



19 February 2025

Minister for Children
Private Bag 18041
Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

National Office
P O Box 31036
Lower Hutt

Dear Ministers Chhour and Upston

Thank you for the opportunity to once again review and provide a response to the 2023/24 Experiences of Care in Aotearoa Report.

We would like to acknowledge the many positive aspects to the work our social workers do that goes together, (but also beyond compliance), with the many very committed foster parents throughout Open Home Foundation caring for Tamariki across Aotearoa. Caring for tamariki is a high call so we continue to strive for a high level of compliance.

We now have systems in place for regular, organisational-wide self-monitoring of the young people in OHF care along with follow up and review mechanisms involving, national, regional and local practitioners.

We are also proud of the high level of internal oversight we have over our practice and it is pleasing to see reflected in the report that, when tamariki or those caring for them need additional support, our teams step up and provide wraparound support. One of our challenges is to ensure this is recorded and visible. We also wish to note that OHF’s visiting (tamariki) policy is more regular than that of Oranga Tamariki.

Areas of focus for us over the next period will be;

Visits to tamariki	Regional Managers Practice to work with social workers to ensure visits are recorded.	Ongoing – Regional Managers Practice (RMP)
Visits to Foster Parents	As above.	Ongoing - RMP
Support post placement transition	Create system alerts in OSCAR	Quarterly – Continuous Improvement Team
Review of plans following placement transition	Create system alerts in OSCAR	1 Month post system alert - RMP

Thank you again for the opportunity to review and to make comment to the Experiences of Care in Aotearoa report. We are hoping that the 2025/26 reporting year will be more stable for the care and protection sector. The many challenges and uncertainty which are the result of significant funding cuts remain real.

Kind regards



Don Irwin
Chief Executive



Trish McConnell
Board Chair