

Ministry of Education Progress Report under section 30A of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022

Agency and report details

Agency	The Ministry of Education
Chief Executive	Ellen MacGregor-Reid
Date original response provided under section 30	26 February 2026
Date progress report due under section 30A	26 June 2026
Date of this progress report	26 June 2026
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1. Summary

The Experiences of Care in Aotearoa 2024/25 report provided critical insights to strengthen the experience of tamariki and rangatahi in care. The report highlighted four key themes including cross agency collaboration, information sharing, enrolment and attendance in education and access to educational supports.

The Ministry continues to maintain representation at interagency governance forums across local, regional, and national levels, alongside ongoing involvement in Aroturuki Tamariki regional visits to support engagement on education matters, including a focus on Attendance Service Provisions during the upcoming Auckland visit. Work is also progressing on the review of interagency protocols with Oranga Tamariki, particularly in relation to education in residences and student aide guidance, with planned reviews of the High and Complex Needs and Managing Allegations of Abuse

protocols. Regular operational engagement between the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki continues to support the progression of actions under the OTSAP, including recent collaboration with frontline staff to refresh education priorities for the coming year.

The Ministry continues to refine the initial detailed data schedule for sharing with Oranga Tamariki on attendance and enrolment, alongside ongoing joint work to enhance OTSAP dashboard reporting. Progress on additional data schedules—covering stand-downs, suspensions, exclusions and expulsions, as well as interventions and learning support—has been paused to enable necessary system-level improvements to the attendance and enrolment data share. A regional stocktake of information-sharing arrangements is planned to commence in July 2026.

The Ministry has completed the review of the Chronic Absence protocol (formerly the non-attendance protocol) with Oranga Tamariki, with a second-stage review planned for October 2026 to incorporate non-enrolment. Guidance has also been strengthened through the completion of the Stand-downs, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions (SSEE) legal and operational frameworks. Implementation of the new Attendance Service Providers has commenced, alongside initial planning for the design of kaupapa Māori Attendance Service Provision.

The Ministry has made substantive progress in strengthening learning support through a range of system-wide initiatives. This includes the early stages of expanding the Early Intervention Service and rolling out Learning Support Coordinators to every school with learners Year 1-8. These initiatives LSC are in place to increase support across early learning services and schools, alongside enhancements to the Ongoing Resource Scheme to better meet the needs of eligible learners. Workforce growth is underway, with additional specialists and teacher aide support being introduced, including expanded psychology capacity. Investment has also been made in specialist schooling provision, including satellite classrooms. Work is continuing in partnership with Oranga Tamariki to review student aide support guidelines and improve visibility of available learning and behaviour supports across agencies.

2. Status of matters addressed in the original response

Matter from original response/original commitment	Status at date of progress report	Summary of progress since original response	Monitoring undertaken and changes observed	Further work required and by when	Has anything changed from the original response?
Ministry of Education Commitments arising from 24/25 report					
Cross Agency Collaboration - Communicating and embedding escalation pathways between OT and MoE at local, regional, and national levels	Continuing	Some progress	Monitoring undertaken - changes observed	Yes – June 2027	No
Information Sharing - Improve data quality in collaboration with Oranga Tamariki	Delayed	Some progress	Monitoring undertaken - changes observed	Yes – June 2027	No
Information Sharing - Complete a stocktake of regional information sharing arrangements and co-develop regional actions with Oranga Tamariki for OTSAP	Not yet due to start	N/A	No monitoring undertaken	Yes – June 2027	No
Enrolment, Attendance, and Access to Educational Supports - Develop guidance to enable Ministry and Oranga Tamariki staff and caregivers to work collaboratively to enrol and support tamariki and rangatahi in education	Continuing	Some progress	Monitoring undertaken – no changes observed	Yes – December 2026	No
- Co-develop and deliver a professional learning package with Oranga Tamariki to implement guidance (above)	Not yet started	No progress	No monitoring undertaken	Yes – June 2027	No

Ministry of Education Commitments arising from 24/25 report

- Identify further data to share with Oranga Tamariki to support attendance, engagement and achievement at school.	Continuing	Some progress	Monitoring undertaken – no changes observed	Yes – June 2027	No
- Improve operational guidance on directed enrolments and share process information with schools and Oranga Tamariki through an attendance action plan.	Continuing	Significant progress	Monitoring undertaken – changes observed	Yes – December 2026	No
- Process improvements from the Gateway Assessment review. Test the Gateway profile with MoH and Oranga Tamariki to support timeliness and accountability of assessment processes.	Completed	Significant progress	Monitoring undertaken, changes observed	Yes – September 2026	No

3. Detailed updates on actions set out in the original response

Matter 1: Cross Agency Collaboration

Relevant finding(s) from the Monitor's report	Findings from the report underscore the value of effective collaboration across agencies to remove barriers to equitable education. We acknowledge the importance of collaboration between the Ministry and other Oranga Tamariki system agencies and are committed to ongoing collective efforts to strengthen educational pathways for tamariki and rangatahi in care.	
Actions the agency said it would take	Original time frames / milestones	Status at date of progress report

Communicating and embedding escalation pathways between OT and MoE at local, regional, and national levels	April 2026 – June 2027	Continuing
Progress since original response	- A high-level escalation process has been published within the revised MoU between MoE and OT - Engagement with local, regional, and national level staff across MoE and OT throughout May and June 2026 has been undertaken to review and refresh the education focus areas under OTSAP for the upcoming year. As a result, improving the awareness and use of escalation pathways will continue to be a focus area within OTSAP - Regular operational meetings between the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki continue to progress reviews of inter-agency protocols which provide ongoing opportunities to discuss and embed escalation pathways into topic-specific guidelines	
Monitoring undertaken by the agency	- Monitoring and reporting is undertaken through OTSAP, including regular review of progress and updates provided via the Social Sector Chief Executives hui. - Regular operational hui between the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki continue to provide monitoring discussions as part of BAU arrangements	
Changes or progress identified through monitoring	Monitoring and engagement with regional staff from both agencies has identified the need to strengthen awareness and consistent use of escalation pathways, which will remain a focus within OTSAP, including the proposal of detailed and maintained contacts database between both agencies.	
Evidence / supporting material	As above, the decision has been made for this to be an education focus area for OTSAP 2026-27.	

Risks, issues, or barriers	The Ministry has experienced delays in reviewing some joint-agency protocols, due to the loss of subject matter expertise, and the settling in of a new organisational structure. The delay in progressing these protocols has a roll-on effect to progressing our key commitments within this progress report.
Further work required to complete the actions	New OTSAP action is focused on establishing and maintaining clear points of contact and escalation pathways across local sites, regional, and national levels to support coordinated practice.
When the further work will be completed	June 2027 (aligned with original timeframe), with staged progress through OTSAP 2026–27
Changes the agency is hoping to see from these actions	- More timely and coordinated responses to issues impacting tamariki and rangatahi - Stronger cross-agency collaboration and clearer resolution processes
When the agency hopes to see those changes	Early improvements in awareness and use during 2026–27, with more consistent practice evident by June 2027
Next steps	Development of detailed inter-agency escalation pathways within further guidance materials and inclusion of material in professional learning package
Updated time frames / milestones	No change – actions remain on track for completion by June 2027

Matter 2: Information Sharing

Relevant finding(s) from the Monitor's report	Information sharing between agencies is not yet consistent or systematised, with identified issues in data quality, governance, and the clarity of regional practices, highlighting the need for more structured, coordinated, and nationally aligned approaches	
Actions the agency said it would take	Original time frames / milestones	Status at date of progress report
Improve data quality in collaboration with Oranga Tamariki	February 2026 – June 2027	Delayed
Complete a stocktake of regional information sharing arrangements and co-develop regional actions with Oranga Tamariki for OTSAP	July 2026 – June 2027	Not Yet Started
<i>Previous Year Action</i> - Identify further data to share with Oranga Tamariki to support attendance, engagement and achievement at school	July 2025 – June 2026	Continuing
Progress since original response	- Continued refinement of the first detailed data schedule for sharing with Oranga Tamariki on attendance and enrolment - Continued working with Oranga Tamariki to further refine OTSAP dashboard reporting - Paused progression of the detailed data schedules for sharing with Oranga Tamariki on a) standdowns, suspensions, exclusions, and expulsions; and b) interventions and learning supports while improvements are made to the attendance and enrolment information share - The regional stocktake of information sharing arrangements is planned for the period 1 July 2026 – 30 June 2027	

	• Work is underway to better align operational data with reporting and decision-making needs
Monitoring undertaken by the agency	• Regular operational meetings between Ministry and Oranga Tamariki data teams is occurring. Discussions have focused on enabling monthly data shares, resolving data inaccuracies, and improving OTSAP reporting • Monthly data validation by data teams across both agencies is occurring which has resulted in the identification of system-level improvements. This continues to be a key focus for the Ministry • Monitoring indicates that variability in data and reporting reflects differences in systems, processes, and data definitions across agencies and regions • Insights from this monitoring are being used to inform more consistent approaches to information sharing and reporting
Changes or progress identified through monitoring	• Monitoring of the attendance and enrolment information share has identified improvements required to data accuracy, analysis and reporting • Options for improvement are being developed which include short-term fixes, and longer-term system changes which will require further Ministry investment and reprioritisation of existing resources • Further investigation undertaken by the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki as part of OTSAP review has indicated that improving information sharing will require a mix of local practice improvements and more consistent, joined-up approaches to how information is defined, captured, and used across the system
Evidence / supporting material	• Information Sharing Agreement – Ministry of Education and Oranga Tamariki • Detailed Data Schedule – Attendance and Enrolment • Detailed Data Schedule – Standdowns, Suspensions, Exclusions, and Expulsions (draft) • Detailed Data Schedule - Interventions and Learning Support (draft)

	• OTSAP reporting, including attendance and enrolment data and regional insights
Risks, issues, or barriers	• The Ministry continues to work closely with Oranga Tamariki to resolve data improvements
Further work required to complete the actions	• Short term fixes undertaken to support accurate OTSAP reporting on attendance and enrolment • Long-term system fixes further investigated, prioritised and resourced • Progression of information sharing on SSEE and interventions and learning support
When the further work will be completed	• Short-term fixes will occur as part of ongoing BAU • Decisions on investment and prioritisation for longer-term fixes is to be confirmed
Changes the agency is hoping to see from these actions	• Accurate reporting on attendance and engagement of tamariki and rangatahi in care • Commence work on further data sharing arrangements
When the agency hopes to see those changes	December 2026
Next steps	Investment options paper tabled in July 2026

Matter 3: Enrolment, Attendance, and Access to Educational Supports

Relevant finding(s) from the Monitor's report	Non-enrolment, poor attendance, and variable access to educational supports remain ongoing challenges for some tamariki and rangatahi in care, highlighting the need for clearer guidance and strengthened coordination across agencies to support engagement in education	
Actions the agency said it would take	Original time frames / milestones	Status at date of progress report
Develop guidance to enable Ministry and Oranga Tamariki staff and caregivers to work collaboratively to enrol and support tamariki and rangatahi in education	June - December 2026	Continuing
Co-develop and deliver a professional learning package with Oranga Tamariki to implement guidance (above)	June 2026 - June 2027	Not yet started
<i>Previous year action</i> - Improve operational guidance on directed enrolments and share process information with schools and Oranga Tamariki through an attendance action plan	July 2025 – December 2026	Continuing
<i>Previous year action</i> - Process improvements from the Gateway Assessment review. Test the Gateway profile with MoH and Oranga Tamariki to support timeliness and accountability of assessment processes	July 2025 – September 2026	Completed

Progress since original response

Enrolment and Attendance

- Completed the review of the Chronic Absence protocol (formerly non-Attendance protocol) between the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki
- Completion of the Stand-down, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions (SSEE) legal guidelines and related operational guidance
- Operational policy on directed enrolments is in development
- Development of a workplan to identify and progress further operational guidance for student supports is in progress
- Commenced provision of the new Attendance Service Providers
- Planning has commenced for the design of kaupapa Māori Attendance Service Provision
- Three education profiles (Primary & Secondary, ECE, and Non-enrolled) and supporting guidance have been completed and new process went live on 15 June 2026
- Ministry guidance on Gateway Assessments has been completed and shared with regional teams

Learning Support

- Started implementing the expansion of the Early Intervention Service (EIS) from early childhood education through to the end of year 1 of primary school. This includes additional specialist staff and teacher aide hours. The expansion of this workforce continues through to 2034
- Started roll out of Learning Support Coordinators (LSCs) to all schools with Year 1-8 students that don't already have an LSC. All eligible schools will have access to an LSC by the end of the 2028 year
- Changed the Ongoing Resource Scheme (ORS) funding model so every child who is verified for ORS funding receives the support they need. Increased the number of

	specialists and teacher aide hours to support ORS funded students, which will continue through to 2029 • Started bringing on additional specialists to support learners who need Behaviour and Communication support over the next four years. This includes additional speech-language therapists, psychologists, and teacher aide time • Expanded the Ministry's intern psychologists to 35 • Provision of additional funding for satellite classrooms across the specialist school network • Reviewing the Oranga Tamariki, Student Aide Support Guidelines in collaboration with Oranga Tamariki • Developing an accessible list of all learning and behaviour supports available across the Ministry and Oranga Tamariki
Monitoring undertaken by the agency	• Monthly hui between MoE and OT continues to track progress of all joint agency protocols and guidance • A second stage review of the Chronic Attendance protocol is planned for October 2026 to support the inclusion of non-enrolment (NENs) • Monitoring of Gateway occurs through OTSAP reporting and regular discussions via the interagency Gateway Governance Group • Planned review of new Gateway process scheduled for September 2026 • Planned review of inter-agency Gateway guidelines by June 2027
Changes or progress identified through monitoring	• Systematic review of all protocols that are listed under the MoE-OT MoU (1 complete, 1 near complete, 1 in progress, 3 to commence). • The refreshed OTSAP education focus areas will include actions on the following: - consolidated suite of guidance and training materials for frontline delivery - cross-agency framework for needs-based referral pathways

	- enabling cross-agency triage and coordinated case management
Evidence / supporting material	• MoE – OT Chronic Absence Protocol • MoE – OT Guidelines for Education in Residences (final draft) • MoE – OT Guidelines for Student-Aide (draft) • MoE Stand-down, Suspensions, Exclusions and Expulsions (SSEE) legal guidelines and operational guidance
Risks, issues, or barriers	• Operational guidance and professional learning package are on hold, pending the completion of the revised Student Aide protocol
Further work required to complete the actions	• Complete the Student Aide protocol as a lead contributing document to the guidance package required
When the further work will be completed	• No change – original due dates (as above) apply
Changes the agency is hoping to see from these actions	• Improved enrolment and attendance outcomes, enabled through clearer guidance and more coordinated practice across agencies • Improved assessment of learning support needs through the Gateway Assessment process
When the agency hopes to see those changes	• Expect to see improvements as of July 2026 from the Gateway Assessments • Improved coordinated practice as a result of refreshed guidance and training would be expected in 2027
Next steps	• Review of Gateway Assessment Process (September 2026) • Refresh Interagency Gateway Guidelines (June 2027) • Complete Student-Aide Guidelines (August 2026)

Updated time frames / milestones

- Complete Education in Residences Guidelines (August 2026)
- No change – original due dates (as above) apply