

Our visit to Greater Wellington 2025

104,800 tamariki and rangatahi in the region*

3,900 have had a report of concern about their safety or wellbeing

1,700 are receiving some form of intervention from Oranga Tamariki or a community provider (such as family group conference plans or support services)

530 were proceeded against by Police**

410 are in custody and/or care

390 are under care and protection orders

20 are in youth justice custody

* Total population from Stats NZ 2023 Census, ages 0–18. All other data provided by Oranga Tamariki for January – December 2024.
** NZ Police data January – December 2024.



Key insights from Greater Wellington

Funding cuts and policy changes at Oranga Tamariki have reduced support for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. Community organisations and iwi and Māori services are doing everything they can to continue to meet the needs of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.

Hapori, a community intake and assessment table in Porirua, helps triage reports of concern and is reporting a drop in renotifications. Professionals making reports of concern elsewhere in the region told us the threshold for Oranga Tamariki action appears very high and they have serious concerns about the safety of tamariki and rangatahi.

Poor referrals and out of date plans make it harder for organisations to build relationships, find appropriate care placements, and provide the care and support needed to tamariki and rangatahi.

There are currently long waits for care and protection family group conferences. When the FGC is held, poor communication can get in the way of whānau participation and understanding.

Some tamariki and rangatahi are not enrolled in school and are in Oranga Tamariki offices during the day. This is due to the refusal of some schools to accept enrolments, and a lack of clarity about who is responsible for the support needed at school, or the supervision if not enrolled in school.



Health and education outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi in the region

These statistics¹ compare outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi who are at risk of being involved, are currently or were previously involved with care and protection and/or youth justice systems, with other tamariki and rangatahi in the region (rest of region²). This group are considered part of the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan priority population (OTAP).

	OTAP Regional	OTAP National	Rest of Region
Emergency Department admission in the last year ³	19%	19%	14%
Potentially avoidable hospitalisation in the last year ³	3%	3%	2%
Truancy days in the last year ⁴	7%	9%	<1%
Two or more school changes over the last year ⁴	<1%	<1%	0%
NCEA Level 2 or higher ⁵	70%	62%	89%

¹ These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) which is carefully managed by Stats NZ. For more information about the IDI please visit <https://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/>. Statistics are taken from the most recent (June 2022) dataset.

² Excludes those who had early risk factors in the past

³ 0-17 year olds ⁴ 5-17 year olds

⁵ 18-20 year olds. OTAP includes those who had early risk factors in the past and over 18-year-olds who were previously known to Oranga Tamariki but not in care.



Regional data insights

37% of reports of concern in the region had their outcome reported as further action required.
The national average is 45%.

335 care and protection family group conferences were held in Greater Wellington in 2024. This is fewer than smaller regions such as Taranaki-Manawatū (613) and Lower South (338) and comparable regions such as Bay of Plenty (388).

51% of tamariki and rangatahi in Oranga Tamariki custody in the region are in a whānau placement.
The national average is 40%.

7% of proceedings against rangatahi by Police in Greater Wellington resulted in an alternative action plan, which can prevent escalation through the youth justice system.
The national average for alternative action plans is 16%.

"At Hapori [community intake and assessment table in Porirua] [Oranga Tamariki is] not the head of that table, it is the community [who] leads. That's partnership ... We communicate, we trust, and they trust us." – Oranga Tamariki regional leader

"[Ministry of Education] says Oranga Tamariki should pay ... Who and where does the responsibility sit with? ... It's not clear on who pays. Government only has so much money, but it would be good to understand who has responsibility." – caregiver

"Mum was off meth and she didn't have support. We were going to do work with her. Then the plug was pulled [because of funding]." – NGO leader

