

Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau

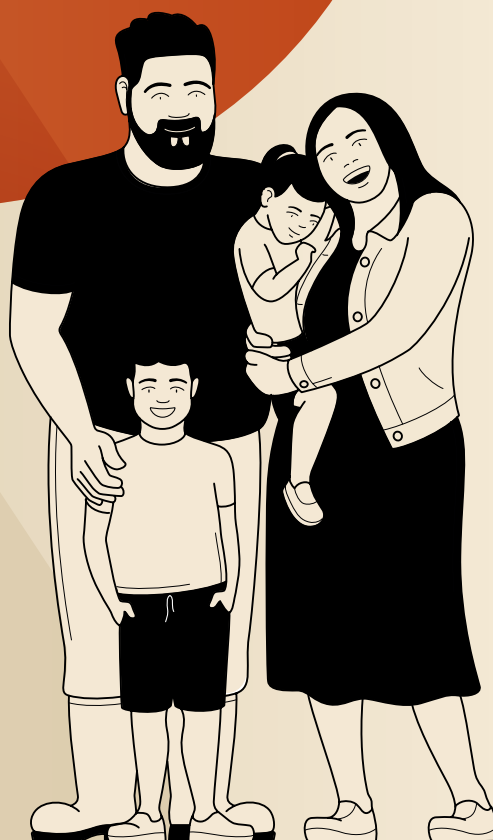
in the oranga tamariki system 2023/24

ILLUSTRATED SUMMARY

The oranga tamariki system is the name for the work that Oranga Tamariki and other agencies do to keep tamariki (children) and rangatahi (young people) safe and well. It also includes what NZ Police do when tamariki and rangatahi might have broken the law.

Tamariki and rangatahi get involved in the oranga tamariki system when someone lets Oranga Tamariki know they are worried about their safety or wellbeing, or when they get into trouble with the NZ Police.

This report looks at how well the oranga tamariki system is meeting the needs of tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau.



To find out what is helping tamariki and rangatahi Māori and what is not, we heard from around 130 tamariki and rangatahi Māori and around 1,600 other people including whānau and caregivers, social workers, teachers, police, doctors, nurses and youth workers. To help us understand how things have been going over time, we also gathered information about Māori adults who were involved with the oranga tamariki system when they were younger – either for care and protection or youth justice. We put all this information together and wrote a report that went to the Government. We put it on our website so everyone can read it.

What we found:

Most tamariki and rangatahi Māori are not involved in the oranga tamariki system.

However, there are more **tamariki and rangatahi Māori in the oranga tamariki system** than non-Māori tamariki and rangatahi – and more than you would expect from the size of the tamariki and rangatahi Māori population.

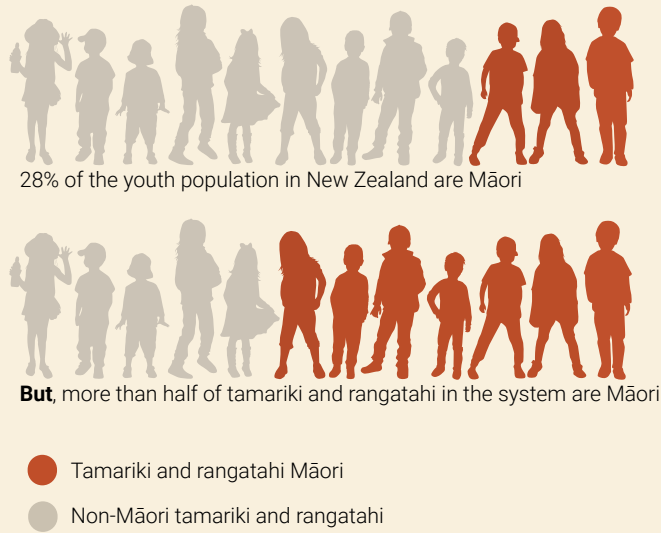
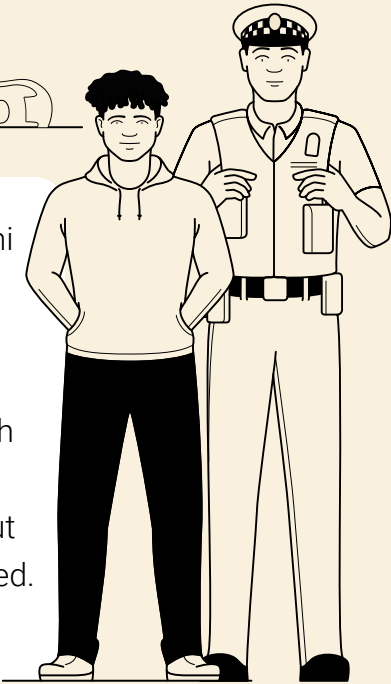
It has been this way for a long time. When there are fewer tamariki and rangatahi Māori in the system, we will know it is improving.

When tamariki and rangatahi Māori become involved with Oranga Tamariki, they are more likely to be taken into care or custody. They are also more likely to be charged by the Police if they break the law.

Tamariki and rangatahi Māori involved in the oranga tamariki system have the same hopes and dreams for their future as those who are not. However, they are not doing as well as tamariki and rangatahi Māori with no involvement. Their health and education are not as good, and they don't have the same chances of having a good life.



One reason for this is that tamariki and rangatahi Māori don't always get the help they need early enough. We heard Oranga Tamariki isn't always able to respond when they first hear about concerns. Most rangatahi who get in trouble with the Police had someone tell Oranga Tamariki when they were younger they were worried about them, but often didn't get the support they needed. Sometimes they didn't get any help at all.



Family group conferences (FGCs) are meant to help. FGCs are where Oranga Tamariki, NZ Police and other agencies meet with whānau to make a plan and get support for tamariki and rangatahi. We heard FGCs don't always work well. This is because kaimahi (staff) don't have the time or money to run FGCs properly, or kaimahi from Oranga Tamariki, Police or other government agencies can't agree on whānau plans. We also heard tamariki, rangatahi and whānau sometimes feel like they don't have a voice at the FGC – this means the plan doesn't always have what they need in it.



We heard about some tamariki and rangatahi Māori getting help that works for them. This help is often from iwi and Māori organisations working in the community. Oranga Tamariki has partnerships to make these things happen. We heard recently there have been cuts to some of the funding for services that provide this help. This means there isn't as much help available for tamariki and rangatahi as before.



There is intergenerational involvement in the oranga tamariki system. This means tamariki and rangatahi involved in the system now, might have parents who were also involved when they were young. When these tamariki have their own children, they are more likely to be involved in the oranga tamariki system too. This cycle means the system isn't doing a very good job of supporting tamariki and rangatahi Māori. Stopping this cycle is one of the ways we will know the system is getting better.



When tamariki and rangatahi Māori are involved in the oranga tamariki system, they need the right support at the right time so that they don't stay involved for a long time.



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*Just like to grow up
successful and if I
find the right person,
to give my kids what I
couldn't have.”* RANGATAHI

