

10 October 2024

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 12 September 2024 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting information relating to recent funding cuts. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

On behalf of Darrin Haimona, I want to acknowledge the good work you have done to support young parents and thank you for your invitation to him to meet with you and the Chair of Ngāti Paoa Iwi Trust Board to discuss your concerns. Darrin is currently travelling for work, so I have asked his Executive Assistant, [REDACTED] to contact you to arrange a suitable time to meet when he is next in your rohe.

You have requested:

We would like under the official information act, to be provided with records of the decision-making process and reasoning for our recent funding cut for our teen parent co-ordination service.

In response to the first part your request for the record of decision-making process to Oranga Tamariki ended services, this part of your request is refused under section 9(2)(i) of the Act to enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

In response to the second part of your request, the rationale for our decision making must always be what is best for children and young people in care. They sit at the centre of all our decision making and always come first.

Oranga Tamariki is shifting to prioritise our core business. Our core business is to care for children and young people in our care or who have come to our attention. This includes statutory services such as Youth Justice, Care & Protection, Transition Services and family and sexual violence. As part of our contracting review for FY2024/25, we also identified existing service provision in Tāmaki Makaurau that can support young parents as well as provide wrap-around support.

Oranga Tamariki cannot fund everything and as the needs of children change, so must the services we fund. Over time we have invested in a wide range of services to

support all children, young people and their families. In doing so we have not invested enough in children who need our help the most – those who come to our notice or who are in our care. It is their needs that must always come first, and it is their needs that remain our key priority.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'FR' followed by a long horizontal stroke.

Fraser Robinson

**Chief Advisor, Enabling Communities & Investment
Office of the Deputy Chief Executive**