

Equipping families to share knowledge and take action

Parents for Climate Aotearoa

Talking about climate change is one of the most effective ways to inspire action. People process information and decide to act through conversations with people they trust. Parents for Climate helps parents understand climate change and talk with their children and communities to create local-led solutions.



"We are raising a generation that will be even more impacted than we are. Fundamentally we are here to support other parents to engage with the issue." *– Alicia Hall, Parents for Climate Aotearoa*

Children and young people concerned about climate change look to their parents for assurance and guidance. But parents and caregivers wanting to contribute to a better future might not know where to begin. Alicia Hall and Dr Olivia Hyatt of Parents for Climate Aotearoa saw a need to help parents understand climate change and have meaningful, encouraging conversations with their tamariki.

The group hosts workshops and activities to raise awareness, connect generations and help people find ways to take climate action in their daily lives and communities. Founder Alicia Hall says parents have a lot more power to make change than they realise.

Parents for Climate combines climate science expertise and social science knowledge to help parents overcome barriers to talking about climate change with their families and communities. Some people feel too overwhelmed to engage with climate action. Others worry they don't know enough. Some are unsure how to talk with children who are anxious or confused about climate change.

In 2022, Parents for Climate Aotearoa received funding through the Climate and Sustainability Fund to develop, pilot and deliver their 'Let's Talk Climate' workshop series. The programme was co-designed with community partners including local iwi, rangatahi, Pasifika, disabled and migrant communities.

"Conversation gives us a chance to find that thing in common. Talking about climate change propels us into asking what we can do, and how we can act based on what's important to us." *– Alicia Hall, Parents for Climate Aotearoa*

In the workshops, participants explore how climate change impacts them, how to talk about it with friends, whānau and community members, how to have conversations with their kids, and how to develop local solutions to climate-related problems in their communities. Alicia Hall says communicating the science in plain language is important, but sharing stories and perspectives is what energises people to make change.

Over a year, Parents for Climate hosted 30 workshops across Pōneke | Wellington. Workshops were delivered in five separate locations across the city to make sure attendees could understand local impacts and actions they can be part of. More than 300 people joined to learn, talk and plan together, with participants ranging in age from 19 to 88. People reported feeling more confident and hopeful afterward, and much more likely to talk with other people about climate change and how to take action and reduce emissions.

Parents for Climate found that many parents avoid talking about climate change because they assume others don't care. Alicia Hall says it was interesting and heartening to see people's reactions when they learned eight out of ten people care about climate change and want to take action.

Parents have a lot of influence in the lives of their children and how households manage daily life. Hall says parents are also a large portion of the population and can influence positive change when tackling issues together.

"I want parents to know they are not alone in this. That love we have for our kids can be channelled into some real tangible action and making a really cool, climate-friendly future for them." *- Alicia Hall, Parents for Climate Aotearoa*



Creating space for young families to learn, share, and act together raises awareness across generations. Try talking about climate at home, sharing stories, and developing local solutions - every action helps shape a better tomorrow.

To learn more, visit **parentsforclimatenz.org**