

# Our visit to Bay of Plenty and Central Plateau

## 112,000 tamariki and rangatahi in the region\*

5,560 have had a report of concern about their safety or wellbeing

3,740 are receiving some form of intervention from Oranga Tamariki (as the outcome of a report of concern was a further action required)

5,090 are receiving youth justice services from Police and/or Oranga Tamariki\*\*

460 are in custody and/or care

385 are under care and protection orders

75 are under youth justice orders

482 have left care and are eligible for post-care services\*\*\*

\* Total population includes ages 0–20 and comes from 2022 IDI data, all other data has been provided by Oranga Tamariki for July 2023 – June 2024.

\*\* NZ Police data July 2023 – June 2024.

\*\*\* Post-care data includes ages 0–20 and covers Bay of Plenty and Waikato regions.



## Key insights from Bay of Plenty and Central Plateau

The Oranga Tamariki review of community contracts has resulted in contracts that do not meet local needs.

Restructuring at Oranga Tamariki has increased frontline workload, putting tamariki and rangatahi at risk, and led to a greater reliance on community providers to pick up work they are not funded for.

There is a lack of frontline capacity to respond to reports of concern which may result in a high threshold for action and uncertainty about whether tamariki are safe. In Whakatāne, Te Pūkāea helps triage and respond to reports of concern, leading to the highest level of 'referrals or partnered responses' to community agencies in the region.

There is a shortage of suitable care options with some tamariki and rangatahi being placed in short-term or other accommodation that cannot support their specialised needs. Poor information sharing with caregivers exacerbates this and has led to further instability.

High thresholds and limited education and health services are preventing tamariki and rangatahi from getting the support they need to participate in education.

Transition services provide good support to rangatahi, but Oranga Tamariki needs to prioritise earlier referrals and provide more information.



## Health and education outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi in the region

These statistics<sup>1</sup> 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 region<sup>2</sup>). This group is considered a priority under the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan (OTAP).

	OTAP Regional	OTAP National	Rest of Region
Emergency Department admission in the last year <sup>3</sup>	24%	19%	17%
Potentially avoidable hospitalisation in the last year <sup>3</sup>	3%	3%	2%
Truancy days in the last year <sup>4</sup>	9%	9%	1%
Two or more school changes over the last year <sup>4</sup>	1%	1%	0%
NCEA Level 2 or higher <sup>5</sup>	59%	62%	84%

<sup>1</sup> 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.

<sup>2</sup> Excludes those who had early risk factors in the past.

<sup>3</sup> 0–17 year olds. <sup>4</sup> 5–17 year olds.

<sup>5</sup> 18–20 year olds. OTAP includes those who had early risk factors in the past and over 18 years of age who were previously known to Oranga Tamariki but not in care.



"It was a fight to who was funding [a teacher aide]. We were in the middle and we were just thinking we just want him to go to school. They [Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Education] both knew he needed it, but no one wanted to fund it ..." – Non-whānau caregiver



"I was staying at home, I would get bored and then I would go and steal cars. But these guys [kaimahi at Maatua Whāngai] come pick me up and take me out to do things every day, so I don't get into trouble." – youth justice rangatahi

"We're encouraged to lean on the community, but all our community [providers] have had multiple contracts taken. We need them [community providers] but the powers that be decided nah." – Oranga Tamariki kaimahi



## Regional data insights

47% of tamariki and rangatahi in the region aged 0–20 are Māori. The national average is 27%.

10% of reports of concern in the region are recorded as resulting in a referral or partnered response decision from Oranga Tamariki. The national average is 3%

94% of the times tamariki and rangatahi were held in police cells in the region were 24 hours or less. The national average is 89%

1 in 25 rangatahi aged 14–17 who have been involved, or are at risk of being involved, with Oranga Tamariki in the region committed a low-level offence in the year ending June 2022. The regional average for other rangatahi is 1 in 330<sup>1</sup>

