

# Haere Rā to Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft

Outgoing Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft has a signature move. In a presentation he likes to strip off his suit jacket – and reinforce his message in a personalised T-shirt.

One of his farewell events, Covid enforcing NEXT Chief Executive Bill Kermode to zoom into, was no exception. “E tirohia tamaiti, E tirohia te heke mai”, his T-shirt read. “See the child. See the future.”



“Judge Becroft’s philosophy is completely aligned with NEXT’s education focus,” says Bill Kermode. “His experience in the Youth Court gave him a first-hand understanding of how crucial the first 1000 days of life are for the tamariki of Aotearoa New Zealand. Those formative years are a strong predictor of outcomes later in life. Investing in the first thousand days is an investment not only in the child but in the future for New Zealand.”

“His contribution and counsel over the past five years for us has been invaluable. We wish him all the very best in his next chapter.”

NEXT was privileged to have Judge Becroft as guest speaker at a NEXT Outlook breakfast during his tenure at the Office of the Children’s Commissioner. His chosen topic was “It’s all won or lost by the fifth birthday,” where drawing on his own experience, he explained how critical the very early years of life are, and explored how New Zealand could improve its outcomes for our children.

And in his signature move the presentation included two costume changes – into some other poignant personalised T-shirts.

To view his presentation and learn more about the T-shirts click on the thumbnail below.

