

## Prioritising housing services for children and young people in care, their families, whānau and caregivers

### Cross-agency plan for implementation

Priority area	Driving change		Monitoring change	
	Objectives	Actions	Benefits for children and young people, their families, whānau and caregivers	Indicators/insights – monitored through evidence dashboards
<b>Reviewing and strengthening the fast-track system</b>	Ensure that the fast-track system is operating to meet the housing needs of children and young people in care, their families, whānau and caregivers.	<p><b>Immediate actions – through 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Ministry of Social Development (MSD)</b> updated its operational guidelines on the fast-track system for the households who have a child or young person in care, completed in March 2023.</li> <li><b>Oranga Tamariki</b> is developing practice guidance to social workers on the fast-track system to ensure that there is consistent understanding across social workers of the system as it currently works, to be completed by April 2023.</li> </ul>	Families, whānau and caregivers of children in care who require Government housing support are prioritised on the Housing Register.	<p>The number of working days taken for households who approach MSD for a public housing assessment, to be placed "live" on the public housing register (note, this can be affected by factors external to MSD, including time taken by households to verify their housing need, and the time taken by Oranga Tamariki to verify status for fast-track eligibility).</p> <p>The number of households successfully housed in public housing via the fast-track system, and the number of months taken for households to be successfully housed after entry to the fast-track system.</p>
<b>Cross-agency support for children on remain or return home placements</b>	Identify cross-agency ways to support children and young people in care to stay or return to their parents, family and whānau.	<p><b>Immediate actions – through 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>MSD</b> updated its operational guidelines and added examples on the fast-track system for households who have a child or young person in care, and included clarifying that households with children and young people in care reunifying with their parents may be eligible to be fast-tracked, completed in March 2023.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer term actions – through 2023 and 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Oranga Tamariki</b> will continue to focus its strategic direction on supporting children and young people to be able to stay in the care of their parents, family and whānau, including working with Māori communities and partnerships through Enabling Communities as part of the Future Direction Plan.</li> </ul>	Children and young people supported to remain or return home to parents.	The number of children in return or remain home placements.
<b>Emergency Housing</b>	Ensure emergency housing options are suitable when longer term housing is not available.	<p><b>Longer term actions – through 2023 and 2024</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Te Tūāpapa Kura Kāinga - Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)</b> and <b>MSD</b> are undertaking a reset and redesign of the emergency housing system, and are working with <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> to identify further areas for cross-agency work to consider the needs of children and young people in care, their families, whānau and caregivers. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>engagement to create regional delivery plans that take a place-based approach to providing emergency housing in Hamilton City and the Wellington metropolitan area.</li> <li>developing new standards for Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants suppliers, ensuring that accommodation meets minimum expectations around safety and suitability.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	When children and young people in this population group need access to emergency accommodation, their families, whānau and caregivers are able to quickly access safe and suitable places.	Indicators will be developed to track changes once further work on data and information about children and young people in care living in emergency housing occurs, and the data and information improves.

<p><b>Disabled children and young people who have more intensive support needs</b></p>	<p>Ensure the availability of suitable housing for disabled children and young people who have more intensive support needs (and preventing those children and young people from coming into care in the first place).</p>	<p><b>Immediate actions – through 2023</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Kāinga Ora</b> and <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> are revising the terms of their existing Memorandum of Understanding and will sign a new Relationship Agreement by mid-2023. <b>Kāinga Ora</b> and <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> are also revising the schedule for the Oranga Tamariki Homes Programme Agreement, and this will also be signed by mid-2023. Both these documents aim to strengthen the relationship between organisations by undertaking strategic review and planning.</li> <li>• <b>Kāinga Ora</b> are working on the purchasing and delivery of ten homes for the Oranga Tamariki Homes Programme, and expect the first of these homes to be delivered by end of March 2023, a further four by June 2023, and the remaining five by the end of 2023.</li> <li>• <b>Kāinga Ora</b> is reviewing and updating its Accessibility Policy, setting out Kāinga Ora's commitments to providing more accessible housing to people with disabilities.</li> <li>• <b>HUD</b> will continue to work with <b>Kāinga Ora</b> and <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> to help them source the public and supported housing (as appropriate) they need so that Oranga Tamariki can provide homes for children and young people with more intensive support needs.</li> <li>• <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> will join the work of <b>Kāinga Ora (lead agency), MSD, ACC</b> and <b>Whaikaha</b> to streamline the housing modification process, including supporting and promoting the 'Streamlining the Housing Modifications Process' report.</li> <li>• <b>Whaikaha</b> will work now and long-term with housing agencies, including <b>HUD</b> and <b>Kāinga Ora</b> to support and advocate for principles of Universal Design in housing to meet future accessibility needs, including the needs of disabled children and young people in the care of Oranga Tamariki.</li> <li>• <b>Whaikaha</b> and <b>Kāinga Ora</b> will review their Memorandum of Understanding to ensure it supports consistent and effective funding and delivery of housing modifications for disabled children and young people in the care of Oranga Tamariki living in Kāinga Ora homes.</li> <li>• <b>Whaikaha</b> and <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> will revise their Memorandum of Understanding to further support consistent and effective funding and delivery of housing modifications for disabled children and young people in the care of Oranga Tamariki.</li> </ul> <p><b>Longer term actions</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Whaikaha</b> will work with <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> and <b>Kāinga Ora</b> to forecast future housing supports for disabled children and young people in care with intensive support needs.</li> <li>• <b>Whaikaha</b> will progress rollout of the Enabling Good Lives approach to Whaikaha-funded Disability Support Services to provide self-determination for disabled people on the supports they need to live a good life.</li> <li>• <b>Whaikaha</b> will develop its wider disability leadership and stewardship, working with Government agencies to achieve equitable outcomes for disabled people, tāngata whaikaha Māori and whānau in all domains of their lives.</li> <li>• <b>Oranga Tamariki</b> are developing a Disability Vision and Strategy to describe ideal future for disabled people we work with and show us how to get there. The Oranga Tamariki disability strategy will enable us to better uphold equal rights for disabled people we work with, especially tangata whaikaha Māori (Māori disabled people) and make services better for all disabled people we work with – that includes disabled tamariki, rangatahi, parents, caregivers and their whānau.</li> </ul>	<p>Oranga Tamariki are able to provide appropriate homes for disabled children and young people in care with more intensive support needs.</p> <p>These children and young people are prevented from coming into care in the first place.</p>	<p>Indicators will be developed to track changes once further work on data and information about disabled children and young people in care occurs, and the data and information improves. This will include indicators to support forecasting the level of future housing supports required for this cohort.</p>
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