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Educating Children for Generational Behavioral Change Towards Climate Adaptation in New Zealand

In the past 100 years, Aotearoa New Zealand's climate has warmed by 1.1°C. It is experiencing more hot days and fewer cold days with 2022 as the warmest year on record, closely followed by 2021 and 2023.

In the last five years, there has already been an increase in weather event intensity and frequency observed. Declared States of Emergency are over 300% more frequent in the last 10 years than the 10 years prior.

Higher temperatures change many aspects of Aotearoa New Zealand, including its physical environment and weather patterns. These changes present new and greater risks to the wellbeing of people and communities and their way of life, buildings and infrastructure, the natural environment and the economy. Whilst mitigation efforts continue, adaptation to potential worst case scenario impacts needs to occur.

Using goals from Aotearoa New Zealand's first National Adaptation Plan and international examples, this project proposes an education program, developed from a framework, that should be adopted as part of the New Zealand curriculum. Educating children on climate change and adaptation

for New Zealand. Fostering the curiosity, enthusiasm, drive and adaptability that being a child brings and empowering them to be key collaborators, contributors and future decision-makers for a more resilient Aotearoa New Zealand.

Presentation Theme: Climate Change and Emergency Management: Generational mindset change towards climate change adaptation to increase resilience and reduce the impacts and consequences of emergencies exacerbated by climate change.

Collaborators, Advisor(s) and Department(s) that assisted with this research: none