



**OPEN HOME
FOUNDATION**

TE WHARE KAUPAPA ĀWHINA

11 January 2023

Minister for Children
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

National Office
P O Box 31036
Lower Hutt

Tena Koe Hon Minister Davis

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a response directly to you regarding compliance to the National Care Standards and Related Matters of the Open Home Foundation of New Zealand - Te Whare Kaupapa Awhina (OHF).

Your acknowledgement of the progressive steps we have achieved to date are very much appreciated. It is the result of a determined team effort – there is much more work to do.

The report reflects our progress across the following key areas;

- We have continued to hold internal practice forums fortnightly focussing on national care standards.
- Made several improvements to OHF's case management system OSCAR enabling a greater scope and ease of reporting of key information.
- We have continued to ask *is anyone better off from involvement with OHF?* We have used this data to contribute to our overall continuous improvement journey.
- The Practice Alignment Group is now well established within OHF.
- We have seen increased use from tamariki and rangatahi of the Mind of My Own App – meaning we are hearing the voices of tamariki/rangatahi at anytime they want to say something.
- We have also seen some lovely examples of tamariki being further connected to their culture in ways that have been incredibly meaningful for them.
- The report reflects our commitment to be able to report on all tamariki in the legal custody of OHF and being able to respond 100% to the requested information.

It has also been pleasing to see increasing evidence of Social Workers involving whanau in planning.

Over the next 12 months we want to continue building upon the progress evidenced in the 2021/22 report. In particular, our focus will be;

- Increased evidence that all tamariki in care have a strong sense of identity and whanau connectedness
- Increased evidence that tamariki in care have access to the Mind of My Own App
- That all tamariki in care see their OHF social worker as per policy as a minimum
- That all whānau carers and foster parents are visited by social workers as per OHF policy, ensuring they get the right support needed.

In December 2021 in my response to the 2020/2021 report, we referred to a significant barrier facing OHF was that there was no dedicated funding to enable our continuous improvement work to be sustained ongoing. We are pleased to be able to report that despite a difficult F23 funding round, Oranga Tamariki has made available funding to support OHF's continuous improvement work programme ongoing.

Minister, thank you once again for your positive acknowledgement of the work OHF has achieved for tamariki and rangatahi – it is a privilege to be involved in this work and we look forward to continuing to ensure that care for all tamariki provided by the Open Home Foundation is safe and that, when they leave care, their futures are bright.

Nga mihi



Don Irwin
Chief Executive



Trish McConnell
Board Chair