
Independent Children's Monitor



Independent Children's Monitor February 2020 Newsletter

Hi <<First Name>>

Kia ora koutou and welcome to the February 2020 newsletter update from the Independent Children's Monitor.

We now have over 1,000 people subscribed to our updates and would like to thank you all for your interest in the important mahi underway to support improving the outcomes of our tamariki and rangatahi who are in care and those who come into contact with the Oranga Tamariki system. We look forward to continuing to share our journey with you all.

The Monitor's First Report

For those of you who haven't seen our initial monitoring report, published late last month, it is now available on our website – **[Agency Compliance with Regulations 69 and 85 of the Oranga Tamariki \(National Care Standards and Related Matters\) Regulations](#)**. It sets the background and context of the Independent Children's Monitor and covers the first three months of monitoring. The next two reports, on our monitoring activity, will be presented to the Minister for Children in June and December 2020, before being published on our website.

[Read the report and responses from agencies here](#).



Regional hui

The past month has been busy, with 12 out of 19 regional hui now completed, providing participants a greater understanding of how the Independent Children's Monitor, Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Office of the Ombudsman are working alongside each other to strengthen independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system. Thank you to everyone who has taken the time to come along to hui to listen and contribute to these discussions. It has been invaluable for us to meet and connect with you and we hope you have found the hui helpful too.

While we're still working through the North Island hui, we have completed all our South Island hui with six held attracting over 150 attendees, including providers, Māori / Iwi focussed providers and organisations, government agencies and local district health boards.

Overall, feedback has been very positive with participants noting how helpful it is to understand each agency's role. The hui have also provided a valuable opportunity for us to better understand how you want to be involved in future work.

The general themes from the South Island hui are outlined below.

- It's helpful to have visibility of all oversight agencies, their functions and roles, particularly for the Office of the Ombudsman and the Independent Children's Monitor being a new entity.
- It's good to see the three oversight agencies working alongside each other towards improving supporting outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi.
- Making sure Te Ao Māori is genuinely embedded with the mahi underway.
- The importance of engaging with children, young people and whānau.
- Partnerships are essential for reaching tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.

An overview of the themes from all regional hui will be published on our website towards the end of March, once all are completed. The information and

presentations shared at hui will also be published on our website.

This information will be shared through this newsletter. If you know someone who would benefit from receiving this information, please encourage them to **[subscribe here](#)** for updates.

As mentioned at hui, this is the beginning of our engagement. If you're a children's professional (whether from non-government or government – particularly in the social sector), a provider of services to tamariki and or rangatahi or local iwi we'd love to see you at one of our remaining hui.

Upcoming regional hui are scheduled for Whanganui on Monday, 2 March, New Plymouth on Tuesday 3 March, West Auckland on Thursday 5 March, South Auckland on Friday 6 March, Kaitaia on Wednesday 11 March, Whangarei on Thursday 12 March and Lower Hutt on Monday 16 March.

There are still spaces available. **[Register for a hui near you](#)**.

We look forward to seeing you as we travel around Aotearoa.



Melissa Gill, Executive Director of Independent Children's Monitor, providing overview.



Liz Kinley, Director, Development, Monitoring and Investigations, Office for the Children's Commissioner, at the Marketplace.



Richard Ngatai and Aimee Bryant from the Office of the Ombudsman at the Marketplace.



Nova Banaghan, Head of Assessment, Independent Children's Monitor, at the Marketplace.



Ngā mihi nui
Melissa Gill
Executive Director
Independent Children's Monitor

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