

Check & Connect - And it works

Jonas Leatio'o (kaihoe | mentor) talking to Muru (student): So I've been taking these classes with this Samoan chief. He's a doctor, he's got a PhD. And I just learned so much, even, like, about myself.

Muru (student): If it wasn't for me showing up and seeing Jonas I wouldn't have had the job I have now. So yeah, I'm grateful.

Leo (student): I'm on track heaps more than when I started school. Everything's kind of coming together now.

Dr Karen Dobric (Tumuaki Tuarua | Deputy Principal Papatoetoe High School): They work with the assumption that it's natural for young people to want to learn and grow. Once you accept that and work with it, it's a matter of those little manoeuvrers to keep students on track saying, "I know what you're here for, I know that you really want to do this".

Leo: It's been really good. Almost past this year. Just got one last assessment to finish, but almost finished. So pretty good, yeah.

Leo Aholelei (kaihoe | mentor): It's the same message with everyone else, like "Come on boys, if we're here then we might as well focus on school. We might as well smash all these little goals that you want to do outside of school".

Leo (student) talking to Leo Aholelei (kaihoe | mentor): 40 credits, that's like the least amount. All of my level 3 credits moved to my level 2, so that should be a bit easier.

Leo: I'm trying to get into building, so I need a stay for my level three next year, and hopefully I get a job in construction. It's a goal.

Karaitiana (student): I've done so many things to get kicked out of school, but they still didn't do that to me. I didn't realise that was a good thing until now.

Georgia Drake (kaihoe | mentor): To see them in Year 13 or in Year 12 thriving, or still having challenges but being able to manage those challenges with different strategies that they might not have before. You can't describe how great that feels.

Jonas: The program works if everyone plays their part, and especially the young person puts in that work.

Jonas speaking to Muru: If you can go back and learn about your culture, like the true meaning of it, the depth of it, then you just know how connected all of us are.

Muru: He's helped me mature a lot, act my age, be myself. I learned that myself too. So yeah, he's helping me along the way.

Tania Liuagamatagi (kaiārahi | supervisor): For them to be able to experience that 'someone believed in me and that someone cared about me enough to take the time to know my story and to know me', I think there's, like, power in that.

Georgia: When think of the 4 years of being in this role, I feel like I learn more from my young people than they learn from me because there is so much strength, skills, talents that our young people hold. And if you just take the time to listen, and to see them, to fully hear them, then you're going to start seeing everything, all the magic that they have inside of them.

Leo: I want to get 40 credits next year.

Karaitiana: It's like chasing a dream. You just take one step at a time and then maybe you'll get there. Just got to keep going.