



**Malatest**  
International

# Summary results of Just Sayin' 2021

September 2021



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## Definitions

Term	Description
Disability	Self-reported assessment on the Washington Group Scale measure of disability. A young person is defined as “having a disability” if they report they ‘often’ or ‘always have difficulty with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeing (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses)</li> <li>• Hearing (even when wearing hearing aids)</li> <li>• Doing physical tasks like walking</li> <li>• Learning remembering or concentrating</li> <li>• Emotional, psychological or mental health conditions.</li> </ul>
Entitlement to Remain or Return (ETRR)	The intention of the ETRR is to support eligible rangatahi to remain in a stable caregiving arrangement past the age of 18 and up to the age of 21, should they wish. Rangatahi can also potentially return to a previous caregiver whose home they have left. To meet the intention of the ETRR, caregivers are supported in providing the agreed arrangement with the rangatahi.
Ethnicity	Young people were able to select multiple ethnic groups. If they selected Māori for one of their ethnic groups then they were included as Māori and the same applied for Pacific ethnicities. If a young person identified as both Māori and Pacific they were included in both ethnic groups (a total count approach). All young people not identifying as Māori or Pacific were included in a non-Māori and non-Pacific group.
Just Sayin’ surveys	Annual surveys of young people eligible for support from a transition worker. Just Sayin’ 2021 ran from June to August 2021.
National Care Standards	The National Care Standards set out the standard of care every child and young person needs to do well and be well, and the support all caregivers can expect to receive when they open their hearts and homes to tamariki. They came into effect on 1 July 2019.
NEET	Not in Education, Employment or Training. In this report if a young person reports they are in any type of training or employment (full-time, part-time or casual) they are not classified as NEET. The national NEET rate is based on the Household Labour Force Survey which asks respondents about the week before the survey and if they did any paid work. This is more specific than Just Sayin’ which asks about the last 12 months.
Positive about social worker	Refers to answering positively to all the following three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My social worker understands the support I need leaving care (Yes)</li> <li>• My social worker is there when I need them (Yes)</li> <li>• My social worker does what they say they would (Most or all of the time).</li> </ul>
Positive about transition worker	Refers to answering positively to all the following three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My transition worker understands the support I need leaving care (Yes)</li> <li>• My transition worker is there when I need them (Yes)</li> <li>• My transition worker does what they say they would (Most or all the time).</li> </ul>
Rainbow	Young people who reported they identify as part of the LGBTQIA+/rainbow community.
Social worker	The young person’s Oranga Tamariki social worker if still in care or their former social worker if they have left care.

Transition support service (TS)	The Transition Support Service (TS) supports eligible young people leaving care or custody up to age 21, with access to advice and assistance available up to age 25.
Transition support service partner (TS partner)	A community organisation contracted to provide transition support to eligible young people in the form of transition workers.
Transition (support) worker	The young person's assigned transition worker from a TS partner.
Transition support helpline	A helpline within the National Contact Centre that supports young people and TS partners.

## Executive summary

### Oranga Tamariki has established a new Transition Support Service

Transition support became a core component of the new operating model for Oranga Tamariki from 1 July 2019. The Transition Support Service (TS) aims to provide relationship-based support to eligible young people leaving care or custody up to age 21, with access to advice and assistance available up to age 25. Roll-out of the TS is phased over three years to 30 June 2022.

### Just Sayin' is an annual survey of young people

The Just Sayin' surveys are distributed annually to seek feedback from young people who are eligible for support from a transition worker. The surveys are one part of the TS evaluation. The 2021 survey included young people aged 16 to 20.

Just Sayin' survey findings are also included in a series of theme reports and fact sheets including reports about young people leaving Youth Justice (YJ) residences, the transition needs of rangatahi Māori and young Pacific, young parents, and young people with complex needs.

### The purpose of this report

This report summarises findings from the second Just Sayin' survey in 2021 ([www.justsayin.nz](http://www.justsayin.nz)). These survey results and information from the other workstreams of the Transition Service evaluation will contribute to a synthesis report planned for publication in the second half of 2022.

### The 2021 Just Sayin' survey was completed by 355 young people

Just Sayin' heard from 355 of the 514 (69%) valid contacts for young people (18% of the eligible cohort of 2,000). Twenty-four responses from young people who were in Youth Justice residences at the time are reported separately, leaving 331 responses which inform this report. Of the 331 included in analyses in this report, 129 were still in Oranga Tamariki care and 202 had left care. Young people responding to Just Sayin' were broadly representative of the total eligible cohort in age, ethnicity and geographical location. However, women were over-represented in the sample (63% in Just Sayin' compared to 44% of total eligible cohort).

The results from the 331 respondents cannot be conclusively extrapolated to all the young people who are eligible for TS. It is probable that the views and experiences of those young people without contact details differ from those who have current

contact information recorded. A further caution in interpreting the findings is that information from young people is self-reported.

### Preparation and planning for transition

#### **Many young people reported they had not been involved in planning what will happen when they leave care**

- Yes, someone talked with me and worked out a plan for when I leave/left care – (in care: 49%, left care: 62%)
- Have/had a copy of their plan (in care: 30%, left care: 42%).

**Two-thirds of young people in care gave positive feedback about their experience with their social worker and Oranga Tamariki.** One-third of young people in care provided negative feedback. This included feedback about their social worker not understanding the support they needed leaving care, not being there when they needed them, and/or not doing what they said they would do.

**Although most young people (85%) had been asked if they wanted a transition worker, this was not recalled by everyone.** Of the young people who took part in Just Sayin' 60% have and 17% had a transition worker (77% in total). Understanding why not all young people have been asked if they want a transition worker is important to provide all eligible young people with the opportunity to be supported by a transition worker.

**Most young people felt they had a say in the important decisions in their lives 'most' or 'all of the time'** (in care: 78%, left care: 79%). However, fewer young people felt the important people in their lives were involved in their planning as much as they would like (in care: 58%, left care: 54%). Many comments left by young people asked Oranga Tamariki to listen to young people.

### Transition worker support

**Most young people were positive about the support they were receiving from their transition worker.** Young people described their transition workers as providing a listening ear, helping improve their wellbeing and confidence, being consistently there, supporting their independence and future planning and that they felt listened to and respected.

Eighty-one percent of young people supported by a transition worker said they made things better for the young person. Approximately the same proportion provided positive ratings about their transition worker:

- Understanding what kinds of support I need (81%)
- Being there when I need them (80%)

- Doing what they say they would do (most or all of the time) (81%)

Seventy-one percent gave positive answers to all three questions above.

**Sixty-three percent of young people who had a transition worker thought their frequency of contact with their transition worker was about right.** Some young people wanted to see more or less of their transition worker, but their preferences did not correlate with the frequency of contact they reported. The negative feedback more often came from young people who wanted to see their transition worker more or did not feel their transition worker communicated or connected with them effectively.

**Many rangatahi Māori wanted support from Māori organisations or transition workers.** Fifty-two percent of rangatahi Māori who had a transition worker were being supported by a Māori organisation and/or a Māori transition worker. Forty-one percent of Pacific young people with a transition worker were being supported by a Pacific organisation and/or a Pacific transition worker.

### Living arrangements

**When asked where they usually lived, most young people (87%) selected only one answer.** The most common place for young people to live was in a family home (43%); 44% lived with their whakapapa whānau (biological family). A higher proportion of rangatahi Māori lived with whakapapa whānau than other ethnic groups (51% compared to 34%).

A few young people (9%) were living in unstable accommodation<sup>1</sup> and many of this group did not feel safe or that they belonged.

**Young people leaving care are likely to move to live somewhere else.**

- 38% of young people in care thought they would stay living in the same place when they left care
- 28% of young people who had left care were living in the same place as before they left care.

### Parenting

**There is room to improve the support young people get to be parents.** Seventeen percent of young people said they were either a parent and/or hapū (pregnant). Nearly two-thirds of parents said their child/children lived with them either some or all of the time; most were women (75%) compared to men (33%).

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<sup>1</sup> The number living in unstable accommodation is likely to be under-counted because they may be less likely to have valid contact details.



Of the 32 young people whose child lived with them, 59% ranked the support they received as 7 to 10 on a 10 point-scale, 41% provided a lower rating.

### Identity, health and wellbeing

**Most young people were doing well, but around one-quarter were struggling with some aspects of their lives.** This pattern relates to, being secure in their identity, proud of who they are, hopeful about the future, knowing their iwi, general life ratings and ratings of the four domains of Te Whare Tapa Whā (taha tinana – physical wellbeing, taha hinengaro – mental wellbeing, taha wairua – spiritual wellbeing and taha whānau – family and relationship wellbeing).

**Fifty-nine percent of young people reported a disability<sup>2</sup>.** The most common disabilities were difficulties ‘learning, remembering or concentrating’ (34% of the overall population) and ‘emotional, psychological or mental health conditions’ (38% of the overall population). Young people with a disability were less likely to rate their social worker positively.

**Young people with a disability rated many aspects of their life more negatively than other young people.** A smaller proportion of young people with a self-reported disability were positive about their social worker than those with no disability. Young people who had a disability or did not rate their social worker or transition worker positively also rated their lives in general less positively than other young people.

Smaller proportions of young people with a disability achieved NCEA level 2 or higher, were positive about all aspects of the questions about identity, had an adult to turn to if needed, considered they were getting the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted to learn, had no worries or felt good about life in general.

### Support

**Sixty-eight percent of young people said they would turn to an adult if they needed help during a difficult time.** There was no difference between young people in care compared to those who had left care. A higher proportion (78%) of young people would talk to their transition worker about their worries compared to the proportion of those in care who said they would talk with their Oranga Tamariki social worker (53%).

Forty percent of young people said they were being supported by organisations outside of their transition provider and Oranga Tamariki. Two-thirds (69%) of young people knew how to contact Oranga Tamariki if they needed help, while 48% knew how to contact VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai.

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<sup>2</sup> Based on the Washington Group Scale

## Education, training and employment

### **A smaller proportion of young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care had been supported to achieve NCEA level 2 compared with national statistics.**

Of survey respondents not in education or training, only 47% had NCEA level 2, compared to 81% of school leavers nationally<sup>3</sup>. Although this may also indicate these young people are leaving school earlier, lack of NCEA level 2 is a major disadvantage.

Nineteen percent of young people were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This is likely an underestimate<sup>4</sup> but is a higher proportion than the national NEET rate of 12% for 15-24 year olds<sup>5</sup>.

## Overview

The findings from the Just Sayin' 21 survey complement the findings reported in the Transition Service Synthesis Report to the end of June 2021<sup>6</sup>. The larger sample size in the 2021 survey provides more information about the transition needs of young people with different characteristics and contexts amongst those leaving care. The survey alone is not intended to draw conclusions and provide recommendations. However, key findings do highlight the potential to strengthen the transition process.

Oranga Tamariki has a statutory obligation to prepare young people for transition from care by assessing their transition needs and developing a transition plan with the young person. However, aspects of transition planning were not happening consistently.

Importantly, many young people felt their voices were not heard and asked for Oranga Tamariki to listen to them.

After referral, contracted external providers (TS partners) help rangatahi to maintain and build relationships, networks and knowledge to support their decision making, plan for their future and achieve their goals.

Most of the young people who had a transition worker were positive about the support they had received. The young people who were most positive about their

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<sup>3</sup> <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/school-leavers>

<sup>4</sup> National NEET rate is based on the Household Labour Force Survey which asks respondents about the week before the survey and if they did any paid work. This is more specific than Just Sayin' which asks about the last 12 months.

<sup>5</sup> National comparison from Statistics New Zealand: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-march-2021-quarter>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/research/our-research/transitions-service-synthesis-report/>

transition worker self-assessed their lives in general more positively. The correlation is not necessarily causal.

As the transition service develops and the number of transition workers increases there is a risk to some of the elements of a relationship based service:

- Young people formed close relationships with their transition worker who became a trusted person in their lives. This close relationship becomes a problem if the transition worker leaves and young people feel left down. This risk can be managed where young people are supported by more than one transition worker but this is not feasible in smaller TS partners.
- The frequency of contact between transition workers and young people was not adequate for 37% suggesting a need for more conversations with young people about how they would like to be supported.
- A substantial proportion of young people described not feeling adequately supported to develop the skills they thought they needed. It is important to further explore reasons with TS partners which might include access barriers to appropriate skills and educational opportunities.

There were few differences between the feedback provided by rangatahi Māori and other young people about Oranga Tamariki, access to transition worker support and their own wellbeing. However, rangatahi Māori are over-represented amongst young people in Oranga Tamariki care and amongst young people not adequately supported to achieve NCEA level 2. These differences suggest the need for enhanced transition support for rangatahi Māori to ensure equitable longer-term outcomes.

Many rangatahi Māori valued support by a Māori transition worker but only 43% said they had a choice about the organisation that would support them. Oranga Tamariki are working to increase the number of Māori TS partners. Support from a Māori TS partner may also help rangatahi Māori to develop a strong and secure cultural identity and understanding of their whakapapa.

Young people with disabilities are over-represented amongst young people in care. Smaller proportions of young people with a disability achieved NCEA level 2 or higher, were positive about all aspects of the questions about identity, had an adult to turn to if needed, considered they were getting the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted to learn, had no worries or felt good about life in general. Fewer young people with a self-reported disability were positive about their social worker than those with no disability but approximately the same proportion were positive about their transition worker.

## 1. What is Just Sayin' 2021

Oranga Tamariki has established a new Transition Support Service (TS) for eligible young people leaving care or custody up to age 21, with access to advice and assistance available up to age 25. From 1 July 2019, the legislative transition to adulthood requirements in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 includes:

- That care-experienced rangatahi can request to remain or return to live with a caregiver between 18 to 21 years
- The obligation that Oranga Tamariki must remain in contact with eligible rangatahi once they leave care or a longer-term youth justice residential placement if aged 15 to 21 years old.

The existing advice and assistance obligations have been extended through to the age of 25, and eligibility includes rangatahi with longer youth justice residential placements. Obligations to help rangatahi prepare to leave Oranga Tamariki care have also been strengthened.

Roll-out of the TS is phased over three years to 30 June 2022<sup>7</sup>.

The evaluation of the TS is led by the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre with collaboration from the Transition Support team. Evaluation and monitoring activities are completed both internally and through a contract with Malatest International (an independent research and evaluation company).

Part of the TS evaluation is an annual survey of young people who are eligible for support for transition workers - the Just Sayin' surveys. The 2021 survey is the second Just Sayin' survey ([www.justsayin.nz](http://www.justsayin.nz)). An overview report from the 2020 Just Sayin' survey can be found here:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/About-us/Research/Latest-research/Just-Sayin-Survey-of-rangatahi-eligible-for-a-Transition-Worker/Just-Sayin-Survey-of-rangatahi-eligible-for-a-Transition-Worker.pdf>

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<sup>7</sup> Details about the Transition Support Service can be found on the Oranga Tamariki website <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/support-for-families/how-we-support-whanau/from-care-to-adulthood/>.

The aim of the surveys is to contribute information to inform the following TS evaluation questions:

- Are the services fit for the cohort as we have learned more? Have any gaps emerged?
- How is service delivery operating in practice?
- What are the needs, experience and challenges for young people leaving care over the medium term (2-4 years)?
- Do young people feel listened to and supported?
- What short to medium-term outcomes are being achieved through participation in individual programmes and services? For which populations are they most effective?
- What are the impacts on high-level, longer-term outcomes, including TS investment objectives and Mana Tamaiti objectives?
- How effectively are we addressing needs, enhancing experiences and improving outcomes for Māori (including relative to non-Māori)?
- How effective is the service at meeting the needs of Pasifika young people?

Just Sayin' includes questions about:

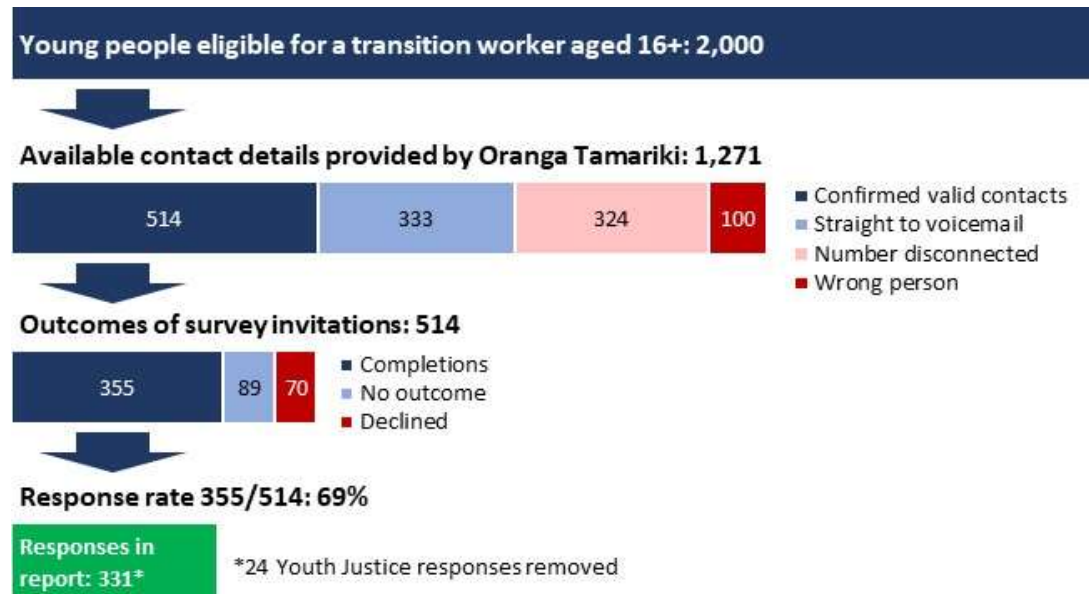
- Working with Oranga Tamariki
- Preparing for transitioning out of care
- Getting a transition worker
- Feedback about transition workers
- Life at the moment including education and employment, accommodation, parenting, wellbeing, health and disability, support networks, money and skills.

The purpose of this report is to summarise findings from the second Just Sayin' survey in 2021 ([www.justsayin.nz](http://www.justsayin.nz)). These survey results and information from the other workstreams of the Transition Services evaluation will contribute to a synthesis report planned for publication in the second half of 2022. For a full list of responses for each question see the full data tables in Appendix 4.

Just Sayin' survey findings are also included in a series of theme reports and fact sheets including reports about young people leaving Youth Justice (YJ) residences, the transition needs of rangatahi Māori and young Pacific, young parents, and young people with complex needs. These reports will be published on the Oranga Tamariki website as they become available.

## 2. Who took part in Just Sayin' 2021

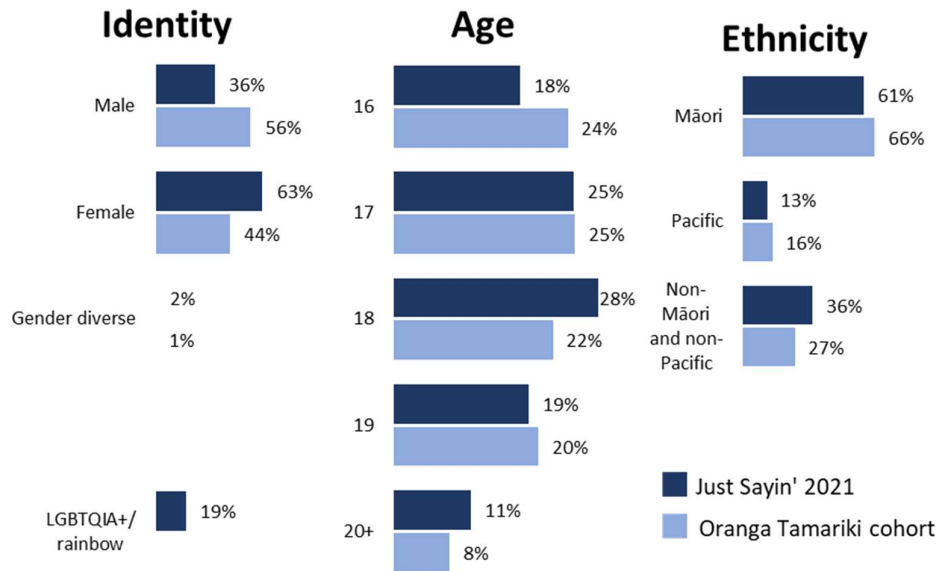
This report is based on the responses of 331 young people who were eligible for support from a transition worker. The survey was limited to young people between the ages of 16 and 21<sup>8</sup>. Twenty-four responses from YJ residents are included in a separate report because of their different contexts.



**Figure 1. Response to Just Sayin' 2021.**

The demographic profile of survey respondents is shown below and compared with the demographic profile of the eligible cohort in Appendix 2. Females and young people who identified as non-Māori and non-Pacific were slightly over-represented amongst the survey respondents. We examined the need to weight the data to align it with the cohort demographic profile but found there were not substantial differences in findings based on responses weighted by gender and ethnicity. The largest potential for bias in the representativeness of the survey is non-contact and non-response bias. That is the lack of contact details for many young people mean we do not have information about their experiences and perspectives.

<sup>8</sup> All young people eligible for a transition worker as of June 2021 includes 2,372 young people. The 372 who were younger than 16 and were excluded from the cohort used for this survey as the expected number of responses was likely to limit analysis by this age group and to reduce respondent burden as the 15 year old cohort would be included in the 2022 survey.



**Figure 2. Demographics of respondents<sup>9</sup> (Just Sayin' 2021 n=331, Oranga Tamariki cohort n=2,000)**

Young people who completed Just Sayin' 2021 came from across Aotearoa (Figure 3). The age they first experienced care from Oranga Tamariki ranged from younger than five through to 16 years or older<sup>10</sup>.

<sup>9</sup> Māori and Pacific ethnicity are defined using a total count approach.

<sup>10</sup> Self-reported, so may not align with Oranga Tamariki records

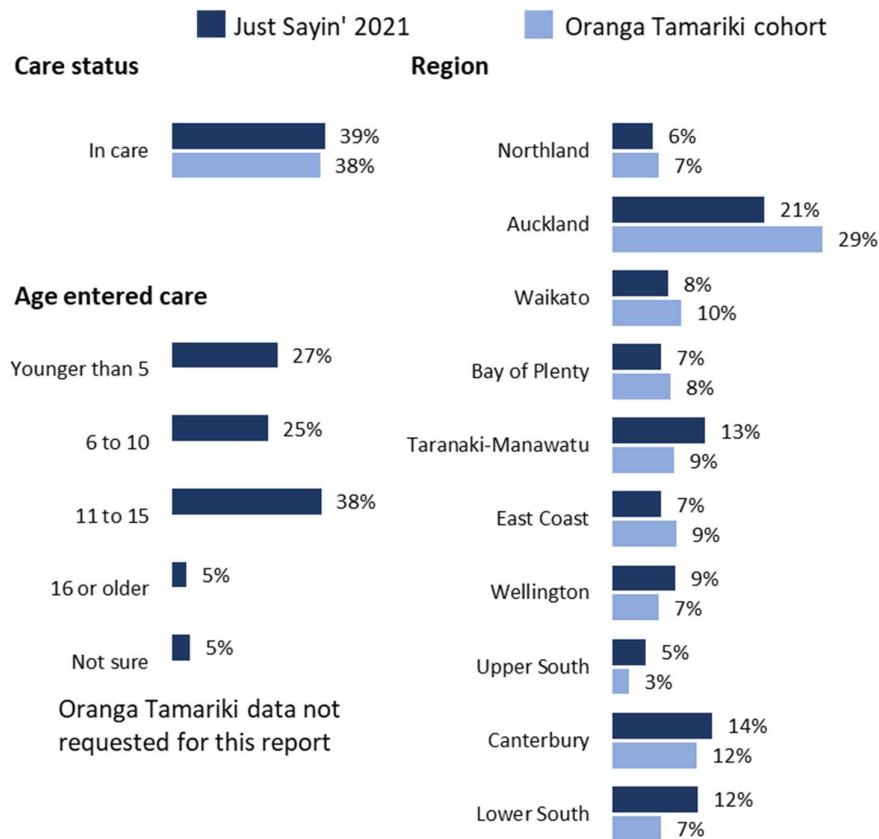


Figure 3. About the respondents (n=331)<sup>11</sup>

### 2.1. Limitations of the survey

The main limitation of the Just Sayin’ surveys is our inability to contact young people for whom we do not have contact details. We worked with TS partners to extend access to the survey to a wider group of young people. However, young people who are not supported by a TS partner and who do not have contact details recorded in Oranga Tamariki administrative data systems will not have been invited to complete the survey. In Just Sayin’ 2020 we used social media to promote the survey link. While this was effective in gaining additional completions from young people it was not possible to determine their eligibility for transition worker support.

We do not therefore understand the experiences and perspectives of this group of young people.

<sup>11</sup> Regions: Grouped into Oranga Tamariki regions (Discrepancy in regions: Just Sayin’ Wellington includes Wairarapa, while in the full cohort the Wairarapa is included in East Coast)



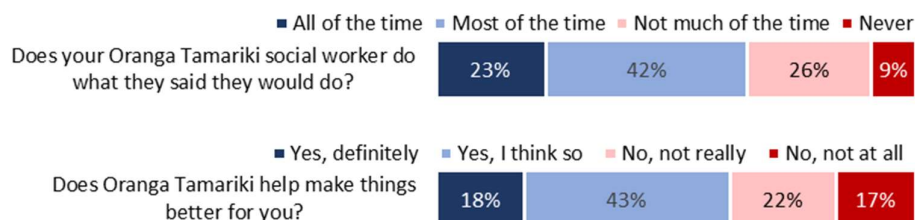
### 3. Preparing for transition

#### 3.1. Many but not all young people were positive about their experience of Oranga Tamariki while in care

Sixty-one percent of young people in care<sup>12</sup> thought Oranga Tamariki made things better for them.

Approximately two-thirds responded positively to questions about the support they received from their social worker.

- Yes, my social worker...
  - Understands what kinds of support I need leaving care (65%)
  - Is there when I need them (66%)
  - Does what they say they would do 'most' or 'all of the time' (65%)



**Figure 4. Feedback on Oranga Tamariki from young people still in care (n=126-128).**

Fifty-three percent of young people still in care were positive about **all** three questions about their social worker (understood their needs for leaving care, there when they needed and did what they say they would, 'most' or 'all of the time'). In contrast, 22% of young people still in care provided negative responses to **all** three questions. A smaller proportion of young people with two or more disabilities<sup>13</sup> (41%) were positive to all three social worker questions) compared to the overall population (53%) (Appendix 3). No other characteristics including age, age entered care, gender, rainbow or ethnicity made a significant difference to being positive about their social worker<sup>14</sup>.

Young people who gave positive responses to all three questions about their social workers rated their life in general better<sup>15</sup> than those who did not rate their social

<sup>12</sup> Social worker feedback only asked of young people in care.

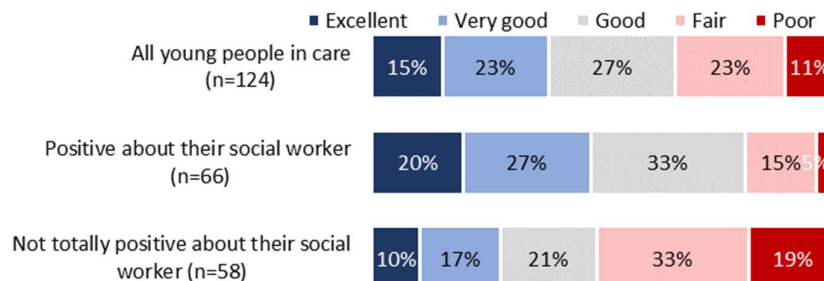
<sup>13</sup> Disability based on the Washington Group scale outlined in section 5.6.

<sup>14</sup> ANOVA was used,  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant.

<sup>15</sup> In response to the question 'How do you feel about your life in general'.

workers as positively. How young people rated their social worker was significantly correlated with how young people rated their life overall.<sup>16</sup>

**How do you feel about your life in general?**



**Figure 5. Wellbeing outcomes compared by young people who rate their social worker positively over the three social worker questions (in care only)**

**3.2. Many young people had conversations about what to do when leaving care**

The planning and preparation aspects of service delivery were not consistent with the Oranga Tamariki national care standards<sup>17</sup> for approximately one-third of survey respondents: 42% of young people who had left care said they had a copy of their plan for leaving care; and 68% said they had been at a Family Group Conference (FGC) where what they wanted to do when they left care was discussed.

Approximately three-quarters (79%) of all young people felt they had a say in the important decisions in their lives most or all of the time, but fewer (56%) said the important people in their lives were involved in their planning as much as they would like.

Young people who provided positive responses to all three questions about their social worker were more likely to report they had talked to someone about a plan for leaving care than those who were less positive (64% compared to 32%), but there was no difference in the proportion who had a copy of their plan or attended a family group conference to talk about leaving care. No other demographic characteristics were associated with increased likelihood<sup>18</sup> of having been talked to about a plan for leaving care (including gender, rainbow, ethnicity, disability, age and age entered care).

<sup>16</sup> Pearson Correlation = 0.304, P<0.05.

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/children-in-our-care/national-care-standards/>

<sup>18</sup> ANOVA was used, P<0.05 was considered significant.

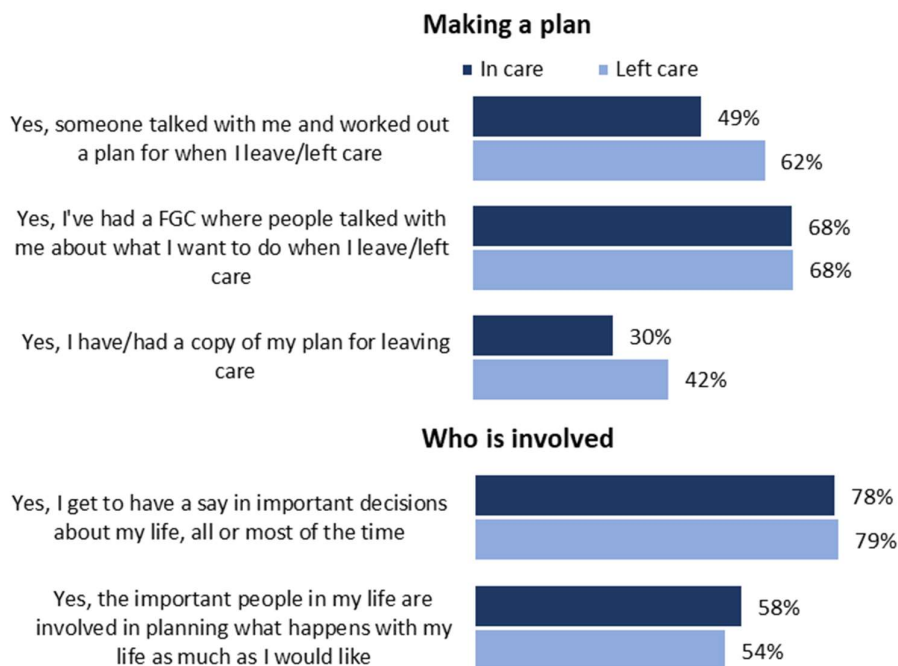


Figure 6. Plans for leaving care (In care n=126-129, left care n=202)

## 4. Transition support services

### 4.1. Most young people had been asked if they wanted a transition worker

Most young people (85%) had been asked if they wanted a transition worker: 60% were currently being supported by a transition worker; and 17% had been supported in the past. There was no statistically significant difference in the proportion of young people who had left care who recalled being asked if they wanted a transition worker (87%) compared to those still in care (82%).

Feeling they no longer needed help was the main reason for leaving transition worker support for the 17% of young people who had had a transition worker in the past.

The characteristics of eligible young people with and without a transition worker did not vary significantly by care status, gender, rainbow, ethnicity, disability, age or age entered care<sup>19</sup>.

<sup>19</sup> ANOVA was used, P<0.05 was considered significant.

Fewer than one-half (43%) of young people who were asked if they wanted a transition worker said they had a choice about the organisation that would support them.

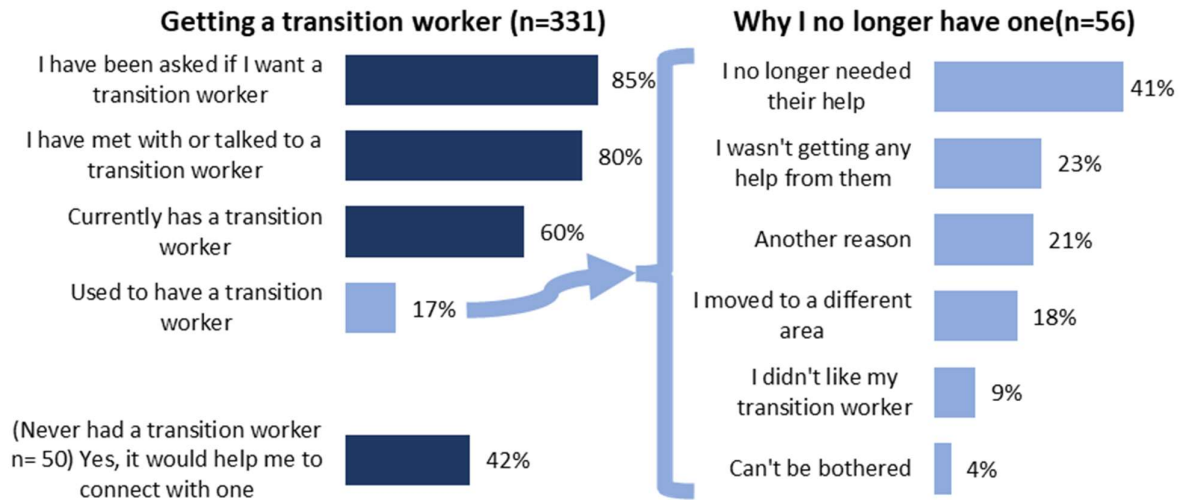


Figure 7. Getting a transition worker (n=331)

4.2. Many rangatahi Māori wanted transition support from Māori

Half (52%) of rangatahi Māori with a transition worker were supported by a Māori TS partner and/or by a Māori transition worker. Of rangatahi Māori who were not being supported by a Māori organisation, one-quarter (23%) said they would like to be.

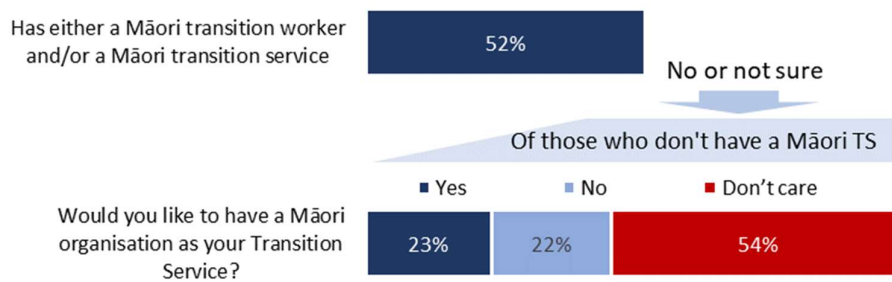


Figure 8. Ethnic match of transition support partners and transition workers (asked of Māori with a transition worker n=149, and 90 who are not supported by a Māori TS partner)

**Why would or wouldn't you like a Māori service? (n=42) AND  
What difference does your Transition Support Service being Māori make for you? (n=48)**

Rangatahi Māori who wanted to be supported by a Māori TS partner believed that Māori should be looked after by Māori services and wanted services to have the same values and worldview as their own. They valued having a kaupapa Māori service because they believed having a shared culture lens, values and attitudes created more understanding between themselves and their transition providers.

*Because I am Māori, and Māori organisations are better for supporting Māori needs.*

Some rangatahi also believed that kaupapa Māori organisations provided a better service.

*[Māori] are more inclined with helping our own people and because of our tikanga and the way our elders do understand and empathise rangatahi we are able to work together more compatibly as opposed to anyone else... I believe that race and nationality do not define a worker, however if you are Māori, the majority of your up bringing you are raised to manaaki which means to care for others. It's something we are taught, and often shown, therefore working with a Māori service you feel more at home, especially being Māori myself I'm able to actually breathe. I feel more comfortable, it's like going home and everyone's struggling in their own way but you know if one is down, then we all work in helping them. The atmosphere is more accepting.*

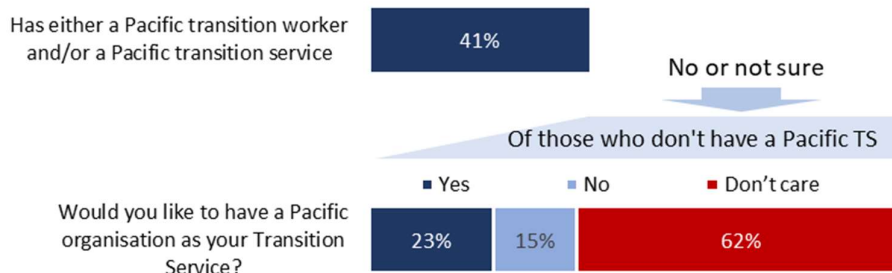
Some rangatahi Māori saw no difference between Māori and mainstream transition support services. Rangatahi Māori who did not want a Māori service explained that the quality of the support was more important than the service being Māori. Many were happy with their current service. Other young Māori did not feel connected to Māori culture.

*Because I love my [current] transition worker*

*[There is] not really a difference just that I have someone there to support me in things for me and what is right.*

#### **4.3. Some Pacific young people appreciated Pacific transition support**

Forty-one percent of Pacific young people with a transition worker were either supported by a Pacific TS partner and/or their transition worker was Pacific. Of those not being supported by a Pacific organisation 23% said they would like to have a Pacific organisation support them.



**Figure 9. Ethnic match of transition support partners and transition workers (asked of all Pacific n=34, Of those who are not supported by a Pacific TS partner n=26)**

#### Why would or wouldn't you like a Pacific service? (n=19)

#### What difference does your Transition Support Service being Pacific make for you? (n=7)

Pacific young people who wanted a Pacific TS service explained that it was important to them that their personal culture, values and understandings would align with the organisation that supported them. Other explanations provided were that they wanted to learn more about their Pacific culture and this service may allow them to do that. Some Pacific young people believed they would connect more with a Pacific transition worker.

*Because of its part of my culture. It's something that I want to learn more about it.*

Some Pacific young people who did not want a Pacific transition worker explained they would prefer a Māori organisation (as they identified more strongly with their Māori heritage) or felt unconnected to their Pacific culture. However, many Pacific young people who responded did not care if their transition support was provided by a Pacific service.

*I don't mind as long as they help the rangatahi out.*

Very few young people had a Pacific TS partner so there are few responses to this question. The young people who did respond were nearly all positive about having a Pacific service. They believed they connected more with other Pacific people.

*It helps build better connections with people of the same ethnic group.*

*Because they can relate to me and understand my cultural background.*

#### 4.4. Most young people were positive about their transition worker

Eighty-one percent of young people who had a transition worker considered their transition worker made things better for them.

Many young people who had a transition worker (either currently or in the past) were positive about at least some of the support they received:

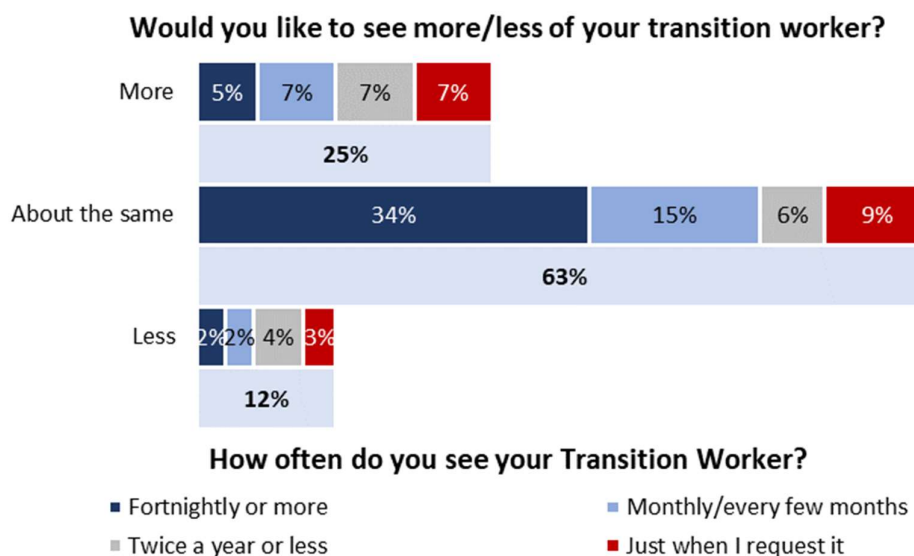
- Yes, my transition worker...
  - Understands what kinds of support I need (81%)
  - Is there when I need them (80%)
  - Does what they say they would do 'most' or 'all of the time' (81%)

Nearly three-quarters (71%) gave positive answers to all three questions above while 11% were negative to all three questions.

The characteristics of young people who were positive in response to all three questions about their transition worker compared to those who were less positive, did not vary significantly by care status, gender, rainbow, ethnicity, disability, age or age entered care<sup>20</sup>.

A higher proportion of rangatahi Māori supported by a Māori transition worker and/or Māori TS partner were positive about all three questions about their transition worker (74% compared to 69% of rangatahi Māori who did not have a Māori transition worker or TS partner). However, the difference was not statistically significant<sup>20</sup>.

Sixty-three percent of young people who had a transition worker thought their frequency of contact with their transition worker was about right (Figure 10). Some young people wanted to see more or less of their transition worker, but their preferences did not correlate with the frequency of contact they reported.



**Figure 10. Frequency of support from transition workers (n=253)**

Young people were asked about how their transition worker made things better for them and what the transition worker helped them with.

<sup>20</sup> ANOVA was used, P<0.05 was considered significant. Due to the small sample size the margins of error for estimates is large.

Why do you say this? [follow-on from 'Does your Transition Support worker help make things better for you?'] (n=197)

Two-thirds of young people (66%) who answered this question volunteered positive comments about their transition workers. They described their transition workers as providing a listening ear, helping improve their wellbeing and confidence, being consistently there, supporting their independence and future planning and that they felt listened to and respected.

*Before I got a transition worker, I spent so long having to hide myself from the world, because I was told people didn't want people like me around. My transition worker helped me feel more confident in myself. They made me feel supported and accepted, when my caregiver didn't.*

*Any problems I have, she will go above and beyond to make things work. She will make the time and put in the effort to help me.*

*My transition workers did more than just help me. They met me half way and helped me become the young lady I am today. They made me believe I could do anything and strive for what I want to be in life, and for that I appreciate them and their support system, very beautiful and nice people. I'm great full.*

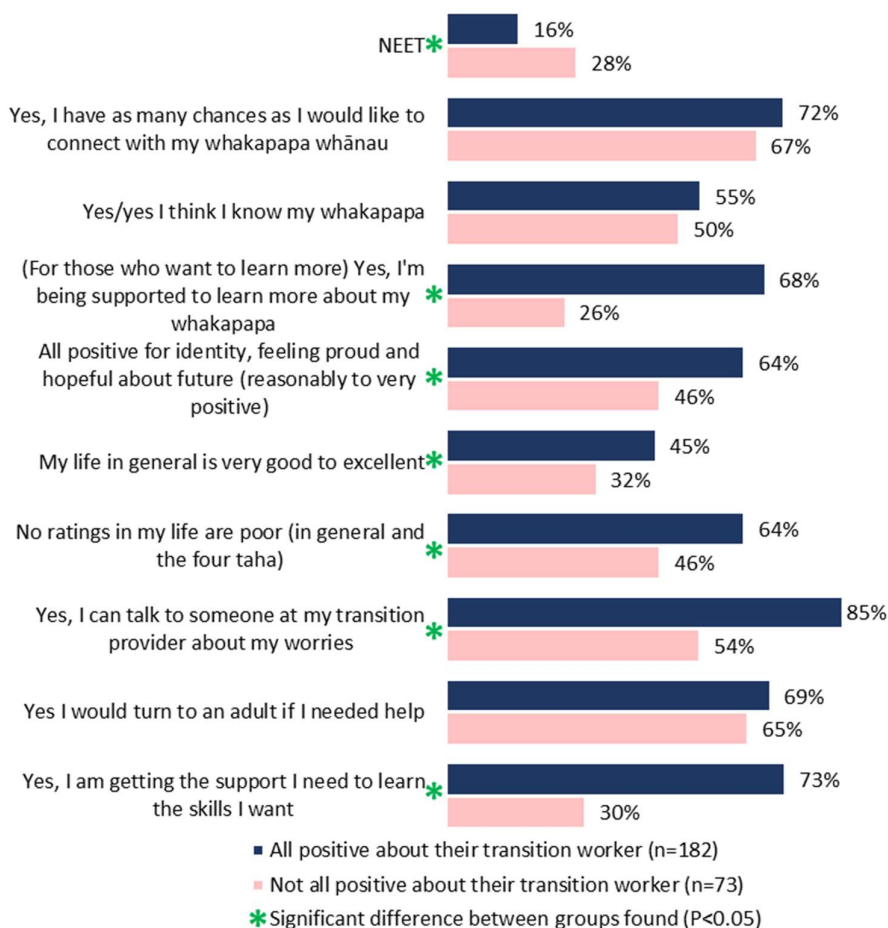
A few young people were unhappy with the support from their transition worker. Key constructive feedback was that they felt their support worker was not a good communicator, they did not feel listened to or supported by their transition worker or they did not see their transition worker often enough for them to be useful.

*He hasn't checked in on me in half a year and I am planning on moving out in a month but need advice.*

Young people's comments about the extent their transition worker had made things better for them were reflected in comparisons of survey responses between the 71% of young people who were positive about all aspects of transition worker support and those who were less positive. Young people who rated their transition worker positively for the three transition worker questions were significantly more likely to:

- Be in employment, education or training
- Feeling supported to learn more about their whakapapa (of those who wanted to)
- Be positive about their identity, feel proud and hopeful about future
- Be positive about their life in general (and not have any poor ratings in the domains about their life)
- Feel able to talk to someone at their transition provider about their worries
- Consider they had the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted to learn.





**Figure 11. Outcomes compared by young people who rate their transition worker positively over the four transition worker questions (with a transition worker only) (significant differences have a green asterisk)**

**How has your transition worker helped you? (n=217)**

The most common ways young people said their transition workers helped them were:

- With life skills such as helping to learn to drive, budgeting and employment skills
- Learning how to be independent and set goals for their future
- Financial support such as buying items for their house and assisting with getting food parcels/grants
- Providing emotional and mental health support
- Helping them find accommodation.

Less frequently mentioned were:

- Getting IDs
- Getting into education or training
- Finding a job
- Assisting with Oranga Tamariki and Work and Income processes
- Connecting them with other services
- Supporting them with their health appointments
- Providing transport
- Helping connect them with their whakapapa.

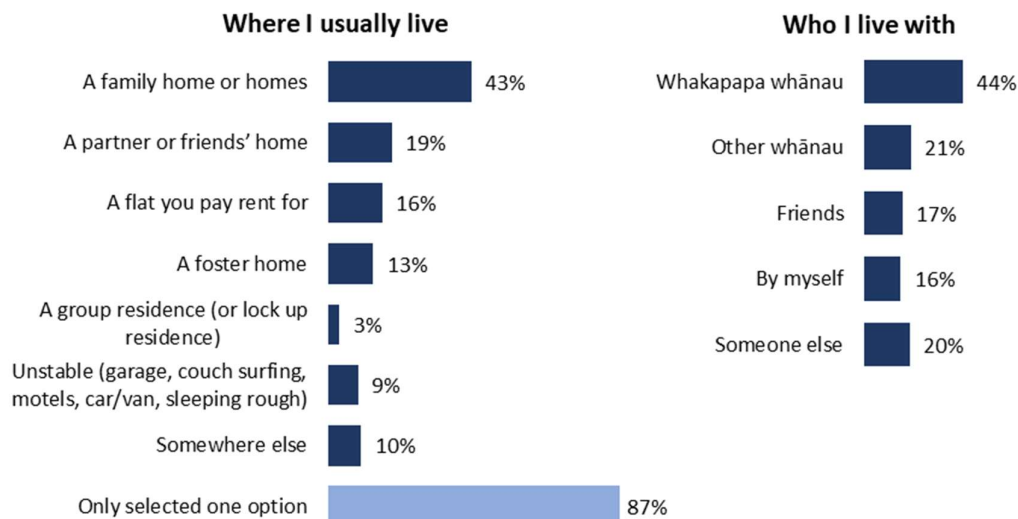
*My transition worker/s have helped me a lot, pushed me to become a better person mentally and have pushed me to come out of my comfort zone and push myself to do stuff I've been struggling to do myself. They have supported me with funds for clothings, helped with food like organising food parcels, and many other things.*

*My transition worker has helped me with getting driving lessons for my restricted, completing my university applications for 2022, setting me up with work experience on a W.A.R programme, also helping me with seeing a psychologist as I requested. In the short amount of time working with them I have been able to complete goals I never thought possible to achieve and have really felt supported. [They] have taken me to interviews with work agencies, signed me up for drug tests and helped me take opportunities to excel. I've completed majority of my short-term goals and now only needing to tackle long-term goals.*

## 5. My life at the moment

### 5.1. Most young people had stable accommodation and lived in one place

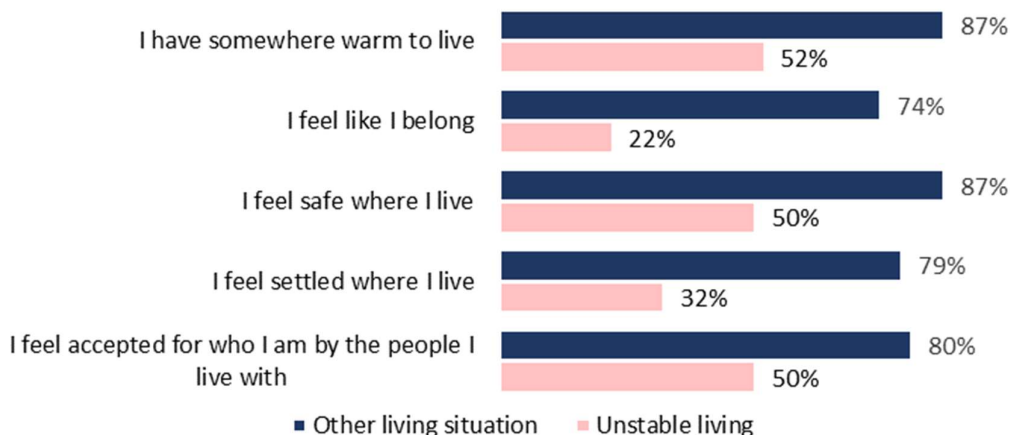
When asked where they usually lived, most young people (87%) selected only one answer. The most common place young people lived was in a family home (43%), and they most commonly lived with their whakapapa whānau or biological family (44%) (Figure 12). However, nearly one-in-ten young people (9%) were living in unstable accommodation (including: a garage, couch surfing, motels, cars/vans and sleeping rough). The number living in unstable accommodation is likely to be under-counted because they may be less likely to have their contact details recorded in Oranga Tamariki administrative data (CYRAS).



**Figure 12. Where young people live and who they live with (n=331, multiple responses allowed) (Whakapapa whānau are biological family and kaupapa whānau are unrelated)**

Not unexpectedly, the young people who reported living in unstable accommodation were less positive about where they lived in terms of having somewhere warm to live, feeling they belonged, feeling safe, settled and accepted.

**Percent who agree (7-10 on 10-point agreement scale)**

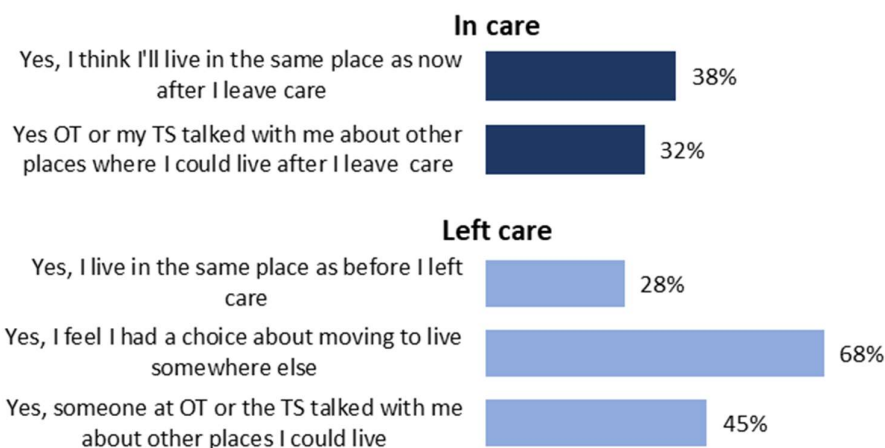


**Figure 13. Feedback on accommodation (Unstable n=26-28, Other living situation n=286-296)**

**5.2. Young people are mobile when they leave care**

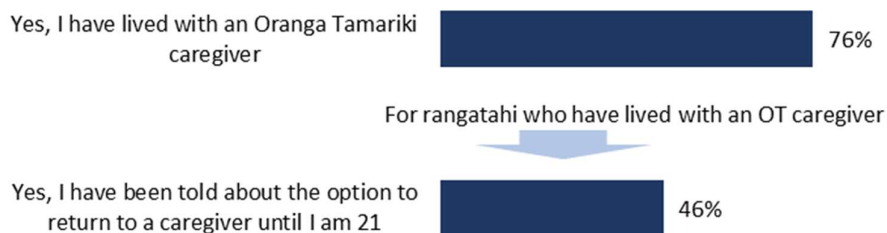
Thirty-eight percent of young people in care thought they would stay living in the same place when they left care (Figure 14).

Only 28% of young people who had left care were living in the same place as before they left care. Forty-five percent of young people who had left care said someone had spoken to them about other places they could live.



**Figure 14. Planning for accommodation after care (Out of care n = 200, in care n=128)**

Entitlement to remain or return (ETRR) to living with an Oranga Tamariki caregiver after they leave care is the main housing policy investment in transition support. To be eligible for ETRR, young people needed to have lived with a caregiver previously for at least three months after the age of 14 years and 9 months. Of those who had lived with a caregiver, 46% recalled being told about ETRR.

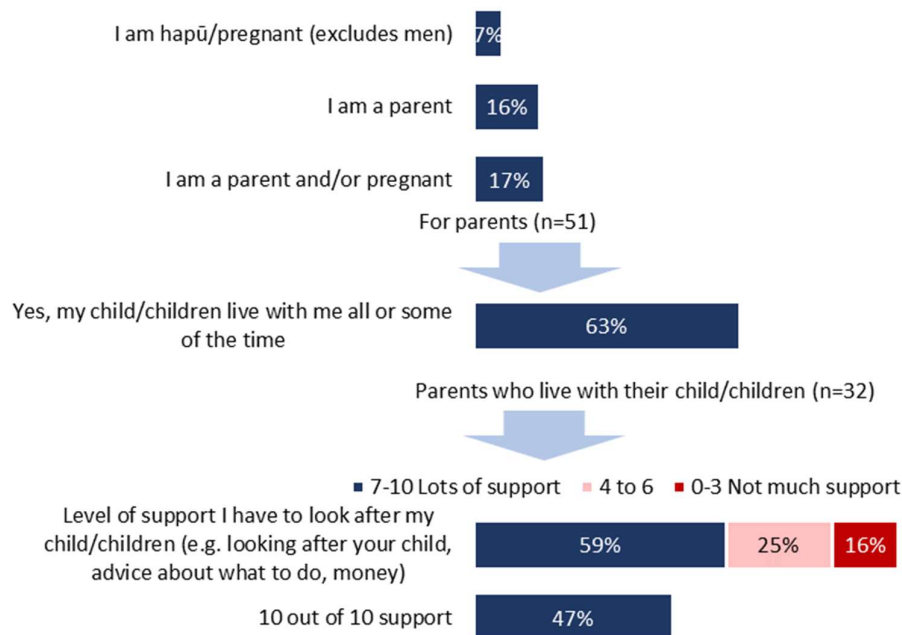


**Figure 15. Entitlement to remain or return (n=328)**

**5.3. One in six young people were parents**

Seventeen percent of young people said they were either a parent and/or hapū (pregnant). Most women who were pregnant were also parents. Many parents (63%) said their child/children lived with them either some or all of the time. Although

numbers of young people who were parents were small (15 men, 36 women), 33% of men lived with their child/children compared to 75% of women.



**Figure 16. Parents and the support they receive (hapū and parent questions n=329, all parents n= 51, parents who live with their child/children n=32)**

Fifty-nine percent of parents who lived with their child reported high levels of support to help look after their child/children and 47% assessed their level of support as 10 out of 10 on a 10-point scale.

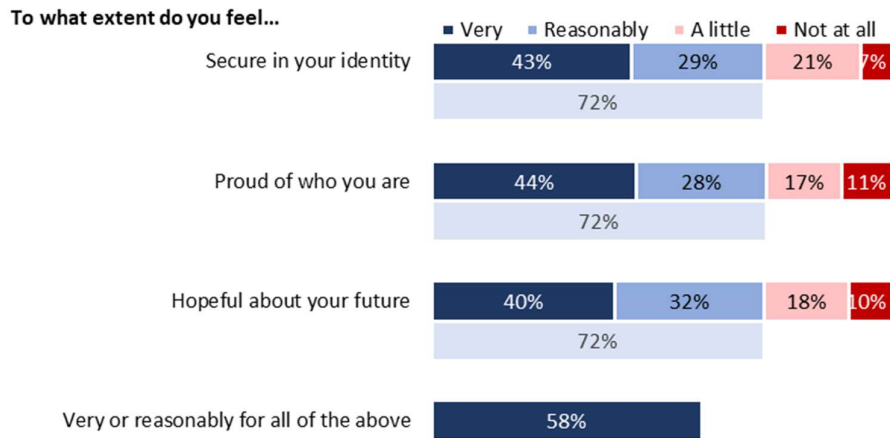
Although numbers were small, perceptions of the level of support received did not appear to differ by ethnicity, age, care status, or whether the young person had transition worker support. Of the 21 young Māori parents, 62% assessed support highly compared to 55% of the 11 non-Māori parents.

A few parents who did not live with their child/children talked about wanting their child/children back.

*Yes, we want our son back [from Oranga Tamariki care]. Give us a chance with him, you don't know if we are good parents if you didn't even give us a chance. (Young person)*

**5.4. Just over one-half of young people were secure in their identity, proud of who they are and hopeful about their future**

Seventy-two percent of young people were secure in their identity, proud of who they were and hopeful about their future: 58% were positive about **all three**.



**Figure 17. Identity, pride and hope for the future (n=325-327)**

**Where do you see yourself in the next five years? (n=258)**

Twenty-two percent of young people did not know where they would be in five years, while the rest spoke of goals of education, employment, finances, accommodation and family.

More than one-half of young people (62%) had goals that related to jobs including employment in various professions such as in the defence force, beauty industry, a trade etc. Some young people (35%) spoke of goals relating to accommodation, such as living in their own house, flatting with friends, living somewhere stable and living alone. Young people (21%) also spoke of hopes for their future whānau, such as having children and being in a relationship or married. Going to or graduating from a university or other tertiary provider was a goal for 18% of young people. Financial goals included being able to own a car, be financially stable and earning a good income (16%).

*For positive bright thinking I see myself in five years finishing my apprenticeship for trades or carpentry. Also maybe in the next eight years starting my own business.*

*I see myself having a bright future working at a job. Making tight closest friends also to make the best I can to keep them safe and to keep the crew running, but it start with me first. Getting married and having kids. Doing the things I passionate about. Having gratitude knowing that life was never a mistake. There is more than this.*

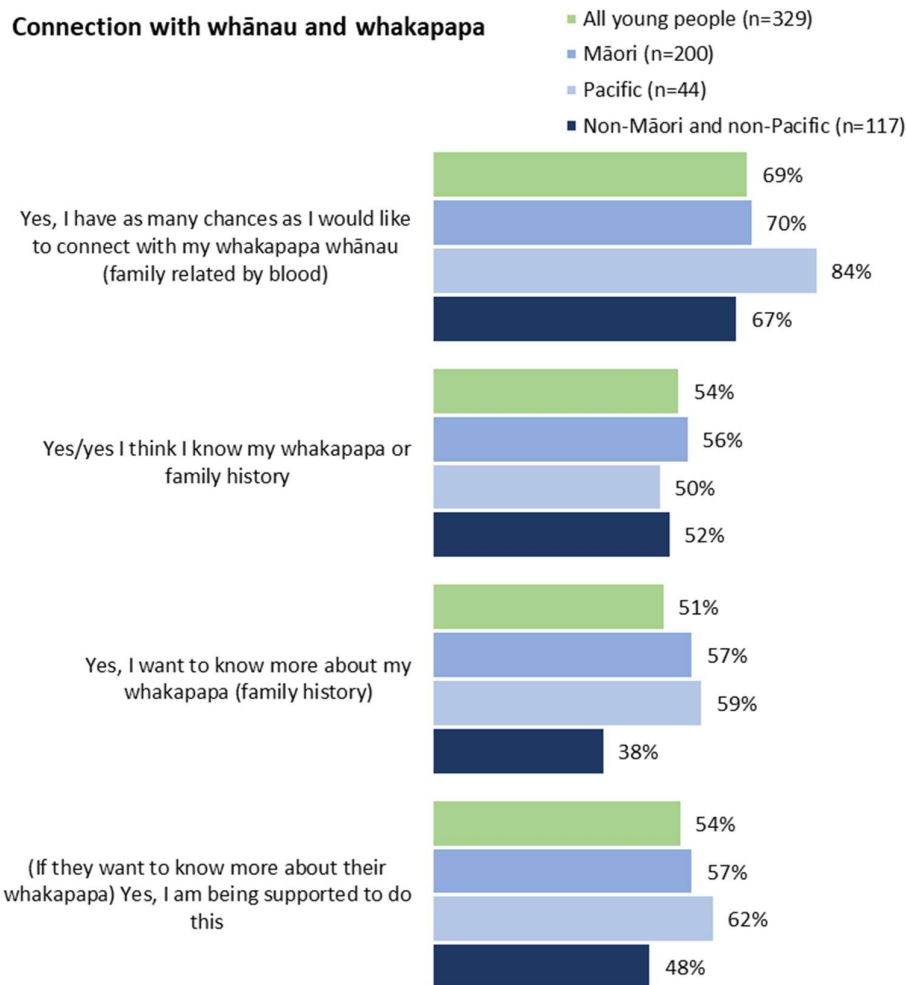
*Want to be financially stable and have a flat/house and a car and be happy. No particular job, but one that pays good money.*

*[I] was hoping to save to get a house and focus on my daughter getting to school with no problem or worries of where we will live.*

The 5% of young people who described negative expectations for their life in five years thought they might be dead or in prison.

**5.5. While many young people knew their whakapapa, many wanted support to find out more**

Most young Māori (78%) knew their iwi. Of all young people, 54% knew their whakapapa or where they came from and 51% wanted to know more about their whakapapa. More of the young people who did not already know their whakapapa wanted to learn more. Young people who identified as non-Māori or non-Pacific were less likely to want to know more about their whakapapa.

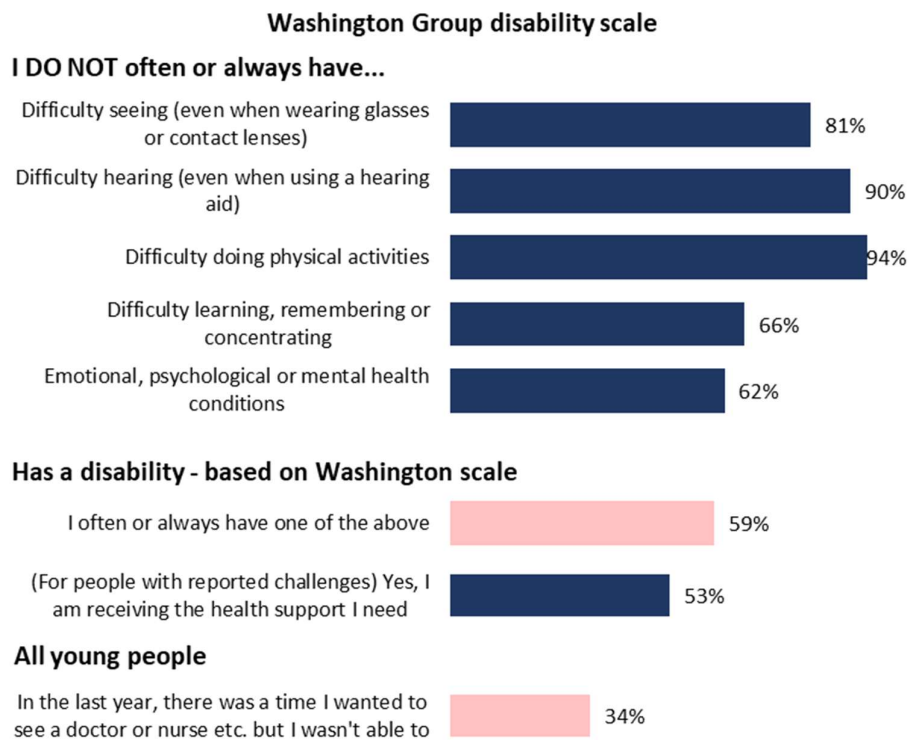


**Figure 18. Connection with whānau and whakapapa (ethnicity is based on total count)<sup>21</sup>.**

<sup>21</sup> Young people who identify as both Māori and as Pacific are counted in both ethnic groups

**5.6. Many young people reported a disability**

There is a substantial proportion (59%) of young people eligible for transition worker support who have a disability. Most young people reported they had no troubles with seeing, hearing or doing physical activities. However, 51% of the overall population reported difficulties with learning or with their emotional or mental health (86% of those who reported a disability). Young people identifying as part of the rainbow community were more likely to have a self-reported disability when compared to young people overall (73% compared to 56%).



**Figure 19. Disabilities and access to healthcare (n=323-325)**

While 53% of young people with a disability said they were receiving the health support they needed, 34% of all young people said they were unable to see a health professional in the last year when they wanted. The proportion who said they had been unable to see a health professional did not differ significantly across care status, gender, rainbow, ethnicity, disability, age or age entered care<sup>22</sup>.

<sup>22</sup> ANOVA was used, P<0.05 was considered significant.



**What made it difficult to get healthcare? Open text question (n=101)**

The main reasons young people gave for not being able to go to a healthcare professional in the last 12 months were not having enough money to afford going to the doctor, lack of transport and anxiety or distrust in speaking to healthcare professionals. Less common reasons included adults preventing them from going, or the location of the service meant it was not accessible to them.

*My social worker not organising things from her end such as transport and the financial side of things.*

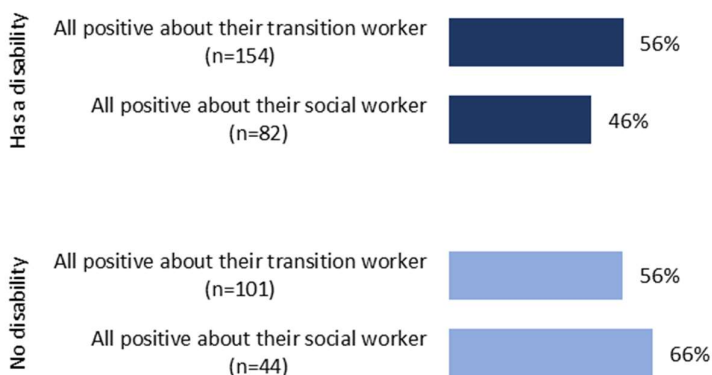
*No vehicle, living out of town and couldn't get time off work.*

*Financially couldn't afford to go or didn't have a support person.*

*I don't have my own transport. I have to use a public bus service but if I'm sick or injured then what can I do?*

When responses to selected questions in Just Sayin'21 were compared for young people with different demographic characteristics, young people with two or more disabilities on the Washington scale provided more negative responses than other groups (Appendix 3). However, approximately the same proportion were positive to all three ratings of their transition worker.

A smaller proportion of young people with a self-reported disability were positive about their social worker than those with no disability.



**Figure 20. Positivity about transition workers and social workers by disability.**

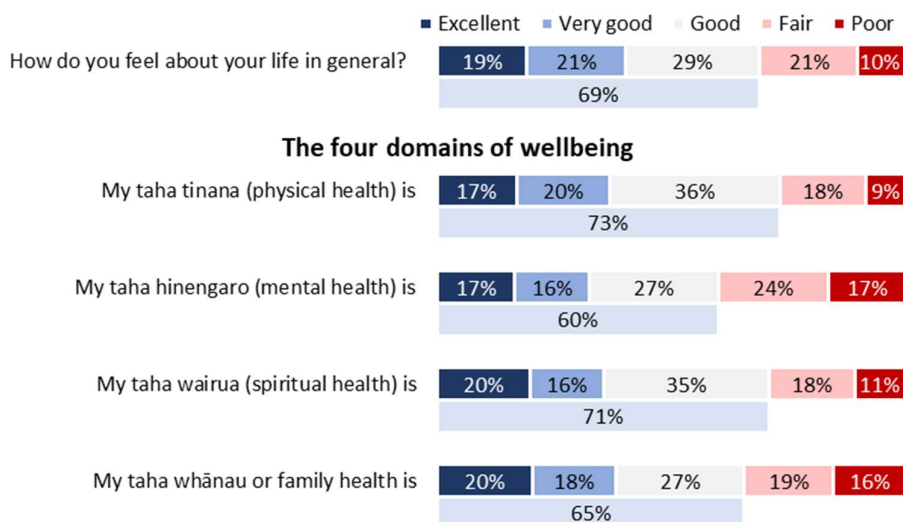
Smaller proportions of young people with a disability achieved NCEA level 2 or higher, were positive about all aspects of the questions about identity, had an adult to turn to if needed, considered they were getting the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted to learn, had no worries or felt good about life in general.

**5.7. When young people rated their life in general, 40% rated it as excellent or very good**

Young people were asked to assess their life in general. Although 40% rated their life as excellent or very good, 31% rated their lives as fair or poor (Figure 21).

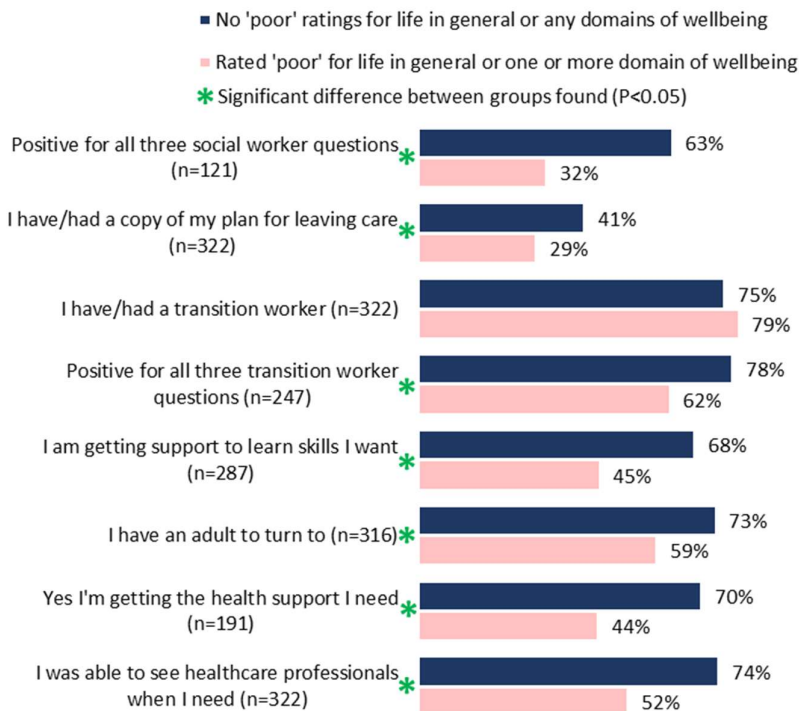
Proportions did not vary substantially across gender, ethnicity, care status, or whether young people had a transition worker. However, fewer young people with a disability were positive about their life compared to those with no disability (59% reported good or better compared to 83%).

Young people also assessed their lives across the four dimensions of Te Whare Tāpa Whā. Higher proportions of young people rated taha hinengaro and taha whānau as fair or poor (41% and 35% respectively) than taha tinana (27%) or taha wairua (29%).



**Figure 21. Young people’s self-assessed wellbeing (n=328-326)**

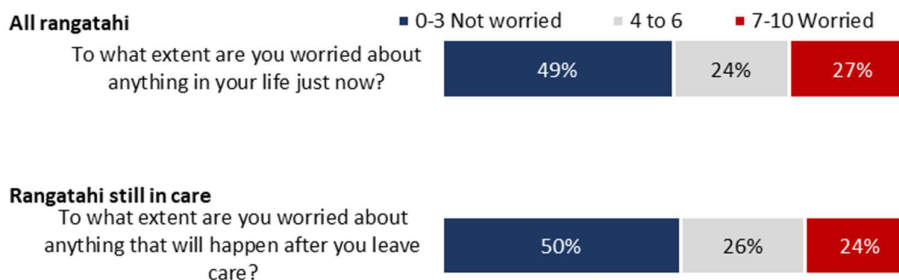
Young people who rated some aspect of their life ‘poorly’ reported feeling less supported in a range of areas even though they were just as likely to have a transition worker. All differences were significant except for having a transition worker.



**Figure 22. Perceived support (no poor ratings included 66% of young people, while at least one poor rating was 34% of young people) (significant differences shown with green asterisk)**

**5.8. Just over one-quarter of young people said they were worried about things in their life at the time of the survey**

Young people assessed worries in their lives on a 10-point scale. Approximately one-quarter of young people in care and who had left care were worried about things in their lives (Figure 23).



**Figure 23. Level of worry (All young people n=250, In care n= 119)**

Being worried about something in their lives was significantly correlated with how young people felt about their life in general<sup>23</sup>. Those with more worries were more likely to rate their lives worse than those with fewer worries.

The young people who had an adult in their lives they could turn to for help were significantly less likely to be worried about anything in their life (22% rated 7-10 compared to 36%)<sup>24</sup>.

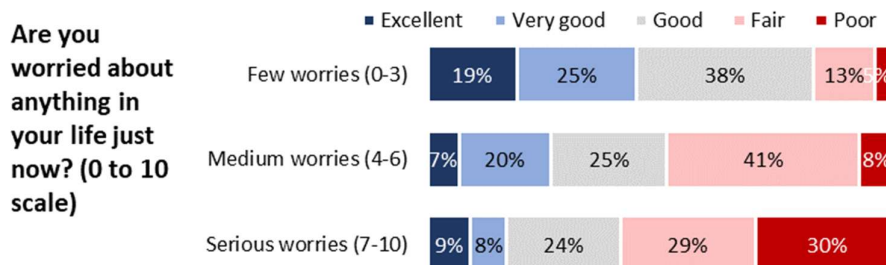


Figure 24. relationship between worries and overall life ratings (n=249)

5.9. **Just over two-thirds of young people had an adult they could turn to for support**

When asked who they would go to for support, young people commonly said their friends. Sixty-eight percent of young people included an adult in the list of these they would turn to for support, while 21% would only turn to a friend or sibling and 11% said they would not turn to anyone. There was no statistically significant difference in the proportions of young people in care and who had left care who had an adult they could turn to.

<sup>23</sup> Pearson correlation of 0.43 (P<0.05)

<sup>24</sup> Pearson correlation of 0.196 (P<0.05)

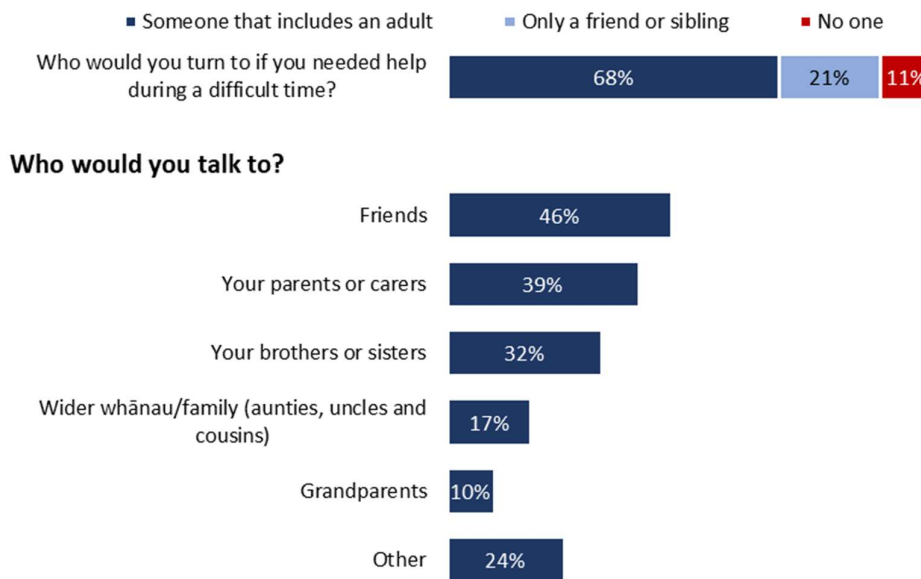


Figure 25. Who young people would go to for support (n=320)<sup>25</sup>

Although 46% of young people said they would turn to their friends for support, 57% said they had friends they could trust, 69% felt safe with their friends and 72% said their friends accepted them for who they are.

A higher proportion of young people (78%) said they could talk to their transition worker about their worries than their Oranga Tamariki social worker (53%).

**Percent who agree/ strongly agree with the following statements (4-5 on 5-point agreement scale)**



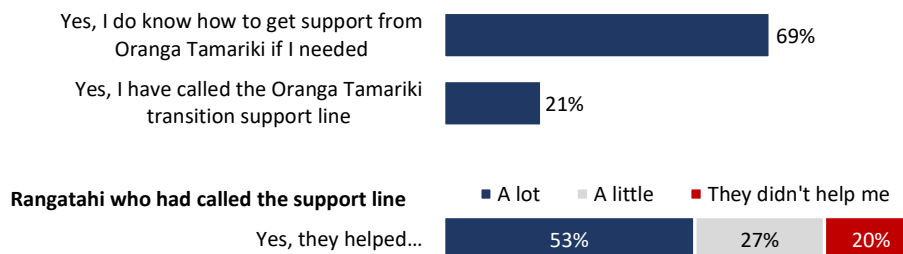
Figure 26. Getting help (In care n=123, has a transition worker n=192, my friends (n=323-325))

<sup>25</sup> 'Someone including an adult': parents, carers, wider whānau, grandparents and other.

Young people were asked what organisations supported them, aside from their TS partner. Of the 331 young people who were asked, 133 (40%) had other organisations that supported them (and six young people who worked with other organisations but did not know their names). Young people named 91 different organisations that supported them with some young people reporting more than one. The organisations included VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai, Youth One Stop Shops, youth and social services, Work and Income, community organisations and kaupapa Māori organisations. Many organisations were mentioned by only one or two young people.

**5.10. Transition support line and VOYCE Whakarongo Mai were avenues of support for many**

Sixty-nine percent of young people knew how to contact Oranga Tamariki and 21% had called the transition support line. Young people in care were more likely to know how to contact Oranga Tamariki (74%) compared to those who had left care (66%) but a greater proportion of young people who had left care had contacted the support line (24%) than those in care (15%).



**Figure 27. Calling the transition support line (n=321)**

Young people had called the support line for a variety of reasons, and most were positive about the extent the support line had helped them.

**[For those who had called the transition support line] What kind of things did you need help for? (n=48)**

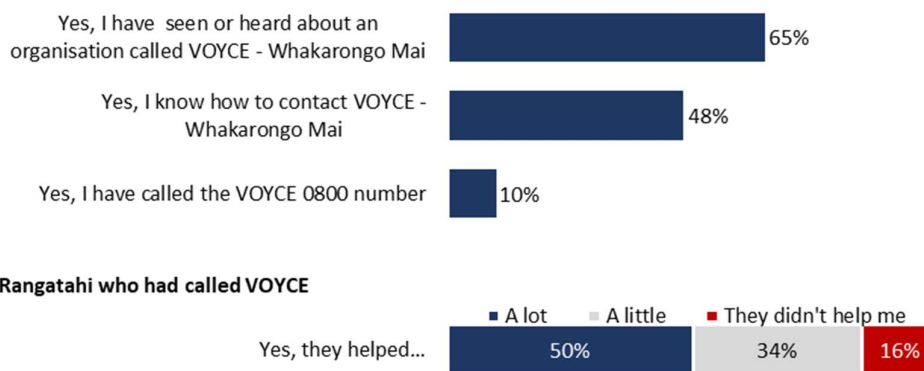
Most young people who called the transition support line said they needed financial help including money for food, transport, clothing and other items, needed help to find accommodation or needed support with Oranga Tamariki processes.

*Budgeting and trying to get my son back.*

*Living situation, financial help.*

*Just to get a new social worker.*

Nearly two-thirds of young people (65%) knew about VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai, but only one-half (48%) knew how to contact them, and 10% said they had contacted VOYCE<sup>26</sup>.



**Figure 28. Calling VOYCE (n=320)**

**[For those who had called VOYCE] What kind of things did you need help for? (n=14)**

Of the small number of young people that called VOYCE Whakarongo Mai, most called for advocacy and support for their experiences in care. This included when they were experiencing difficulties with their social worker and placements or if they needed financial support.

*About the struggles of been in hostel and having ask for sanitary products until of getting money into my account to buy the stuff myself.*

*Scholarship money and how to access it when needed.*

*Just to sit with me in court for support.*

<sup>26</sup> Young people can also connect with VOYCE -- Whakarongo Mai if they are referred by third parties, connected in person, attended a tūhono, connected online, engaged with outreach.

**5.11. Educational achievement was lower for the survey respondents who had left school than school leavers nationally**

One-half (49%) of all young people responding to the survey were still in education or training. A lower proportion of Just Sayin’ survey respondents who were no longer in education or training had NCEA level 2 when compared to national statistics for school leavers<sup>27</sup> (47% compared to 81%).

Māori were over-represented amongst young people who were not in education and did not have NCEA level 2 or higher (69% compared to 58%). Young people identifying as part of the rainbow community were under-represented (13% compared to 21%).

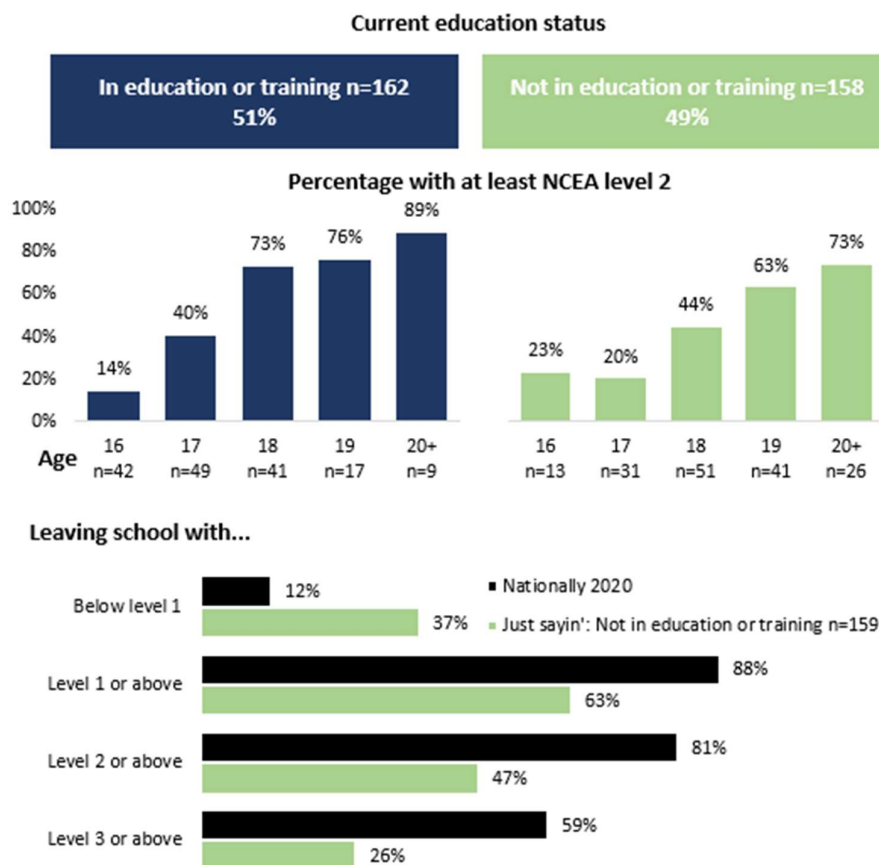


Figure 29. Education (Just Sayin’ n=315-320, national n=approximately 60,000<sup>28</sup>)

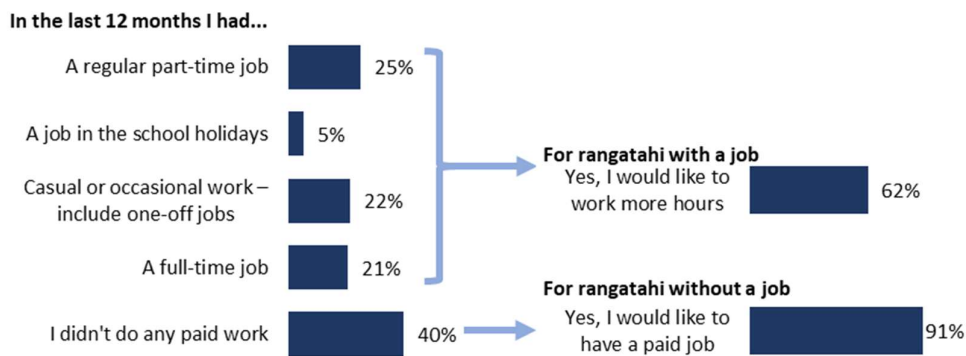
<sup>27</sup> <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/school-leavers>

<sup>28</sup> <https://www.educationcounts.govt.nz/statistics/school-leavers>



### 5.12. Nearly one-half of survey respondents had a job and many wanted more hours

Forty-six percent of all young people who responded to Just Sayin' had a full or part-time job (Figure 300). Most (91%) of those who did not have any paid work said they would like to have a job. Just over one-third (37%) said they had volunteered in the last 12 months.



**Figure 300. Employment (n=320)**

### 5.13. The proportion of young people not in employment, education or training is higher than the national proportion

The NEET rate<sup>29</sup> for the Just Sayin' young people is higher than the national rate (19% compared to 12.2% - aged 15-24). The questions defining NEET and age ranges are not directly comparable but do provide a sense of the difference and are most likely an underestimate of the NEET rate amongst all young people eligible for transition worker support<sup>30</sup>. In Just Sayin', higher proportions of Māori and Pacific young people, and the older age groups included in the survey were NEET.

<sup>29</sup> Defined as young people not in employment (includes casual, part-time and full-time), education or training.

<sup>30</sup> National NEET rate is based on the Household Labour Force Survey which asks respondents about the week before the survey and if they did any paid work. This is much more specific compared to Just Sayin' which asks about the last 12 months.

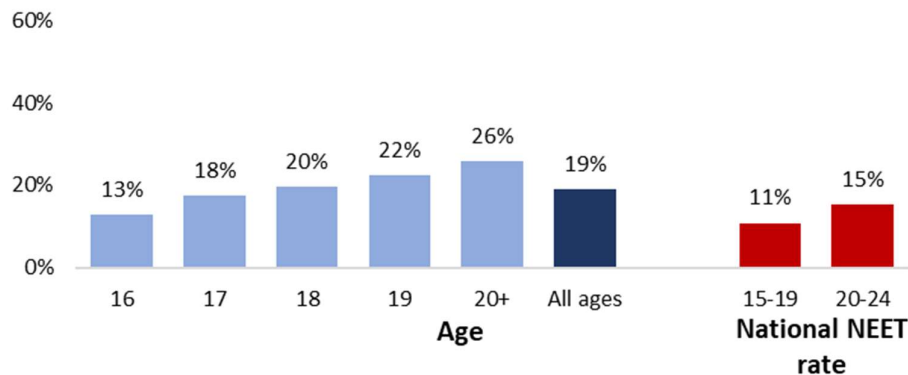


Figure 31. NEET rate by age (n=320)<sup>31</sup>

**5.14. One-third of young people reported having a budget**

Thirty-two percent of young people had, and 35% of young people sometimes had money left over at the end of each week, 23% said they had and 10% they sometimes had debt. Fewer than one-half (45%) received income from Work and Income or StudyLink. Developing money management skills was a skill that 50% of young people said they would like to develop (Discussed further in section 5.15).

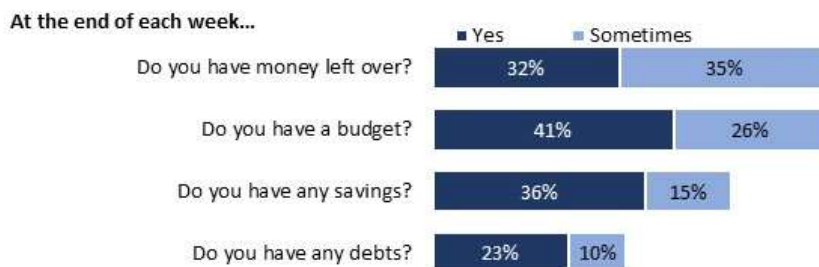


Figure 32. Money management (n=309-310)

**5.15. Skills and support for the future**

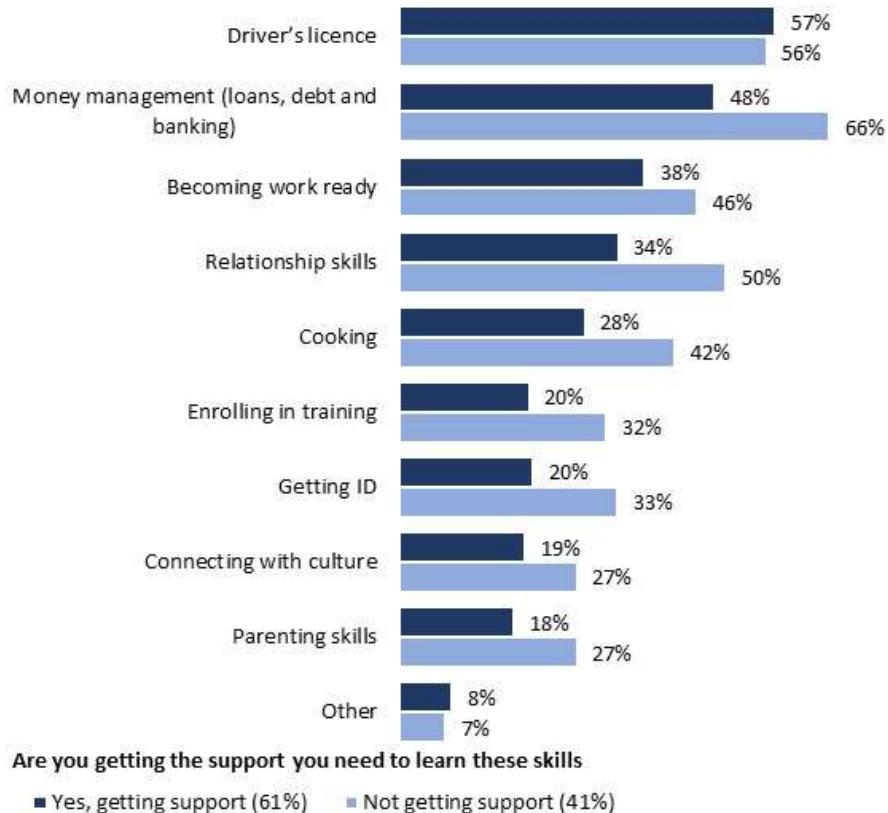
When asked what skills young people wanted for their future, young people most commonly said they wanted get their driver’s licence (52%). Other skills were money management (50%), followed by other general life skills like becoming work ready (37%) or enrolling in training (22%), relationship skills (36%) and cooking (31%), connecting with culture (20%) and parenting skills (19%)<sup>32</sup>. The extent young people were receiving support for the skill they wanted is summarised in Figure 33.

<sup>31</sup> National comparison from Statistics New Zealand: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/labour-market-statistics-march-2021-quarter>

<sup>32</sup> A ‘tick-box’ list was generated from open-ended responses to Just Sayin’ 20.

Many young people considered they were not getting support to learn the skills they wanted. Needing more support was consistent for the frequently mentioned as well as infrequently mentioned skills. The proportion of young people who said they were getting the support they needed to learn those skills did not differ between people with a transition worker and those without. Although Oranga Tamariki care standards specify young people should have identification prior to leaving Oranga Tamariki care, 23% of young people still wanted help with getting identification.

**What skills would you like to learn to help you get where you want to?**



**Figure 33. Skills young people want to learn and the extent they consider they are being supported to learn these skills (% of young people who described wanting a particular skill). A generis yes/No questions was asked about whether young people were getting support to learn the skills they wanted (n=320)**

**What support would help you get there? (n=48)**

Some of the support young people described, mirrored the list of skills young people wanted support with. Young people also described wanting someone to support and guide them - with descriptions that sounded similar to a transition worker's role. Young people also wanted support with finances, getting employed and getting into courses.

*I get some support but not all. I need to work with one person to be able to learn*

*good life skills. I am told my attention span is short which does not help with learning different skills.*

*Discussions regarding possible part-time work. I have created my own CV, yet no one has actually supported me in finding work. I feel work would genuinely make me happy, and also support me financially if need be.*

*Counselling but you c\*\*\*\* are useless and can't be f\*\*\*\* getting it for me.*

*Having someone to support, help and guide me in the right direction.*

## 6. My feedback for Oranga Tamariki

How could Oranga Tamariki make changes to better hear your views about the supports you need? (n=214)

Young people had critique and suggestions for Oranga Tamariki. A few (8%) left comments about being happy and thankful for the support they received while in care. The most common suggestion made by people who left comments (41% of comments) was for improved listening and communication by Oranga Tamariki staff members. Some young people asked for better financial support.

*For me - it was helpful having someone who understood what I'd been through and had been in a similar position when she was my age. People who understand make me feel better about talking to them just because then I know they know I'm not talking bullsh\*t and they truly know what I could need that could be helpful from what they went through. I also reckon someone that isn't just there because they're a "it's my job" person. It really makes a difference when you can feel the intention of the person trying to help you and their reason for wanting to help. Be passionate about your job and don't just do it because that's ur income. These kids are hurting and the last thing they need is another person who's just there just because. They need people that are productive and people that are passionate. They don't need fake - they've seen enough of that.*

*Take the time out of their day to listen to me and what I need and do their job properly. Treat me with respect.*

*Listen to me and not go behind my back and make decisions for me.*

Other young people were not happy with their social workers and wanted better support by Oranga Tamariki staff including treating young people with more empathy, spending more time with them and to stop breaking promises.

*Need to be the right person for the job. Caring, kind loving and understanding. At CYFS it always feels like you have to understand the social worker but it isn't reciprocated. Think about what's best for the child, not just what's easy. They need to be loved, cared and supported.*

Do you have any messages you would like us to take back to Oranga Tamariki or to your Transition Support Service worker? (n=114)

One hundred and fourteen young people had messages they wanted passed on to Oranga Tamariki or their transition worker. Of those 114 messages, 26% were messages of thanks for supporting them, and praising their social and/or transition worker. Other messages from young people that left comments (41%) were critical of Oranga Tamariki and described bad experiences. One-third (32%) of comments also shared suggestions for improvements. These suggestions often related to communication, increased empathy and increasing the support available. A copy of every response has been de-identified and provided to Oranga Tamariki.

Examples of messages of thanks:

*Thank you for all that you've done to make life easier for me. All the support has been a huge help.*

*I just wanna say thanks. OT saved my life as a kid and helped me numerous times since I was discharged. So thank you, to the real ones who truly care. You change lives.*

Examples of suggestions (often from negative experiences):

*I think they should watch who they are employing and make sure they have the correct training. Once a young person doesn't feel safe with you there could be a particular instance. I've seen it and felt the energy by staff members who are employed by Oranga Tamariki. This is all traumatizing for young kids this is what I've experienced. I've seen staff members do some ugly stuff to us the rangatahi. We don't know how to cope with these situations. We are young people trying to thrive.*

*Change the system where it benefits the kids. We are not a number or case we are human beings with feelings. Moving kids around can leave long lasting affects.*

*Take this advice OT and listen to the kids. Just do what you say you're gonna do. Take the time to listen to us. The kids will get sick of you one day. Kids steal cars, rob shops because they don't think anyone is there to listen to them, ground them or support them. The cycle starts because kids aren't being listened to. If you can't do that, then get someone who loves the youth and knows how to work with troubled youth or have been in that situation before. Thank you for doing nothing.*

*Be more supportive, more better communication and more willing to help make futures of people in and transitioning from care better.*

*Listen to the children more. Children are smart and know when they are about to break. Shouldn't be away from my family ever.*

*Please [ask] for social workers be more caring and understanding of the kids perspective.*

*... you guys really need to crack down on who is looking after children in care. It has gotten to the point where I'm physically annoyed every time someone says your orgs name because you guys seem to not care about the children in your cares mental health or if they have been mistreated.*

## 7. Overview

Information from the Just Sayin' survey contributes information to inform the TS evaluation questions: primarily the service delivery questions as it is too early in the implementation of a new service to assess outcomes. However, the Just Sayin' survey responses in 2020 and 2021 provide a baseline against which progress can be assessed over the coming years.

### **Are the services fit for the cohort as we have learned more? Have any gaps emerged?**

Oranga Tamariki has established a new TSS that supports young people leaving care. The positive responses to questions about transition worker support indicate the TSS is a fit for many in the cohort: 81% of those with a transition worker said their transition worker made things better for them. Transition worker support is voluntary and young people who do not or choose to not have transition worker support can call the National Contact Centre.

Nearly three-quarters (71%) gave positive answers to all three questions about their transition worker. The characteristics of young people who were positive in response to all three questions about their transition worker compared to those who were less positive, did not vary significantly by care status, gender, rainbow, ethnicity, disability, age or age entered care<sup>33</sup>.

While approximately three-quarters of the cohort are generally doing well, there are groups who are not. This includes a higher proportion of young people with a disability. There is a substantial proportion (59%) of young people eligible for transition worker support who have a disability. Difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating and emotional, psychological or mental health conditions were the most prevalent types of disability. Lower proportions of young people with a disability were positive about their social worker or their transition worker. Young people who rated their social worker or transition worker positively were also more positive about their life in general.

A higher proportion of young people in Oranga Tamariki care are leaving school without achieving NCEA level 2 when compared to the national average. These young people will need additional support to achieve employment and employment linked wellbeing as they transition to adulthood.

It is likely that young people who are struggling are under-counted in the survey because of difficulty in contacting them. There is a small group of young people who did respond who are in unstable accommodation. Their accommodation is less likely to be warm. They are less likely to feel safe, settled and that they belong.

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<sup>33</sup> ANOVA was used,  $P < 0.05$  was considered significant.

While Oranga Tamariki transition support is improving wellbeing for many young people leaving care, other agencies such as Health, Education and Housing have a vital role to play in achieving the benefits for young people the TS aims to achieve. There is an increased need for agencies to be accountable for providing the services young people need, better connecting them to those services and helping them navigate them.

### How is service delivery operating in practice?

Survey responses indicate:

- Planning and preparation are not consistently happening as outlined in the Oranga Tamariki national care standards.
- Most young people (85%) had been asked if they wanted support from a transition worker.
- Four of five young people were generally positive about their transition worker.
- The young people who are most positive about their transition worker have more positive wellbeing outcomes. The correlation is not necessarily causal.

Opportunities to strengthen transition support suggested by the survey include:

- Enhanced transition planning and preparation. Young people who were positive about their Oranga Tamariki social worker were more likely to report they had a plan for leaving care.
- Support linked to the life skills young people said they wanted to learn. In response to the survey, young people described a range of life skills they needed but substantial proportions were not receiving the support they felt they needed.
- Discussing the frequency of contact with their transition worker as 37% of young people responding to the survey thought the frequency of current contact did not align with their needs.
- Inter-agency support for housing, education and health for young people. The main housing policy for the TS is ETRR. Communication with young people about ETRR was not effective so it is not feasible to determine whether ETRR provides the housing support needed by young people leaving care in New Zealand.

### **What are the needs, experience and challenges for young people leaving care over the medium term (2-4 years)?**

One-half (53%) of young people in care reported positive experiences with their social worker. Those who felt positive about their social workers had better wellbeing outcomes and were more likely to have spoken to someone about a plan for leaving care.

Most young people (78%) had positive goals for the next five years. Many described the skills they felt they needed to achieve their goals but substantial proportions felt they were not receiving the support they needed to achieve their goals.

Educational attainment underpins many positive outcomes for young people as they transition to adulthood. Based on comparisons with national data, a higher proportion of young people eligible for transition worker support leave school without NCEA level 2 qualifications. A higher proportion of young people were also NEET.

These disparities highlight the need to improve education experiences while at school and providing complementary education for those who have left school. Improving educational attainment needs to be a focus before young people reach the age for transition support.

### **Do young people feel listened to and supported?**

Most young people felt their voice was heard for the important decisions in their lives. Four in five young people (78% of those in care, 79% who had left care) felt they had a say in important decisions most or all the time. However, a main theme in the feedback young people gave for Oranga Tamariki was to listen to young people more.

If worried about something in their lives, one-half (53%) of young people in care said they could talk to their social worker, and 78% of those with a transition worker, said they could talk to them.

Young people with poorer self-assessed wellbeing reported poorer support (from social workers, transition workers, fewer had plans for leaving care, and fewer felt they were getting support for learning skills and health support). The survey does provide information about whether the association is causal.

### **What short to medium-term outcomes are being achieved through participation in individual programmes and services? For which populations are they most effective?**

The Just Sayin' surveys provide information about short to medium-term outcomes for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care. The first two surveys provide a solid



baseline against which later changes can be assessed. The national youth health and wellbeing survey, what About Me? will provide comparisons to a national sample.

**What are the impacts on high-level, longer-term outcomes, including TS investment objectives and Mana Tamaiti objectives?**

**Mana Tamaiti Objective 1: Ensuring participation in decision-making**

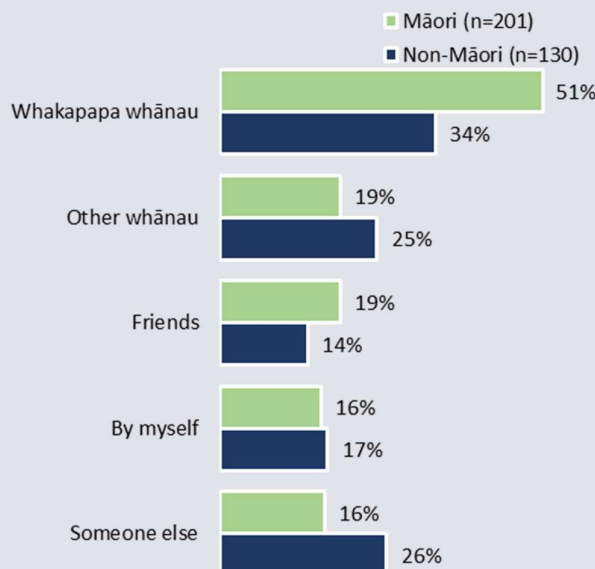
No significant differences were found between the extent Māori and non-Māori considered they had a say in important decisions affecting their lives.



**Mana Tamaiti Objective 3: Placing with whānau, hapū and iwi**

The proportion of rangatahi Māori saying they lived with their whakapapa whānau was significantly higher than for non-Māori young people. No other significant differences found between Māori and non-Māori.

**Who I live with**



**Mana Tamaiti Objective 4: Supporting identity and belonging**

Approximately three-quarters of all young people felt reasonable secure and reasonably proud about their identity and who they are.

Strong and secure cultural identity is important for young people’s wellbeing. More support is required to help rangatahi find out more about their whakapapa as 57% of those who did not know their whakapapa and wanted to know more felt they

were not getting the support they needed to find out more. The proportion of rangatahi Māori wanting to know more about their whakapapa was significantly higher than non-Māori young people.

**My identity**



**My whānau and whakapapa**



**Mana Tamaiti Objective 5: Leaving care or custody**

No significant differences were found between Māori and non-Māori for their support journey. Similar proportions were positive about their social worker and transition worker. There were no significant differences in the proportions with plans for leaving care.

**How effectively are we addressing needs, enhancing experiences and improving outcomes for Māori (including relative to non-Māori)?**

Rangatahi Māori are receiving transition support at the same level as non-Māori and non-Pacific young people. However, disparities in educational attainment and NEET between rangatahi Māori and other young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care highlight a need for enhanced transition support for rangatahi Māori to ensure equitable longer-term outcomes.

One-half of rangatahi Māori had a Māori TS partner or transition worker. Of those without a Māori TS partner, 23% would prefer one. The main reasons they provided were that their culture would be understood and that manaaki was core to being Māori.

A higher proportion of rangatahi Māori supported by a Māori transition worker and/or Māori TS partner were positive about all three questions about their transition worker (74% compared to 69% of rangatahi Māori who did not have a Māori transition worker or TS partner). However, the difference was not statistically significant, probably because of the small sample size<sup>20</sup>.

#### **How effective is the service at meeting the needs of Pasifika young people?**

Just under one-half (41%) of Pacific people had a Pacific TS partner or transition worker. Of those without a Pacific TS partner, 23% would prefer one.

Pacific who were receiving transition worker support had statistically similar outcomes to non-Pacific.

## Appendix 1: Methods

### Eligibility for Just sayin'

Young people were eligible to complete Just Sayin' if they were 16 years or older and eligible for a transition worker.

### How young people took part in Just Sayin' 2021

Oranga Tamariki provided Malatest with a list of names with contact phone numbers of young people eligible for the survey. There were no other details provided and data were not linked to any Oranga Tamariki administrative data. Oranga Tamariki was not made aware of who did or did not complete the survey, unless the young person specifically asked for Oranga Tamariki to contact them (a final question in the survey).

Young people were invited to take part in Just Sayin' by text message and phone calls through:

- An initial text message one week before the commencement of calling young people, this gave them the opportunity to decline participation in the survey
- Three more text invitations
- Two-to-three phone calls to each young person (on different days and different times of the day).

Young people were told they could respond 'No' to the text message and they would not be contacted again. Text messages contained a direct link to the survey and a link to the Just Sayin' website ([Justsayin.nz](https://justsayin.nz)) with more information.

Malatest also asked all TS partners to promote the survey and to encourage young people to complete it. We hoped this would help us hear from young people for whom we did not have contact details.

Young people could complete the survey online or by telephone. The survey and all information about the survey was available in English and te reo Māori. Those who completed the survey received a \$25 voucher in recognition of their time.

Data collection began in June and finished at the end of August 2021.

### Youth Justice

Eligible young people in Youth Justice residences were invited to take part in Just Sayin'. The survey was completed face-to-face at the four residences where young people could not access online surveys or have cell phones. These responses were

not included in this report as it was considered they were going through a very different situation at the time of completing the survey. The responses from young people in Youth Justice are included in a standalone Youth Justice report.

### Weighting

We considered weighting the results of the 2021 Just Sayin' survey to align with the cohort demographics more closely. Weighting was tested for gender and ethnicity and the differences between the weighted sample compared to the unweighted sample were very small (usually 0-1% but up to 3% different for some specific questions). We decided that non-contact and non-response bias were larger factors with an unknown effect on the representativeness of survey respondents. Therefore, it was decided no weighting would be done for the analysis.

### Statistical analysis

ANOVA and individual t tests were used to compare differences between groups. Although this repeated use of individual tests increases the chances of a type one error (saying the test shows a significant difference even though it occurred by chance), it was considered the most practical approach to answer questions of simple group differences for a range of separate questions.

### Ethics

The survey was reviewed by Oranga Tamariki's ethics advisor and approved prior to the commencement of any work involving young people.

## Appendix 2: Demographics

		Just Sayin' 2021 n=331	Full OT cohort n=2,000
Care status	In Care	39%	38%
	Left care	61%	62%
Gender	Female	63%	44%
	Male	36%	56%
	Gender diverse	2%	1%
Age	16	18%	24%
	17	25%	25%
	18	28%	22%
	19	19%	20%
	20+	11%	8%
Ethnicity (total count) <sup>34</sup>	Māori	61%	66%
	Pacific	13%	16%
	Non-Māori or non-Pacific	36%	27%
Region <sup>35</sup>	Northland	6%	7%
	Auckland	21%	29%
	Waikato	8%	10%
	Bay of Plenty	7%	8%
	Taranaki-Manawatu	13%	9%
	East Coast	7%	9%
	Wellington	9%	7%
	Upper South	5%	3%
	Canterbury	14%	12%
	Lower South	12%	7%
Transition support	Has/had a transition worker	77%	62% (referred)
	In care	71%	52%
	Left care	81%	68%

<sup>34</sup> Ethnicity for Māori and Pacific is total count while 'non-Māori or non-Pacific' is anyone who does not fall into the Māori or Pacific total count categories.

<sup>35</sup> Regions as per: <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/locations/> Grouped into 'SCaF regions' provided by Oranga Tamariki (Discrepancy in regions: Just Sayin' Wellington includes Wairarapa, while in the full cohort the Wairarapa is included in East Coast as this was how Oranga Tamariki record region). This happened as Just Sayin' asked young people what region they lived in with dropdown options of the main regions of Aotearoa (Wairarapa is usually considered part of the Wellington region).

## Appendix 3: Selected demographic comparisons

The table below provides percentages within each demographic category. Note the small numbers of Pacific young people require percentages to be treated with care.

		2+ disabilities n= 94	Māori n=201	Pacific n=44	Age entered care ≤10y n=172	Overall group n=331
In care n=		35	76	11	77	129
Out of care n=		59	125	33	95	202
<i>[In care] Social worker attitudes<sup>36</sup></i>	All positive answers	41%	49%	73%	51%	53%
	All negative answers	35%	24%	9%	22%	22%
<i>[With a TW] Transition Worker attitudes<sup>37</sup></i>	All positive answers	70%	71%	76%	70%	71%
	All negative answers	17%	11%	6%	10%	11%
Education employment, training	NCEA level 2 or higher	44%	48%	50%	46%	48%
	NEET	24%	25%	32%	17%	19%
Housing	Unstable accommodation	13%	6%	9%	7%	9%
Identity (% reasonably-very on a 4-point scale)	Secure in your identity	54%	73%	82%	73%	72%
	Proud of who you are	62%	73%	80%	68%	72%
	Hopeful about your future	60%	72%	75%	69%	72%
	All positive answers	43%	60%	68%	54%	58%
Support	Has an adult to turn to if they needed help during a difficult time	53%	68%	77%	71%	68%
	Is getting the support they need to learn the skills they want to learn	44%	62%	61%	61%	61%
Worries about life	Not very worried (% 0-3 on a 0-10 scale)	35%	52%	50%	46%	49%
	Very worried (% 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	34%	27%	35%	30%	27%
<i>How do you feel about life in general?</i>	Positive (% very good-excellent on a 5-point scale)	27%	41%	48%	35%	40%

<sup>36</sup> Do they understand what kind of support you need, do what they say they will do, help make things better for you? All positive answers include % who answered yes and most of the time-all of the time on a 4-point scale. All negative answers include % who answered no and none of the time-never on a 4-point scale.

<sup>37</sup> As above.

## Appendix 4: Full data tables

The following tables include all questions from the Just Sayin' 2021 survey (and exclude young people in YJ residences). Please note, percentages may not add to 100% due to rounding and some questions allowing multiple responses.

	2021	n
Currently has TW	60%	331
Had a TW in the past	17%	
Has never had a TW	12%	
Not sure	11%	
Currently in care	39%	331
Not currently in care	61%	
Age entered care		331
Younger than 5	27%	
6 to 10	25%	
11 to 15	38%	
16 or older	5%	
Not sure	5%	
Male	36%	331
Female	63%	
Gender diverse/still deciding	2%	
Do you identify as part of the LGBTQIA+/rainbow community?		331
Yes	19%	
No	69%	
Unsure	12%	
Total count Māori	61%	331
Total count Pacific	13%	
Total count Non-Māori/Non-Pacific	36%	
NEET	19%	320
Age 16	18%	331
17	25%	
18	28%	
19	19%	
20+	11%	



Te Tai Tokerau/Northland	6%	331
Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland	21%	
Waikato	8%	
Te Moana-a-Toi/Bay of Plenty	7%	
Te Tai Rāwhiti/Gisborne	0%	
Te Matau-a-Māui/Hawkes Bay	7%	
Manawatū-Whanganui/Taranaki	13%	
Te Whananui-a-Tara/Wellington	9%	
Te Tai-o-Aorere/Tasman	1%	
Whakatū/Nelson	2%	
Te Taihū-o-te-waka/Marlborough	1%	
Te Tai Poutini/West Coast	2%	
Waitaha/Canterbury	14%	
Ōtākou/Otago	6%	
Murihiku/Southland	6%	
Have you ever lived at a Youth Justice facility?		330
Yes	23%	
No	77%	
Were you born in New Zealand?		331
Born in NZ	93%	
Born elsewhere	7%	

IN-CONFIDENCE



Holistic needs assessment		2021	n									
Does Oranga Tamariki help make things better for you?	No, not at all	17%	126									
	No, not really	22%										
	Yes, I think so	43%										
	Yes, definitely	18%										
Does your Oranga Tamariki social worker do what they said they would do?	Never	9%	128									
	Not much of the time	26%										
	Most of the time	42%										
	All of the time	23%										
Is your Oranga Tamariki social worker there when you need them?	Yes	66%	128									
	No	34%										
I think my Oranga Tamariki social worker understands what kinds of support I need after I leave care	Yes	65%	126									
	No	35%										
	n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Are you worried about anything that will happen after leaving care (0- Not worried at all, 10- worried)	119	24 %	8%	7%	12 %	5%	13 %	8%	6%	4%	1%	13 %
Do you feel you can talk to your social worker at Oranga Tamariki about your worries?	No, not at all	28%	123									
	No, not really	20%										
	Yes, I think so	26%										
	Yes, definitely	27%										

IN-CONFIDENCE



Transition planning	2021	n
[In care] Have you had a conversation with anyone at Oranga Tamariki about what you need when you leave care?		129
Yes	49%	
No	39%	
Not Sure	12%	
[In care] Have you been at a family group conference where people talked with you about what you wanted to do when you leave care?		129
Yes	68%	
No	25%	
Not sure	7%	
[In care] Do you have a copy of your plan for leaving care?		129
Yes	30%	
No	55%	
Not sure	15%	
[Not in care] Did anyone talk with you and work out a plan for when you left care?		202
Yes	62%	
No	30%	
Not sure	7%	
[Not in care] When you left care had you been part of an FGC to discuss your future?		202
Yes	68%	
No	25%	
Not sure	6%	
[Not in care] Did you have a copy of your plan for leaving care?		202
Yes	42%	
No	45%	
Not sure	13%	
Do you feel you get to have a say in important decisions about your life?		329
All of the time	50%	
Most of the time	29%	
Not much of the time	16%	
Never	5%	

IN-CONFIDENCE



Are the important people to you from your chosen whānau or family involved in planning what happens with your life as much as you would like?		327
	Yes	56%
	Maybe	19%
	No	26%
Why did you decide not to go to a TSS? ( <i>% for people who used to have a TW</i> )		56
	I didn't like my transition worker	9%
	Can't be bothered	4%
	I no longer needed their help	41%
	I wasn't getting help from them anyway	23%
	I moved to a different area	18%
	Another reason	21%
Have you been asked about whether you want to see a TW?		331
	Yes	85%
	No	11%
	Not sure	4%
Have you had a transition worker either currently or in the past?		331
	Yes, I have a transition worker now	60%
	Not now but I have had a transition worker in the past	17%
	Not at all	12%
	Not sure	11%
Have you talked with a TW – this might be a social worker or someone else at another type of organisation?		331
	Yes	80%
	No	20%
	Unsure	0%
Did you have any choice about what type of organisation this was?		282
	Yes	43%
	No	33%
	Unsure	24%

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Do you think it would help you to connect with someone from a TSS?	Yes	42%	50
	No	34%	
	Unsure	24%	
Is your TS Partner a Māori organisation? ( <i>Māori respondents</i> )	Yes	40%	149
	No	18%	
	Not sure	42%	
Is the person you usually see at the TS Partner Māori? ( <i>Māori respondents</i> )	Yes	38%	149
	No	31%	
	Not sure	31%	
Rangatahi Māori who have either a Māori TS Partner or transition worker		52%	149
Would you like to have a Māori organisation as your TS Partner? ( <i>Māori respondents who don't currently have a Māori organisation</i> )	Yes	23%	90
	No	22%	
	Not sure	54%	
Is your TS Partner a Pacific organisation? ( <i>Pacific respondents</i> )	Yes	24%	34
	No	24%	
	Not sure	53%	
Is the person you usually see at the TS Partner Pacific? ( <i>Pacific respondents</i> )	Yes	38%	34
	No	26%	
	Not sure	35%	
Pacific young people who have either a Pacific TS Partner or transition worker		41%	34
Would you like to have a Pacific organisation as your TS Partner? ( <i>Pacific respondents who don't currently have a Pacific organisation</i> )	Yes	23%	26
	No	15%	
	Not sure	62%	

IN-CONFIDENCE



Proactively provide advice and arrange assistance		2021	n									
How often do you see your Transition Worker? (% for people who have a TW)			253									
	Weekly or more	27%										
	Fortnightly	14%										
	Monthly	14%										
	Every few months	9%										
	Once or twice a year	5%										
	Never	12%										
	Just when I request it	19%										
Would you like to see more/less of your transition worker? (% for people who have a TW)			253									
	More	25%										
	About the same	63%										
	Less	12%										
Do you think your Transition Worker understands what kinds of support you need?			255									
	Yes	81%										
	No	19%										
Are you worried about anything in your life just now (0- Not worried at all, 10- worried)	n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	250	29%	4%	8%	8%	9%	9%	6%	6%	9%	2%	10%
(Of those with a TW) Do you feel you can talk to your TW about your worries?			192									
	No, not at all	10%										
	No, not really	12%										
	I think so	35%										
	Yes, definitely	42%										
Does your Transition worker do what they say they would do?			254									
	Never	5%										
	Not much of the time	14%										
	Most of the time	36%										
	All of the time	45%										
Is your TW there when you need them?			254									
	Yes	80%										
	No	20%										

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Does your TW help make things better for you?	No, not at all No, not really Yes, I think so Yes, definitely	6% 13% 41% 41%	253
<b>Maintaining contact with young people</b>		<b>2021</b>	<b>n</b>
Do you know how to get help from Oranga Tamariki if you needed help?	Yes No	69% 31%	321
Have you called the Transition Support Line at Oranga Tamariki?	Yes No	21% 79%	320
Those who have called: Did they help you?	Yes – they helped a lot Yes – they helped a little No – they didn’t help me	53% 27% 20%	66
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai?	Yes No	65% 35%	320
Do you know how to contact VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? <i>(of those asked if they had seen or heard of VOYCE)</i>	Yes No	48% 52%	320
Have you called the VOYCE 0800 number? <i>(% of total population)</i>	Yes No	10% 90%	320
Those who have contacted VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai: Did they help you?	Yes – they helped a lot Yes – they helped a little No – they didn’t help me	50% 34% 16%	32

IN-CONFIDENCE



Where young people live	2021	n
Living in one of the following places	87%	331
Where do you live?		331
A family home or homes	43%	
A group residence (or lock up residence)	3%	
A foster home	13%	
A partner or friends' home	19%	
A flat you pay rent for	16%	
Somewhere else	10%	
Unstable accommodation (garage, couch surfing, motels, cars and vans, sleeping rough)	9%	
Who do you live with?		331
Whakapapa whānau (biological family / family of origin)	44%	
Other whānau	21%	
Friends	17%	
By myself	16%	
Someone else	20%	
[Not in care] Do you live in the same place as before you left care?		200
Yes	28%	
No	68%	
Sometimes	5%	
[Not in care] Those in a different place: Did you feel you had a choice about moving to live somewhere else?		200
Yes	68%	
No	32%	
[In care] Do you think you will stay living [where you live now] after you leave care?		128
Yes	38%	
No	31%	
Sometimes	5%	
I'm not sure yet	26%	
Have you ever lived with an Oranga Tamariki caregiver?		328
Yes	76%	
No	24%	



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Have you been told about the option to return to live with a caregiver until you are 21? <i>(for those who have lived with an Oranga Tamariki caregiver)</i>		250
	Yes	46%
	No	44%
	Not sure	11%
[In care] Has anyone talked with you about other places where you could live after you leave care?		128
	Yes	32%
	No	68%
[Not in care] Did anyone at Oranga Tamariki or the TSS talk with you about other places?		200
	Yes	45%
	No	56%

IN-CONFIDENCE



Improving outcomes for young people as they transition from Oranga Tamariki care												
How much do you disagree or agree with the following statements (0 – Strongly disagree, 10 – Strongly agree)												
	n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
I have somewhere warm to live	323	2%	2%	2%	3%	2%	4%	3%	3%	4%	4%	72%
I feel like I belong	317	5%	2%	1%	3%	5%	10%	4%	4%	6%	5%	55%
I feel safe where I live	323	2%	3%	2%	0%	2%	5%	3%	3%	5%	7%	70%
I feel settled where I live	322	4%	3%	3%	2%	3%	7%	3%	7%	7%	5%	56%
I feel accepted for who I am by the people I live with	312	4%	2%	1%	2%	2%	7%	4%	4%	5%	7%	62%
How much do you disagree or agree with the following... (1 – Strongly disagree, 5 – strongly agree)												
	n	1	2	3	4	5						
I have friends I trust	325	16%	10%	18%	13%	44%						
I feel safe with my friends	323	10%	8%	13%	17%	52%						
My friends accept me for who I am	324	9%	6%	13%	11%	61%						
If you were going through a difficult time and needed help, do you have someone you could turn to?							Yes	76%	320			
							No	11%				
							Not sure	14%				
Rangatahi who could turn to...							An adult	68%	320			
							Only a friend or sibling	21%				
							No one	11%				

IN-CONFIDENCE



Young people have an improved sense of identity and belonging		2021	n
To what extent do you feel secure in your identity?	Not at all	7%	326
	A little	21%	
	Reasonably	29%	
	Very	43%	
To what extent do you feel proud of who you are?	Not at all	11%	327
	A little	17%	
	Reasonably	28%	
	Very	44%	
Do you have as many chances as you would like to connect with your whakapapa whānau (biological family / family of origin)?	Yes	69%	329
	No	31%	
Do you know your iwi? ( <i>Māori respondents only</i> )	Yes	78%	201
	No	13%	
	Not sure	8%	
Do you know your whakapapa (ancestry)?	No, not at all	12%	329
	No, not really	33%	
	Yes, I think so	29%	
	Yes, definitely	25%	
	I don't know what whakapapa (ancestry) means	2%	
Do you want to know more about your ancestry or whakapapa?	Yes	51%	329
	No	33%	
	Unsure	17%	
Are you being supported to find out more about your ancestry/ whakapapa? ( <i>of those who wanted to know more</i> )	Yes	54%	167
	No	46%	

IN-CONFIDENCE



More young people are healthy and recovering from trauma						
How do you feel about your life in general? (1 – poor, 5 – excellent)	n	1	2	3	4	5
	326	10%	21%	29%	21%	19%
Self-reported holistic wellbeing (based on Te Whare Tapa Whā) (1 – poor, 5 – excellent)						
	n	1	2	3	4	5
In general, would you say your taha tinana - physical health is?	325	9%	18%	36%	20%	17%
In general, would you say your taha hinengaro - mental health is?	326	17%	24%	27%	16%	17%
In general, would you say your taha wairua - spiritual health is?	318	11%	18%	35%	16%	20%
In general, would you say your taha whānau or family health is?	320	16%	19%	27%	18%	20%
Self-reported difficulties (1 - No, 4 - always)						
	n	1	2	3	4	
Do you have any difficulty seeing?	325	61%	20%	10%	10%	
Do you have difficulty hearing?	325	71%	19%	6%	4%	
Do you have any difficulty doing physical activities?	324	80%	14%	4%	3%	
Do you have difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating?	324	32%	34%	19%	15%	
Do you have any emotional, psychological or mental health conditions?	323	39%	22%	20%	18%	
				<b>2021</b>	<b>n</b>	
Are you receiving the health support you need? (of those who indicated poor or fair for any of the Te Whare Tapa Whā questions)			Yes	56%		192
			No	44%		
Of those with a disability (of those who indicated poor or fair for any of the Te Whare Tapa Whā questions)			Yes	53%		
			No	47%		

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In the last 12 months, has there been any time when you wanted or needed to see a doctor or nurse (or other health care worker) about your health, but you weren't able to?		326
	Yes	34%
	No	66%

More young people have the life skills they need to thrive as adults					
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future? (1 - Not at all, 4- Very)	n	1	2	3	4
	325	10%	18%	32%	40%
What skills would you like to learn to help you get where you want? (% selected)					
		Relationship skills	36%		320
		Money management	50%		
		Cooking	31%		
		Getting ID	23%		
		Driver's license	52%		
		Becoming work ready	37%		
		Enrolling in training	22%		
		Connecting with culture	20%		
		Parenting skills	19%		
		Other	7%		
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills you want to learn?					290
		Yes	61%		
		No	39%		
Financial capability					
	n	Yes	Sometimes	No	
At the end of each week do you have money left over?	310	32%	35%	33%	
At the end of each week do you have a budget?	310	41%	26%	33%	
At the end of each week do you have any savings?	309	36%	15%	50%	
At the end of each week do you have any debts?	309	23%	10%	67%	

IN-CONFIDENCE



More young people are in education, employment or training (in the past 12-months)		2021	n
In education or training		49%	320
Education or training			320
	Attending a school or kura	25%	
	Doing some other type of training or education	26%	
	I am not doing any education or training	51%	
Highest level of qualification			315
	No qualifications or NCEA credits	17%	
	Some NCEA credits but no qualification	15%	
	NCEA level 1	20%	
	NCEA level 2	22%	
	NCEA level 3	13%	
	Certificate or diploma	7%	
	Degree from polytech or university	1%	
	Other qualification	4%	
In the last 12 months, did you do any of the following? (% selected)			320
	A regular part-time job	25%	
	A job in the school holidays	5%	
	Casual or occasional work	22%	
	A full-time job	21%	
	I didn't do any paid work	40%	
NEET		19%	320
Would you like to have a paid job? (Young people not working in a paid job)			129
	Yes	91%	
	No	9%	
Would you like to work more hours? (Young people who had a paid job)			183
	Yes	62%	
	No	38%	
In the last 12 months, did you do any volunteer work for anyone?			314
	Yes	37%	
	No	63%	

IN-CONFIDENCE



Do you get money from Work and Income or StudyLink?		Yes	45%	312								
		No	55%									
<b>Young people feel supported to be parents</b>		<b>2021</b>		<b>n</b>								
Are you a parent?		Yes	16%	329								
		No	84%									
Are you pregnant? <i>(only asked of females and gender diverse)</i>		Yes	7%	211								
		No	93%									
All participants who were parents or pregnant		Male	17%	331								
		Female	27%									
		Gender Diverse	73%									
			0%									
Does your child/children live with you all or some of the time?		Yes	63%	51								
		No	37%									
How much support do you have to look after your child? <i>(1 - I am not supported at all, 10 - I have all the support I need, of those who live with their child some or all of the time)</i>	n	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	32	3%	0%	6%	6%	3%	9%	13%	3%	6%	3%	47%