

14 DEC 2018



**ORANGA
TAMARIKI**
Ministry for Children

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 16 November 2018 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

1. *How many children are in state care in the year to November 16, 2018?*
2. *How many children were in state care in the year to November 16, 2017?*
3. *How many available and approved caregivers were there in the year to November 16, 2018?*
4. *How many available and approved caregivers were there in the year to November 16, 2017?*
5. *How many children in state care over the past year had more than three caregivers in the past two years?*
6. *How many children in state care over the past year had more than five caregivers in the past two years?*
7. *What is the highest number of children that have been cared for at one residence at the same time over the past year?*
8. *How many calls has Oranga Tamariki received to its caregiver support phone line over the past year?*
9. *What was the total cost of Oranga Tamariki's 'Trails of Taonga' programme?*
10. *How many children in state care have been housed at hotels or motels during the past year because there was no other accommodation available to them?*

Please note, for this response we have defined 'State Care' to mean children who are in the custody of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki.

Oranga Tamariki collates data on a monthly and quarterly basis. The data provided to you in this response will be from the most recent confirmed reporting data on hand.

For ease of response, I will answer each question in the same sequence you have asked. I have also grouped questions where related.

1. *How many children are in state care in the year to November 16, 2018?*
2. *How many children were in state care in the year to November 16, 2017?*

Number of Children and Young People in Care and Protection Custody of the Chief Executive.

As At	Total
As at 30 September 2017	5839
As at 30 September 2018	6401

You will note the number of children and young people in care has increased from 5,708 as at 30 June 2017. Following recent amendments to legislation, children can now stay in care until their 18th birthday, meaning more children are staying in care longer as we assist them in them transitioning to independence. The number of children coming into care has remained static.

3. *How many available and approved caregivers were there in the year to November 16, 2018?*
4. *How many available and approved caregivers were there in the year to November 16, 2017?*

The priority of Oranga Tamariki, first and foremost, is to ensure the safety and wellbeing of children across the country and caregivers play an essential role in helping us to look after some of New Zealand’s most vulnerable children and young people. It is vital that we have a range of caregivers available to meet the needs of the children and young people who are placed with them. Please find the number of approved caregivers provided in the table below.

Number of Approved Caregivers as at 30 September 2017 and 2018.

As at	Family/Whānau Carer	Non-Family/ Whānau Carer	Total
30-Sep-17	2205	1427	3632
30-Sep-18	2418	1418	3836

5. *How many children in state care over the past year had more than three caregivers in the past two years?*
6. *How many children in state care over the past year had more than five caregivers in the past two years?*

While caregivers may be available, a child will only be placed with them if they are able to meet the specific needs of the child, including cultural, geographical, age, and special needs considerations. Often it takes time to ascertain what those needs may be. There are a number of reasons why a child may have had more than one placement with an approved caregiver. For example a child may be temporarily placed with a caregiver while Oranga Tamariki carries out its gateway assessment and looks at what supports the child might need in order to be fully supported in their placement. Furthermore, where a child has high and complex needs, a caregiver may seek a respite care arrangement so they too are able to recharge and provide the best possible care for the child once they return to the caregiver. Please find the number of children and young people who have had three or more caregivers in the past two years, provided in the table below.

Number of Children and Young People who have had three or more caregivers in the past two years.

No of Carers in the past two years	Number of Children
3 or Less Carers	5393
4-5 Carers	695
More than 5 Carers	313
Total	6401

7. *What is the highest number of children that have been cared for at one residence at the same time over the past year?*

Over the past year, the highest number of children who have been cared for at one residence at the same time is 17. The residence in question has a designation which allows for the placement of up to 20 children and young people for care and protection reasons.

8. *How many calls has Oranga Tamariki received to its caregiver support phone line over the past year?*

After consulting with caregivers across the county, it was clear they needed more support and better resources to help the children and young people in their care. They told us that having someone to call on whenever they needed it could make all the difference to them. This was the rationale behind the establishment of a 24 hour call line aimed and providing round the clock support and aid to our caregivers throughout New Zealand. Since the 0508CAREERS support line was rolled out nationally on 14 May 2018, it has received a total of 3534 calls as at 30 September 2018.

9. *What was the total cost of Oranga Tamariki's 'Trails of Taonga' programme?*

Trails of Taonga was created to honour those who helped a vulnerable or at risk child or young person, even in a small way. The taonga are designed to be passed from person to person, leaving trails of wellbeing wherever they go.

The Trails of Taonga programme, to date has produced six videos, which included four individual young people's stories and the artist/taonga video and a montage that showed the first passing of taonga to new recipients who have taken actions to support children and young people in New Zealand. The Pounamu and all other taonga materials were gifted to Oranga Tamariki and recipients for the project.

As at 6 December 2018, the series of videos has had over 2 million views. The videos led to over 8,000 reactions and comments/conversations amongst online viewers, generated over 2,500 referrals (from Facebook users) and delivered 20,917 unique views to the relevant section of the Oranga Tamariki website. The videos have also prompted members of the public to share stories about actions people have taken to support them.

Please find the total cost of the programme to date in the table below. This figure includes all costs associated with the production and media cost of the Trails of Taonga programme.

Description	Cost (dollar value)
Total production and media spend	\$250,948
Cost per view	\$0.12 (12 cents)

The costs covered the following:

- 15 separate shoot days in various locations in the North Island
- Artist's time
- Agency supervision fees
- Small crew, camera and sound equipment hire
- Travel and accommodation costs
- Voice over fees and library music fees
- Post Production for visuals and sound
- Fees for people featured in video including their travel costs, where relevant.

10. *How many children in state care have been housed at hotels or motels during the past year because there was no other accommodation available to them?*

Oranga Tamariki does not centrally report on the number of children and young people who have been housed in temporary accommodation. This information is held in individual case notes and in order for us to respond to your request it would require a manual review of individual case files. As such, your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, as to retrieve the information would require substantial collation. We have determined the greater public interest is in the effective and efficient administration of the public service.

I have considered whether we would be able to respond to your request given extra time. However, I have concluded that, in either case, our ability to undertake our work would still be prejudiced.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. Oranga Tamariki will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services