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**Te Mana  
Whakamaru  
Tamariki  
Motuhake** | Independent  
Children's  
Monitor



## Te Mana Whakamaru Tamariki Motuhake - Raumati Update

Kia ora <<First Name>>,

As we look forward to the holiday season and the New Year, it's also a time to look back and reflect on our accomplishments. Despite the continuing challenges of Covid, 2021 has been a milestone year for us at the Monitor. It marks a year of monitoring the full set of care standards. Our teams travelled across Aotearoa, meeting with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and communities from Porirua and Kapiti, Upper South Island and the west coast of Te Waipounamu, Mangere and Ōtāhuhu, North and West Auckland, Taranaki/Manawatū and Canterbury. Over the year, we met with over 1,200 tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, caregivers, agency and NGO staff, and I want to thank everyone for your time, your hospitality and the opportunity to hear your voices.

We have submitted our first full report, "*Experiences of Care in Aotearoa: Agency Compliance with the National Care Standards and Related Matters Regulations*," to the Minister for Children, Hon Kelvin Davis, last month. We will publish the report, along with agency responses, on our [website](#) at the end of January, and email you a link to the report.

Today is a watershed moment in our motu with Tāmaki Makaurau's (Auckland) borders reopening, allowing fully vaccinated Aucklanders or those with a negative Covid test to reunite with whānau, friends and the rest of New Zealand in time for Christmas and summer. I hope that this means you can reconnect with whānau and friends whom you have been apart from. I wish you and your whānau a restful holiday season.

**Miri Kirihimete me ngā mihi ō Te Tau Hou**

**Arran Jones**

**Tumu Whakarae | Executive Director**

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In this update, you will find:

- **Monitoring updates**
  - **Recruitment**
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## Monitoring updates

Over the last two months, we have been busy with two visits in Taranaki/Manawatū and in Canterbury (including Ōtautahi) to gain insights about experiences in care. We prioritised meetings with tamariki, rangatahi and whānau to listen to their experiences of the Oranga Tamariki system. Besides this, we engaged with Oranga Tamariki and Open Home Foundation agency sites in Taranaki/Manawatū and deepened our understanding of the disability space by engaging with mental health and disability agency services that provide support to children and young people in care.

Our upcoming monitoring visits for 2022 can be viewed **here**. Due to the continuing presence of Covid, our priority is to keep communities and our people safe as we begin our engagement again next year. We are thinking hard about how best to do this, as settings change. We strive to be respectful and responsive, and encourage you to let us know if you prefer to engage with us online or in-person.



A whānau member in Whanganui shared his experiences of the care system with our monitoring team in November

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## Recruitment

We are in growth mode again as we build towards our expanded role once legislation is passed. We are excited to welcome two new Kaiwhakahaere Aroturuki (monitoring managers) in our Tāmaki Makaurau and Ōtautahi offices as well as a Principal Advisor in Whanganui-ā-Tara. We are also pleased to have appointed a new Team Coordinator as well as Senior Advisors Monitoring in Tāmaki Makaurau and in Ōtautahi. In the new year, we will be looking to fill a Team Lead Data and Insights role, an Analyst Data and Insights role and a Lead Communications Advisor role in Whanganui-ā-Tara, and are likely to have some new Advisor Monitoring roles available too. All the roles will be posted on our [website](#) as soon as they are available.

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## Contact us

If you would like to reach out, please email us on [Communications@icm.org.nz](mailto:Communications@icm.org.nz)

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