

# POIPOIA NGĀ TAMARIKI: NURTURE OUR CHILDREN

**Monday 8 November 2021, 12.30pm**

**Register Online Here: <https://bit.ly/poipoiangatamariki>**

This webinar is presented as a part of the 'Poipoia Ngā Tamariki: Nurture Our Children' project which is hosted by Tutama Wahine o Taranaki Inc., and funded by Cure Kids and A Better Start National Science Challenge. A key objective of the project is to inform the wider debate and activities that are currently at the fore of issues of wellbeing for tamariki. A critical component of Kaupapa Māori is knowledge sharing and translation. It is essential that the research findings are made accessible and are widely distributed to be most impactful in its contribution to informing tamariki wellbeing. This webinar is a part of sharing the knowledge and information shared with us within our work to uplift mātauranga Māori in the area of tamariki and whānau ora.

## **Webinar: Te Taonga o Taku Ngākau: Ancestral Wisdom for the Wellbeing of Tamariki.**

The whakataukī 'Te Taonga o Taku Ngākau' translates as the treasure of my soul/heart. In a contemporary context, this relates to the wider notion that children are a gift of life. Central to this webinar is the understanding and guidance that is provided in the theory and praxis of the concept 'Te Taonga o Taku Ngākau' and how it is expressed within whānau contexts. It is argued that by reclaiming our knowledge of Māori childrearing traditions, a deeper understanding of the importance of collective practices and responsibility emerges. Learnings will be shared from kaupapa Māori research projects that situate the wellbeing of tamariki (Māori children) within the context of well and thriving whānau. In this Webinar, we will hear from Dr Simmonds who will discuss the ways in which an empowering collective approach to caring for children can transform whānau wellbeing. Providing clear understandings about the advantages of returning to traditional practices where children are positioned at the centre. 'Te taonga o taku ngākau' reminds us of the treasured position of our tamariki and mokopuna. It is a knowledge base and a practice. It is embedded within tikanga Māori that calls upon us to place layers of wellbeing, learning, nurturing and protection around our tamariki.

### **Dr. Naomi Simmonds (Raukawa, Ngāti Huri)**

Naomi is a mother to two daughters. She is an avid reader, passionate writer and novice walker. Naomi has led and been involved in a range of Kaupapa Māori research projects pertaining to whānau (family) wellbeing, hapū and tamariki ora, land-based learning, and tribal environmental management. Her research looks at the intersections between land, identity, and wellbeing. Her most recent research has involved re-walking 378km with six other Raukawa wāhine following the journey of her ancestress Māhinaarangi to understand the lessons, memories and knowledge that are embedded in the footprints of our ancestors. Naomi's doctoral study looked at Māori understandings and experiences of pregnancy and childbirth.



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