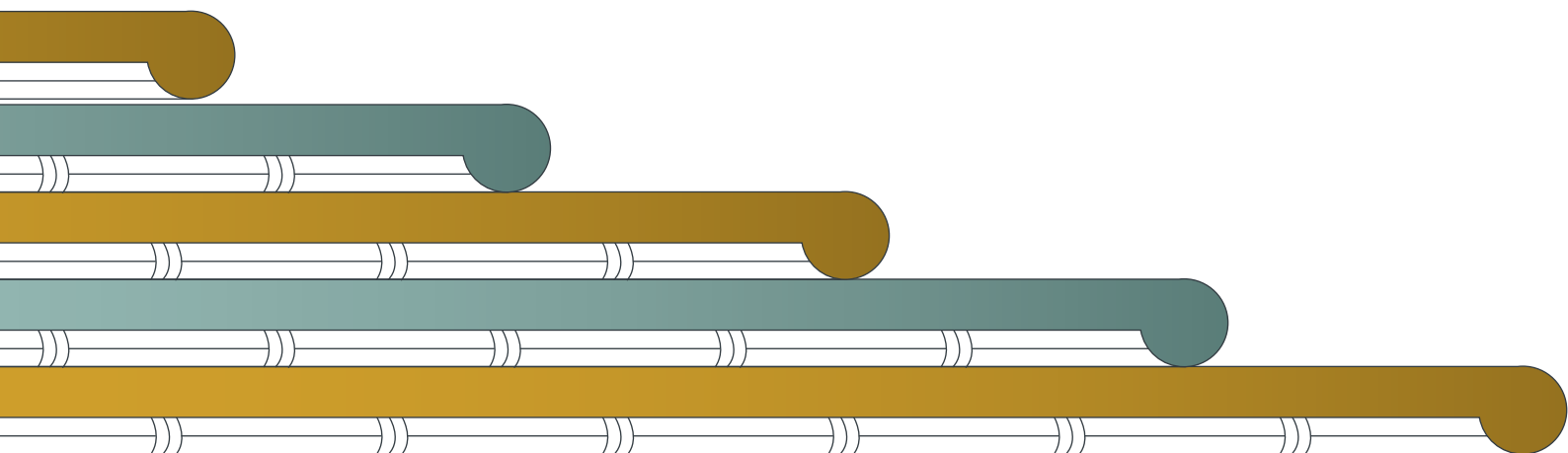




SECTION 7AA REPORT 2023

**Te whaneke i ngā hua mō ngā tamariki,
ō rātou whānau, hapū, iwi anō hoki.**

Improving outcomes for tamariki Māori
and their whānau, hapū and iwi



Kupu whakataki a te Tumu Whakarae

Chief Executive's foreword

Tēnā koutou katoa ngā kaipānui o tēnei rīpoata. Tēnā anō koutou te runga ake i ngā tini āhuatanga katoa o te wā. Otira, waihoia rātau te hunga mate ki a rātau whanga mai i te ao wairua. Ka hoki mai ki a tātau te hunga ora, nō reira tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātau katoa.

This is the fourth annual Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children Section 7AA Report and reflects on our progress from 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.

This report shows how we are changing and growing to realise our Treaty of Waitangi / Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. It is also a year on year reflection on the outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi through the measures of the mana tamaiti objectives.

At Oranga Tamariki, our vision is that all children are safe, loved, and nurtured by whānau, hapū, and iwi and supported by thriving communities. For us, tamariki and whānau must always be at the heart of all that we do.

Over the previous years we have been undertaking a significant transformational change with clear direction towards a future that includes whānau, hapū and iwi. This change in direction can only happen with the inclusion of the voices, perspectives and actions of our current and future strategic partners. Only through our collective efforts will we continue to reduce the number of tamariki in our care.

While progress has been made it is clear to me that so much more still needs to be done.

As the Chief Executive it is important for me that we report back on this mahi and how it is improving outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi. Transparency, continuous improvement, and dedication will remain critical to our journey to transform ourselves into an organisation that truly meets the aspirations of our partners and the public in how we provide care and support for tamariki and rangatahi in New Zealand.

Haumi e, hui e, tāiki e



Chappie Te Kani
Te Tumu Whakarae mō ngā Tamariki



Pukapuka

Contents

Reporting back on Section 7AA obligations.....1

We are making incremental progress on improving outcomes and reducing disparities for tamariki and rangatahi.....1

Te Wāhanga Tuatahi.....2

Improving outcomes is built on the foundation of the Treaty of Waitangi / te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty / te Tiriti).....2

Summary of the mana tamaiti objectives and measures.....3

Whānau say they want to be better informed so they can trust the professionals are making the best decisions about the needs of their tamariki and rangatahi being met.....5

Section 78 orders7

Te Tohu o te Ora has captured the voice of tamariki and rangatahi in care and this has given us valuable insights on what is important for tamariki and rangatahi.....11

Community-led programmes aimed at preventing youth offending is showing positive results.....13

Leaving the custody of the Chief Executive to become independent with whānau love and support.....14

Te Wāhanga Tuarua.....17

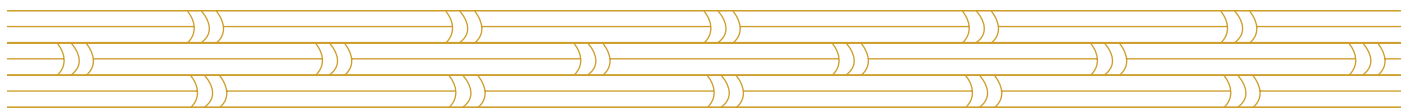
Acknowledging recent reviews17

Using a Quality Assurance Framework to ensure our policies, practices and services have an objective to reduce disparity and improve outcomes.....19

Strategic partnerships are a key mechanism to meet our commitments and obligations under the Treaty / Te Tiriti and Section 7AA.....26

Fulfilling the Treaty / Te Tiriti commitments with Post-Settlement Governance Entities.....27

Te Wāhanga Tuatoru.....	29
Workforce data.....	29
Over the next 12 months we will continue to embed shifts that are targeted at connecting with whānau, whenua and whakapapa.....	30
Appendix One: Definitions.....	31
Appendix Two: Mana tamaiti measures 2023.....	32
Appendix Three: Data caveats and considerations.....	33
Appendix Four: Disparity and disproportionality in the care and protection system.....	35
Appendix Five: Measuring broader outcomes.....	38





In this report, we use the reference tamariki, rangatahi and whānau for those who whakapapa Māori. Where we use children, young people and family/whānau, this is to reference all, including tamariki and rangatahi Māori, who are in the care and protection of Oranga Tamariki or are receiving care and protection.

This work is licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution 3.0 New Zealand licence. In essence, you are free to copy, distribute and adapt the work, as long as you attribute the work to the Crown and abide by the other licence terms.

To view a copy of this licence, visit: creativecommons.org/licenses/by/3.0/nz/.

Please note that no departmental or Governmental emblem, logo or Coat of Arms may be used in any way which infringes any provision of the Flags, Emblems, and Names Protection Act 1981.

Attribution to the Crown should be in written form and not by reproduction of any such emblem, logo or Coat of Arms.

Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children
PO Box 546 Wellington 6140 New Zealand

Telephone: 0508 326 459 Email: info@ot.govt.nz
Web: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/

ISBN: 978-0-9951121-1-7

Reporting back on Section 7AA obligations

Purpose

The Section 7AA Report 2023 is our fourth report and highlights the work undertaken by the Ministry to meet the obligations of our Chief Executive, as set out under section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

Overall, Section 7AA requires our Chief Executive to improve outcomes and reduce disparities for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. The Chief Executive is required to report on the progress of this work once a year and share the actions Oranga Tamariki has taken to meet those obligations. Specific next steps must also be included for Oranga Tamariki to continue working towards those obligations over the following 12 months.

Identifying and measuring disparities and disproportionality helps determine the impacts we are making for tamariki and rangatahi.

We continue to monitor disparity and disproportionality as set out in our 2020 Section 7AA report, which can be found on the Oranga Tamariki website. For ease of understanding we use these definitions in this report:

Disparity as the unequal outcomes of one racial or ethnic group as compared to outcomes for another racial/ethnic group.

Disproportionality as the under-representation or over-representation of a racial or ethnic group compared to its percentage in the total population.

We recognise that disparities and disproportionality exist between the experiences of tamariki and non-Māori throughout the care and protection system. We aim to improve outcomes by developing policies, practices and services that are informed by the Treaty of Waitangi / te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty / te Tiriti) and a Māori evidence base.

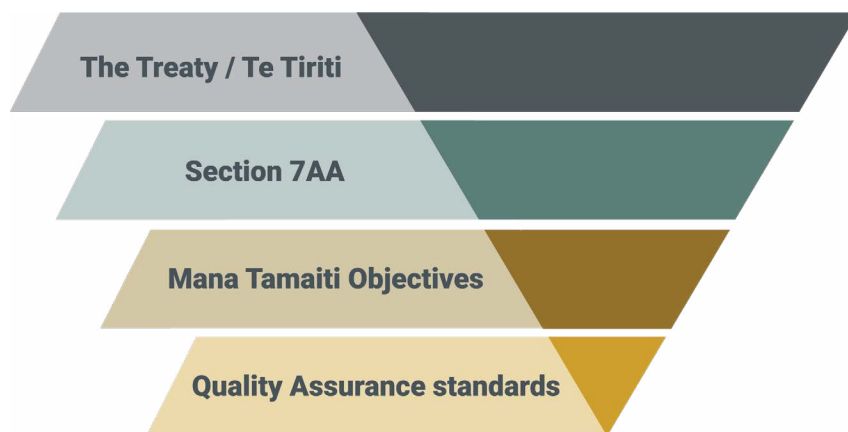
We are making incremental progress on improving outcomes and reducing disparities for tamariki and rangatahi.

This report covers the period of 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023. It presents the data objectives we use to measure outcomes and disparities. Over the last year we have undertaken various work programmes to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi. These include:

- Our Practice Approach has shifted from western models of practice to a Māori-centred position that includes a practice framework informed by mātauranga Māori. Our Practice Approach guides social work practice to be viewed from a te ao Māori perspective with the intention of reducing inequities and improving outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. Our practice is moving to one that understands the context of whakapapa, with oranga as the frame. We take a closer look at the practice approach on page 22.
- The Future Direction Plan has provided us with a foundation to implement recommendations from Te Kahu Aroha. Progress made on the Future Direction Plan has provided the building blocks for change and transformation to ensure Oranga Tamariki has the systems, processes, and functions to deliver on our aspirations. A transformation programme of work is being established to enable and enhance the success of delivery and move us toward greater outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. The incremental growth in funding in iwi and Māori providers is reflected in our table on page 8.
- This report uses data sources to tell a story about the tamariki and rangatahi in care. Of those in care, approximately sixty seven percent (67%) are of Māori descent. However, it is important to remember that the number in care is a small fraction of the total population of tamariki in Aotearoa. This report is based on information about approximately one percent (1%) of that population.

Te Wāhanga Tuatahi

Improving outcomes is built on the foundation of the Treaty / te Tiriti



The Treaty / Te Tiriti

The Crown, through its many agencies, are obligated to uphold the principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti which include, but are not limited to, partnership, active protection, equity, kāwanatanga and tino rangatiratanga.

Section 7AA places responsibilities on the Chief Executive to recognise and provide a practical commitment to the principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti.

Section 7AA

Through Section 7AA we are required to (amongst other matters) set expectations and targets to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi that come to our attention. We also must have regard to mana tamaiti (tamariki) and the whakapapa of tamariki and rangatahi and the whanaungatanga responsibilities of their whānau, hapū, and iwi.

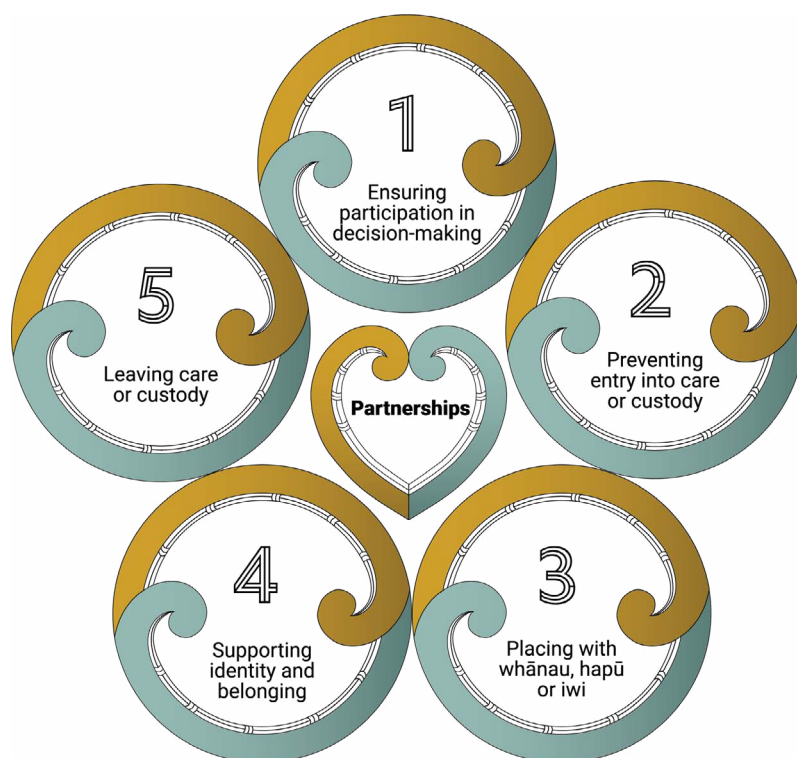
Mana Tamaiti Objectives

The mana tamaiti objectives set the measures that will help us achieve our five outcomes. The objectives measure how we are doing in reducing disparities and disproportionality and maintaining connection with whānau and identity for tamariki and rangatahi in our care.

The outcomes and objectives were co-designed with the Māori Design Group and were consulted and endorsed by key Māori strategic and community partners in 2019.

Quality Assurance Standards

Under Section 7AA we are also required to ensure that our policies and practices are making a difference. We have established five quality assurance standards that will help shift the way we develop our work from a monocultural lens to a Māori-centred approach. This will in time help improve the effectiveness of policies, practices and services for the tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau, hapū and iwi.



What have our mana tamaiti objectives told us

The outcomes we measure are captured by the five mana tamaiti objectives. We use measures set against each of these objectives to report on our efforts to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi.

Mana tamaiti objectives	Summary of measure findings
1 Ensuring participation in decision-making	We use an internal case file analysis to gather this data which indicates this practice has remained consistent over the last few years. Feedback from whānau in a review of our Gateway programme indicates there is room for improvement.
2 Preventing entry to care or custody	Entries into care have decreased notably since 2018 for children of all ages and ethnic groups, with the lowest ever in FY2022. Since then, entries have remained fairly stable. The largest decrease in entries to care over the past several years was for tamariki, particularly pēpi. This information is gathered from our client records system – CYRAS.
3 Placing with whānau, hapū or iwi	Over three quarters of tamariki and rangatahi living with caregivers are placed with whānau consistently over the last few years, with a further seven percent placed with non-whānau Māori caregivers in FY2023. We use structured data to gather this information. Our routine case file analysis of practice with un-born and newborn pēpi who enter care under section 78, has shown an increase in the proportion of pēpi remaining in care of their whānau after the section 78 has been made.
4 Supporting identity and belonging	This measure largely uses survey results from Te Tohu o Te Ora recurring survey. The first year of data was collected FY 2020 and reported in Te Mātātaki 2021. The second year of data was collected FY 2022 and reported in Te Mātātaki 2023. Here we report by when the data was collected rather than by when Te Mātātaki was published, therefore figures are unavailable for this year's report. We look at a community led programme to highlight initiatives that support identity and belonging for rangatahi across the country.
5 Leaving care or custody	Using internal case file analysis, the data shows the practice of referring rangatahi to a transition worker is improving but still has room to improve.

We anticipate that in the upcoming year we will be well placed to consider refreshing our mana tamaiti measures and look to ways we can build on these existing measures. Throughout this report we signal our developed practice guidance, staff training and inception of Te Hāpai Ō programme as well as a transformation programme that is well underway. These, coupled with planned updates of our organisational outcome framework and performance measures, means now is the right time to revisit them.



Mana Tamaiti Objective 1: Ensuring participation in decision-making. Oranga Tamariki will ensure the participation of tamariki, whānau, hapū and iwi in decisions affecting them.

Centred on the Treaty / te Tiriti principle of tino rangatiratanga, giving tamariki and rangatahi the opportunity to engage, participate and make decisions about their lives ensuring we meet objective one.

Our self-monitoring through internal case file analysis indicates that for 85 percent of tamariki in care, the views of their family, whānau and family group were identified and considered. This practice has remained consistent with the results from last year.

Feedback from whānau in a review of our Gateway programme indicates there is room for improvement. We learned this from analysing the responses from our engagements and surveys to find the themes of what it is tamariki, rangatahi and whānau and our partners want. Their responses will feed into the development of recommendations on changes to our system.

MTO Measure 1A	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who feel they have a say in important decisions about their life		
	FY 2021 ¹	FY 2022	FY 2023
	79%	80%	-
Te Tohu o Te Ora is a recurring survey. The first year of data was collected FY 2020 and published in Te Mātātaki 2021. The second year of data was collected FY 2022 and will be published in Te Mātātaki 2023. We include the data when it was collected rather than by when Te Mātātaki was published.			

MTO Measure 1B	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for whom the views of their family, whānau, family group have been identified and considered		
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	NA	80%	85%
We rephrased this measure in 2023 so that it aligns with the lead indicators for assessing our performance against the National Care Standards. The measure previously said, "Across all plans for tamariki Māori, there was information about the views of their family/whānau/family group" therefore the data for 2021 cannot be compared. The previous measurement can be found in the Section 7AA 2022 report.			

MTO Measure 1C	Percentage (%) of cases reviewed for tamariki Māori where there is evidence that parents were consulted before a decision was made about health or education matters		
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	75%	74%

¹ The data reported in FY19/20 in the 2021 report has been superseded by the FY20/21 reporting of Wave 1 which includes the full national data (rather than only 9/12 regions initially reported for FY19/20) from Te Tohu o Te Ora. More information about Te Tohu o Te Ora can be found at [Te Mātātaki 2021](#).

MTO Measure 1C.1(a)	There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about health matters (percentage)		
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	86%	78%

MTO Measure 1C.1(b)	There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about education matters (percentage)		
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	69%	70%

Whānau want to be better informed so they can trust that professionals are making the best decisions about the needs of their tamariki and rangatahi

As a part of the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, Oranga Tamariki, the Ministries of Education and Health and Whaikaha have launched a cross-agency review of Gateway Assessments.

Gateway Assessments help determine what needs tamariki and rangatahi and their whānau have, and what services and supports will best help them. These include health, disability, education and general wellbeing needs – that are assessed by a range of professionals such as paediatricians, Special Education Needs Coordinator (SENCOs), teachers and social workers. Following the assessment, recommendations for support are made to meet the needs of tamariki and rangatahi.

Since June 2023 there has been, and continues to be wide engagement with kaimahi, s396 partners (including whānau care partners) and hauora service providers, care-experienced rangatahi, whānau, and caregivers, to understand how the Gateway process is working and what needs to change. At the time of publishing, we have conducted 60 engagements and released two national surveys which have returned approximately 300 responses. These engagements have highlighted the importance of participation and decision-making.

Through these engagements, whānau, caregivers and rangatahi told us that they often want to be better informed about the process and findings that come out of assessments. This will help in making better decisions about the support that is offered. When whānau do not feel they have a say in the process this can contribute to breakdowns in trust between them and professionals

The Gateway Assessment Review provides agencies with an opportunity to rebuild trust with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. This is strengthened by our relationship with strategic, iwi and Māori partners and organisations. By creating a more inclusive, whānau and tamariki-centred system and investing in these relationships, we can help ensure tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau are heard and that their needs are met in a way that works for them.

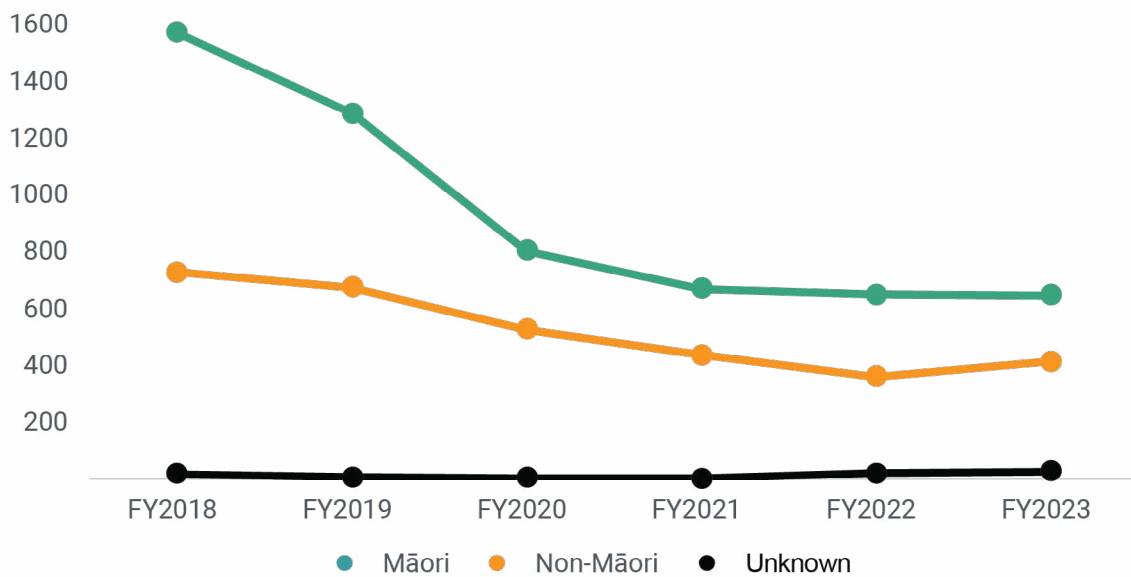


Mana Tamaiti Objective Two: Preventing entry into care or custody

We will support, strengthen and assist whānau to care for their tamaiti to prevent the need for their removal from home into care or youth justice.

Entries into care have decreased notably since FY2018 for children of all ages and ethnic groups, with the lowest ever in FY2022. Since then, entries have remained fairly stable. The largest decrease in entries to care over the past several years was for tamariki, particularly pēpi.

Total number of tamariki entering care per financial year, by ethnicity



Use of Section 78 orders are reducing for Māori

Distinct number of tamariki with section 78 orders*						
	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Total number of all section 78 orders	1469	1171	623	413	400	498
Total Number of section 78 orders (distinct tamariki and rangatahi Māori)	1029	801	369	259	264	311
Total percentage of Māori section 78 orders	70%	68%	59%	61%	66%	62%

* This is operational data and correct at time of extraction

There has been a notable reduction in the overall use of section 78 orders since 2018. This reduction has been most pronounced for tamariki. Tamariki continue to be over-represented as a proportion of the total number of section 78 custody orders annually.

There was a reduction in overall section 78 orders since FY2018 from 70 percent of all orders to 62 percent of all orders in FY2023. This is likely attributed to a number of factors, including our on-going practice shift, the implementation of the practice framework, and building partnerships with community and iwi organisations. Continuing to reduce this over-representation and supporting tamariki to be safely cared for within their whānau, hapū and iwi remains an area of significant and priority focus for Oranga Tamariki.

While we cannot predict if this will continue, we can continue our rigorous approach to applying what we have learnt that contributes to this reduction. We take what we learned from the 2021 Waitangi Tribunal, Oranga Tamariki Urgent Inquiry (WAI 2915) into consideration when reviewing the data. Of note, the WAI 2915 inquiry found our use of section 78 uplift powers perpetuates and compounds issues of structural racism and contribute to the disparate rates of tamariki and non-Māori children being taken into care

We note that, for some tamariki, the use of section 78 custody orders remains a necessary intervention to secure their safety where other intervention options have been exhausted, and for this reason we anticipate that we will likely see a continued stabilisation of volumes rather than any further decline.

Section 78 of the Oranga Tamariki Act (1989) allows the Court to place a child in the interim care of Oranga Tamariki when there are immediate concerns for their safety and wellbeing. On Notice is where an application for a section 78 order is served on the parent(s) before it is granted by the Court. Without Notice is where parent(s) are not informed of the application for a section 78 order before it is granted by the Court.

Section 78 notice types, overall percentage of tamariki Māori									
	FY 2021			FY 2022			FY 2023		
	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori	Tamariki Māori	Non-Māori	% of Tamariki Māori
Section 78 On Notice*	123	76	62%	105	76	58%	78	62	56%
Section 78 Without Notice*	136	78	64%	159	60	73%	233	125	65%
TOTAL	259	154	63%	264	136	66%	311	187	62%

* This is operational data and correct at time of extraction.

FY2021 is the first year we are able to report a full year of data for section 78 Without Notice numbers

Our routine case file analysis of practice with unborn and new-born pēpi who enter care under section 78, has shown an increase in the proportion of pēpi remaining in the care of their whānau after the section 78 order is made.

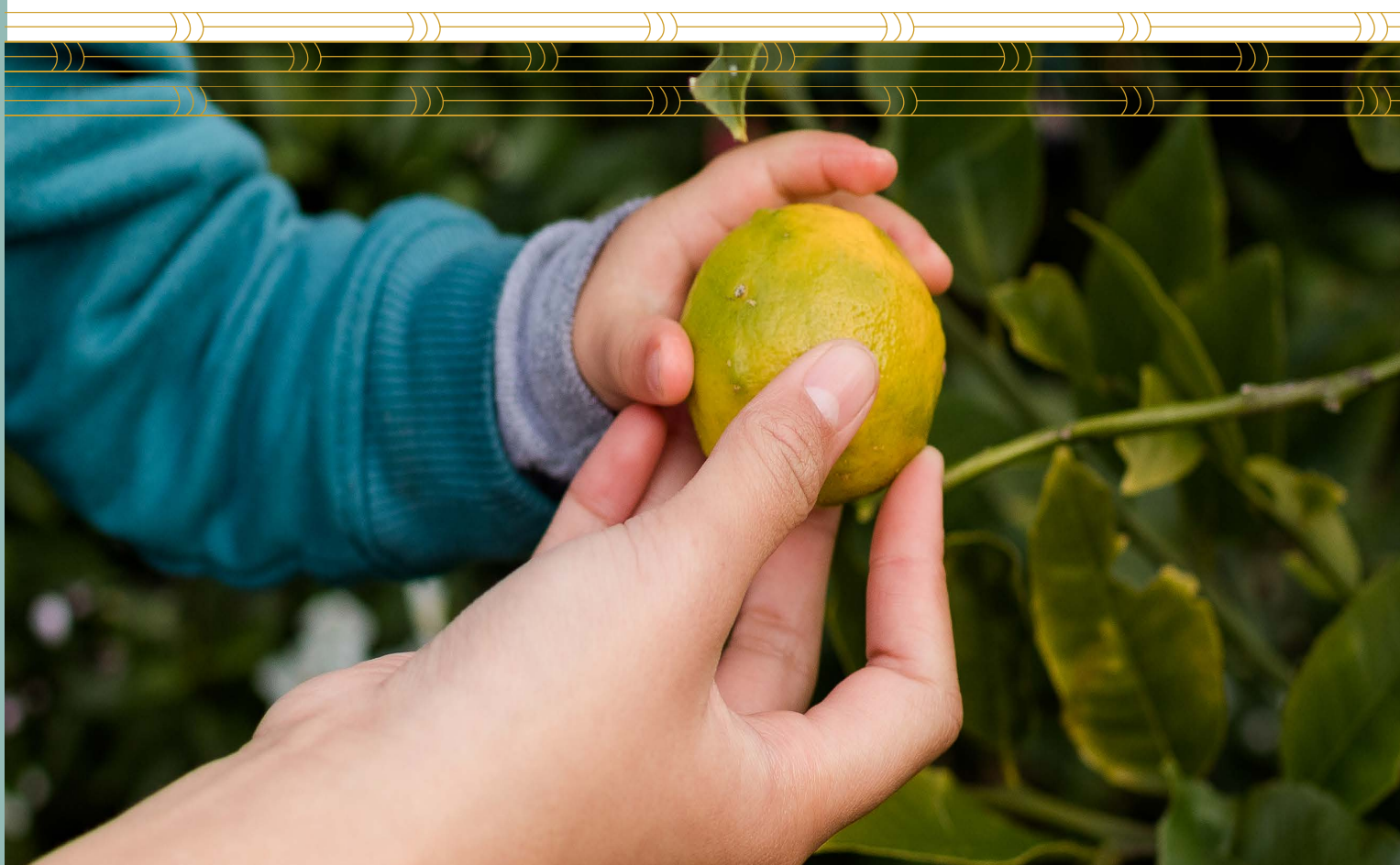
More information and the latest findings from the Section 78 custody orders for unborn and new-born pēpi is available on our website.²

² [Section 78 Custody orders for unborn and new-born pēpi](#)

Investing in iwi and Māori providers and organisations is investing in a future of less tamariki and rangatahi coming into Oranga Tamariki care

Funding for iwi and Māori organisations has been increasing over the last six years. Investment in our partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations enables the work needed to prevent tamariki and rangatahi coming into state care. This investment helps to fund iwi and Māori-based social service arrangements for supporting whānau in their hapori.

	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
MTO Measure 2A Percentage of all service contract funding with iwi and Māori organisations	20%	21%	24%	26%	29%	29.5%
MTO Measure 2B \$ spend with Māori/iwi providers	\$54.5m	\$62.9m	\$83.8m	\$114.4m	\$146.1m	\$158.6m
MTO Measure 2C Percentage increase on previous year \$ spend	–	15%	33%	36%	28%	8.6%
MTO Measure 2D Number of iwi/Māori providers	125	130	144	152	152	147





Mana Tamaiti Objective Three: Placing with whānau, hapū and iwi. If removal from home is necessary, we will preference placements for tamariki and rangatahi with members of their wider whānau, hapū, iwi or family group who are able to meet their needs, including a safe, stable and loving home.

Over 75 percent of tamariki and rangatahi living with caregivers have been placed with whānau consistently over the last few years, with a further seven percent placed with non-whānau Māori caregivers in 2023.

MTO Measure 3A	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months living with a caregiver, who are placed with Māori, non-whānau caregivers			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	9%	8%	7%	7%

MTO Measure 3A.1	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months living with a caregiver, who are placed with whānau			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	74%	76%	78%	76%

MTO Measure 3B	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are placed with at least one other sibling who is also in care,		
	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	76%	76%	76%

MTO Measure 3B.1	Number of tamariki Māori in care who have siblings also in care		
	1720	1453	1456

MTO Measure 3B.2	Number of tamariki Māori siblings placed together		
	1312	1098	1105



Mana Tamaiti Objective Four: Supporting identity and belonging.
We will support tamariki in custody of the Chief Executive to establish, maintain or strengthen their sense of belonging, through cultural identity and connections to whānau, hapū and iwi.

The wellbeing of tamariki is inherently linked to their connection to whānau, hapū and iwi. We have made improvements on recording hapū over the last few years, while still low it does indicate improving in knowing of and potentially ensuring the connection to hapū.

MTO Measure 4A	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori who have identified an iwi affiliation			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	84%	89%	91%	92%

MTO Measure 4B	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10–17 who are in touch with their whānau as much as they want to be			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	73%	77%	-

Te Tohu o Te Ora is a recurring survey. The first year of data was collected FY 2020 and published in Te Mātātaki 2021. The second year of data was collected FY 2022 and reported in Te Mātātaki 2023. Here we include the data when it was collected rather than by when Te Mātātaki was published

Te Tohu o te Ora has captured the voice of tamariki and rangatahi in care and this has given us valuable insights on what is important for tamariki and rangatahi



A key factor in improving outcomes is to understand how tamariki and rangatahi feel about things that matter to them, and to help us do that Te Tohu o te Ora was introduced in 2019.

Te Tohu o te Ora is a recurring survey designed to capture the voices and experiences of tamariki and rangatahi in the care and custody of the Chief Executive. It focuses on experiences that tamariki and rangatahi in care have told us are important to them.

Tamariki and rangatahi are eligible to participate in the survey if they are aged 10 to 17 years old and have been in the care and custody of the Chief Executive for at least 31 days. Participation is voluntary.

In year one of the survey, a pen-and-paper questionnaire was delivered to tamariki and rangatahi by their social workers. For year two, the survey changed to a digital

version of the questionnaire. This allowed the survey to include supportive features such as audio playback of questions and the ability to switch between English and te reo Māori. The digital version improved the independence of tamariki and rangatahi to complete the questionnaire while keeping their answers private. Site based kaimahi (e.g., social workers and youth workers) offered the survey and were available to support and provide pastoral support for tamariki and rangatahi to participate.

In year two the survey was offered to 43 percent of eligible tamariki and rangatahi, and 78 percent (n = 803) of those offered the survey agreed to take part. Fifty eight percent (n = 452) of tamariki and rangatahi who took part self-identified one of their ethnicities as Māori. This offer rate was lower than year one, which reflected the survey being delivered during the Omicron outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, and in an environment of significant organisational change. This lower response rate does not, however, impact the importance of the survey results or our response to those results. Our aspiration is that participation in year three of Te Tohu o te Ora will be the highest achieved to-date.

Overall, the survey has given us a valuable insight into the experiences of tamariki and rangatahi when in the Chief Executive custody and more importantly has created an opportunity for them to share their voice and ensure their participation in decision making.

For more information and the latest findings from Te Tohu o te Ora, please refer to *Te Mātātaki 2023* [here](#).

MTO Measure 4C	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10 – 17 who know their whakapapa			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	59%	56%	-
Te Tohu o Te Ora is a recurring survey. The first year of data was collected FY 2020 and published in Te Mātātaki 2021. The second year of data was collected FY 2022 and reported in Te Mātātaki 2023. Here we include the data when it was collected rather than by when Te Mātātaki was published.				

MTO Measure 4D	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who have the opportunity to learn about their culture			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	79%	79%	-
Te Tohu o Te Ora is a recurring survey. The first year of data was collected FY 2020 and published in Te Mātātaki 2021. The second year of data was collected FY 2022 and reported in Te Mātātaki 2023. Here we include the data when it was collected rather than by when Te Mātātaki was published.				

MTO Measure 4E	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori with an identifiable hapū			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	9%	13%	17%

MTO Measure 4F	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are being supported to have contact with their family/whānau / family group			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	-	87%	89%

MTO Measure 4G	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months whose plan reflects actions to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with their whānau and/or marae, hapū or iwi			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	-	86%	87%

Community-led programmes aimed at preventing youth offending is showing positive results

“Oranga Rangatahi” is a preventative programme aimed at reducing youth offending and numbers of rangatahi entering the youth justice system. Oranga Tamariki is involved with six Oranga Rangatahi programmes across the North Island.

One of these programmes is the Whakatōhea WAY UP initiative in Ōpōtiki, with an Oranga Rangatahi programme called Te Totara – the little chiefs. Whakatōhea WAY UP is a holistic programme operated by Te Pou Oranga o Whakatōhea Health and Social Services in Ōpōtiki. This community-based initiative offers an alternative environment for rangatahi.

Media followed the work of social worker Ranginuikatika (Rangi) Williams and five young, qualified Māori social workers. Whakatōhea delivers services to rangatahi who whakapapa to Whakatōhea or reside in their rohe. Through individual plans they support rangatahi in life skills, education, training and/or employment opportunities.

Rangatahi learn about their whakapapa and gain a stronger sense of identity through engaging with kaupapa Māori activities as well as numeracy, literacy, NCEA qualifications and mood management skills. WAYUP also supports whānau and connects them to services as needed.

Shaun Brown previous General Manager (Youth Justice Regional Services) and Karl Severinson (Regional Manager Youth Justice Waikato and Bay of Plenty) have been instrumental in developing this relationship. Rangi who reports to Karl said that “the Oranga Rangatahi programmes are different from most of the work that Oranga Tamariki does”.

Emerging findings from a 2023 evaluation of the Oranga Rangatahi programmes across the country, indicate that rangatahi are achieving success. Rangatahi are making better decisions about staying out of trouble, they are career planning, goal setting and have improved literacy. Whānau also receive support and feel better equipped to advocate for themselves and their rangatahi

Social Worker Rangi:

“If we get one kid, that’s one off the street... When they are at the programme, we know they’re fed, they’re educated, they’re loved. So yeah, a good day for me is when the kids get in the van”

Karl Severinson – Oranga Tamariki Regional Manager, Youth Justice

“Oranga Rangatahi is about getting in early before young people get in trouble with the Police and working alongside others to try and keep them out of the system”



Mana Tamaiti Objective Five: Leaving care or custody

We will support, strengthen and assist tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau to prepare for their return home or transition into the community.

Leaving the custody of the Chief Executive to become independent with whānau love and support.

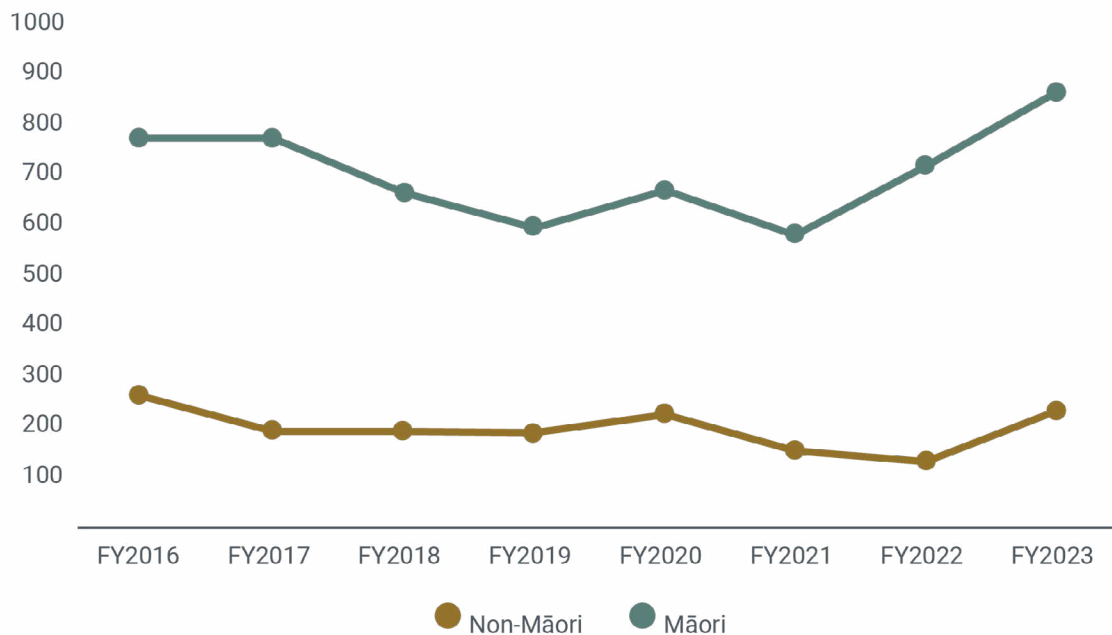
Transition support services are for tamariki or rangatahi who are moving away from care or youth justice into adulthood. When rangatahi enter youth justice custody, planning for their exit or transition from a youth residence starts the day they enter. It is important they understand that residence is where they are now because of their actions, but with the right support it does not have to be their future.

MTO Measure 5A	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori referred for another youth justice family group conference in the six months following release			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	July – Dec 2022
	63%	60%	59%	64%

A youth justice family group conference (FGC) is a formal meeting in response to alleged or repeated offending where the whānau and key members of their community work with Oranga Tamariki or approved external coordinators. Together, they develop solutions to the problems being faced by tamariki or rangatahi and address the alleged offending behaviour. FGCs are not a one-size-fits-all approach, but a plan must be put in place during the FGC that is achievable within a specified time frame.

Our Practice Shift includes aligning more closely with iwi and Māori service providers and communities to facilitate this process. Re-engagement with Oranga Tamariki for a youth justice FGC following release from custody provides a view of continued notable re-offending following an intervention.

Total number of rangatahi entering youth justice custody per financial year, by Māori and Non-Māori



MTO Measure 5A.1	Percentage (%) admitted to a youth justice residence who are tamariki Māori			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	79% (702)	78% (559)	81% (638)	79% (864)
Entries is operational data and subject to change. A rangatahi may have two or more entry episodes in the reporting period and can be counted more than once.				

Moving from care to independence is a transition to adulthood

When rangatahi are preparing to leave care or custody, transition support services are made available for them. Through these services, rangatahi moving away from care or youth justice, are supported in developing skills to thrive as independent adults in the community and plan how they will access support resources once they leave care. Rangatahi are not required to use these services, but they are informed about their right to access them when they become eligible.

MTO Measure 5B	Percentage (%) of eligible rangatahi Māori referred to a transition worker			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	40%	58%	59%	64%

MTO Measure 5B.1	Percentage (%) of eligible rangatahi Māori who have been offered a referral to a transition worker			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	46%	63%	68%	71%

5B.1 is a new measure for this year. It shows the percentage of eligible rangatahi that were offered a referral to a transition worker. Of all the rangatahi who are offered the service, a small proportion decline the transition support. An evaluation of transitions services suggests there are several reasons for this. The main reason cited by these rangatahi is that they felt that they did not need the support service; some rangatahi were not interested in ongoing engagement with Oranga Tamariki and some rangatahi had good support networks in place.

Re-entry into care

MTO Measure 5C	Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori exiting out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement			
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
	-	21%	22%	22%

MTO Measure 5C.1	Year-on-Year number and percentage of tamariki Māori exiting out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement								
	Exit			Re-entry			Re-entry percentage		
Age group	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023	FY2021	FY2022	FY2023
0-4	354	244	216	30	28	21	8%	12%	10%
5-9	344	322	308	40	41	37	12%	13%	12%
10-14	497	459	437	152	133	131	31%	29%	30%
15	136	117	100	48	43	34	35%	37%	34%
16	118	113	112	39	26	35	33%	23%	31%
17	108	112	84	24	29	14	22%	24%	17%
Total	1557	1376	1257	333	300	272	21%	22%	22%

There continues to be an overall drop in the percentage of tamariki and rangatahi re-entering into care, except for an increase in the number of rangatahi re-entering into care in the 16-year-old age group.

When exiting out-of-home care tamariki and rangatahi return to whānau, independent living or to a permanent caregiver.

As per the data above, only 22 percent of tamariki exited and returned to out of home care over the year. Seventy-eight percent of tamariki or rangatahi who exited out of home care remained either in the care of their whānau, transitioned to independent living or other living situation such as with a permanent caregiver. While we have not as yet had the opportunity to fully analyse the data in this area, this is an area of exploration that requires an understanding of the practice and processes that are required for the safe return and transition of tamariki and rangatahi to their whānau.

Out of home placements

A family placement is an out-of-home placement where a tamaiti has been brought into the custody of the Chief Executive and supported to live with a member of their whānau as their caregiver (who has been assessed and approved)

A non-family placement is an out-of-home placement where a tamaiti has been brought into the custody of the Chief Executive and supported to live within the following arrangements: with unrelated caregivers who have been assessed and approved as caregivers; in family home or other group home settings such as therapeutic homes; or in independent living situations.

Residential placement is an out-of-home placement that provides a secure living environment for tamariki who are in the custody of the Chief Executive (includes care and protection and youth justice)

In home placement

Return/remain home placements are placements which describe arrangements where tamariki are in the legal custody of the Chief Executive but return to/remain in the care of their immediate whānau (usually parents). These placements are most commonly used where we are attempting to support the reunification of a whānau, while still maintaining legal custody.

Te Wāhanga Tuarua

Acknowledging recent reviews

Oranga Tamariki values the insights, findings and recommendations provided by our oversight monitoring agencies, which are used to strengthen our policies, procedures, and practices as an organisation.

Reviews are important for Oranga Tamariki as they help to shift our practices, policies and services to be more responsive to the needs of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. These reviews carry the voices of whānau, hapū, iwi and Māori that are required to enact and influence change.

Practice review in relation to Malachi Subecz and his whānau

In December 2022, Oranga Tamariki published the management response to the “Chief Social Worker Practice Review in relation to Malachi Subecz and his whānau”. As part of the management response, we accepted full responsibility for the failings identified in the Practice Review, and outlined a series of actions we would take in response, both immediately and within six months.

The management response also made it clear that longer term work underway as part of the Future Direction Plan would address the wider issues raised through the review, including improving our response to reports of concern, improving processes for tamariki and whānau to be heard, including when raising complaints and increasing support for the social work workforce, particularly those new to the profession.

Ministerial Advisory Board

Following the release of Hipokingia ki te Kahu Aroha Hipokingia ki te katoa (Te Kahu Aroha), the Ministerial Advisory Board has continued to provide independent advice and assurance to the Minister for Children on the work of Oranga Tamariki with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, and Māori. In addition, they have provided assurance reporting on the progress of Oranga Tamariki in responding to Te Kahu Aroha and delivering the Future Direction Plan, as well as the Residences and Disability reviews.

Residences review

In July 2021, the Ministerial Advisory Board was asked to review the provision of care in Oranga Tamariki Care and Protection and Youth Justice Residences. On 11 October 2021, a copy of the Board’s report (the Residence Review) was provided to Oranga Tamariki. The Residence Review made nine recommendations, which were accepted in Minister Kelvin Davis’ formal response dated 14 February 2022, noting that they align with several of the recommendations from Te Kahu Aroha and actions in the Future Direction Plan.

Disability review

Following the release of Te Kahu Aroha in 2021, the Ministerial Advisory Board produced a report providing independent advice and assurance to the Minister for Children on the issues of disability within the care and protection system.

The Board’s report on quality support and service outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi whaikaha, their whānau, parents and caregivers (the Disability Review) was completed in August 2022 and made seven recommendations. On 1 November 2022 Oranga Tamariki provided a formal response to the Board, accepting all findings and recommendations, and outlining the work expected within Oranga Tamariki to achieve them.

Making ourselves visible

In 2021, Oranga Tamariki commissioned a community insights project to make visible the lived experiences of takatāpui and rainbow rangatahi in care, a part of our care population we knew very little about at the time. The design and delivery of the project was led by a community design team of takatāpui and rainbow advocates, which included care-experienced rainbow rangatahi.

The resulting report [Making Ourselves Visible: the experiences of takatāpui and rainbow rangatahi in care](#) was published in June 2023. This report identified significant challenges experienced by rainbow and takatāpui rangatahi and makes 46 recommendations for how we can improve experiences and uphold the rights of takatāpui and rainbow tamariki and rangatahi. The report builds on wider Oranga Tamariki published research, which indicates takatāpui and rainbow Māori are twice as likely to be involved with Oranga Tamariki compared to other ethnicities.³

³ [The health and wellbeing of takatāpui and rainbow young people who have been involved with Oranga Tamariki – Youth19 - A Youth2000 Survey](#). It is estimated that there could be between 100-150 takatāpui and rainbow Māori involved with Oranga Tamariki (footnote [Rainbow youth in care \(orangatamariki.govt.nz\)](#))

Monitoring and Oversight Legislation

There is now strengthened external monitoring and oversight of the complaints processes, and advocacy for children, young people and their whānau across Oranga Tamariki and the children's system due to two pieces of legislation.

- Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 (the Oversight Act), which came into force on 1 May 2023
- Children and Young people's Commission Act 2022 (the CYPC Act), which came into effect 1 July 2023.

The Oversight Act provides new functions, duties and powers to Aroturuki Tamariki - Independent Children's Monitor for independent monitoring of the Oranga Tamariki system and to the Ombudsman for oversight of complaints that relate to services and support delivered by Oranga Tamariki, and our care and custody providers.

The CYPC Act supports greater advocacy for Children's and young people's issues generally through the creation of Mana Mokopuna (replacing the Office of the Children's Commissioner).

Rapid Residences Review

Following several allegations of misconduct at Oranga Tamariki facilities, in June 2023 former Police Commissioner Mike Bush joined the organisation as a Deputy Chief Executive to temporarily lead our residences and community homes. As part of his role

and at the request of the Chief Executive, he commissioned an independent, external review of Oranga Tamariki residences and community homes.

The resulting report was published in September 2023, and its findings were accepted in full by the Chief Executive. The report suggests significant high-level changes and improvements to make these places safer for rangatahi and our staff, and was clear that there is an urgent need to ensure our approach to residences and group homes is fully integrated within the organisation's change programme.

The report reinforces the voices of many rangatahi who have called for change, who have asked to be understood in the context of their whakapapa and who have bravely shared their own experiences so that things can be different.

Using a Quality Assurance Framework to ensure our policies, practices and services have an objective to reduce disparity and improve outcomes

The Quality Assurance (QA) standards are an internal auditing function. It enables us to evaluate our processes and provide assurance to the Chief Executive that we are meeting our obligations under Section 7AA (2)(a) and (b) of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. The standards are grounded in principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti that we need to meet when developing new policies, practices and services delivered by Oranga Tamariki or partners. The standards work in conjunction with the Mana Tamaiti measures.

The mana tamaiti objectives set out what we are working towards to improve

outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. The QA standards help us ensure our practice, policies and services are aligned to meet them.

The Five Quality Assurance Standards are:

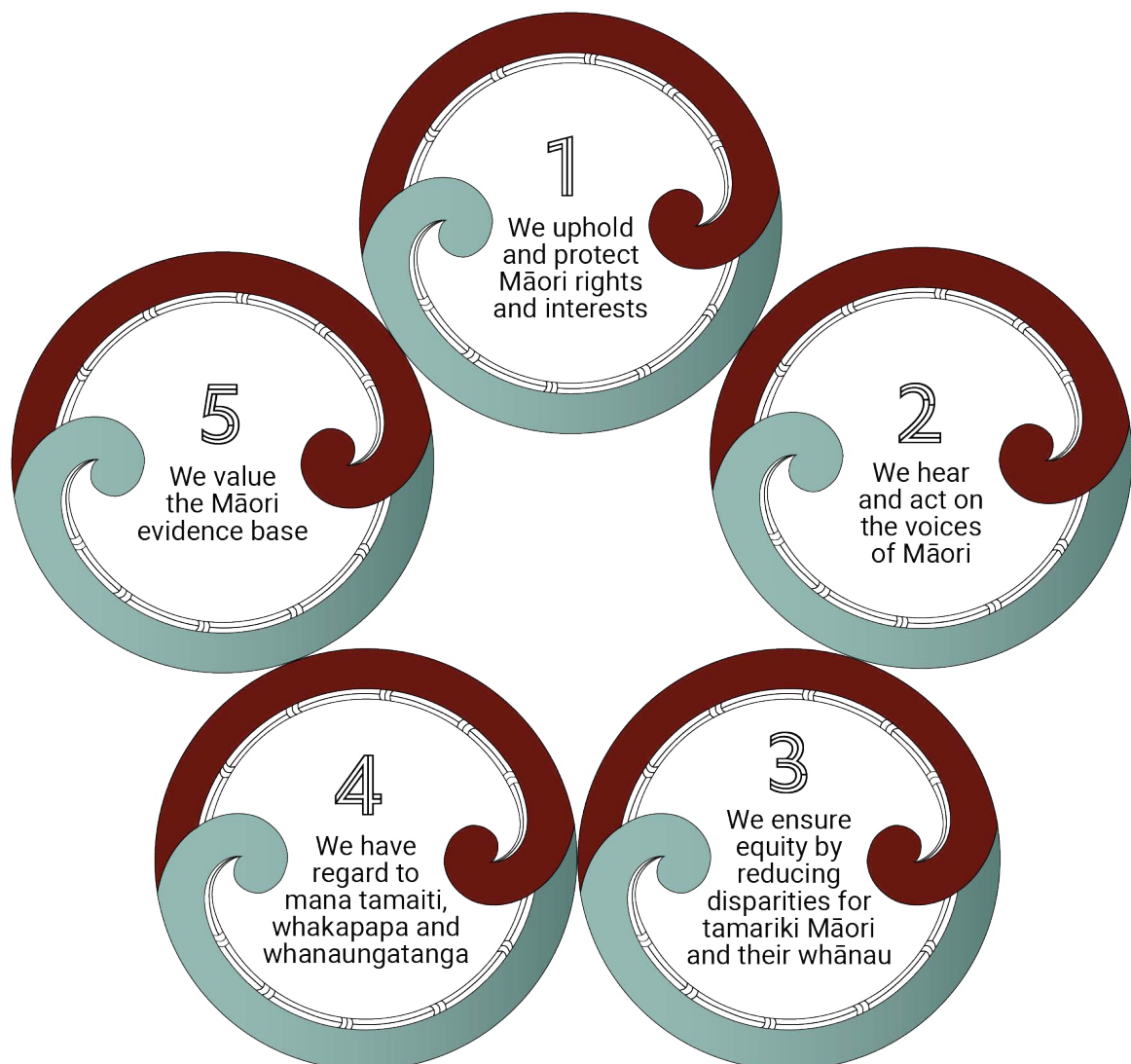
Standard 1: We uphold and protect Māori rights and interests,

Standard 2: We hear and act on the voices of Māori,

Standard 3: We ensure equity by reducing disparities for tamariki Māori and their whānau,

Standard 4: We have regard to mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga,

Standard 5: We value the Māori evidence base.



Aligning the Transition Support Services review with The Treaty / Te Tiriti principles and Section 7AA obligations.

Transition Support Services Entitlement to Remain or Return to care services are undergoing redevelopment. Through operational delivery changes and broadening of the operational policy settings, we enabled greater access to this entitlement for rangatahi.

We assessed existing service documents, reports and various papers against the QA framework standards. We then guided the Transitions team through the evaluation process, providing feedback, advice and guidance on areas that showed:

- sections of the policy behind the service where attention is needed to ensure there is a focus on the needs of rangatahi

- guidance on how the principles of the Treaty / te Tiriti, Section 7AA and the mana tamaiti objectives can be incorporated into the redevelopment of the policies that underpin the practice
- advice on how to ensure the voice of rangatahi and their whānau is included in their policy writing and services going forward.

In addition to engaging in the QA Framework, the Transitions team engaged in additional training on both Section 7AA and the mana tamaiti objectives to ensure they had the knowledge needed to implement changes required into the review of their services.



Developing our Practice Approach

Since 2021 we have embarked on developing, testing, trialing, and affirming how we apply 'oranga' for all children, tamariki, family and whānau within the Oranga Tamariki context.

We have been working through a paradigm shift, moving toward an approach that promotes all tamariki and children are understood in the context of their whakapapa and familial connections, with oranga as the guiding framework. Our description for oranga has five key elements and six dimensions, they are:

Five key elements

1. Oranga is different for all whānau and within whānau
2. Oranga is a relationship between whānau and their cultural, natural, physical and social environments
3. Oranga is not a finite destination. It is fluid, ebbing and flowing through various states over a lifetime
4. Oranga is multi-dimensional It is dynamic, holistic, reciprocal, and relational
5. Oranga is inclusive

Six dimensions for oranga

Ngākau - Emotional wellbeing

Te tamaiti and whānau feel safe, valued, listened to and respected, enabling trusting and meaningful relationships.

Wairua – Cultural wellbeing

The values, beliefs (including spiritual), practices, significant people, and places which sustain and restore the wairua of whānau and families.

Whānau – Family wellbeing

Healthy whanaungatanga networks, te tamaiti and whānau supported in building or strengthening their relationships, feel loved, and are connected to their whakapapa. Importance of collective (whānau) wellbeing to strengthen whānau resilience.

Tinana - Physical wellbeing

Encouraging and supporting healthy, active lifestyles. Ensuring that te tamaiti and whānau can access the full range of mainstream health services, rongoā Māori and alternative medicine.

Waiora - Environmental wellbeing

The natural, physical, and socio-economic environments in which whānau live, the systems operating within those environments, and their impact on te tamaiti and whānau oranga, autonomy and participation. Advocacy for rights – addressing barriers which prevent full inclusion.

Hinengaro - Mental wellbeing

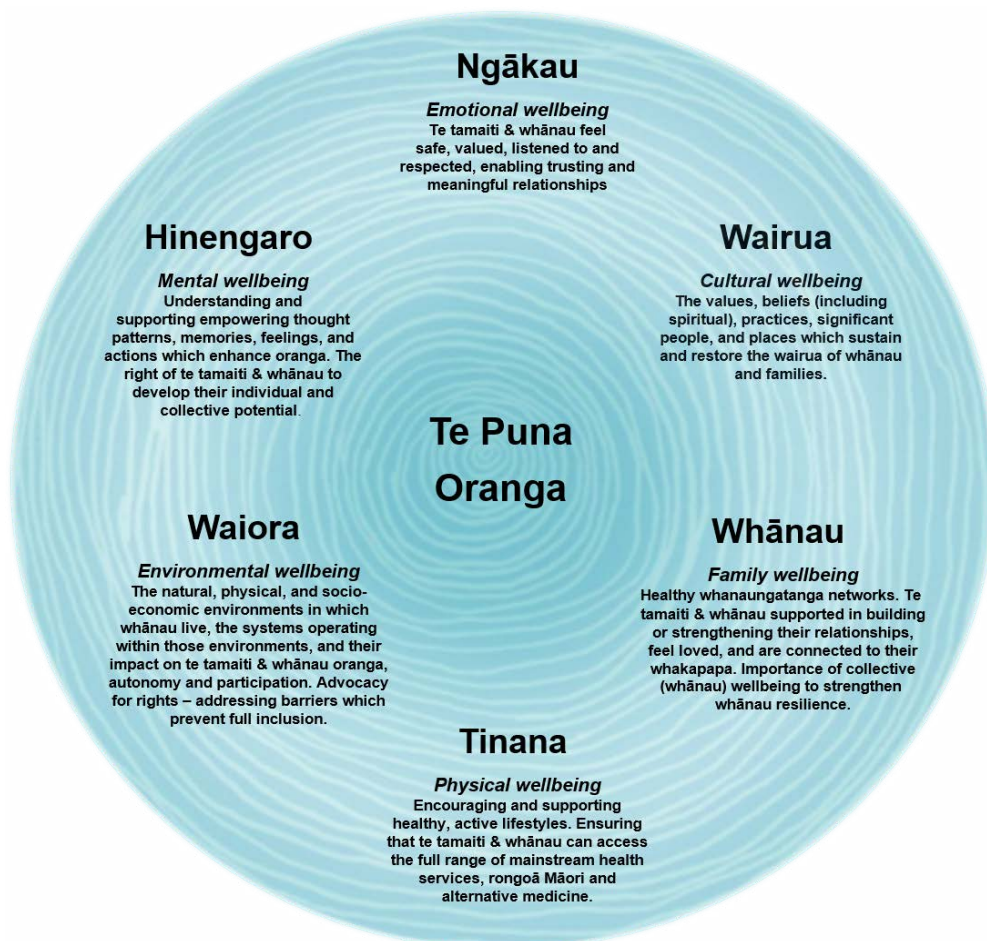
Understanding and supporting empowering thought patterns, memories, feelings, and actions which enhance oranga. The right of te tamaiti and whānau to develop their individual and collective potential.

Supporting understanding of holistic and ecological interdependence of the dimensions

To support our understanding and application of the key elements and dimensions, we have drawn on the metaphor of a puna, developed 'Te Puna Oranga' metaphor to support the understanding and practice of a holistic and ecological interdependence of the dimensions. The metaphor 'Te Puna Oranga' invites us to consider how any disturbance in a puna, such as a stone cast into it, creates a vibration and a ripple effect across the whole puna. In essence

this means that with any disturbance to one dimension of oranga we will need to understand the ripple effect against other dimensions.

Now that we have developed our new practice approach, we are in the process of developing our new oranga framed assessment approach utilising the elements and dimensions, to support our staff to understand how to work with tamariki, children, rangatahi and young people, whānau and families to better understand and alleviate harmful impacts to their oranga assess their needs and move toward their needs and their aspirations for oranga.



Te Hapai Ō

Te Hapai Ō is our response to Whāinga Amorangi, the cultural competency framework for the core public service developed by Te Arawhiti (Office for Māori Crown Relations).

Cultural Capability

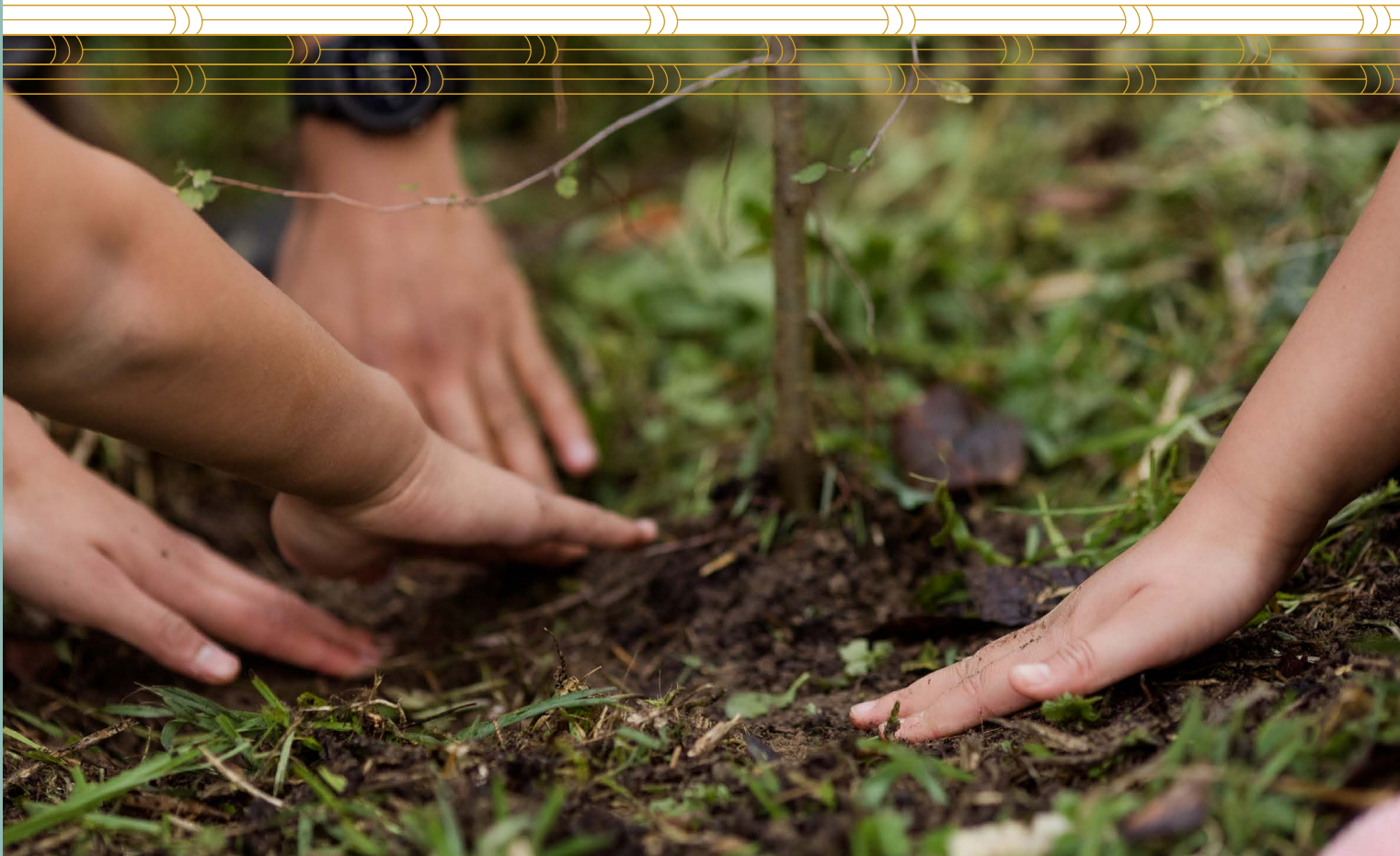
Te Hapai Ō is a comprehensive approach to growing Māori cultural capability at Oranga Tamariki. The long-term success of transformational change hinges on the creation of a culture that acts as an accelerator of positive change. Te Hapai Ō is our accelerator for positive change which intends to:

- Strengthen our practice approach in our frontline and enabling functions.
- Strengthen how we work and engage with each other, our partners, external stakeholders and importantly children and young people, and their families/whānau in a culturally appropriate way.

- Enhance our relationships with whānau, iwi and Māori communities. Create a positive organisational culture that enables cultural authenticity.

Te Hapai Ō focuses on two developmental priorities:

- **Kaimahi Development:** tools and resources to develop and grow the cultural capability of kaimahi. This is supported through Te Hapai Ō workstreams: **Tū Māia** and **He Puna Rauemi**.
- **Organisational Development:** tools and resources to develop and grow an organisational environment to support our cultural capability. This is supported by Te Hapai Ō workstreams: **Māori Cultural Capability Baseline, Evaluation Framework** and **Te Reo Māori Strategy**.



Te Hāpai Ō Workstreams

Te Hāpai Ō Workstreams



Tū Māia

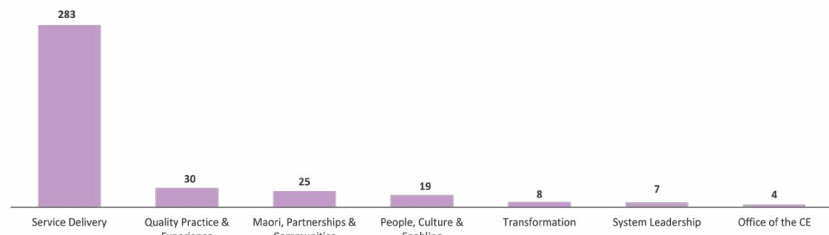
Tū Māia is a Māori cultural capability training programme for Oranga Tamariki kaimahi - designed and delivered by Te Taihū o Ngā Wānanga, a collective partnership comprising Te Wānanga o Raukawa, Te Wānanga o Aotearoa and Te Whare Wānanga o Awanuiārangī.

Tū Māia consists of noho wānanga, weekly two-hour online classes and self-reflective activities over a 21-week period. In 2022, 376 kaimahi completed the inaugural programme delivered over 21 weeks from May – November, across five learning hubs throughout the country; Te Tai Tokerau; Tāmaki Makaurau; Mātaatua; Te Whanganui-ā-Tara and Te Wai Pounamu.

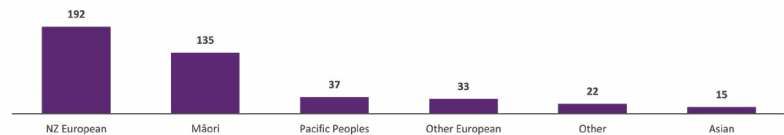
Tū Māia 2022



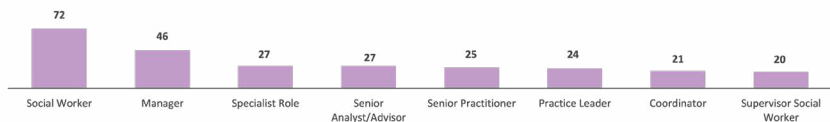
Service Delivery made up the majority of those who started



The most common ethnicities were **Māori** and **NZ European**



Social workers and **Managers** made up the highest portion of the roles represented at enrolment



Our kaimahi describe Tū Māia as being a safe, trust-worthy, and confidential learning environment, while challenging at times is also profound and empowering.

- “Some of the conversations have been quite challenging but then it’s refreshing. So, it’s okay to have those conversations because they were in a safe environment and how can we create that safe environment for our whānau I think for me personally.”
- “I enrolled to continue a journey I started in 1990 when I attended a Treaty workshop and was first confronted with the injustices that have happened since Te Tiriti o Waitangi was signed. This programme has taken me further on that journey and into reflecting on privilege, decolonisation and the opportunities we have going forward as a country.”

A second cohort of 400 kaimahi commenced in May 2023. This is being delivered over a shortened 18 weeks retaining its blended delivery model and three learning modules. Oranga Tamariki is exploring New Zealand Qualifications Authority accreditation of Tū Māia for potential delivery from 2024.

He Puna Rauemi

He Puna Rauemi is a suite of self-directed online resources available to kaimahi on our learning management system, myLearn. The resources align to the core competencies of Whāinga Amorangi. In 2022, the first suite of online resources were launched and preliminary commentary indicate that our people are responding positively to these modules. He Puna Rauemi will continue to grow in 2023 where resources will likely align to varying competency levels so that there is an appropriate learning pathway for our people.

Māori Cultural Capability Baseline

Developing a Māori cultural capability baseline will provide an evidential basis to measure our cultural capability. An annual survey completed by kaimahi providing their assessment of their own cultural capability and the organisation’s cultural capability will inform the baseline measurement, and where to prioritise resources and our collective effort.

In 2022 the baseline survey achieved a response rate of 54 percent. The results are currently being analysed. Preliminary results indicate that our people have a high awareness that cultural capability is important for their work at Oranga Tamariki but require the appropriate support to apply this in a meaningful way within their respective working environment.

Evaluation Framework

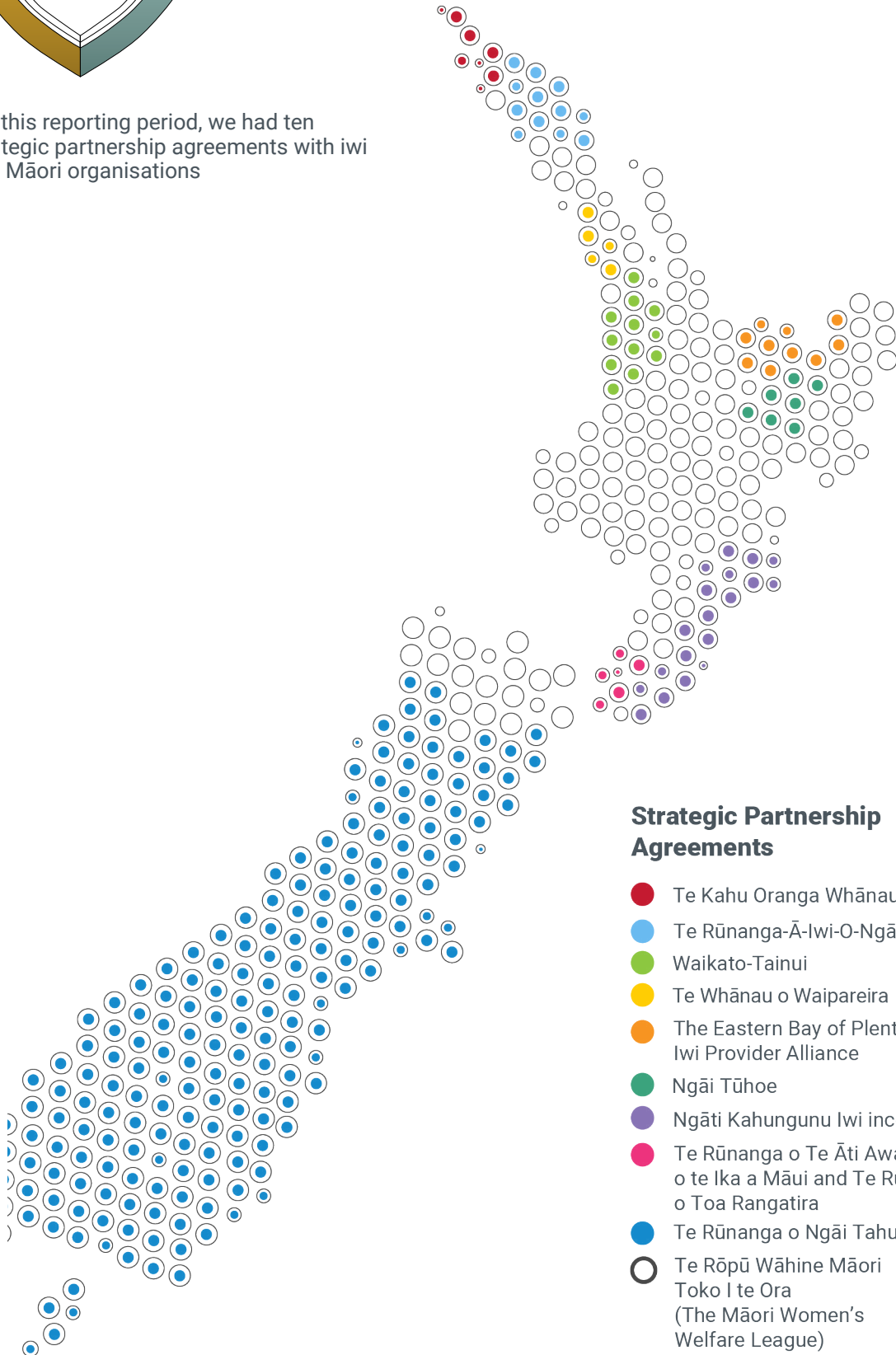
The development of an evaluation framework is underway. This is a complementary tool to measure our cultural capability and the effectiveness of Te Hāpai Ō, our approach to grow cultural capability.

Te Reo Māori Strategy

A Te Reo Māori Strategy will ensure that Oranga Tamariki values New Zealand’s indigenous language where it is used, understood, and spoken appropriately. In accordance with the Maihi Karauna, the Crown’s Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation, Oranga Tamariki is required to have a Māori Language Plan. Given our comprehensive approach to growing cultural capability, the development of a Te Reo Māori Strategy and a Māori Language Plan are currently on hold, a decision discussed with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori. This will be reconsidered in 2023/24.



For this reporting period, we had ten strategic partnership agreements with iwi and Māori organisations



Strategic Partnership Agreements

- Te Kahu Oranga Whānau
- Te Rūnanga-Ā-Iwi-O-Ngāpuhi
- Waikato-Tainui
- Te Whānau o Waipareira
- The Eastern Bay of Plenty Iwi Provider Alliance
- Ngāi Tūhoe
- Ngāti Kahungunu Iwi incorporated.
- Te Rūnanga o Te Āti Awa ki te Upoko o te Ika a Māui and Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira
- Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu
- Te Rōpū Wāhine Māori Toko I te Ora (The Māori Women's Welfare League)

Fulfilling Treaty Commitments with Post-Settlement Governance Entities

We work with many different partners, but specifically in addition to our Strategic Partners we are also committed to working in partnership with our Post-Settlement Governance Entity (PSGE) partners who have negotiated Treaty / Tiriti settlements with the Crown.

The Treaty / Te Tiriti settlements are the Crown's direct way of working to redress both historical and contemporary breaches under the Treaty / te Tiriti. Taking this into account and our obligations directly to the Treaty / te Tiriti through Section 7AA, often the work we do with our PSGE partners significantly contributes to us being able to meet those obligations.

While some of our PSGE partners are also strategic partners, our commitment to each partner is unique and ensures we work in partnership with them to enable them to meet their future aspirations in whatever way they see fit.

We currently have nine PSGE partners, they are:

- Waikato-Tainui, Te Whakakitenga o Waikato
- Ngāi Tūhoe, Te Uru Taumatua
- Ngāti Koata, Te Pātaka a Ngāti Kōata
- Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui, Te Ātiawa o Te Waka-a-Māui Trust
- Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Rārua Settlement Trust
- Taranaki Whānui ki Te Upoko o Te Ika, Port Nicholson Block Settlement Trust
- Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-ā-Rua, Ngāti Kahungunu ki Wairarapa Tāmaki Nui-ā-Rua Settlement Trust
- Ngāti Rangī, Te Tōtarahoe o Paerangi
- Maniapoto, Te Nehenehenui



Community groups that hold delegated statutory powers.

The Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki must seek to delegate statutory functions and powers to appropriate partners who are iwi and/or Māori organisations. These delegations must be approved by the Minister for Children.

Delegations can only be made to people who are appropriately qualified and are supported through contracts with Oranga Tamariki. During this reporting period we had four delegations in place:

- Turuki Health Care Charitable Trust,
- Whakapai Hauora (Best Start Charitable Trust)
- Ngāti Awa Social and Health Services Trust (part of Eastern Bay of Plenty Alliance)
- Barnardos New Zealand incorporated.

Turuki Health Care Charitable Trust

Qualified social workers work with caregivers to develop and maintain an individual plan that supports the caregivers to meet the needs of tamariki or rangatahi they care for.

Whakapai Hauora (Best Care Charitable Trust)

Provide statutory youth justice services and te ao Māori to tamariki and rangatahi Māori who enter the youth justice system within Palmerston North.

Ngāti Awa Health and Social Services Trust

Provides statutory youth justice services that promote the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi within the Whakatāne area. Priority is given to those who whakapapa to Ngāti Awa.

Barnardos Incorporated New Zealand

This delegation was not exercised in 2022/23

While delegation gives partners a greater role in decision-making and care of tamariki or rangatahi, our Chief Executive continues to remain accountable for the standard of care.

For more information on delegations please see: [Delegations & Subdelegations](#)



Te Wāhanga Tuatoru

Workforce data

As at July 2023, 28 percent of our workforce identified as Māori as shown in the table below. This is higher than the reported public service average of 16.7 percent

W.F.A Percentage (%) of all staff who identified as Māori			
FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
26.7%	27.1%	28.3%	28.4%

W.F.B Changes for Māori across the tiers				
	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
Tier 3				
Total Headcount	61	68	63	71
Māori Headcount	8	17	15	14
% Disclosed Ethnicity	83.6%	86.8%	82.5%	78.9%
% Disclosed Māori Ethnicity	15.7%	28.8%	28.8%	25.0%
Tier 4				
Total Headcount	212	224	216	216
Māori Headcount	58	58	48	47
% Disclosed Ethnicity	92.0%	89.3%	88.0%	81.5%
% Disclosed Māori Ethnicity	29.7%	29.0%	25.3%	26.7%

Over the next 12 months we will continue to embed shifts that are targeted at connecting with whānau, whenua and whakapapa

Section 7AA (5) requires the Chief Executive to include specific next steps for Oranga Tamariki to continue improving outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau over the next 12 months. These next steps will come through in part, from Transition Support Services, the Future Direction Plan, our practice shift and reviewing our mana tamaiti measures.

There has been significant progress through the implementation of the Future Direction Plan

The Future Direction Plan has key pou, which provide Oranga Tamariki with focus areas for delivery, this includes Enabling Communities, Social Work and Professional Practice, and greater integration of Voices and Participation. Over the last year we have seen significant progress through these pou including but not limited to:

- Nine prototype partners have joined the Enabling Communities work programme across the motu. These prototypes are building blueprints for how Oranga Tamariki engage with communities and how Oranga Tamariki will look to devolving services to communities.
- The development of the 'Voice to Action Pathway' framework that articulates how Oranga Tamariki will gain insights from the voices of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau and how it translates into work programmes and outcomes.

We will continue to shift practice to be more whānau-centred and focused on oranga

We will keep striving to shift our practice as we continue with a work programme to implement new and strengthened approaches to practice with tamariki and their whānau. These shifts require a purposeful focus on relational, inclusive, and restorative social work practice with whānau that meets the full range of their oranga needs.

The insights from rangatahi will support their transition out of care and back to whānau or independence

The work of the Transition Support Service is outlined throughout this report. In our next report we will share highlights from a four-year evaluation of the Transition Support Service. The evaluation is expected to be completed in late 2023 and covers all components of the Transition Support Service including transition worker services, the entitlement to remain or return to living with a caregiver, supported accommodation and the transition assistance helpline. The evaluation includes the outcomes from the Just Sayin'4 survey of rangatahi and insights from contracted transition providers.

Now is the time to revisit the mana tamaiti objectives as they need to align with the future vision of Oranga Tamariki

The 2024 report will be our fifth opportunity to release information about our ongoing work to meet the intentions of Section 7AA. In our first report (2020) we outlined that the mana tamaiti objectives were limited and based on data that was already being collected by us. It is timely to revisit our objectives and consider the type of information that needs to be collected to ensure they are meaningful and enable systemic change.

Appendix one: Definitions

Upholding Tikanga Māori within the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 is unique in that it has legislated the interpretation of mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga and how they should be applied in all our work in Oranga Tamariki. For tamariki and rangatahi, when considering the definitions of these terms, they must be seen in accordance with tikanga Māori:

mana tamaiti (tamariki) means the intrinsic value and inherent dignity derived from a child or young person's whakapapa (genealogy) and their belonging to whānau, hapū, iwi or family group, in accordance with tikanga Māori or its equivalent in the culture of the child or young person.

whakapapa in relation to a person, means the multi-generational kinship relationships that help to describe who the person is in terms of their mātua (parents) and tūpuna (ancestors) from whom they descend.

whanaungatanga, in relation to a person, means –

- a. the purposeful carrying out of responsibilities based on obligations to whakapapa
- b. the kinship that provides the foundations for reciprocal obligations and responsibilities to be met
- c. the wider kinship ties that need to be protected and maintained to ensure the maintenance and protection of their sense of belonging, identity and connection.

Appendix two: Mana tamaiti measures 2023

2023 Mana Tamaiti Measures	
<p>Ensuring participation in decision-making</p>	<p>1A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who feel they have a say in important decisions about their life, - results unavailable this year.</p> <p>1B – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for whom the views of their family/whānau/family group have been identified and considered. We rephrased this measure in 2023 so that it aligns with the lead indicators for assessing our performance against the National Care Standards. The measure previously said, “Across all plans for tamariki Māori, there was information about the views of their family / whānau / family group”- therefore the data for 2021 cannot be compared. The previous measurement can be found in the Section 7AA 2022 report.</p> <p>1C – Percentage (%) of cases reviewed for tamariki Māori where there is evidence that parents were consulted before a decision was made about health or education matters.</p> <p><i>The original measure read “% of cases reviewed where there was evidence that parents were consulted before a decision was made about health, education, or placement. This measure has been further broken down into two sub measures:</i></p> <p>1C.1(a) – There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about health matters (percentage)</p> <p>1C.1(b) – There is evidence that a parent or other legal guardian was consulted as part of the decision-making about education matters (percentage)</p>
<p>Preventing entry into care or custody</p>	<p>2A – Percentage of all service contract funding with iwi and Māori Organisations</p> <p>2B – \$ spend with Māori/Iwi providers</p> <p>2C – % increase on previous year \$ spend</p> <p>2D – Number of Māori/Iwi Providers</p>
<p>Placing with whānau, hapū and iwi</p>	<p>3A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months living with a caregiver who are placed with Māori, non-whānau caregivers,</p> <p>3A.1 – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months living with a caregiver, who are placed with whānau. The original measure read “% of tamariki Māori in an out of home placement for more than three months, who are placed with whānau Māori caregivers”,</p> <p>3B – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are placed with at least one other sibling who is also in care,</p> <p>3B.1 – Number of tamariki Māori in care who have siblings also in care</p> <p>3B.2 – Number of tamariki Māori siblings placed together</p>
<p>Supporting identity and belonging</p>	<p>4A – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori who have identified an iwi affiliation.</p> <p>4B – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who are in touch with their whānau as they want to be, - results unavailable this year</p> <p>4C – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who know their whakapapa, - results unavailable this year.</p> <p>4D – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori aged 10-17 who have the opportunity to learn about their culture, - results unavailable this year</p> <p>4E – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori with an identifiable hapū</p> <p>4F – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care who are being supported to have contact with their family, whānau or family group – This measure was not published in 2022. A new measure was revised in 2022 and the methodology for collating the data and how we measure the data for the original measure has changed. The original measure read “% of tamariki and rangatahi Māori where important connections or contact arrangements have been identified with their hapū and iwi”.</p> <p>4G – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori in care for more than three months whose plan reflects actions to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with their whānau and/or marae, hapū or iwi.</p>

2023 Mana Tamaiti Measures

Leaving care or custody	<p>5A – Percentage (%) tamariki Māori referred for another youth justice family group conference in the six months following release,</p> <p>5A.1 – Percentage (%) admitted to a youth justice residence who are tamariki Māori - This measure has been reworded for clarity, the methodology for collating data and how we measure this has not changed. The original measure read “% tamariki Māori admitted to youth justice residence.”</p> <p>5B – Percentage (%) of eligible rangatahi Māori referred to a transition worker,</p> <p>5B.1 – Percentage (%) of eligible rangatahi Māori who have been offered a referral to a transition worker.</p> <p>5C – Percentage (%) of tamariki Māori exiting out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement.</p> <p>5C.1 – Year-on-year number and percentage of tamariki Māori entering out-of-home placements in the 18 months prior who re-entered an out-of-home placement</p>
Workforce Data	<p>WFA – Percentage (%) of all staff who identified as Māori</p> <p>WFB – Changes for Māori across the tiers (total headcount, Māori headcount, % disclosed ethnicity, % disclosed Māori ethnicity)</p>

Appendix three: Data caveats and considerations

Ethnicity data is based on all ethnicities recorded for a child or young person. In most cases the whānau/family have identified the ethnicity, and in some cases Oranga Tamariki may have identified the ethnicity. Ethnicity of children and young people who have not progressed past a report of concern has been identified by the person(s) making the report of concern and has not been verified by the whānau/family.

Ethnicity recording changes over time and improves the more we are involved with a child. For example, where a child has been reported to us, but does not progress further through our system, we may never know or capture their ethnicity. This can result in ethnicity being recorded as 'not specified'. Conversely, as a child progresses through the system their recorded ethnicities can change as further information is gained. Due to the continuous improvement in ethnicity recording over time, numbers, rates and percentages associated with a particular ethnicity may differ from those previously published. Grand totals however remain the same.

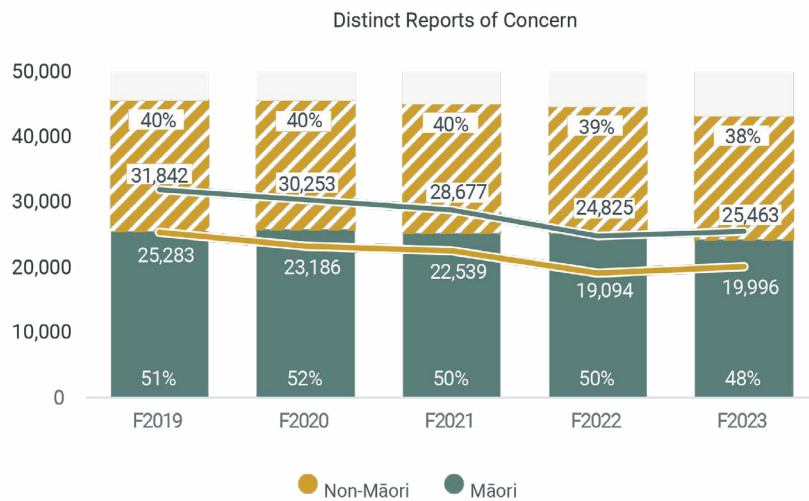
Changes in reporting practice for the non-Māori ethnicity category can cause variations from previously published data. Those with a 'not specified' ethnicity were once categories as non-Māori given that no indication of Māori ethnicity was recorded. Practice has since changed to exclude those with a 'not specified' ethnicity from the non-Māori category as this could not be verified.

Operational data changes can also result in variations from previously published data. While most grand totals of previously published data will remain the same, such as numbers of children in care, some numbers can only be sourced from operational data which is subject to change. Entries and exists from care can be affected by changes in operational data and so slight variations from previously published data or measures can occur.

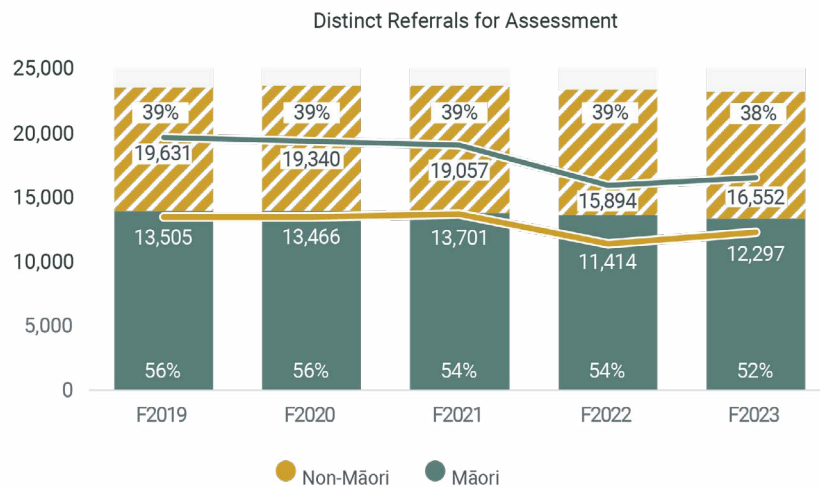
Appendix four: Disparity and disproportionality in the care and protection system

The graphs below show the number of unique tamariki involved in each step of the care and protection system and the ratio of tamariki Māori to non-Māori children. The data provided cover the last five years, from 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023.

At a high level, the data show that in all years tamariki Māori still accounted for more than half of the children in each step of the system. However, since the establishment of Oranga Tamariki, the number of tamariki Māori entering care has been steadily decreasing to some of the lowest levels in five years.



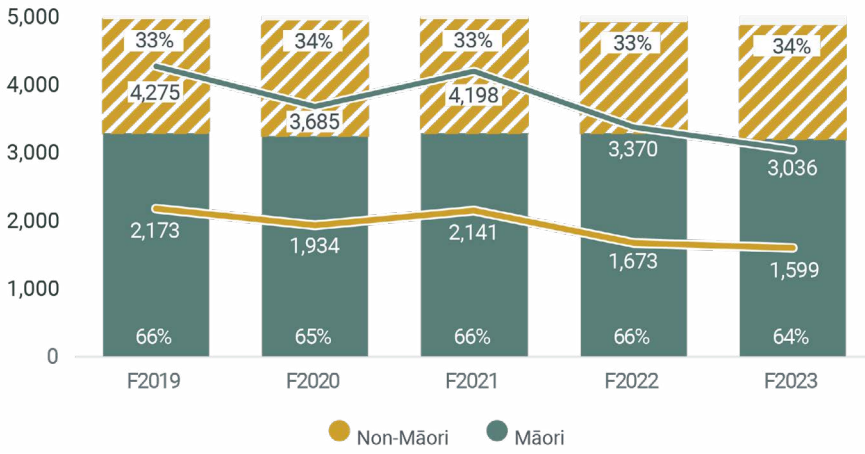
Over the last 5 years, the number of Reports of Concerns (ROCs) made to Oranga Tamariki has been decreasing with the lowest received in FY 2022, but the proportion of reports received for Māori has remained at approximately 50%. The disproportional number of reports received for tamariki Māori contributes significantly to the disparity seen across the following decision points in the Care and Protection system.



The number of tamariki referred for further assessment has been relatively stable since FY 2019 but fell noticeably in FY 2022. The number of referrals for both tamariki Māori and non-Māori has decreased since FY 2021, with the proportion for Māori falling slightly.

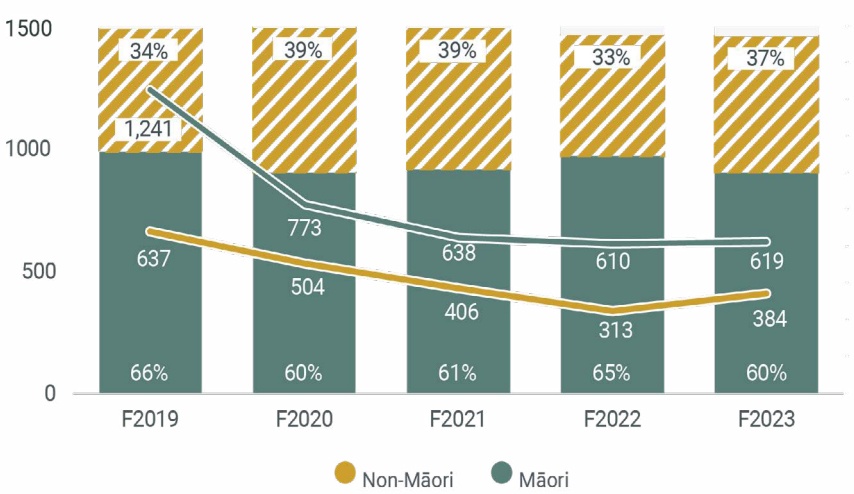


Distinct Family Group Conferences



Significantly more FGCs are convened for tamariki Māori than non-Māori. However, in FY 2020 there was a significant drop in the number of FGCs for tamariki Māori, which was potentially driven by COVID-19 restrictions. FY 2022 and FY 2023 have also seen a drop in FGCs for both tamariki Māori and non-Māori to the lowest in five years. As a proportion, the percentage of FGCs being held for tamariki Māori has remained fairly stable the past few years, though dropped in FY 2023.

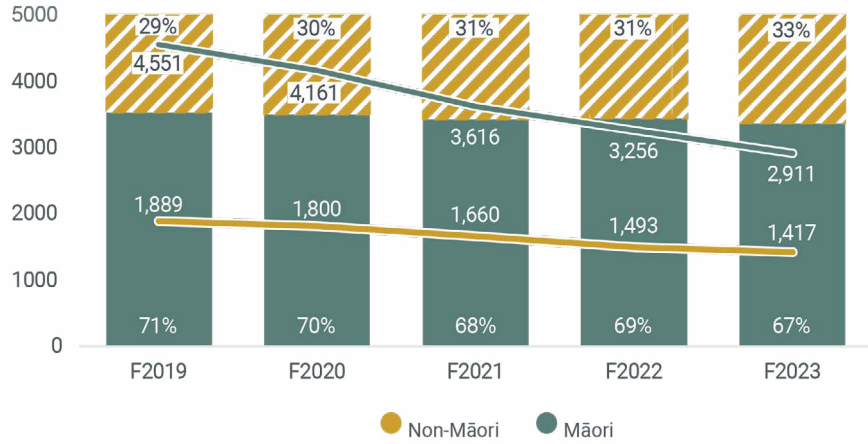
Distinct Entries to Care



In all years, tamariki Māori accounted for more than half of all children entering care. The number of tamariki Māori entering care was consistently higher than non-Māori. The number tamariki Māori entering care has decreased significantly the past 5 years, but has tapered off the past couple years.

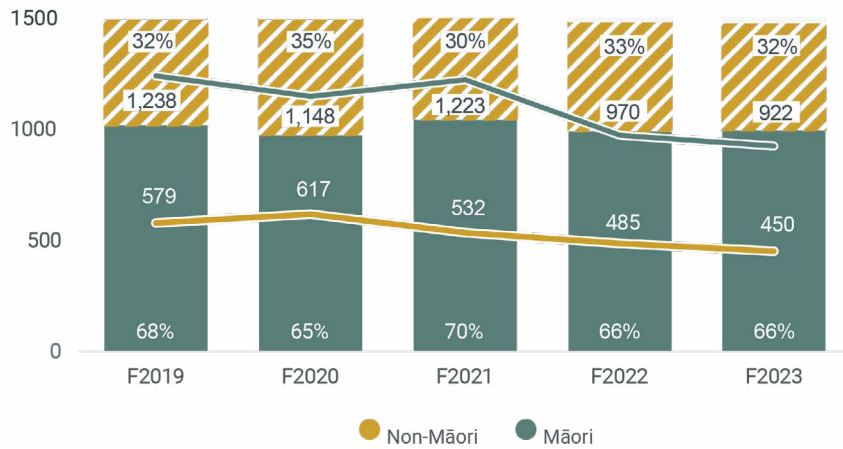


Distinct Tamariki in Care at 30 June



The overall care population has decreased noticeably since FY 2019 to the lowest in five years. The decrease was driven by a decrease in the number of tamariki Māori in care, while the number of non-Māori children fell at a slower rate. The proportion of tamariki Māori in care has decreased slightly as a result.

Distinct Exits from Care



In all years, tamariki Māori accounted for more than half of children exiting care, with the highest proportion in FY2021. Since FY 2020 the total number of exits was larger than the number of entries, leading to a reduction in the number of tamariki in care.

Appendix five: Measuring broader outcomes

Introduction

The Children's Wellbeing Model in the Stats NZ Tatauranga Aotearoa Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) can be used to explore broader early adulthood wellbeing outcomes for Māori and non-Māori, and how these compare to those with or without care and protection involvement.

Investigating early adulthood outcomes (for ages 17-21) required older birth cohorts to be used - specifically those born between 1995-1999. As such any of these individuals who came into contact with the care and protection system would have dealt with Child, Youth and Family rather than Oranga Tamariki. Not enough time has passed since Oranga Tamariki was established to investigate early adulthood outcomes for tamariki with more recent involvement.

Wellbeing Indicator	Care Placement		No Care Placement	
	Māori	Non-Māori	Māori	Non-Māori
Education and employment				
Enrolled in tertiary course for some/all of the period - non-bachelor level	70%	62%	53%	34%
Enrolled in tertiary course for some/all of the period - bachelor level	5%	9%	22%	46%
Highest level qualification is NCEA level 2+ or equivalent	55%	57%	77%	83%
In employment, education and/or training for some/all of the period	96%	96%	98%	98%
Not in employment, education and/or training for some/all of the period	88%	81%	66%	46%
Benefit status				
Received a main benefit for some/all of the period	83%	76%	47%	19%
Proportion of adult lifetime (ages 18-21) supported by main benefit - 75%+	22%	23%	5%	2%
Proportion of adult lifetime (ages 18-21) supported by main benefit - 50-75%	25%	20%	9%	2%
Health				
Had ED contact(s) over the period	75%	71%	57%	41%
Had hospitalisation over the period	57%	54%	40%	27%
Had potentially avoidable hospitalisation (PAH) over the period	10%	9%	6%	4%
Had mental health service provider contact / treatment or received a mental health related prescription over the period	59%	61%	30%	24%
Had substance usage related provider contact / treatment over the period	38%	27%	11%	5%
Justice				
Involved in offence(s) over the period	61%	46%	27%	11%
Involved in High level seriousness offence(s) over the period	35%	24%	8%	2%
In remand or received a prison sentence over the period	21%	12%	2%	0%
Other indicators				
Female young person had first child before age 20	14%	11%	7%	2%
Lived in social housing for some/all of the period	29%	19%	12%	5%
Involved in Police recorded victimisation over the period	37%	34%	19%	13%

Analysis

Wellbeing outcomes tend to be worse for those who have had a care placement in their life than for the rest of the population. This may be related to the circumstances in a young person's life which gave rise to the need for care and protection.

A greater proportion of Māori tend to have worse wellbeing outcomes than non-Māori regardless of whether they have had a care placement in their lives or not. However, the disparity in wellbeing outcomes for Māori compared to non-Māori appears to be less for those with care placement experience than the rest of the population.

While those with care placement experience do have higher involvement in poor wellbeing outcomes the difference between Māori and non-Māori is generally not as pronounced. This may imply that the circumstances in an individual's life which led to them needing a care placement is a strong factor in early adulthood outcomes and that ethnicity alone is not as strong a factor. It may also speak to effects of additional support and services a tamaiti may receive while in care.

However, one area that defies the general trend are the offending and corrections indicators. Here there is generally a more pronounced disparity between Māori and non-Māori when comparing those that have care placement experience against the rest of the population. One example of this is the 'Average number of offences per person' indicator which shows a larger absolute disparity between Māori and non-Māori for those with care placement experience.

The cohort considered in this report generally had improved early adulthood wellbeing outcomes when compared to the cohort considered in the 2021 report (those born between 1993-1997). However, this improvement has generally been the same across the board - disparity between Māori and non-Māori has remained at relatively similar rates in the selected indicators.

The following table looks at the wellbeing indicators differently. Two indicators show the average number of quarters where indicator was met for each person, and the third indicator shows the average number of offences per person. All three consider the average over the whole four-year period across the cohort.

Wellbeing Indicator	Care Placement		No Care Placement	
	Māori	Non-Māori	Māori	Non-Māori
Health				
Average number of quarters with mental health service provider contact / treatment or mental health related prescription over the period	3.4	3.9	1.2	1.2
Other indicators				
Average number of quarters with tenancy in social housing over the period	4.5	3.2	2.0	0.9
Justice				
Average number of offences per person	4.0	2.6	0.8	0.2

