EXPERIENCES OF CARE IN AOTEAROA

Te Mana Whakamaru Tamariki Motuhake

Independent Children's Monitor



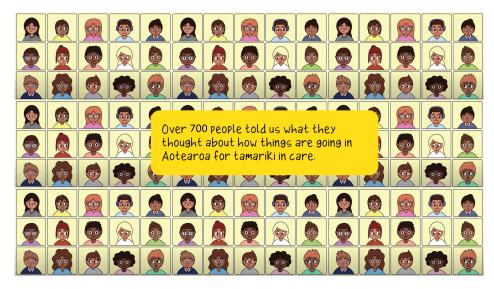


We also talked with places that look after tamariki in care – Barnardos, Dingwall, Open Home Foundation and Oranga Tamariki and we met with people like teachers, school principals, police, doctors, nurses and youth workers.



To make sure we know what it's like to be in care, we made sure we spoke with tamariki and rangatahi, their whānau and caregivers.









The main things we learnt about care are:

Lots of the people we talked with told us that things need to get better for tamariki and rangatahi. Everyone wanted to do their best to try and make it better.





Oranga Tamariki is making sure that tamariki are getting what they needed when they first came into care. But over time, some tamariki aren't being visited often enough by their social worker.

Social workers told us they want to visit tamariki more often, but things get in the way.

Some tamariki told us they would like to have more time with whānau. A few told us they don't get to see or talk to their whānau at all.

Some tamariki Māori in the care of Oranga Tamariki are not being supported to stay connected with their hapū and iwi.



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A lot of the time tamariki and rangatahi don't know what their rights are. They aren't always asked or told about things that are going to affect them.

Tamariki and rangatahi also said they don't always know who they could complain to if they were unhappy about something.



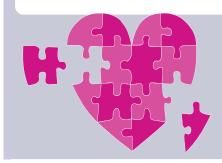


A lot of tamariki and rangatahi are not enrolled with a doctor. If they were enrolled, we weren't able to tell whether they visited the doctor or a dentist each year for a check-up.

Caregivers need more support. Caregivers don't get enough visits from their social workers.

Different people such as social workers, school principals and doctors are not always talking to each other enough about how tamariki in care are doing and what would help them even more.

Lots of people told us it can be hard to get tamariki the right health and mental health support when they need it.





Oranga Tamariki and the other places don't have all the information that we need. This means we don't fully know what is going well and what needs to get better for tamariki in care. Right now, the places that look after tamariki in care are not collecting enough information and this needs to improve.

The Monitor will continue to report on what it's like to be in care, and will report next year to see what is changing and if things are getting better!





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