

AUT Child and Youth Symposium Schedule 2026

Friday, 20th February 2026

7:45-8:30	Registration (Mandie, Karen, Margaret)	
8:30-9:00	Mihi Whakatau, Welcome & Housekeeping	
9:00-10:00	Keynote 1: Better together in place: Whānau-led systems change for better outcomes in the first 2000 days	Aimee Hadrup, Angie Tangaere, Auckland Co-Design Lab
10:00-10:30	Morning Tea	
10:30-11:30	Session 1 - In the Educational Context	
10:30	Resilience in Early Childhood Education and Care. Framing a path to wellbeing.	Juan Ochoa
10:45	Beyond the National Curriculum: Whiria te Taangata	Ellie Mackwood
11:00	Affective relationships between communal reading and children's wellbeing	Ruth Boyask, John Milne, Jayne Jackson
11:15	Taking Physical Education out of the curriculum. Will this negatively affect cognition and learning?	Adrian McPherson
11:30	Q & A	
12:00-13:00	Lunch & Networking & Poster Viewing	
13:00-14:00	Session 2 - Celebrating Diversity	
13:00	About Autism, A Guide to Autism in Childhood	Sara Meyer
13:15	Dietary diversity and socio-demographic factors amongst school- going adolescents in Karachi.	Misbah Ajaz, Madiha Ajaz
13:30	Turtlebrace as a whanau-centered innovation for the treatment of toe-walking	Christiana Barker, Eloise Carella
13:45	Super Clinic model of Care for Autism diagnosis: An MDT, strength based, whanāu centred approach	Danielle Fernandes, Debbie Paotama, Candice Daniels, Alison Burge(and others)
14:00	Q & A	
14:30-15:00	Afternoon Tea	
15:00-16:00	Session 3 - Partners in Action Part 1	
15:00	Partnering in research to implement the F-words for Child Development in Aotearoa New Zealand (NZ): The impact for children	Margaret Jones, Lucy Charles, Arul Hamill, Julia Hill, Brigid Hitchcock
15:15	Going home: Navigating family-centered care transition to rural northland for a child with medical complexity	Jane Hamer
15:30	Building Better Futures: The Effects of Big Buddy Mentoring on Children, Mentors, and Caregivers,	Amy Kercher, Mia Meckel, Liesje Donkin, Daniel Shepherd
15:45	A Multidisciplinary Approach to Paediatric Bladder and Bowel Health: Integrating Physiotherapy and Occupational Therapy Support	Merryn Robertson & Sally Parton
16:00	Q & A	
16:30	Day 1 Close	

Saturday, 21st February 2026

8:00-8:30	Registration	
8:30-9:00	Welcome & Housekeeping	
9:00-10:00	Keynote 2: Improving rangatahi Māori wellbeing: Evidence and innovation within population mental health	Professor Terryann Clark
10:00-10:30	Morning Tea	
10:30-11:30	Session 4 - Physical Activity	
10:30	Screening the Movement Skills of New-entrant School Children using the Movement ABC (MABC)	Margaret Jones, Julia Hill, Alison Leversha, Dr Anja Vorster, Karen Adams
10:45	Refining Physical Activity Programme M.A.P.P	Wendy Pirie
11:00	FAM™ TUI -Empowering Children with Disabilities Through Intensive, Individualised Fitness Programs	Mike Hynard & Merryn Robertson
11:15	Exploring Physical Activity and Exercise Advice for Tamariki with Cancer and the Role of Physiotherapy: A National Survey of Health Professionals in Aotearoa New Zealand	Laura Jeffrey and Rachel Lockwood
11:30	Q & A	
12:00-13:00	Lunch & Networking & Poster Viewing	
13:00-14:00	Session 5 - Child & Youth Voices	
13:00	Youth Voices in Action: Improving Access to Integrated Primary Mental Health and Addiction Services	Caitlin Hughes
13:15	Health Communication Needs of Southeast Asian Migrant Children in Aotearoa New Zealand: What children consider is needed for partnership,	Jutarat Kongpet
13:30	Beneath the Surface: Exploring the Psychosocial Experiences of Adolescents and Young Adults (AYA) with Palliative Care Needs	Ron Chau
13:45	Dialectical Behaviour Therapy – Skills Training for Emotional Problem Solving for Adolescents (DBT STEPS-A) in Aotearoa New Zealand: A Thematic Analysis of Rangatahi Perspectives	A/Prof Liesje Donkin, Priya Thakra, Louise Blackmore, et al.
14:00	Q & A	
14:30-15:00	Afternoon Tea	
15:00-16:00	Session 6 - Partners in Action Part 2	
15:00	Capturing the Voice of the Child: The F-Words Life Wheel as a Coaching-Based, Holistic Approach to Child Development	Lucy Charles, Arul Hamill, Khushi Sehajpal, et al.
15:15	Survival Parenting: Adolescent Emotional Dysregulation and Caregivers' Support-Seeking Experiences in Aotearoa New Zealand	Ruth Johnson, A/Prof Liesje Donkin, Amy Kercher
15:30	Collaborative goal setting for disabled children	Leanne Robinson
15:45	Culturally family-centered care - A collaborative approach to improve health and social outcomes for a refugee family.	Rachael Thompson, Abdul Mohamud, Renee Alumasa
16:00	Q & A	
16:30	Closing & Farewell	

POSTERS CONFIRMED

What has happened to primary school children's mental health? Educator insights. (Authors Rachel Simpson, Dr Amy Kercher, Assoc Prof Liesje Donkin)

Parent partnership – co-designing sleep system care (Author- Jane Hamer)

Creating a community engaged research agenda for tamariki with asthma (AUTHORS-Blamires, Julie; Foster, Mandie; Kanengoni-Nyatara, Blessing; Park, Maree; Kielar, Donna; Trenholme, Adrian; Fonua, Falanesi; Chapman, Katherine; Faaiuas, Katie; Robertson, Louise; Manga, Miriam; Anderson, Philiipa; Kingi, Veronica)

Healthy siblings of children with a long-term condition: Umbrella review (AUTHORS: Blamires, Julie; Foster, Mandie; Rasmussen, Shayne; Zgambo, Maggie; Morelius, Evalotte)

I- supported applications in practice (Author_Mike Neufeld +

Pathway and Bayesian network in complex design of wellbeing survey for school students- via New Zealand's integrated data infrastructure (IDI) (Authors: Zeng, Irene; Hao, Junxiang, Foster, Mandie; and team)