Our visit to Waikato 2025



116,600 tamariki and rangatahi in the region* 6,230 have had a report of concern about their safety or wellbeing 2,570 are receiving some form of intervention from Oranga Tamariki (as the outcome of a report of concern was a further action required) 790 had their offending addressed by Police 515 are in custody and care 450 are in care and protection

^{*} Total population from Stats NZ 2023 Estimated Resident Population at 30 Jun 2023, ages 0-18. All other data provided by Oranga Tamariki and NZ Police for July 2024 – June 2025.





Health and education outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi in the region

are in youth justice custody

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, with other tamariki and rangatahi in the region². This group are considered part of the Oranga Tamariki System Action Plan priority population (OTSAP).

	OTSAP Regional	OTSAP National	Rest of Region
Emergency department admission in the last year ³	18%	19%	11%
Potentially avoidable hospitalisation in the last year ³	3%	3%	2%
Truancy days in the last year ⁴	10%	9%	1%
Two or more school changes over the last year ⁵	1%	0.8%	0.3%
NCEA Level 2 or higher⁵	60%	62%	86%

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. OTSAP includes those who had early risk factors in the past and over 18-years-old who were previously known to Oranga Tamariki but not in care.

"At what point will Oranga
Tamariki come in? We have
children out there suffering the
worst things you can imagine
and seeing the worst things, then
Oranga Tamariki says it's not my
problem." – Police officer

"He [Mokopuna Ora kaimahi] reminds me that I'm doing a good job ... reminding me I have come a long way." – whānau



Key insights from Waikato

The partnership between Oranga Tamariki and Mokopuna Ora has led to stronger relationships and better outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau due to the support and advocacy Mokopuna Ora provide.

Oranga Tamariki site capacity is driving decision-making, resulting in a high threshold for action on reports of concern. Te Haumirimiri Ngākau Mokopuna report of concern table is working with whānau to provide early support, however its long waiting list and the process for referrals back to Oranga Tamariki is putting the safety of tamariki and rangatahi at further risk.

There is a shortage of services in the region, particularly for specialised support. Tamariki and rangatahi – especially those with disabilities or living in rural areas – have long waits to get the support they need. Financial approval processes at Oranga Tamariki, cuts to community funding and contracts, and the large size of the region make this worse.

There are long waits and high thresholds for education support, risking tamariki and rangatahi disengaging from learning. Limited schooling options and the reluctance from some schools to enrol some tamariki and rangatahi are preventing access to education.

Cross-agency hui can improve collaboration and support for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. However, poor engagement from some government agencies, limited information sharing, and gaps in referrals, plans and assessments get in the way of providing timely support.



Regional data insights

of reports of concern resulted in a no further action decision from Oranga Tamariki. The national average is 44%.

of tamariki and rangatahi in care and protection had a visit from their social worker as it was set out in their assessment or plan, or at least once every eight weeks over the 12-month review period. The national rate is 61%.

of rangatahi who were arrested by Police were bailed to the district or youth court. The national average is almost three times higher (53%).

of Police proceedings against rangatahi who have offended resulted in 'no further action'. **The national average is 8%.**

"We think he's got
ADHD [Attention Deficit
Hyperactivity Disorder] but
waiting to be assessed ... it's
been a year in the making. I
actually called health people
[again] yesterday and am
waiting to hear back." —
caregiver

"When I'm not in school I am missing learning opportunities to learn, I might not be able to remember even 1 plus 1 by staying in this place too long. I'll forget to spell words if I'm in this place too long. I want to pass my level 1s [NCEA] so I can get some credits, so I can get a job." – remand home rangatahi

