

Oranga Tamariki statement for the Aroturuki Tamariki | Independent Children's Monitor Te Tai Tokerau share back

On 16 July 2025, Aroturuki Tamariki | Independent Children's Monitor (the Monitor) provided its Te Tai Tokerau share back to Oranga Tamariki. The share back is part of the Monitor's overall monitoring programme, where the Monitor completes engagement with key stakeholders to provide insights across different regions.

The Te Tai Tokerau (northland) visiting period took place between 24 February and 11 July. We thank the Monitor for sharing their insights that span what the Monitor heard from caregivers, rangatahi, whānau and group homes as well as iwi and other key stakeholders.

The insights from the Monitor are a valuable contribution to the information Oranga Tamariki receives from partners about the experiences of those who come into contact with our services, and the services we delegate to community providers.

During the engagement, the Monitor heard that:

“new Oranga Tamariki financial approval process makes it difficult to access funding to support tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and caregivers”.

Financial delegations are an internal business decision for Oranga Tamariki. It is concerning to hear these have led to difficulty accessing support for tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and caregivers. Financial delegations were lifted on a temporary basis for a period as Oranga Tamariki reviewed its processes to ensure consistency of expenditure. Work is now underway to reset the delegations, so these are at appropriate levels across Oranga Tamariki to support an improved approval process.

The Monitor also:

“heard that once rangatahi turn 18, and are no longer in care, Oranga Tamariki often stop providing any support alongside the transition service. This is despite rangatahi being eligible for transition support from Oranga Tamariki until the age of 21, and advice or assistance until the age of 25.”

Oranga Tamariki have since met with the Monitor to confirm arrangements for transitions. Contracting providers to deliver transition support services is how Oranga Tamariki delivers on legislative obligations for transitions. When designing the transition support model, Oranga Tamariki heard from young people that they wanted transition support to come from their community and not Oranga Tamariki. Oranga Tamariki listened to this feedback and contracts providers to support young people in their transition to adulthood.

Alongside contracting transition providers Oranga Tamariki continues to provide support through our dedicated Transition Assistance Helpline, providing advice and assistance to rangatahi to 25 years of age, and maintaining contact to 21 years with young people who do not wish to have a transition worker. The Helpline team are also available to assist transition providers with advice and support for young people they are working with.