



**Child and Youth  
Wellbeing**

---

# Oranga Tamariki Action Plan

The Children's Agencies' joint plan  
to prevent harm, and promote wellbeing,  
for the children and young people in the  
populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki

---



---

# Contents

**2**

Aotearoa should be the best place in the world for all children to live

**3**

The Action Plan is focused on children and young people with the greatest needs

**4**

Actions will have a significant impact on Māori, Pacific, and disabled people

**5**

To achieve these outcomes for Oranga Tamariki priority populations, joint agency collaboration is needed

**6**

Actions have been developed under four categories

**7**

The Action Plan supports and builds on change programmes underway across government, both within and between agencies

**8**

We will measure, respond, and learn as we go

# Aotearoa should be the best place in the world for all children to live

We want Aotearoa New Zealand to be a place where all children and young people are loved, confident, happy, healthy, and empowered to reach their full potential. The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy), launched in 2019, provides a unifying framework of outcomes that the government, with communities and partners, will work towards for all children.

These are set out below.

CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE



... are LOVED, SAFE and NURTURED



... have WHAT they NEED



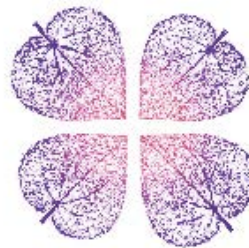
... are HAPPY and HEALTHY



... are LEARNING and DEVELOPING



... are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED and CONNECTED



... are INVOLVED and EMPOWERED

Under the Children's Act 2014, the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan must set out how children's agencies will work together to achieve the outcomes set out in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy for the core populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki and may include any other steps considered important to improving the wellbeing of those populations.

The Oranga Tamariki Action Plan drives a shared accountability and monitoring framework across children's agencies to improve the wellbeing of Oranga Tamariki priority populations and prevent the need for them to come into care or be involved with the youth justice system. It is also one of the mechanisms to support implementation of the Oranga Tamariki Future Direction Plan.

The Action Plan will bring all agencies together to support key shifts in the experiences of children and young people and their families, whānau, and communities. In particular, the Action Plan will drive activity to ensure that the holistic wellbeing needs of children and young people are met.

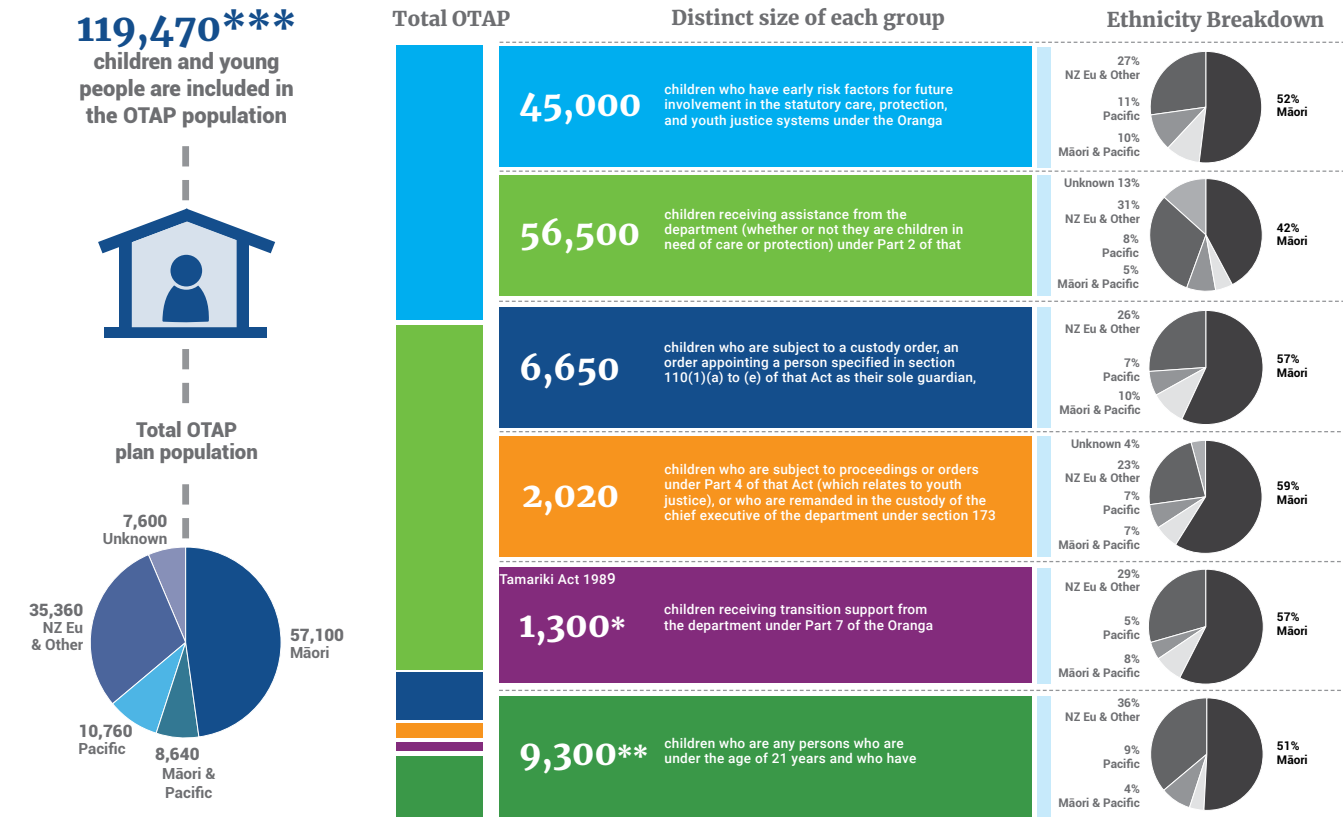
# The Action Plan is focused on children and young people with the greatest needs

This Action Plan is a statutory accountability mechanism which requires chief executives of children’s agencies<sup>1</sup> to work together to jointly deliver on steps to promote the best interests and holistic wellbeing of children and young people with the greatest needs (the ‘priority populations’).

Together, the children and young people in these cohorts number roughly 230,000 children and young people; 99,000 of whom are tamariki and rangatahi Māori, 20,000 are Māori and Pacific and 28,000 of whom are Pacific.

The children, young people, whānau, and families who Oranga Tamariki works with are among those New Zealanders with the greatest wellbeing needs. Poor outcomes are intergenerational and systemic, the priority populations are likely to have poor long-term, even life-long outcomes in a number of areas without major changes across government.

A key insight from engagement with children and young people in the care system is that they want the same experiences, choices, and opportunities as other children and young people. However, they continue to face barriers to achieving outcomes set by the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. These barriers include limits on access to key health and education services that have the potential to significantly improve their wellbeing and long-term outcomes. Some of these barriers are set out on page 10-11.



\* This group is not mutually exclusive to other groups. Many of the young people receiving a transitions service are also included in other categories

\*\* If a child has interacted with Oranga Tamariki in the last year they are not included in (c)

\*\*\* Excludes the transitions population as these young people are also included across a mixture of other categories

1 Children’s agencies are Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand Police and the Ministries of Education, Social Development, Health and Justice, but other agencies can be involved, such as Te Puni Kōkiri, the Department of Corrections and the Ministry for Housing and Urban Development.

2 See definition of “core populations of interest to the department” in section 5 of the Children’s Act 2014.

# Actions will have a significant impact on Māori, Pacific, and disabled people

**As we implement this Action Plan to improve the wellbeing and outcomes for the priority populations, we will also consider how outcomes for the following vulnerable groups of children and young people can be supported. In addition to the populations below, agencies will consider the unique and intersecting needs of a range of other population groups in implementation of this plan, including migrant and refugee groups, and young people identifying as SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristic) diverse.**

## Māori and Te Tiriti o Waitangi

Given the over-representation of tamariki and rangatahi Māori in priority populations, the Action Plan seeks to reduce these disparities. Children's agencies have Te Tiriti o Waitangi-related obligations to achieve equity and improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. Our approach and our response to our Te Tiriti commitments must be created in partnership with Māori, whānau, hapū, iwi, Māori organisations, and communities. Under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, the chief executive of Oranga Tamariki has specific obligations to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and uphold and protect the familial structures of whānau, hapū, and iwi. The support of other agencies is required to do this.

<sup>3</sup> To estimate the number of disabled children and young people, a proxy measure is often used of the number or percentage that are receiving Disability Support Services (DSS) from the Ministry of Health. We estimate that children and young people with a medical diagnosis that meets the narrow DSS criteria for disability make up at least 10% of the priority population overall, and over 25% of some specific cohorts. However, these rates are underestimates, as administrative data sources only reflect known and met needs, and do not include, for example, children covered by ACC (children who have been injured through family violence, sexual violence or accidents), those who have either not engaged with the medical system or have not received a diagnosis, children with FASD who have an IQ above 70, and those who do not meet thresholds for funding.

*"People think you're damaged goods" It becomes your label. You're not a person, you're someone in foster care." Young person in non-family care "from Making Sense of Being In Care report"*

## Pacific people

A considerable number of Pacific children and young people come to the attention of Oranga Tamariki; many of whom also whakapapa to Māori iwi. The child poverty indicators highlight Pacific children as experiencing greater inequities in relation to having the basic living needs when compared to other population groups. Pacific children are more likely to be admitted to hospital and experience some of the highest disparities in health and wellbeing. Our response will include a significant focus on partnering with Pacific families, providers, and communities to improve outcomes for Pacific peoples, acknowledging that Pacific people are not one group and belong to a range of communities.

## Disabled people

Disabled children and young people experience greater inequities and are more likely to be abused and be left in abusive environments when compared to other population groups. The Ombudsman's report He Take Kōhukihuki highlighted the need to uphold the rights of all disabled people Oranga Tamariki works with, including children, young people, and disabled parents in ways consistent with the social and rights-based model of disability. We estimate that in the priority populations, between 10 and 25 percent are disabled children and young people<sup>3</sup>.

*"It's all about supporting iwi to lead out for their rohe " that's what the officials have to trust. They're not the point " it's about whānau. Government have to shift their mindset to follow the iwi. "That's the best way of collectivising and avoiding competition and duplication". " Representative from Oranga Tamariki s7AA strategic partner "Te Kahu Aroha"*

To achieve these outcomes for priority populations, joint agency collaboration is needed

**The responsibility for improving the wellbeing of children, young people and whānau, preventing the need for children and young people to come into care, and addressing the underlying factors that contribute to offending and reducing the potential for lifelong offending, sits with a range of government agencies and requires a collective approach.**

**Challenges faced by these families are often complex, compounding, and intergenerational, including the combined impacts of poverty, racism and discrimination, long-term unemployment, low income, poor housing, unaddressed physical and mental health needs, alcohol and drug abuse, and family violence.**

*A good life “means that all my needs are met and that I am able to have access to some of my wants. It also means that I have people who can care for me and that I can explore my interests and passions.”*  
15 year old non-binary gender (What Makes a Good Life( Report(

A key issue identified in the report of the Ministerial Advisory Board (Te Kahu Aroha) was the need for collaboration between government agencies.

Māori stakeholders that the Board spoke to talked about agencies working in ‘silos’. Many stakeholders also raised the importance of taking a preventative approach, and the need for increased collaboration to achieve this. Māori and communities described a clear need for prevention services to come from them, with Oranga Tamariki and other agencies playing a supporting role.

Oranga Tamariki social workers, alongside all kaimahi working with whānau, need support from other agencies to do their job and build trust with children, young people, families, whānau, and communities. Social workers need to be able to confidently refer children, young people and their families to essential health, education, and youth justice services and alert other agencies to issues that need to be rectified. In addition, access to services and support is critical when young people are leaving care and youth justice residences. There need to be good cross-agency relationships at the front line to support these requirements.

---

# Actions have been developed under four categories

**Actions have been developed to drive collaboration across agencies in a way that is guided by evidence, by communities, and by the voices and needs of children, young people, and whānau.**

The Actions are set out in the attached actions table under the following four categories:

- short-term practical steps
- building an evidence-based picture of need
- meeting children's and young people's needs and building whānau resilience
- community led, regionally enabled, centrally supported prevention.

A strong and passionate sense of urgency is needed by all agencies to respond immediately to the needs of children, young people and their families and whānau before issues and challenges escalate further impacting on the wellbeing of whānau.

There is a focus on urgent practical short-term actions (actions 1 and 2), as well as more long-term joint actions to meet the identified needs, and achieve the outcomes of the Strategy, for the priority populations (actions 6 to 10). There is a particular focus on urgently meeting the health, education, and housing needs of children and young people, as these are key determiners of wellbeing that other agencies play a lead role in.

Many of the actions will support the Oranga Tamariki Future Direction Plan, particularly those aimed at galvanising cross agency support for local communities, iwi, hapū, NGOs and agencies to take ownership of the local system that supports whānau and prevents harm to children and young people in the way they know will work for their people. This includes urgent actions to ensure communities and iwi have the information they need to develop community solutions (action 5) and commitment to jointly support local and whānau-led system learning approaches, with an initial focus on the first 1,000 days of life (action 11).

The Action Plan supports and builds on change programmes underway across government, both within and between agencies

**There are significant reform programmes underway in the education, health, and justice sector, as well as development and implementation of a cross-agency approach to the first 1,000 days, a strategy for Family Violence and Sexual Violence, and a model for regional public service leadership.**

Social sector agencies have agreed upon a set of principles that will govern the future of social sector commissioning, with a focus on urgency, local collaboration and relational ways of working. The work that stems from the Action Plan will support and leverage off existing or emerging change programmes and ensure that it aligns with and complements the strategic direction of other relevant initiatives, avoiding duplication of efforts.

In common with many of these change programmes, this Action Plan:

- has a focus on prevention, by aiming to urgently intervene before issues and challenges emerge, escalate, and contribute to negative long-term outcomes
- looks to encourage agencies to act as one team, with a sole focus on resolving issues facing children and their whānau involved with Oranga Tamariki
- supports partnership and collaboration with hapū, iwi, and Māori organisations and empowers the voices of tamariki and rangatahi Māori, and their whānau
- aims to bring direction and decision making on service and system design to a local community or regional level, where the specific opportunities and challenges of that area can be taken into account by local people who know what will work.

### **Youth Crime Action Plan**

Young people in the youth justice system, or with early risk factors for contact with the youth justice system, are priority populations for the Action Plan, and are also the focus of the Youth Crime Action Plan (YCAP). Oranga Tamariki, New Zealand Police, the Ministry of Justice, Ara Poutama - Department of Corrections, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education and Te Puni Kōkiri will continue to implement the YCAP.

The YCAP is aligned with this Action Plan, with a focus on prevention of harm and offending, and driving locally led solutions. It currently has two workstreams underway: improving responses to children with offending behaviour, and young people with neurodiversity challenges.

The YCAP expires in 2023, at which point agencies can consider what actions or tools are needed to support cross-agency work.



---

*We will measure,  
respond, and learn  
as we go*

*"Not just Oranga Tamariki, but bringing all the agencies together and committing them to this kaupapa, to model and commit. This is the kaupapa that can "should" must bring them together".*  
(M(ori stakeholder (Te Kahu Aroha)

**A key focus of the Action Plan is to develop and build on the evidence and insights we have about priority populations and their needs. We will develop a whole-of-government picture, including evidence of the key gaps and problems within the system, and how the system is or is not meeting needs.**

**We will learn from insights from regions and communities about their needs and aspirations, as well as evaluations of initiatives and actions. Agencies will take an agile approach to respond to this evidence as it emerges. This means that the Action Plan, and joint priorities across agencies, will evolve over time.**

Children's agencies are jointly responsible for delivering on the Action Plan. The Social Wellbeing Board<sup>4</sup> and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers, led by the Minister for Children, will provide monitoring and oversight of implementation of the Action Plan.

In addition, the Independent Monitor of the Oranga Tamariki System will play an important role to assess the contributions of all agency partners to meeting the wellbeing needs of children, and the impact of policies and practices of relevant agencies on the priority populations.

Implementation and evaluation of the actions will be reported on, and a new version will be released, following the upcoming review of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

---

<sup>4</sup> The Social Wellbeing Board is a group of chief executives of social sector agencies that meet regularly, including the chief executives of the children's agencies.

---

# Barriers and risks faced by children and young people in priority populations

## Health and wellbeing

- The children, young people, and their families and whānau that Oranga Tamariki are involved with often have multiple, complex needs, including the combined impacts of poverty, racism and discrimination, long-term unemployment, low income, poor housing, unaddressed physical and mental health needs, alcohol and drug abuse, family breakdown and family violence.
- Children in care are significantly more likely to have a diagnosed disability than other children known to Oranga Tamariki. This is associated with additional support needs for schooling, along with more frequent contact with hospitals and mental health service providers.
- One in seven children in New Zealand grow up in violent homes. One in three girls, and one in seven boys, are subject to some form of sexual abuse by the time they reach sixteen years.
- Traumatic experiences increase the likelihood of experiencing poor mental health and addictions.
- Young people in care are significantly more likely to develop adult health conditions. Mental health treatment and substance usage treatment is much more prevalent for the cohorts that have had prior interaction with Oranga Tamariki.

## Stigma and discrimination

- It is likely that the ongoing impacts of colonisation and racism have contributed to the disproportionate number of reports of concern received for tamariki Māori, and tamariki Māori are more often referred for further assessment or family group conference (FGC).
- Children and young people in the care and youth justice systems often experience stigma and discrimination as a result of their involvement in the system.
- This can be compounded with stigma resulting from other factors, for example disability or identifying as SOGIESC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Expression, and Sex Characteristic) diverse. Gender diverse children and young people are 5 times more likely to be involved with Oranga Tamariki.

## Youth Justice

- Children and young people with offending behaviours have usually experienced disproportionate socio-economic deprivation and are more likely to have parents who have had interactions with Oranga Tamariki as children when compared to the rest of the population (particularly Family Group Conferences and care experience).
- Children aged 0-5 years with a parent with a corrections history are 8.7 times more likely to have an Oranga Tamariki placement.
- People with FASD and other neurodiversity are likely to be overrepresented in the youth justice system. FASD and neurodiversity impacts on a child or young person's behaviour and the interventions that may be appropriate for them.
- Children and young people who have statutory involvement with both care and protection and youth justice have poorer wellbeing indicators at age 17. In their early adult life they are more likely to receive a benefit, less likely to be engaged in education and more likely to receive mental health or substance use treatment.
- Children and young people who have statutory youth justice involvement are more likely as an adult to offend and receive multiple corrections sentences by the age of 22.

## Whānau centred services

- Traditional policy approaches to improve outcomes for individuals have delivered poor outcomes for Māori.
- Traditional Māori society is based on collectives. Whānau are the foundation of Māori society, and are the fundamental transformational change agent for wellbeing and intergenerational change.
- There are not enough whānau-centred services and supports, and not enough are based in tikanga Māori and delivered by iwi and Māori organisations.

---

## Education

- Care-experienced children and young people are much more likely to change schools – which often negatively affects learning, social skills, and relationships.
- Caregivers, social workers, and teachers need to believe in the potential of children and young people, and advocate to have their needs identified and met (such as learning support needs).
- Children who are in care or have care experience have significantly higher representation across a range of school disengagement indicators. They are significantly less likely to achieve NCEA level 2 and are more likely to have negative outcomes as a result, such as benefit dependency, offending, and not being in education, employment, or training.

## Cultural connection

- Connection to culture is integral to wellbeing. Children and young people need to be recognised as part of their whānau, hapū, iwi, family and community.
- Children want to, and it is important that they, feel a sense of belonging. However, for children in care, caregivers may not have the support to navigate and encourage connection with Māori and Pacific culture.

## Transition to adulthood

- The government services system is difficult to navigate for young people. This makes it challenging for young people to receive support in key areas, such as mental health, housing, income and employment support. The economic and social impacts of COVID-19, particularly lower employment opportunities, are likely to fall disproportionately on these young people.
- Young people leaving care face additional challenges as they move to independence, such as difficulty accessing support to find accommodation or jobs.

## COVID-19

- It is expected a number of longer-term impacts of COVID-19 and our pandemic response will become visible over the course of children and young peoples' lifetimes.
- The number of children experiencing material hardship is expected to increase and those children will be more likely to experience worse cognitive, social, behavioural, and health outcomes both during childhood and into adulthood.
- Increased economic pressure can be associated with higher levels of family harm. Childhood exposure to family violence and poor mental health increases the risk of mental distress and substance-related harm in adult life.
- Educational disengagement arising from school closures is a risk both from an inequity of opportunity perspective and for increased youth unemployment.



Child and Youth  
Wellbeing

# Oranga Tamariki Action Plan



# Implementing the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan

**Together we will find solutions and do whatever it takes**

The Oranga Tamariki Action Plan and this Implementation Plan deliver on the outcomes set out in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy for children and young people with the greatest needs.

## Our collective commitment

There are children, young people, families and whānau who need help and who haven't been getting what they need, when they need it. The Oranga Tamariki Action Plan is the children's agencies' collective commitment to ensure that children, young people and their families and whānau with the greatest needs receive the support and services they require to prevent harm and realise oranga tamariki. This Implementation Plan outlines how we will honour that commitment to identify and start delivering practical improvements before the end of 2022.

## Achieving oranga tamariki needs significant and measurable results

Evidence and experience tell us that key determinants of wellbeing include positive housing conditions, good health including mental wellbeing, access to good education, and support to be independent and connected with the community.

To support all children and young people to achieve these, chief executives of the children's agencies have committed to achieving the following significant and measurable results. Children and young people with the greatest needs will receive increased holistic support and see improved outcomes.

The initial focus will be on supporting the children and young people who are in the care or custody of Oranga Tamariki, in the youth justice system, or receiving transitions support from Oranga Tamariki. This means that throughout 2022 and 2023 we will prioritise:

### Good health including mental wellbeing

Children and young people in care and youth justice have their health needs assessed, planned for and met through an integrated service model by agencies working together to provide holistic and tailored care

### Positive housing conditions

Every young person transitioning from care and receiving the transitionsupport service can access temporary accommodation or long-term housing

### Access to good education

Following notification of a child or young person being placed in a care and protection residence or serving a sentence in a youth justice residence, local Ministry of Education staff will be engaged in transition planning for that child or young person no later than 30 days before their planned exit out of residence.

### Support to grow, connect, and be independent

Every young person ageing out of care has a transition pathway into employment, education or training

## Making it happen

Bringing the Action Plan to life involves:

- Short term practical steps completed by 2022 (pp3-4)
- Building an evidence-based picture of need (p4)
- Meeting children and young people's needs and building whānau resilience (p4)
- Community-led, regionally-enabled, centrally-supported prevention (p4)

We will start delivering change before the end of 2022. Throughout 2023 we will accelerate design and delivery.

## Mahi is already underway

- A clear evidence base for decision making is being developed
- In-depth assessments of housing, health, and education needs have started
- Identification of short-term practical actions that support the Action Plan has started
- Design and development of further short-term practical actions has started

## Over the next six months we will

- Report on our progress against the significant and measurable results (repeat every 6 months)
- Implement the short-term practical actions to meet the needs of the children and young people with the greatest needs
- Complete four in-depth assessments of need with recommendations on how to prioritise access to services in the health, education, and housing sectors
- Ensure children and young people with the greatest needs are visible and prioritised in the work of new agencies, including in the Ministry for Disabled People, Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority
- Develop a new joined-up prevention approach in communities to support the first 1000 days of a child's life

## A strong foundation for change

In order to successfully deliver this Implementation Plan, we will:

- Listen to children, young people, whānau, communities, and social workers advocating for children and young people
- Keep the needs of children, young people and their whānau at the centre of our decision-making
- Act early, and focus on prevention
- Commit to finding solutions, whatever it takes
- Build our evidence base to further understand needs and how to respond to them
- Share data, evidence and insights between agencies and with communities, to support decision-making
- Focus our investment on the children and young people with the greatest needs

## CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE



... are LOVED, SAFE and NURTURED



... have WHAT they NEED



... are HAPPY and HEALTHY



... are LEARNING and DEVELOPING



... are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED and CONNECTED



... are INVOLVED and EMPOWERED

### We will know we are making a difference when:

#### Children, young people, families and whānau:

- get the help they need, when they need it, no matter where they live
- experience a coordinated, unified approach in having their needs met
- know about the supports and services available to them, have confidence in using them, and believe their needs are being addressed and their views heard

#### Iwi and communities:

- are enabled to provide tailored and flexible supports for children and young people
- are supported and resourced to develop collective child wellbeing objectives and implement collaborative local prevention responses

#### Social workers, carers, and others who work with children and young people:

- are able to access services and supports for the children and young people they are advocating for, in a timely way
- are able to collaborate across agencies and with whānau and communities to pursue the best solutions for the children and young people they work with

#### The children's system:

- is a cohesive system where collaboration across agencies and with iwi and communities is the norm and is prioritised
- has a good foundation of information sharing and is underpinned by evidence-based decision-making
- is equipped with effective policies, processes, structures and tools to enable agencies to deliver good outcomes, and hold agencies accountable (individually and collectively)

### We will need to work together differently to secure improved outcomes for children and young people

There are six children's agencies involved with the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan: Oranga Tamariki, the New Zealand Police, and the Ministries of Education, Social Development, Health, and Justice.

However, there are many other current and new agencies that are essential to securing the outcomes children, young people and their families and whānau need, including, Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development.

The work already underway will lay the foundation for ambitious system changes that are needed to secure improved long-term outcomes for children and young people with the greatest needs. We will work collaboratively to drive integration across the children's system, moving from transactional and siloed service provision to a relational, integrated, needs-based, outcomes-focussed children's system. These are significant changes to the way we work, and will take investment and time to embed.

The children's agencies are responsible for working collectively on these actions. The agencies are also responsible for action in their individual sectors. In health, for example, the Ministry of Health is the responsible children's agency and it will work in partnership with Health New Zealand and the Māori Health Authority to commission services and work with providers.

#### Regional Public Service Leaders will play a key role

Regional Public Service Commissioners are leaders with responsibility for convening the public service at a regional level, to achieve better outcomes. We will work with Regional Public Service Commissioners on how they can help drive support for, and engagement with the Action Plan through regional leadership (agencies, iwi, local government and partners) to enable locally-led solutions.

#### Agencies are jointly accountable for the delivery of the Action Plan

The Children's Act 2014 identifies the six key statutes that enable activities to support the Action Plan. These statutes cover the key government departments – the 'children's agencies' – that are responsible, both individually and collectively, for action under the Plan and these will be reflected in the accountability documents of those departments and monitored alongside the rest of the department's activity. In some sectors, such as Health, the Ministry's responsibilities need action by others in the sector. The agencies are also responsible for action in their individual sectors.

Governance is provided by the Social Wellbeing Board and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministers, who are responsible for the monitoring and oversight of implementation of the Action Plan. Both groups meet regularly and will ensure the work identified in the Plan is being delivered.

It is envisaged that in the future, the role of the Independent Monitor of the Oranga Tamariki system will include assessing the contributions of all agencies in meeting the wellbeing needs of the children and young people with the greatest needs.

#### ...and must report on progress

Children's agencies must formally report to the 'Plan Minister'\* on progress to implement their actions and include this information in their annual report (s11 of the Children's Act 2014). In turn, the Plan Minister is accountable both to Parliament and the Executive for the Action Plan (s13).

\*The current Plan Minister is Hon. Kelvin Davis, Minister for Children. As the Plan Minister responsible for the Action Plan or the 'Plan Minister' they are accountable both to Parliament and the Executive for the Action Plan under Part 1, s13 of the Children's Act 2014.

---

# Implementation Plan

## Short term practical actions

### First steps - to be completed by December 2022, unless otherwise stated

#### Ministry of Health

Our commitment is for children and young people in the priority populations to be physically and mentally well and have their support needs met.

- Develop locally-tailored resources to support social workers and carers supporting children and young people to arrange access to health and oral care services, fulfil health entitlements, and enrol with health care providers
  - Next step: implement and circulate within regions in 2023
  - Then: update by the end of 2023 in response to any feedback
- Specifically incorporate populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki within key health system accountability documents, such as the interim New Zealand Health Plan
- Establish a cross-agency data and insights group between the Ministry of Health and Oranga Tamariki to inform immediate and ongoing priorities and actions
- Develop and consult on options to support the transition of a child or young person in care from an acute mental health ward to community-based care by the end of 2022
  - Next step: develop and consult on options by mid 2023
  - Then: design and begin implementation of preferred option by the end of 2023

#### Ministry of Education

Our commitment is to ensure that children and young people in the priority populations are positively engaged with and achieving in education. The first steps will be to:

- Develop an Engagement in Learning Strategy which addresses the barriers children and young people, including children and young people in care, face to participating and progressing in their learning
  - Next step: Work with Regional Public Service Leads to take actions to understand and raise the levels of attendance and support the social and economic needs of ākongā and whānau
  - Then: Investigate how Te Mahau can better support schools to intervene early to improve attendance. This work will consider whether additional roles (for example, attendance officers) are required to support schools to focus on attendance
- Support iwi and Māori social service providers to facilitate and broker educationally powerful relationships between priority learners (including those in care) and their whānau, and education services
  - Next step: Develop a regular reporting cycle to measure the impacts of the facilitation and brokerage for priority learners and whānau by December 2022
  - Then: Utilise findings of regular reporting to support continuous improvement by identifying opportunities to leverage, gaps to fill, and challenges to respond to

#### Ministry of Social Development

Our commitment is to ensure that children, young people in the priority populations and their families and caregivers have a decent standard of living and are supported by a thriving and resilient community sector, and regional, iwi and community collaboration that promotes wellbeing and prevents harm.

The first steps will be to:

- Work with Regional Public Service Commissioners on how they can help drive support for and engagement in the Action Plan and actions through regional leadership (agencies, iwi, local government and partners) to enable locally-led solutions

#### Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

Our commitment is for children and young people in the priority populations to live in stable housing that is affordable, warm and dry. The first steps will be to:

- Review implementation of the initial 54 rangatahi youth focused transitional housing places to identify any improvements that can be applied when extending the service
  - Next step: Deliver up to an additional 95\* rangatahi youth focused transitional housing places beginning in late 2022
- Design a new supported accommodation service for rangatahi with higher and more complex needs that provides immediate access to safe, warm, and stable longer-term accommodation, along with age-appropriate intensive supports
  - Next step: Implementation, including procurement, of the new service from early 2023
  - Then: Deliver up to 65\* places beginning mid 2023
- Review supported housing under the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan looking across different supported housing typologies including those that support Oranga Tamariki populations of interest. Housing Ministers will receive further advice in July 2022 on the next steps for this work

\*The exact number of places under these initiatives may change over time depending on actual costs

---

## Short term practical actions

### Oranga Tamariki

Our commitment is to work across the children's system and with iwi and communities to ensure children and young people we are involved with, have their needs prioritised and holistically met. The first steps will be:

- Work collaboratively to support the other agencies to deliver the short term practical actions outlined in this Implementation Plan and the other actions in the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan
- Oranga Tamariki has an additional legislated responsibility for oversight of the Action Plan. Oranga Tamariki will advocate for those children and their families to other agencies to ensure those children's needs are met
- Initiate a review of the Gateway assessment process. Officials will gather information on Gateway and report to the Ministers of Health, Education and Children on the scope and approach for a review.
  - Next step: Ministerial decision on scope of review by mid 2023
  - Then: advice on options to Ministers by end 2023

### Justice Sector agencies

Our commitment is to prevent and reduce offending by children and young people, and support victims, by partnering with communities, reducing escalation, and supporting early sustainable exits from the youth justice system. The first steps will be to:

#### Ministry of Justice

- Develop court familiarisation resources for witnesses in sexual violence trials, including resources specifically designed for tamariki and rangatahi, to help prepare to give evidence in a sexual violence trial
  - Next step: Design and publish resources by early 2023
- Implement and evaluate new Kaiārahi roles in the Family Court to support parents to access services and community based support
- Expand the Young Adult List into Gisborne and Hamilton District Courts, with the aim of supporting young adults aged 18 to 25 to more easily understand and engage with the court process, and to enable the Court to have a better understanding of any barriers to full participation
- Identify options to increase access to family violence safety programmes for children

### Corrections

- Enhance local relationships between the women's prisons and their local Oranga Tamariki sites to support better outcomes for mothers and babies in the Corrections' Mothers and Babies Units and Feedings and Bonding Spaces
  - Next step: Build Oranga Tamariki knowledge of the Mothers with Babies Units, including potential site visits or off-site meetings August/Sept 2022 (COVID dependent)
  - Then: Check-in at a national level on progress of this action and whether any further action or support is needed by November/December 2022
- Implement a temporary process to use section 175 of the Criminal Procedure Act 2011 for placements of 18 year-olds remanded in custody where this provision applies by August 2022
  - Next Step: Review temporary process and develop options for a permanent process by mid 2023
  - Then: Implement a permanent process by the end of 2023
- Complete staff training for APYA (assessment placement of young adults) across prison sites to improve whānau-centred approaches for young people in Corrections custody
  - Next Step: Finish the roll out of staff training to the remaining sites by the end of 2022
  - Then: Review APYA six months after training completed, based on feedback and make any necessary adjustments in 2023

### Police

- Partner, design and deliver an enhanced pilot of Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi (a culturally responsive improved Alternative Action response to offending). Police will work in partnership with iwi Māori providers
  - Next step: partner with providers to test and learn to inform the future model of Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi. By July 2023, Police will develop selection criteria and conduct readiness mapping for future locations and begin engaging with providers
  - Then: Roll out Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi to twelve locations by 2025
- Identify issues and potential solutions with information sharing within Police systems to ensure rangatahi presenting with risky behaviours are connected to the right wellbeing supports, before behaviour develops into potential offending
  - Next step: Police will implement the required technology changes and then focus on supporting any practice change that may be required around connecting rangatahi to the right wellbeing supports
  - Then: Police will develop a reporting tool to monitor the result of the information-sharing. In 2023, once the reporting tool is developed, Police will review the connections or interventions that are occurring to support understanding if this is making a positive difference for rangatahi or if further work is required to realise the intended benefits of this change



**Building an evidence-based picture of need**

**First steps**

- Oranga Tamariki will deliver four of a series of in-depth assessments of need for the priority populations in 2022, with the remaining assessments delivered in 2023. These will look at:
  - housing needs
  - health needs, including the mental health, primary care and specialist health needs
  - education needs and experiences
- Agencies included in recommendations made in the in-depth assessments of need report back to the Social Wellbeing Board within three months on how and when they will respond to the recommendations
- Dashboard prototype presented to Ministers and dashboard cycle established by December 2022
- Explore regional and community data needs in the communities being focused on under Oranga Tamariki's Enabling Communities initiative

**Meeting children's and young people's needs and building whānau resilience**

- Progress actions listed in the report from the Education Review Office (ERO) on learning in residential care
- Respond to the recommendations listed in the report from the Education Review Office (ERO) on learning in residential care, through a joint Ministry of Education, Oranga Tamariki and ERO work programme. Nineteen actions will be completed by December 2022,
  - Next step: four further actions will be completed by July 2023
  - Then: ERO intends to review education in residential care settings in 2024/25

**Community led, regionally enabled, centrally supported prevention**

- In September 2022, the Social Wellbeing Board will provide advice to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group on options and costings for extending community-led planning and innovation approaches to child and youth wellbeing, with an initial focus on the first 1000 days as a foundation for a life course approach
  - Next step: All initial community-led planning and innovation approaches implemented by June 2023.
  - Then: Agencies respond to community-led proposals from June 2023 onwards
- Advice to responsible Minister for the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy on the First statutory review of the Strategy by August 2022, drawing on insights from targeted engagement with children and young people, representatives of iwi and Māori and other child and youth wellbeing experts. Review completed in consultation with Children's Ministers
  - Next step: If the government proposes any changes to the Strategy arising from the review, there will be broader public consultation on these proposed changes
  - Then: Development of revised Strategy for Cabinet consideration, endorsement and publication
- Progress development of an investment plan to support delivery of Te Aorerekura: The National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence
  - Next step: Deliver component parts of an investment plan in August 2022
  - Then: Work to deliver a full "investment plan" in mid 2023, building from: component parts and other inputs developed across Te Aorerekura, testing and learning from the Budget 2023 process, and work with communities on ways to bring their voice to government decision-making. The investment plan will be a living document that continues to evolve over time to reflect improved information, strengthening relationships, and the impact of ongoing decisions over the 25 year life of Te Aorerekura
- Prototype community-based and locally-led response to reports of concern, and explore what other agency support is required
- Drawing on early insights from the COVID-19 Care in the Community evaluation, identify opportunities to build on successful locally-led and regionally-enabled approaches with a view to creating more enduring collaborations that sustain community resilience
  - Next step: analyse and synthesise findings into a final report in 2023
  - Then: advise Ministers on any recommendations for change by the end of 2023