



Child Matters



EDUCATING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Annual Report

2022



Child Matters



EDUCATING TO PREVENT CHILD ABUSE

Unlike many other countries, Child Protection training is currently not mandatory in New Zealand for professionals or volunteers who work with children and young people. This means teachers, sports coaches and even social workers may never receive training relating to child abuse, how to recognise the signs of abuse, or how to respond if a risk is identified.

This is the reason Child Matters exists – to upskill those working and interacting with children, young people and their families and whānau, so they are able to identify risks

concerning vulnerability and abuse, and have the knowledge and confidence to take appropriate action.

Child Matters works with all sectors, including professionals, community organisations, and families and whānau to deliver training, provide advice on policy and procedures, and consultation regarding child protection issues.

Educating all sectors of our community how to protect our tamariki is essential to reducing abuse and neglect in New Zealand.

Purpose

Effecting change to prevent abuse and neglect

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Child Matters is committed to the Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi being a core value that underpins all our services and relationships with iwi, hapū and whānau. Child Matters recognises its obligations under the Treaty/Tiriti, and seeks to provide culturally appropriate and supportive services.



Chair's Report

This last year has brought challenges both internally and externally for Child Matters. Like all organisations we have continued to navigate COVID-19 lockdowns and restrictions and the impact they had on students and staff. The Board have been proud to support the Child Matters team in the manner and effectiveness of how they have responded and the resulting strengthening of services and support for students.

There has been increased public and media focus on child abuse and neglect issues and on the response from central Government. Child Matters has utilised the expertise of its team to make public comment and help inform the media debate. This increased public advocacy is part of Child Matters being intentional about advocacy that informs and educates on these confronting and emotive issues. This increased public focus supported by coverage of the Royal Commission into Abuse in State Care is necessary to ensure we as a country learn from the past and inform how we protect tamariki and rangatahi currently and in the future.

Child Matters' role is to develop and enhance child protection best practice and increase understanding of the dynamics of abuse and neglect. The more child advocates we train and motivate, the more people that join this important mahi. It is the role of the Board to support and guide that strategic vision and I am grateful for the contribution the Board members make to that. The diversity of the Board's experience and expertise strengthens the organisation to navigate the post COVID-19 years and ensures its financial stability and longevity.

I thank the Board for their commitment to quality governance and the support they have offered the management team this year. The organisation is well placed for the year ahead and the task of building a stronger future for our tamariki.

Best regards
Edgar Wilson JP, MA



Chief Executive's Report

Reflecting on the year of service delivery that the Child Matters team has completed, I am going to borrow the words of one of our team members, times have changed and so have we. The core mahi of effecting change to prevent child abuse and neglect, does not change, but how we achieve that has. In a COVID-19 world we are agile in our training methods, we continue to develop new training content to meet societal need and we are more active in our advocacy on issues that impact the safety and wellbeing of children and rangatahi.

Online training courses have become our norm, with two more courses developed this year. Delivery of training is blended in approach and focused on the individual needs of students. We can accommodate increased student workloads, navigate isolation periods and help students balance family demands. Our stakeholders have directly informed the new topics we teach, including an increased focus on trauma and the wellbeing of frontline staff. We have also launched a Child Protection auditing service which has seen our team support schools with policy and procedure audits.

The last two years have bought increased need in the social sector which has made us more focused on our purpose and has strengthened our ties with the organisations we train and support. In my time working in this sector, I have never seen frontline organisations more united. There is a common purpose and resolve to help design better co-ordinated, structured and resourced statutory and frontline services. With continued support from our Board of Trustees the Child Matters team are energised by this challenge and I am proud of the commitment and passion they bring every day. Working to protect our most at-risk tamariki and rangatahi is a privilege and that is what motivates us for the year ahead.

Naku noa na
Jane Searle

“Times have changed, and so have we”
– Jane Searle, Chief Executive, Child Matters

EDUCATING ALL SECTORS OF OUR COMMUNITY

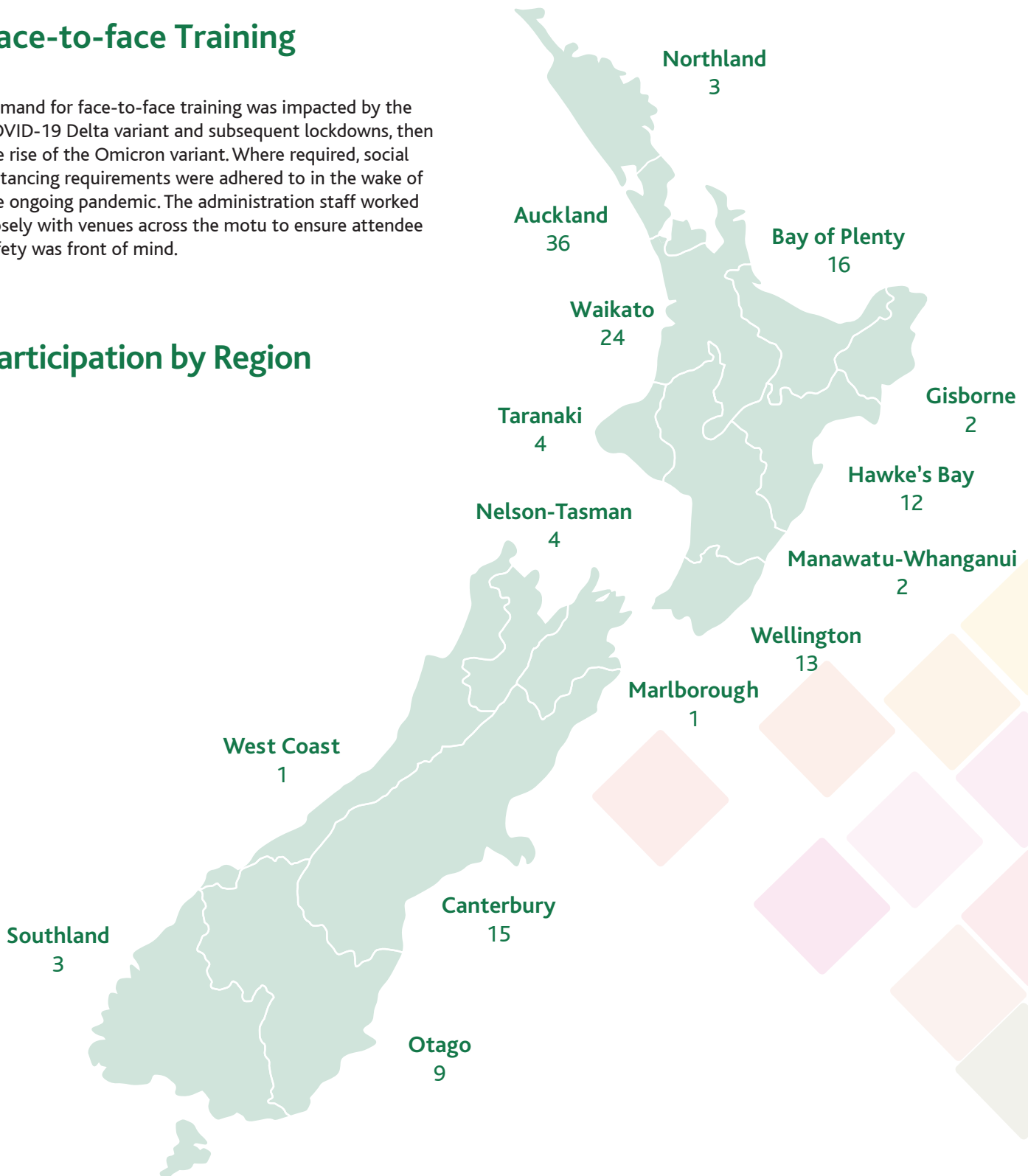
The tutors travelled throughout New Zealand to ensure every region had the opportunity to learn more about the issues of child abuse. Flight delays, roadworks, and once in a 100-year weather events did not stall the ongoing need for education across Aotearoa, even in sometimes challenging circumstances.

The map shows data collected from July 2021 to June 2022. Child Matters ran 135 child protection diploma blocks, programmes, workshops, seminars and presentations during this period.

Face-to-face Training

Demand for face-to-face training was impacted by the COVID-19 Delta variant and subsequent lockdowns, then the rise of the Omicron variant. Where required, social distancing requirements were adhered to in the wake of the ongoing pandemic. The administration staff worked closely with venues across the motu to ensure attendee safety was front of mind.

Participation by Region





ONLINE TRAINING

In order to combat the anticipated decline in face-to-face public training, marketing efforts were skewed towards online and in-house training. Child Matters’ pre-recorded training enrolments grew exponentially over the last year. This delivery was successfully implemented via an online course platform. Ongoing feedback has contributed to the development of new digital learning products for specific sectors. Overwhelmingly, participants found the inclusion of stories from survivors of childhood abuse the most fulfilling and educational.



Hamilton, May 2022

IN-HOUSE TRAINING

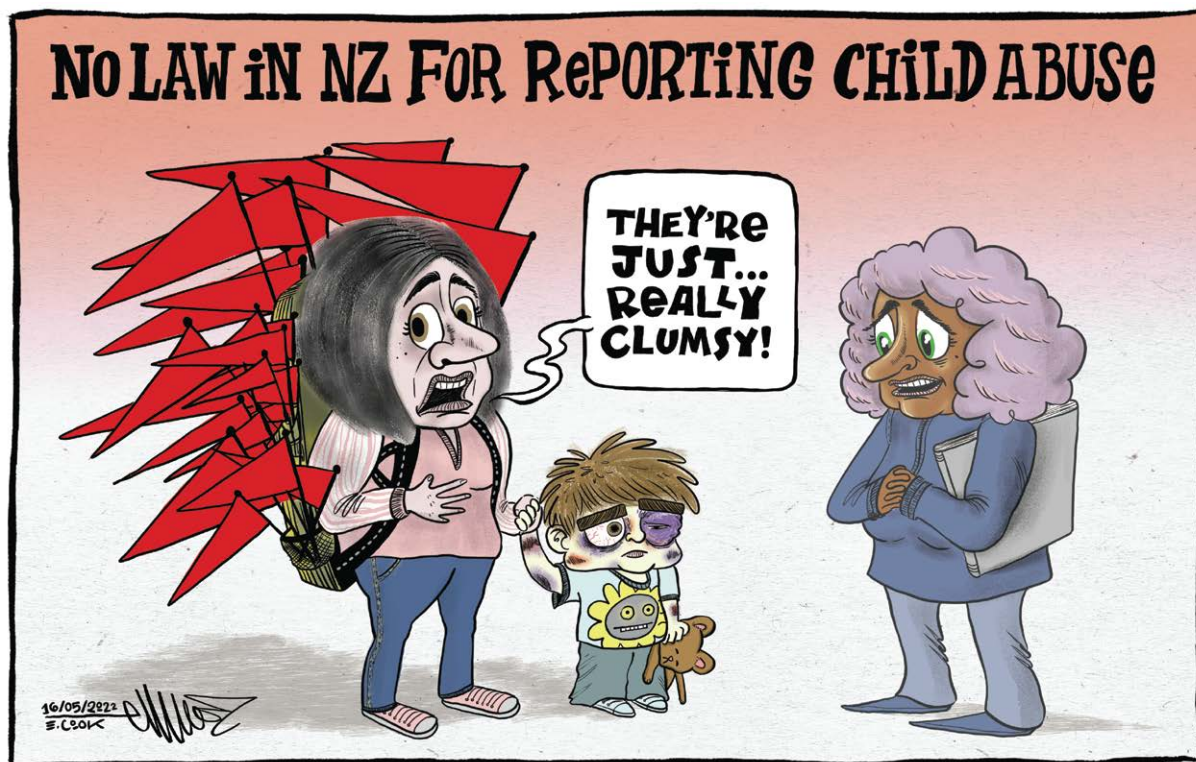
The trend for in-house online training continued to grow. Child Matters was contracted to deliver training to many sectors including Education (including Kindergartens, Day-care centres, Boards of Trustees, Primary Schools, and High Schools), Health (District Health Boards, Optometrists, and Disability providers), Government (Oranga Tamariki and New Zealand Police), Churches, Community Trust Boards and school camps. There was more than a 20 percent rise in requests for in-house training to be held via Zoom, particularly for organisations whose staff were working on the frontline in health and education.

MANDATORY REPORTING

The death of five-year old Malachi Subecz in November 2021 highlighted the gap in New Zealand law that it is not mandatory for teachers to report signs of child abuse. The day-care centre that Malachi attended had taken photos of injuries but they were never passed onto the appropriate agencies. Chief Executive Jane Searle was called upon to offer comment on the issue and share the views of Child Matters.

"With one child dying from abuse every five weeks on average in New Zealand, the need for teachers and child workers to have compulsory child protection training is crucial if we are to have a society that knows how to protect its children and young people, take action when needed, and follow up to ensure their safety," she said.

"The introduction of mandatory training and reporting would be a simple and effective change to implement to help protect our most vulnerable tamariki. The Government needs to listen and work quickly to close this gap in legislation," said Searle. Child Matters' view is that mandatory training and reporting are the key to protecting children, and ultimately saving lives.



NZ DIPLOMA IN CHILD PROTECTION

For the 2022 calendar year, the NZQA Level 5 NZ Diploma in Child Protection was run in Hamilton and for the first time in Nelson. Due to COVID-19, much of the training had to be delivered remotely. Accordingly, Child Matters was able to reassess how to best meet the needs of students in future years.

From 2023, the Diploma will be delivered in a mixture of face-to-face classroom learning and self-directed or online learning. This means that during each of the six weeklong blocks students will be required to attend just three days of face-to-face training rather than five days. The 2023 Diploma will be held in Auckland (Papakura) and Hamilton.

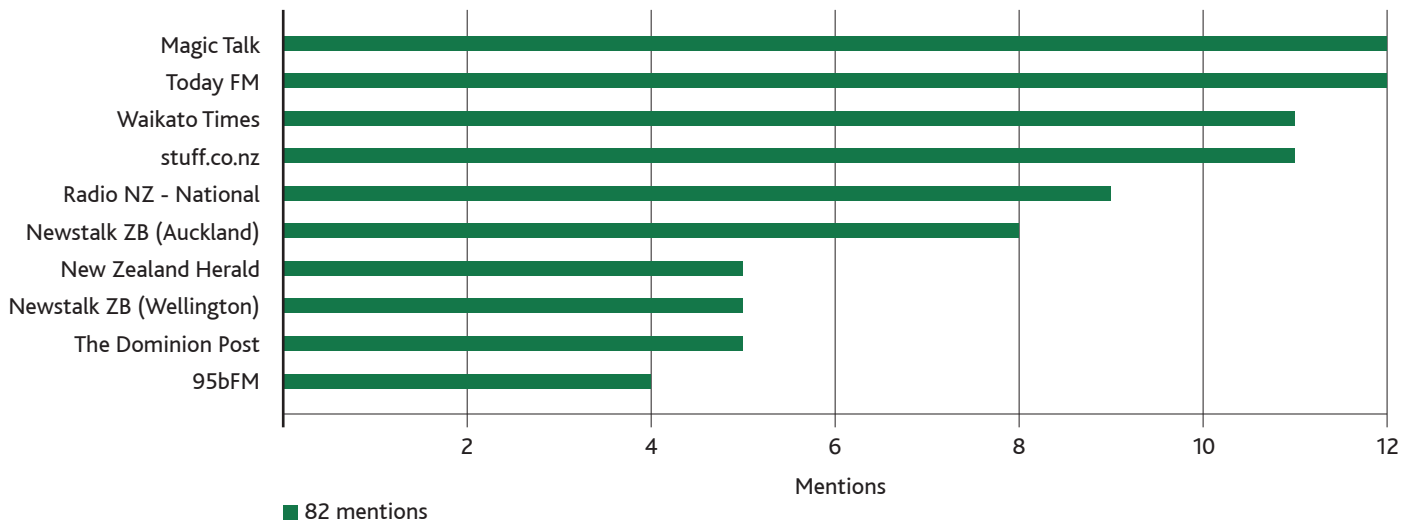


NZ DIPLOMA
in Child Protection

MEDIA COVERAGE

Media coverage included interviews and commentary on TV Three NewsHub, national radio programmes such as Magic Talk, 95bFM, Today FM, Newstalk ZB and Radio New Zealand, and many national and regional newspapers. Highlights included television interviews with Jack Tame on Q&A, and Amanda Gillies for her two-part series "Because It Matters."

Top 10 Outlets



SPONSORS

Sponsorship, partnerships with funders and donations are crucial for Child Matters to continue its mahi with frontline workers around New Zealand. In particular, Child Matters would like to acknowledge long-time supporters Kiwi Commercial Cleaning whose monthly donations cover many ongoing costs, and The Verandah Café who continue to provide delicious catering for all our courses in Hamilton.



FINANCIAL MATTERS



In the 2022 financial year Child Matters had an income of \$1,335,032 and made a loss of \$19,693. This loss was due to increased expenditure on staff expertise and the development of online courses which enabled service delivery to continue uninterrupted in the COVID environment. These changes ensured students were able to access training regardless of the financial and logistical constraints that COVID brought.

Six Year Results

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
\$175,083	\$341,742	\$257,773	\$71,023	\$135,171	(\$19,693)

Child Matters' income continued to come from a variety of sources. Clients purchasing training and advisory services include various Government departments, public agencies, private companies and not-for-profit organisations. New income streams were generated from pre-recorded online training courses and school child protection audits.

Sources of Income 2022

Student Fees	\$317,052	24%
Grants and Scholarships	\$184,023	14%
Government Funding	\$220,836	17%
Fee for Service	\$417,347	35%
Other	\$141,774	10%
Total	\$1,335,032	

Sources of Income

	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Student Fees	24%	29%	28%	35%	24%
Grants and Scholarships	20%	22%	26%	14%	14%
Fee for Service	39%	29%	31%	30%	35%



“ The more child advocates we train and motivate, the more people that join this important mahi ”

– Edgar Wilson, Chair, Child Matters



Edgar Wilson (Chair) - Edgar Wilson is a Justice of the Peace, Marriage Celebrant and an educationalist with 28 years of teaching and management experience in secondary schools throughout New Zealand and the United Kingdom. For six years, he was the regional manager for the Tertiary Education Commission in Waikato and was head of the School of Education and Social Development at the Waikato Institute of Technology (Wintec). Currently, he is the regional engagement manager at Wintec, and the CEO of the Wintec Foundation. He is also the Chair of Trust Waikato, Chair of K'aute Pasifika Trust and Chair of Child Matters (Child Protection Studies).

John Bailey - John Bailey has a master's degree in education with a focus on children with special needs and educational leadership. John's teaching background was in primary schools, spending 20 years as a school principal in rural and city schools. He also spent time with the Ministry of Education supporting schools and children. He is now retired, plays croquet, travels throughout the Pacific and follows the progress of his grandchildren with their education.

Andrew Clements - A director (lawyer) and Notary Public at Grayson Clements Lawyers. Andrew regularly advises businesses, business families, charitable entities, and private wealth clients domestically and internationally. He specialises in structural design, with a focus on ownership, trusts and succession. He is a past New Zealand editorial advisor to the British Trusts and Trustees Law Journal and a full member of the Society of Trusts and Estate Practitioners (TEP). Andrew has managed national and local training providers and consulted at board level in the engineering, educational and philanthropic sectors.

Rachel Karalus - Leaupepe Rachel Karalus is the Chief Executive of K'aute Pasifika Trust. K'aute Pasifika Trust is a charitable trust providing health, social, and education services to community using Pacific models of care and practice. Rachel is of Samoan descent with strong roots in the Waikato Region and has a professional background in law. She is presently a director of Habitat for Humanity Central.

Brendon McLean - Brendon McLean is the international business manager at Prolife Foods. Brendon has extensive experience in the fast-moving consumer goods industry in New Zealand, Australia and Asia, bringing with him strategic and commercial knowledge. Brendon has a Bachelor of Commerce in marketing and management. He was also a member of the Community and Enterprise Leadership Foundation programme in 2016, whose mission is to build future leaders who can reimagine a stronger Waikato from a social, environmental, cultural and economic perspective.

Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai (Te Rarawa, Waikato) – Sarah-Jane Tiakiwai is the Deputy Vice-Chancellor Maori at the University of Waikato. Sarah-Jane's PhD was in Maori Studies with a focus on Maori success in education. She has over 20 years' experience in the tertiary sector as a lecturer, researcher and executive leader working in university and wananga. Sarah-Jane also spent 7 years as inaugural academic director of the Waikato-Tainui College for Research and Development, an iwi-led academic and research institution which collaborated nationally and internationally with iwi across Aotearoa and indigenous nations around the world on a wide range of development focused programmes and initiatives including early childhood oral health, whanau ora, water, nation building, governance and leadership.

Anthea Simcock - Anthea has a background in both education and child therapy and was the founding chief executive officer of Child Matters, a role she held for 23 years. In 2012 she was awarded an ONZM for services to children. She has held many local and national roles, memberships and appointments in the social services and NFP sectors and now brings her knowledge and experience to a governance role on the Child Matters board.

Andrea Twaddle - Andrea Twaddle is a director at DTI Lawyers, a specialist employment lawyer and workplace investigator. Andrea has extensive experience advising and representing clients on people and culture matters, including privacy and health and safety. Andrea has a special interest in the education and mental health sectors, and acts in Coronial Inquiries. Andrea is an educator on legal issues, including presentations for the New Zealand Law Society as well as providing guidance to industry groups, other professional advisors, and leadership teams. Andrea is committed to serving the community and is the former Presiding Member of the Cambridge Primary School Board.



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