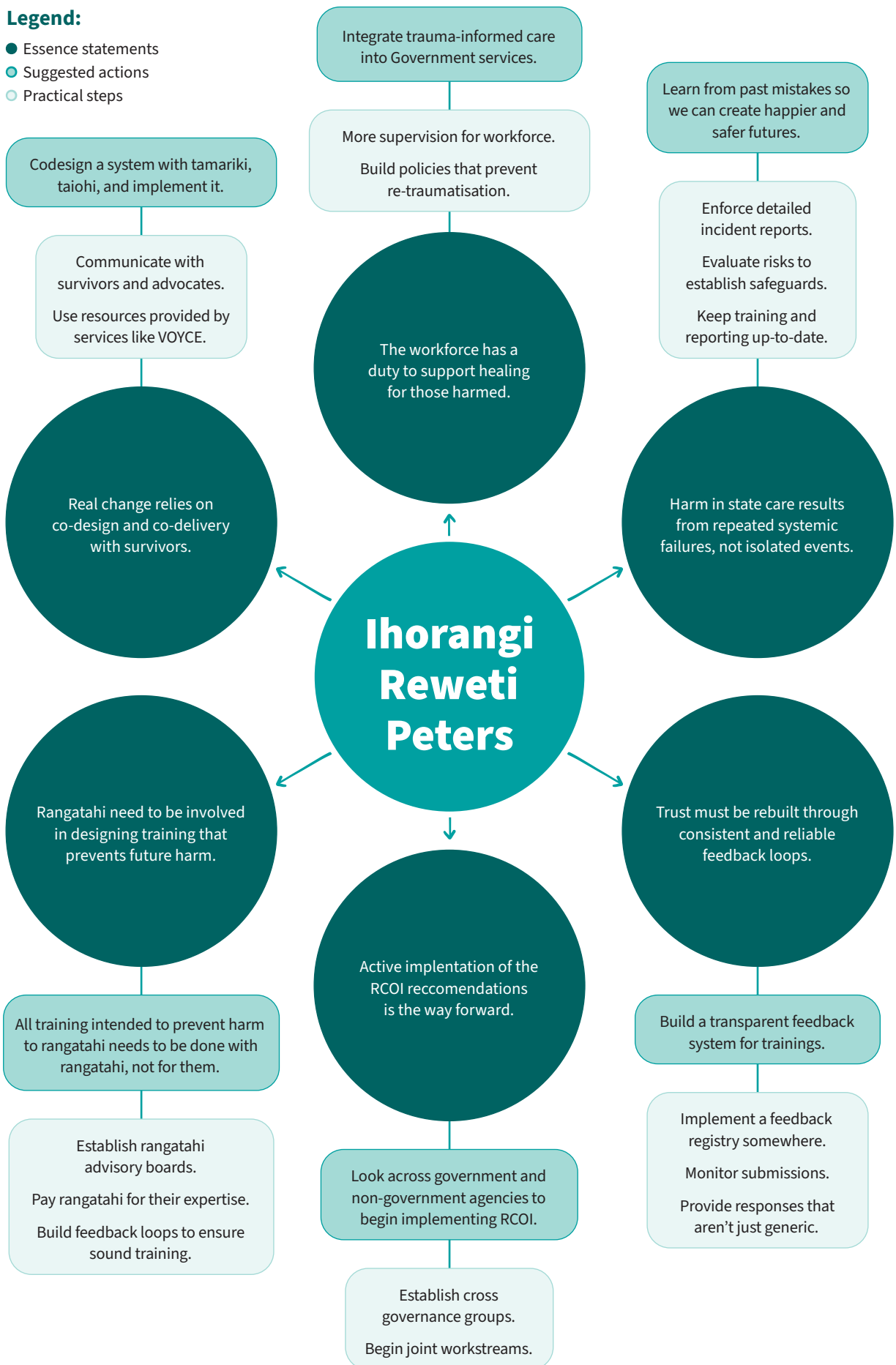
“Te tapu o te mokopuna is a fundamental cultural construct to begin the discussion about protective behaviours for indigenous child safety within te ao Māori, a Māori worldview.”

Inspiration from table talks

- » Safe whakapapa – related adults involved in tamariki kōrero.
- » Whakapapa research as part of kaimahi roles. We need whakapapa protocols to keep everyone safe.
- » Hikoi te kōrero. Walk the walk and talk the talk.

Legend:

- Essence statements
- Suggested actions
- Practical steps



Stories, quotes & table talks

Inspiration from Ihorangi's kōrero

Ihorangi shared a story from *Whānaketia – Through Pain and Trauma, From Darkness to Light* to illustrate the state-care-to-prison pipeline. One person recounted entering prison and recognising many men from their shared state care upbringing.

Ihorangi used this narrative to highlight that state care is not just a health or safety issue but also a justice one. He urged the audience to engage with local government to address the risks of state care nationally.



Quotes from Ihorangi

“There is no one size fits all when it comes to lived experience.”

“Instead of services aimed at Rangatahi, let's have services led by Rangatahi systems.”

“Who can I help? Who can help me? Where can we find each other?”

Inspiration from table talks

- » How can we support these movements? Do we sign submission? Implement recommendations? Use social media?.
- » What legal follow up is necessary to ensure that our promises are kept?
- » Re-intergrations needs both whānau and community planning.