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# Raumati 2022 Newsletter

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



Ka kihikihi a Tātarakahi, ka korotī a Pihareinga. Koinei ko ngā manu o Rehua e tohua ana kua tae atu tātou ki te hikuwai o te tau, ki te wāhanga o Hine Raumati. Nō reira, nei rā ngā mihi o te Raumati ki a koutou katoa.

The sound of locusts and crickets signal the arrival of summer, a time to slow down and enjoy the holiday season ahead.

The team here at the Monitor are looking forward to the summer break after a busy year.

This year our kaimahi have travelled the motu, starting in Central Auckland and Te Tai Tokerau in February, then to Bay of Plenty, South Auckland and the Lower South Island, finishing with Porirua, Wellington and the Hutt Valley in October.

Thank you to all who welcomed us into their communities, offices and homes this year. Our work relies on hearing the stories of those with experience of the care system. It is through these voices that we will improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi in care.

Early this month we provided our annual report on agency compliance with the National Care Standards (NCS) Regulations, Experiences of Care in Aotearoa 2021/2022, to Minister for Children, Hon Kelvin Davis. I'm really excited about sharing this with you in early February - we will email you a link when it is published on our website.

Next year, we will produce a three year report on agency compliance with the National Care Standards Regulations. We think three years is a reasonable time to expect monitored agencies to have embedded improvements and improved compliance with the NCS Regulations. With three years of data, we will be able to more closely examine emerging trends. It will also be four years since the regulations took effect as a minimum standard of care for tamariki and rangatahi.

We've also been working on our first deep dive, which takes a focused look at the practices around return and remain home care. We chose this topic after hearing people's experiences and reports from the Oranga Tamariki Safety of Children in Care (SoCiC) unit. We spoke with whānau, tamariki and rangatahi, and social workers to inform our work. We will be releasing this report early next year.

Next year you will see more of these deep dives from us – either on an aspect of the National Care Standards Regulations or on the wider Oranga Tamariki system under our expanded monitoring role. There is more about this in this newsletter.

I wish you and your whānau a safe and restful holiday season

Meri Kirihimete me ngā mihi ō Te Tau Hou

Arran Jones  
Tumu Whakarae | Executive Director

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In this update:

- Growing our team
- Monitoring visits
- Expansion of our monitoring under the new Oversight System



*Monitor kaimahi visit Bluff in September*

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### **Growing our team**

After a busy few months of recruitment, we are nearly at a full team and ready to start monitoring the wider Oranga Tamariki System.

We've welcomed new kaimahi in Ōtautahi, Pōneke and Tāmaki Makaurau with a great mix of experience and diverse backgrounds – from early childhood education to youth work and Ara Poutama, Department of Corrections. They're all looking forward to completing their training and getting out into communities.

If you're keen to join our team, please [sign up for job updates here](#).

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### **Monitoring visits**

Preparations are well underway for our visits to Waikato and Hawkes Bay in February and March. The monitoring schedule is available [on our website](#).

If you'd like to know more about our visit to your region, get in touch with your regional manager or email us at [info@icm.org.nz](mailto:info@icm.org.nz).

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### **Expansion of our monitoring under new Oversight System**

We're working with the Ombudsman and Office of the Children's Commissioner on the implementation of the Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Act and

the Children and Young People's Commission Act, which take effect in mid-2023.

The 'Oranga Tamariki System' supports tamariki and rangatahi whose wellbeing is at significant risk of harm, now or in the future. This includes work that is done to support whānau to reduce risk to tamariki and prevent them coming into care. It also includes work with young people who may have offended, or are likely to offend.

The separate roles in the Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system are to:

- **Advocate** for the interests, rights and wellbeing of children in care, including advocacy for system change. This is the role of the Children's Commissioner.
- **Monitor** the performance of the system, including identifying areas for improvement. Monitoring spans compliance, quality of practice and outcomes. This is our role as Independent Monitor. Reports produced by the Monitor will be used by others to advocate for system change.
- **Investigate** serious and significant issues in the system, and review complaints about Oranga Tamariki and its approved providers, as well as other government agencies who interact with children in care. This is the role of the Ombudsman.

Find out more about the Ombudsman's Children in Care team here:

<https://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz/children-in-care>

We're continuing to work on our expanded monitoring framework, following feedback we received at hui over the course of this year. If you'd like to hear more about this work please get in touch.

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communications@icm.org.nz

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