



NEW ZEALAND
POLICE
Ngā Pirihimana o Aotearoa

Response to “*Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau*”

New Zealand Police response to the Independent Children’s Monitor’s report, *Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau*

Submitted as required by section 30 of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022

June 2026

1. This response outlines New Zealand Police's feedback and intended actions in response to the Independent Children's Monitor's (ICM's) second report, *Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau in the Oranga Tamariki system*. It is provided pursuant to section 30 of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 (the Act).

Background

2. This second annual performance report by the ICM builds effectively on the previous report. It highlights the ICM's assessment that there has been minimal change since that time and that further work is still required. The report acknowledges a range of variables influence the outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. The impact of incremental changes will take time to be evident.
3. Police contributed to the report through engagement and providing data. Police acknowledge the limitations of the Police data as outlined in this report. We appreciate the collaborative approach taken by the Monitor.
4. The metrics provided in the ICM's report support agencies to focus on priority areas. Some of these are being addressed through work on the recommendations of the late Dame Karen Poutasi, with Police working closely alongside partner agencies.
5. Prevention remains a key priority for Police. Insights from this and the previous report help ensure Police maintain focus on the identified disparities and recognise our role as an entry point into the system and the path an individual takes.
6. Pursuant to section 30 of the Act, this response outlines:
 - a) what Police intends to do in response to the ICM's findings;
 - b) the timeframe in which Police intends to make any necessary changes; and
 - c) how Police intends to monitor the impact of those changes.

Next steps

7. New Zealand Police will continue to build on existing partnerships and initiatives to strengthen our contribution to the Oranga Tamariki system.
8. The table on the following pages outlines our point-by-point response to findings in the ICM's report that relate to Police functions and the specific work Police have underway to address these findings.
9. This response has been published on Police's website as part of our commitment to openness and transparency: [New Zealand Police response to the Independent Children's Monitor's report | New Zealand Police](#)



Richard Chambers
Commissioner of Police

ICM Finding	Police Intentions in Response	Timeframes	Monitoring Change
<p>Failure to provide the right response at the earliest opportunity is evident in youth justice</p>	<p>Police have for some time promoted an ‘eyes wide open’ approach to attending family harm episodes, that can be applied to all policing activities. This concept involves looking beyond the incident in front of attending staff, recognising where there are unmet wellbeing issues, and referring to relevant support. The Reports of Concern referred to above will also contribute to ensuring an early response.</p> <p>Police recognise there are opportunities to share information with partner agencies when care and protection issues are identified. Police are part of the inter-agency information sharing hub based at the Oranga Tamariki National Contact Centre. This focusses on the dependent children of incarcerated sole carers.</p> <p>This is still a developing area and as outlined in this report and the shareback reports, there are limitations to services available to provide the necessary support.</p> <p>As outlined in the report, The Audit Office has reviewed Police use of Alternative Actions (AA) and Police acknowledge the need to be able to assess the effectiveness of these initiatives. In accepting all recommendations from this report Police will strengthen the use and effectiveness of AAs.</p> <p>AAs are a means to prevent people from entering the formal youth justice system.</p> <p>Police continues to expand the use of AWHI to refer people over 16 years of age for support. Improving the circumstances for those over 16 can improve the circumstances for tamariki and rangatahi who reside with them. Referrals include family wellbeing, addiction services, employment services, and accommodation, among others.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Ongoing.</p> <p>Police have committed to progress the recommendations of The Audit Office’s recommendations over the next 12 – 18 months.</p>	<p>Monitored via Youth Justice Indicators, the Quality Assurance and Improvement Framework (QAIF), and official statistics.</p> <p>A formal evaluation is being completed by Oranga Tamariki.</p>

ICM Finding	Police Intentions in Response	Timeframes	Monitoring Change
<p>Successful iwi-led initiatives and strategic partnerships need to be the base for broader long-term change, and this should happen faster</p>	<p>Police’s use of alternative actions and Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi is designed to involve iwi, communities and other strategic partners to keep tamariki and rangatahi out of the formal justice system.</p> <p>As outlined, Police have accepted all recommendations of The Audit Office. One of those recommendations is for Police to establish a means to evaluate the impact of alternative actions. Police are working through how this will be achieved.</p> <p>The Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi sites, which were referenced in the Police response to the previous report as being in development, are now operational.</p>	<p>Ongoing.</p>	<p>Monitored through longitudinal data, internal reviews, and community engagement outcomes.</p>
<p>Current data does not show the full extent of disparity or enable system effectiveness to be measured</p>	<p>Police acknowledge the limitations of ethnicity data collected and the impact this has on the ability to evaluate the issues raised in the report.</p> <p>These limitations exist for a range of reasons and impact data held relating to all people who engage with Police. Collecting data at the time Police engage with an individual presents challenges that are sometimes connected to their willingness to engage, state of mind and personal circumstances. Ethnicity is also not information people are required to provide.</p> <p>Youth Justice quality assurance activity that was instigated in the last quarter of 2025, is expected to improve recording standards in this area over the next year where staff are expected to request and, if provided, record ethnicity data during interactions with tamariki and rangatahi. The impact of improved practice is not expected to be seen until the 2026/27 data period. It is important to note that due to current system limitations only one ethnicity will be recorded. Police acknowledge that this limitation means that we are unable to record up to four ethnicities as per Statistics NZ guidelines.</p>	<p>12 months.</p>	<p>Monitored through ongoing QAIF and data reviews.</p>