

Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Six-monthly Implementation Report Back to June 2023

Part 1: Summary Report

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How to navigate this report

This report package consists of three separate parts:

Part 1: Summary Report

This report is designed to be a companion document which serves as concise summary of the work agencies have achieved together under the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan.

Please also refer to the Detailed Report and the Evidence and Indicators Dashboard attached to this report.

Part 2: Detailed Report

Verbatim progress and status updates from all agencies involved in the implementation of the Action Plan. The Detailed Report provides the granular detail. The analysis of progress achieved together by all agencies can be found in the Summary Report.

Part 3: The Evidence and Indicators Dashboard

The dashboard sits alongside insights provided by this six-monthly implementation report. Each of report backs will include the latest version of the dashboard. The purpose of this report is to provide evidence-based indicators of the difference the Action Plan is making. The ongoing development and additional indicators will be added as we complete the in-depth assessment of need. References to the dashboard are also woven into the Summary and Detailed Reports.

Key Messages

The work of the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan (The Action Plan) is a key lever for system-wide change.

The Oranga Tamariki Action Plan exists because the children's system, as is, does not support children and young people in greatest need well enough. Over time, the Action Plan will help:

- Foster shared ownership of the kaupapa and accountability amongst agencies and community partners.
- Improve understanding of the scale and nature of need across the motu.
- Promote holistic joint-up services in response to those needs.
- Improve cross-sector data, evidence and information quality and sharing.
- Improve access to and suitability of services offered to children and young people; and
- Increase the visibility of and prioritisation of children and young people that need support with utmost urgency and sensitivity.

The implementation of the Action Plan is gaining momentum and it's important that we maintain the pace.

- The relationships and collaboration culture between agencies, communities and regional public service has improved and the network of connection points has expanded. This gives us a strong platform to take the spirit and intent of the Action Plan into the future.
- While most short-term practical actions in the Action Plan and its implementation, as published in July 2022, will come to an end by early 2024, cross-agency work resulting from the needs assessments and agencies' responses to those needs assessments will carry on through to 2025 and beyond.
- Early signs of change that benefit children, young people, and their families right now at the micro level can already be seen. For example, improved access to appropriate housing options, streamlined data sharing between health agencies supporting youth in residences, and other instances of good inter-agency collaboration to deliver wrap-around supports.
- Tangible examples of progress and benefits to children and young people are found on pages 3 to 7 of the Summary Report.

- We will continue to work to increase alignment between agencies at a national, regional, and local level to drive progress. Continued focus is needed on prioritisation of children and young people with the greatest needs and how this practically occurs within the context of each individual agency's operations. This will ensure that decisions that are made about individual children reflect the true spirit and intent of the Action Plan, and agencies collective responsibilities to secure the best possible outcomes for these children and young people in the context of their whānau.

We have now begun to report on the implementation of the published cross-agency responses to the in-depth assessments of need.

- Seven in-depth assessments of need under Action 3 of the Action Plan: *Building An Evidence-based Picture of Need* have already been produced. These are looking at the housing, education and healthcare needs of the Action Plan cohort and will help address system gaps and improve outcomes for children and young people.
- The respective agency responses to address system gaps identified in the in-depth assessments of need delivered to date, are sprouting additional programmes of work beyond the existing Action Plan and its Implementation Plan. The full scope of the new programmes of work will only be understood once all agency responses are produced by early 2024.
- Once the picture of the work programmes emerging from all report-backs is complete and fully scoped, all relevant agencies will collectively agree the best way to report on progress against each individual action under Action 6 of the Action Plan as part of this six-monthly accountability reporting.
- Until then, this implementation update will provide a high-level update on progress made by agencies and benefits achieved for children and young people in each priority area as identified in the respective agency responses.
- So far, four cross-agency report-backs have been published:
 - Housing (Transitions)
 - Housing (In Care)
 - Education (In Care)
 - Health (Mental Health and Wellbeing).

Benefits for Children, Young People and Whānau

Positive housing conditions

Who this work is for

We found that families and whānau of children in care struggle to access the housing support they need to provide a safe, appropriate home to support either the return home of the child or young person from care or to enable family and whānau to care for a child or young person in care. Similarly, many young people in transitioning out of care rely on the adult housing system to meet their housing needs. Because universal adult services are generally not tailored for them, the services may not address their needs, contributing to housing deprivation.

- There are approximately 5,253 young people in the transitions cohort.¹
- 30% require some form of supported living arrangement.²
- 20% have a disability and high or very high support needs.³
- 40% have high or very high support needs.⁴
- 10% leaving care are living in unstable accommodation such as a garage or car.⁵

Benefit: More young people have safe and secure housing, as well as appropriate wrap-around supports, as they transition to independence

- 110 placements were delivered from funding secured through HUD's Homelessness Action Plan as of February 2023, for young people leaving care and youth justice.
- \$20m of funding was allocated in Budget 22 to fund rangatahi/youth Transitional Housing, and an additional \$24m was allocated to this programme in Budget 23. HUD is also piloting a separate supported accommodation service for rangatahi with higher and more complex needs.

¹ Oranga Tamariki Transition Support Services data as at December 2021.

² Transitions Cohort Needs Assessment, Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre, 2018

³ Ibid.

⁴ Ibid.

⁵ Statistics from Just Sayin' survey series that focus on young people eligible for a transition worker. The data is based on feedback from young people who were contactable and who chose to respond

- More rangatahi/youth Transitional Housing places will have been delivered from the Budget 22 \$20m investment by the end of 2023.
- 7 out of 10 homes have been purchased by Kāinga Ora for the Oranga Tamariki Homes programme, committed to in the Action Plan in Christchurch, Wellington, and Auckland. Three more homes will be purchased in Canterbury and Nelson.

Benefit: When young people in this population group need access to emergency accommodation, they can quickly access safe and suitable places

Emergency Housing Review

We will work together to undertake further initiatives to ensure youths with an urgent housing need are well supported when they transition from Oranga Tamariki care.

Housing Information Packs

Oranga Tamariki is working with MSD and HUD to develop the housing information packs. These packs will support frontline MSD and Oranga Tamariki Staff to identify appropriate housing supports for young people transitioning out of care.

Referral Pathway Tool

We continue to work with MSD to develop our referral pathway tool for Transition Support Service eligible young people in need of Emergency Housing. The aim of the referral pathways is to provide young people with wrap around co-ordinated support from a Transition Support worker and an MSD Housing case manager if they consent.

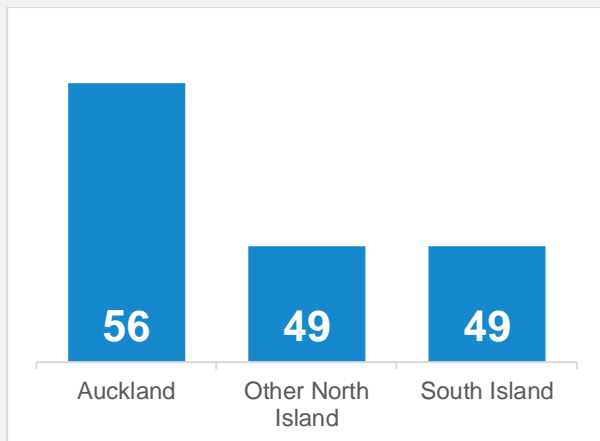
Just Sayin' 2022 Survey says...

Most young people were reasonably positive about the quality of where they lived:

- 74% of young people feel they belong where they live.
- 82% of young people feel safe where they live.

Evidence and Indicators Dashboard says...

154 supported accommodation places were delivered by the end of June 2023 (up from 136). This total includes six Young Parent Homes.



Health and Wellbeing

Who this work is for

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.

Mental wellbeing is one aspect of broader wellbeing, or oranga. Positive mental wellbeing is most likely when the dimensions of oranga are in balance, and people can be described as feeling safe, connected, valued, worthy and accepted, and having a sense of belonging, identity and hope for the future.

- 65,170 children and young people are involved with Oranga Tamariki
- 9.5% of children in a care or youth justice placement had a mental health hospital admission.⁶
- 44% of young people who had been involved with Oranga Tamariki reported depression symptoms, compared to 21% of those not involved with Oranga Tamariki.⁷
- 22% of young people who had been involved with Oranga Tamariki reported having attempted suicide in the last year, compared to 5% of those not involved with Oranga Tamariki.⁸
- 69% of children and young people admitted to the Auckland Child and Family Mental Health Unit had past or current involvement with Oranga Tamariki.⁹

⁶ IDI June 2020

⁷ Youth 19 Survey

⁸ Ibid.

⁹ In the year to August 18, Auckland District Health Board Child and Adolescent Acute Mental Health Inpatient Unit and Oranga Tamariki Collaboration Report.

Benefit: Improved information on the health needs of young people in residences, allowing agencies to meet their needs.

Making health data easily transferrable between health providers

Tamariki and rangatahi will be able to transition more smoothly between healthcare providers in residences, through the roll out of a new data system by Te Whatu Ora and Oranga Tamariki. MedTech is a new cloud-based patient management system, which will provide a comprehensive health data base and allow health information of tamariki and rangatahi in residences to be easily transferred to other health care providers in other placements or general practice. This will prevent rangatahi and tamariki from having to be unnecessarily reassessed.

Benefit: Children and young people involved with Oranga Tamariki will have better access to supports and services.

Te Whatu Ora improves medication management and training in Residences.

Te Whatu Ora is providing extra medication management training for Oranga Tamariki kaimahi, to improve the medication administration regimen for rangatahi in care and protection residences.

Child and Family Unit secondment role supports young patients.

Oranga Tamariki and Te Whatu Ora have jointly secured an extension for the senior social worker liaison role working at Haumarū Ōrite, Starship acute mental health unit. The senior social worker supports tamariki, rangatahi and whānau by ensuring the multi-disciplinary team has all the information they need to set up good plans and support for transitions in and out of the unit.

Oranga Tamariki and Te Whatu Ora are currently collaborating on establishing these roles within the regional acute youth mental health units based in Wellington and Canterbury.

Better mental health support offered in Epuni

Te Whatu Ora is rapidly deploying additional mental health professionals to better meet the mental health needs of tamariki and rangatahi in our care at Epuni Care and Protection Residence in Lower Hutt.

Initially, Te Whatu Ora will deploy one mental health clinician to be based in Epuni to work on site to support young people and staff. This will mean that mental health support is more immediately available to the tamariki and rangatahi at Epuni.

Primary health and addiction services for youth and whānau are being expanded.

This programme includes targeted funding for youth-specific (12 to 24 years) services in youth-friendly and accessible settings. Services are intended to be flexible and are available in individual, family/whānau and group settings, as needed.

There are contracts in place for the delivery of 22 youth primary mental health and addiction services. Comprising of

- 21 local services contracted across all districts, and a nationwide contract with Youthline for the expansion of their national helpline.
- 78,400 sessions with mental health professionals have been delivered to date through these efforts.
- Access to Good Education

Who this work is for

Children and young people in care and youth justice are more likely to have adverse educational experiences in their lifetime. The education system must respond to the specific needs of children in care if they are to have better experiences and equity in outcomes.

Compared to general population, children and young people in care or youth justice are more likely that their peers to change schools three or more times over their lifetime, and to be stood down, suspended or truant, or have lower academic success.

- 25% of school-aged children in care change schools three or more times, compared to 1.8% of general population.¹⁰
- 58% of young people in youth justice population change schools three or more times in their lifetime, compared to 3.4% of general population.¹¹
- 54% of the youth justice population have been in alternative education in their lifetime, compared with 0.24% of the comparable general population.¹²
- 27% of the in-care population have been stood down in their lifetime, compared to 1.8% of the general population.¹³
- 12% attain level 4 NCEA compared to 45% of those with no care experience.¹⁴

Benefit: Children and young people in care or youth justice are supported to be included in the education system through agencies better working together.

Information sharing will make the biggest difference.

We are now focusing on completing an information sharing schedule between Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Education. The overarching agreement between the ministries is being drafted to support greater insights into children and young people's educational journeys.

¹⁰ Educational Experiences and Needs of Children and Young People in Care or Youth Justice.

¹¹ Ibid.

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Ibid.

¹⁴ Ibid.

The first step will be for agencies to collectively identify which data need to be shared and how information may be shared and used.

Benefit: Children, young people and their whānau will be supported to achieve their education goals, particularly through transitional periods in their lives.

Transitioning to School Plan supports tamariki and rangatahi in care through challenges of change.

Oranga Tamariki Central Tāmaki Makarau Regional Manager initiated a “Transitioning to School Plan” project with Ministry of Education. This supports tamariki and rangatahi in Oranga Tamariki care transitioning from Early Childhood to Primary School as well as those who are at risk of school exclusion. It also alerts educational staff and other adults around tamariki and rangatahi to their individual circumstances and needs, ensuring appropriate planning and support. This benefits them by advancing their skill development, emotional resilience and learning engagement.

A case study: how the Transitioning to School Plan could work in practice.

During the move from early childhood education to primary school, tamariki may require support. The Transitioning to School Plan in practice may look like the Senior Health and Education Advisors at Oranga Tamariki and Social Workers working with Ministry of Education’s Lead Advisor and the whānau to plan wrap-around support for the tamariki. The plan may result in agencies agreeing to fund a learning support coordinator to work personally with the tamariki to provide them with the support they need throughout the school day.

This would help support tamariki to settle in well at school and stay connected with friends from ECE. The learning support coordinator will continue to ensure the service is available at school and will work with the caregivers to ensure consistency of support at home.

Support to grow, connect and be independent.

Who this work is for

Every young person transitioning out of care or youth justice deserves to have a transition pathway into employment, education or training, and a safe place to call home. Young people transitioning to independence often have multiple and high needs, as well as fragmented personal support systems. These challenges can be compounding for some population groups such as Māori, Pacific, disabled people and rainbow communities.

– 32% of young people, when asked, felt good about their life in general.¹⁵

¹⁵ Just Sayin’ Survey 2022

- 72% of young people felt reasonably or very hopeful about their future.¹⁶
- 73% said they were receiving the health support they needed.¹⁷
- 78% secure in their identity.¹⁸
- 55% reported knowing their whakapapa.¹⁹

However, some young people also reported experiencing mental health challenges since leaving care, felt unsupported to deal with them and lacked information around their entitlements or how to access resources.

Benefit: Ensure all eligible young people who want to remain with or return to living with caregivers are supported to do so.

Entitlement to Return or Remain (ETRR) service continues to support young people.

The intention of the ETRR is to support eligible rangatahi to remain living in (or return to) a stable caregiving arrangement past the age of 18 and up to the age of 21.

The ETRR service has been reviewed and will be refreshed to improve accessibility and quality of service. It is being refreshed to better meet the needs of young people and their caregivers, following a review of the service that was directly informed by young people and caregivers. Over time, the refresh will help us increase the number of people accessing this service.

The uptake of the ETRR service is steadily increasing, as a result of new collateral and training to increase awareness. In the 12 months to 31 March 2023, there were 85 ETRR placements (up from 55 placements in the 12 months to 31 March 2022).

ETRR roll-out begun in July 2019. In 2022, 88% of 18–20-year-olds eligible for a transition worker were also eligible for ETRR. In the first iteration of Just Sayin' in 2020, knowledge of ETRR was low, but has increased through the survey years, significantly so between 2020 and 2021. The refresh of ETRR will also enable greater access to the service and enhance how support is provided to better meet the needs of young people and caregivers.

Benefit: Rangatahi Māori are supported to be reconnected with whānau as they transition to independence

New resources for kaimahi and better data improve hui-a-whānau processes.

Oranga Tamariki has developed new resources and webinars for frontline staff and engagements with practice leads that include a focus on planning a hui-a-whānau.

¹⁶ Ibid.

¹⁷ Ibid.

¹⁸ Ibid.

¹⁹ Ibid.

Oranga Tamariki is also improving its understanding of the level / types of whānau involvement in Family Group conferences through intensive case analysis via the Quality Practice Tool.

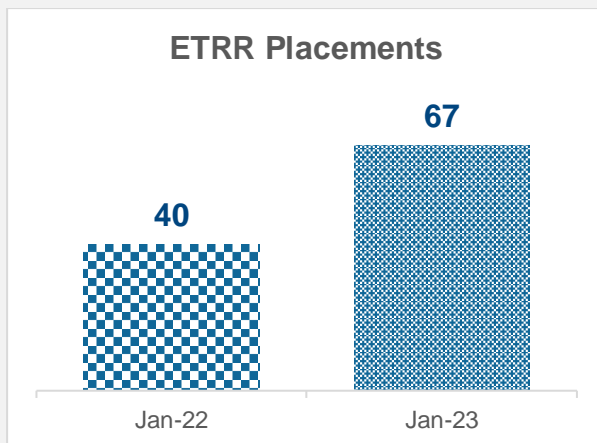
Additionally, Oranga Tamariki is implementing new data analysis processes to enable reporting from new CYRAS (Case Management System) changes. This includes identification on a case level through the Whiti site reporting tool, and the national data extract.

Just Sayin' 2022 Survey tells us...

- 63% of rangatahi Māori reported that their whānau have been involved “as much as they would like” in their transition planning process – measured through the Just Sayin' Survey in November 2022.

Evidence and Indicators Dashboard tell us...

There were 67 young people in ETRR placements as at the end of June 2023, as compared to 40 same time last year.



Building a well-connected system

6 Children's Agencies and 5 other agencies supporting children's sector directly contributed to the production of this report.

Who this work is for

The Action Plan is focused on children and young people with the greatest needs. Our initial focus is not on all children and young people, but changes made as a result of this work could also benefit a much larger group.

There are approximately 237,000 children and young people in the population of interest to the Action Plan:

- 102,000 are tamariki and rangatahi Māori.
- 28,000 are Pacific children and young people.
- 21,000 children and young people with both Māori and Pacific whakapapa.

- 86,000 are of other ethnicities.

Building strong foundations

- While it is evident that children and young people are and will continue to benefit from the new collaborative ways of working that agencies are pursuing, the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan is a long-term commitment to driving change. Like any long-term change, it will take time to fully unfold.
- However, early signs of tangible change are beginning to emerge as agencies progress through the implementation.
- We are already seeing examples of improved communication, streamlining system supports, collaborative learning, improved accountability, data sharing and understanding of the scale and complexity of need. In other words, agencies have built a firm foundation for further work stemming from the Action Plan to be more impactful and more successful.

Building a Culture of Connection

Improved collaboration across the system

- Agencies including Oranga Tamariki, MoE, MoH, HUD, MSD, Kāinga Ora, Whaikaha and others are jointly delivering a series of in-depth assessments of need. Cross-agency responses to those needs assessments identify and deliver joint actions that help meet the needs of children and young people immediately and in the long term.
- Communications teams from agencies across the sector have been working closely together and meeting regularly with the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy communications team to ensure that all agencies involved in the delivery of the Action Plan are aligned and speak with one voice.

Regional leadership is being activated to support the Action Plan mahi.

- The Action Plan, along with Te Aorerekura, are priorities for the Regional Public Service Commissioners (RPSCs). Ongoing discussions are being held with RPSCs on the Action Plan.
- Oranga Tamariki is starting to work more closely with the Regional Public Service Office at a national level and in the regions with the RPSCs to ensure the populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki are at the forefront of the regional priorities, and to identify data sharing obstacles and opportunities for alignment across the public sector to achieve the actions identified in the plan.
- Oranga Tamariki colleagues attended an RPSC hui on 21 June and the discussion focused on how to support and drive strong leadership across the system, the plan and within agencies.

Early Signs of Systemic Change

Gateway Assessment Review changes how we think of holistic support.

- Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Health, Te Whatu Ora, and the Ministry of Education are reviewing the Gateway Assessment process – the process front line kaimahi follow to identify and meet the health and education needs of tamariki and rangatahi who come into care. Te Aka Whai Ora and Whaikaha are supporting this mahi.
- Gateway Assessments are how we gather information about needs in education, health, and disability, for tamariki and rangatahi in care, coming into care, or who may be going through a Family Group Conference, to identify what extra support they might need.
- As part of this process, a cross-agency project team will be talking to representatives of care-experienced rangatahi and their whānau and caregivers, kaimahi, partners and providers (including iwi, Māori, Pacific partners and providers) across the health, education, disability, and children’s sector.

Looking Ahead

Action 3: In-depth assessments of need will help alleviate system gaps.

Seven in-depth assessments of need under Action 3 of the Action Plan have already been produced. These look at the housing, education and healthcare needs of the Action Plan cohort and will help address system gaps and improve outcomes for children and young people.

The inter-agency responses to address system gaps identified in the in-depth assessments of need delivered to date, are sprouting additional programmes of work beyond the existing Action Plan and its Implementation Plan. The full scope of the new programmes of work will only be understood once all agency responses are produced by early 2024.

Action 6 is now at the centre of the Action Plan delivery.

Once the picture of the work programmes emerging from all report-backs is complete and fully scoped, we will collectively agree the best way to report on progress against each individual action under Action 6 of the Action Plan as part of the 6-monthly accountability reporting.

Until then, this implementation update will provide a high-level summary of progress made by agencies and benefits achieved for children and young people in each priority area.

Transitioning from Evidence and Planning to Delivery

Action 3: Building an evidence-based picture of need.

In-depth assessments of need produced by Oranga Tamariki in collaboration with our partnering agencies.



Action 3: Three-month report back documents.

Cross-agency responses to recommendations identified in the in-depth assessments of need.



Action 6: Access to services

Delivery of the actions. Respective agencies start to deliver the actions agreed in the three-month report-backs. Progress is monitored through the six-monthly implementation report.