



INTEGRATED PRACTICE
ACCELERATOR

Community –Centred Collaboration for Professional Learning in Ōtepoti Dunedin

PRESENTERS

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McNatty

FOR

Whakamanawa 2026 – Social Service Providers
Te Pai Ora o Aotearoa



Session Overview

DETAILS

Date & Time

Friday 25 September 2026

9:00 am – 9:45 am

Venue

Due Drop Events Centre in Manukau

Format

30-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute interactive discussion

PROGRAMME VISION

Integrated Practice Accelerator

A 15-week cross-sector learning journey designed to deepen impact and shared expertise.

It builds shared practice and sustainable collaboration across health, social services, community, and education sectors to improve outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau.

Whanaungatanga & Connection

Creating a connected, whānau-centred social sector

CROSS-SECTOR COLLABORATION

Working Together Across Sectors

Connecting practitioners from health, education, and social services to break down silos and support whānau collaboratively.

SHARED PURPOSE

Grounded in Ako & Trust

Fostering reciprocal learning, high relational trust, and collective wisdom across Ōtepoti Dunedin's community ecosystem.



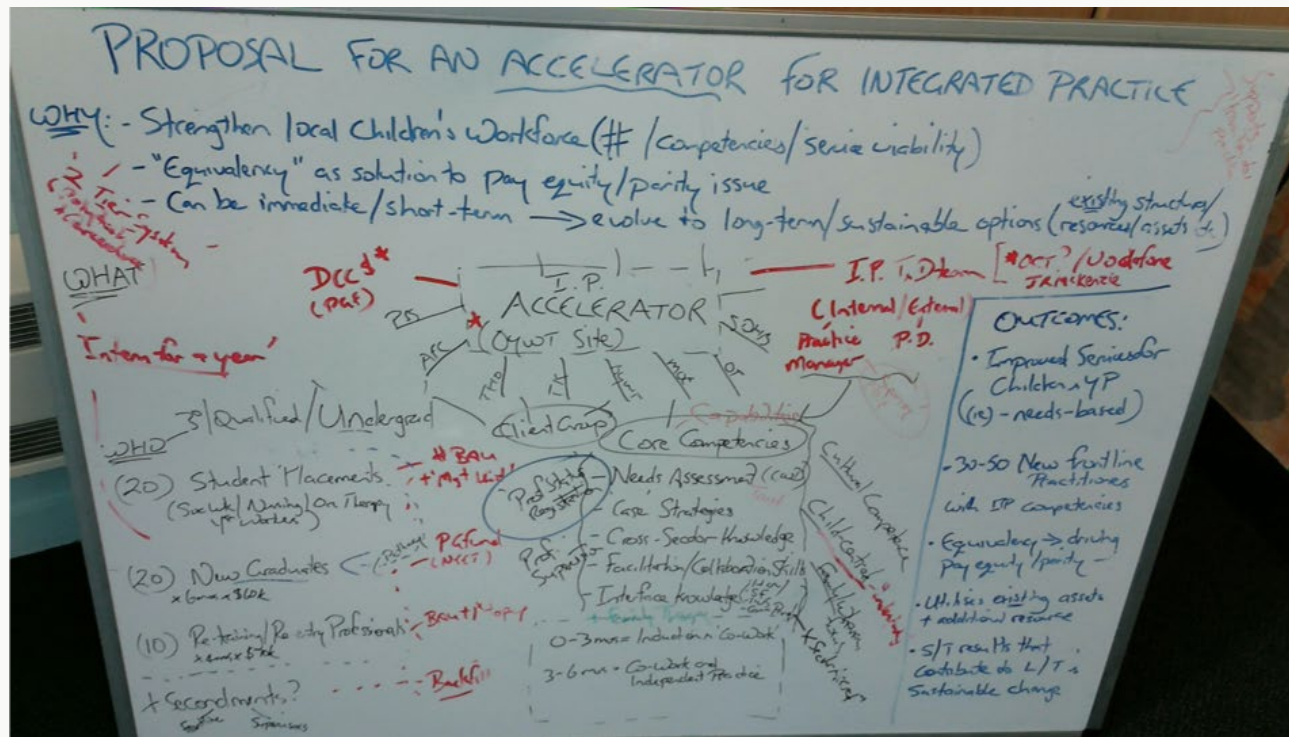
Origin Story & Whakapapa

The evolution of a community-centred response in Ōtepoti Dunedin

Context

The Catalyst

Addressing system fragmentation, a shortage of experienced skilled practitioners, increased complexity of working with young people and their whanau, practitioner retention and burnout and siloed working environments.



Origin Story & Whakapapa

The evolution of a community-centred response in Ōtepoti Dunedin

Response

Community-Led Design

Recognising these challenges led to an organic, locally grown, community-centred solution tailored to the unique social service landscape.

Scale & Impact

5-Year Growth

Over five years, this initiative has evolved from early concept iterations into a structured programme running two cohorts annually.

To date, the programme has successfully engaged over 150 practitioners across ten cohorts.



Collaboration & Community Partnership

Building relational governance and collective impact across Ōtepoti Dunedin

COLLECTIVE MODEL

Core Partner Backbone

A robust collaborative network bringing together key regional agencies:

Otago Youth Wellness Trust, Anglican Family Care, Catholic Social Services, PSO, Mirror Services, Youthline, Salvation Army & Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke.

Supported by in-kind contributions and active engagement from:

40 + local community organisations, educational bodies, and government agencies.

CULTURAL FOUNDATIONS

Mana Whenua & Kaupapa Māori

Deepening intentional relationships with iwi-based entities, kaupapa Māori providers, and Pasifika partner organisations.

Ensuring cultural grounding, shared wisdom, and authentic honorings of Te Tiriti o Waitangi across all sector practices.

SHARED LEADERSHIP

Relational Governance

Embodying manaakitanga and shared leadership to transcend traditional agency boundaries and competition.

Guided by active operational and strategic steering groups that maintain sector alignment and high relational trust.

The Accelerator Delivery Model

A 15-week cross-sector professional learning journey grounded in ako

Core Structure

A 15-week professional learning journey, operating one day per week and limited to 15 participants per cohort to foster deep connections.

Pedagogical Foundation (Ako)

Grounded in ako, or reciprocal learning, creating a space where hierarchy is flattened across health, social services, education, and disability sectors.

Experiential Immersion

Participants engage in experiential immersion through site visits, expert-led workshops, system immersion days spanning justice and child protection, and reflective sessions.



The Accelerator Experience

A glimpse into our community of connection



Key Learning & Practice Competencies

Trauma - Responsive Practice

Participants develop trauma-responsive practice through practical frameworks for understanding adversity and cultural dimensions, including masterclasses with Dr. Nicola Atwool.

Te Tiriti & Cultural Grounding

The curriculum deepens the applied understanding of Te Tiriti o Waitangi within daily practice.

Positive Youth Development

Positive Youth Development and the circle of mana empower rangatahi by honoring their inherent strength, leadership, and holistic wellbeing within a supportive community framework.

System Navigation & Shared Language

Demystifies agency processes across social services and government developing a shared language that enhances inter-agency communication.

15- Week Journey: Weeks 1 –8

Timeline	Core Focus	Key Practice Components & Hosts
Week 1	Opening & Foundations	Mihi Whakatau, Whakawhanaungatanga & Ako
Week 2	Kaupapa Māori & Pacific	Mana Whenua, Kaupapa Māori and Pacific-led services
Week 3	Te Tiriti in Practice	Applied reflection
Week 4	Trauma -Responsive Practice	Intensive workshop with Dr Nicola Atwood
Week 5	Education & Attendance	Attendance services, Pastoral Care & Alt-Education
Week 6	Care & Youth Advocacy	Oranga Tamariki engagement & VOYCE Whakarongomai
Week 7	Community Development	Otago Polyfest/DCC Community Partnerships/ Place-based
Week 8	Supervision/ Assessment	Different models in practice

15- Week Journey: Weeks 9 –15

Timeline	Core Focus	Key Practice Components & Hosts
Week 9	Justice System Immersion	Dunedin Courts, Youth Aid & Victim Support
Week 10	Disability & Neurodiversity	Donald Beasley Institute & specialist local services
Week 11	Whānau & Parenting Support	Practical workshop and Social service visits
Week 12	Positive Youth Development	Circle of mana training, youth service visits
Week 13	Community Supports	MSD pathways, The Salvation Army & Night Shelter
Week 14	Inclusion & Diversity	Rainbow communities support & Red Cross refugee services
Week 15	Practice Integration & Close	Synthesis of practice models & final whakawhanaungatanga



“ I had left Social Work due to Burn Out and Worsening Mental Health, and up until joining this programme had no interest in returning to Social Work. The Accelerator Programme has introduced me to a whole realm of amazing support services for our communities, our peers, ourselves!, the highlight of my week is Thursday with my Accelerator Aiga. Not only is it a pathway to connection with other providers, Accelerator has helped me remember my Why, Helped me reconnect with my Culture, and reminded me how important it is to invest into the balance of my own Wairua, Hinengaro and Tinana so I can be great in my mahi and everyday life!

I recommend the Accelerator to anyone who is navigating the world of Social Work, for our students alllll the way up to our whānau who have been in this space for years. ”

Briarna Kareroa

Role: Community Connection / Assistive Product Specialist (Living Well Centre)

Organisation : Living Well Centre for Disabilities



"What I value most about the Accelerator is the opportunity to hear directly from different people in the community and learn from their diverse perspectives and experiences. It reminds me that as a practitioner, I need to approach people with empathy, openness, and a willingness to learn, while keeping Te Tiriti o Waitangi and different Kaupapa at the heart of how I work. I hope these experiences continue to shape the kind of practitioner I want to be and how I build meaningful relationships with the communities I work alongside."

Khenchozi Mumford

Role: Social Work Student (on placement)

Organisation : Oranga Tamariki



“Accelerator has strengthened my confidence and given me a much deeper appreciation of the people, knowledge and social services that make up Ōtepoti’s community. After completing the programme, I left feeling connected, empowered and confident that I can draw on these relationships to advocate strongly for the people and whānau I support. .”

Holly Chapman

Role: Service Leader – Te Whakaruruhau

Organisation : Corstorphine Baptist Community Trust (CBCT)



“For me, the Accelerator was a valuable and exciting opportunity to step away from the usual rush of everyday work and learn more about the services available across Ōtepoti /Dunedin. It gave us the time and freedom to listen actively and speak openly about the challenges we face within our work and services, question some of our assumptions, and think critically together about how we could learn from one another to improve our practices and the support we provide. No single person or perspective can fully understand or respond to a complex issue alone. So happy to have found my people in this beautiful little village. ”

Ali Mostolizadeh

Role: Migration / Community Support Worker

Organisation : New Zealand Red Cross

Community & System Impact

Building sustainable workforce networks and integrated care for whānau

Workforce Retention

Culture & Sustainability

The Accelerator promotes workforce sustainability by reducing professional isolation through enduring peer networks, creating a low-burnout culture that improves staff retention.

Integrated Practice

Inter-Agency Collaboration

Integrated care is strengthened by streamlining inter-agency warm handoffs, allowing practitioners to contact known colleagues and reducing the need for whānau to repeatedly retell their stories.

Timely Access

Tangible Outcomes

This collaborative care ecosystem results in tangible outcomes, including faster access to appropriate specialist services and wrapped-around support for tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau.

Impact Insights & Participant Voices

Workforce Retention

Culture & Sustainability

"A truly magical opportunity to connect, learn, and grow together as an essential support network — not only for us but for all of our young people and whānau."

"It's been a privilege to be part of something so professional, caring, and real. It builds people's knowledge and understanding to help communities thrive."

"Amazing and unique. 15 weeks of professional development is an absolute gift. All services should send their staff along and fund the ongoing sustainability of this taonga."

Integrated Practice

Inter-Agency Collaboration

"Through this programme, we have forged enduring professional relationships that empower us to better support our local communities."

"It's community connection on steroids! It's more than learning about others, it's understanding, connecting, and highlighting the common goals we strive for."

"We have created lasting connections that support us to better serve our communities."

Timely Access

Tangible Outcomes

"Participants gain the confidence and robust networks needed to deepen their expertise, ultimately leading to a more integrated and effective approach for the whānau they support."

"What I value most about the Accelerator is the opportunity to hear directly from different people in the community and learn from their diverse perspectives and experiences... keeping Te Tiriti o Waitangi and different Kaupapa at the heart..."

"I have no hesitation; I think it is an invaluable programme. I know my staff thoroughly enjoyed the content and the connections made within the community."

Kōrero

Replicability

How can the principles of the Ōtepoti Accelerator model be useful to other regions and communities?

Barriers

What are the primary system hurdles, such as competitive funding models or capacity constraints, to building true cross-sector integrated practice, and how can collectives overcome them?

Reflective Practice

How do your organisations support kaimahi to move from siloed working to collaborative, relational practice?