ABOUT US
A word from our Chief Executive

PUTTING TAMARIKI FIRST

These are exciting times.

Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children, is a new Ministry with a commitment to put vulnerable children and young people at the heart of everything we do and say.

To reach this goal, the voices of tamariki will need to be present everywhere – in our planning, in our way of talking, and our way of acting.

Through our work we’ll support children and young people, families and their whānau to restore their mana, their sense of self, their important connections and relationships, their right to heal and recover and reach their potential.

But we can’t do this alone. We’ll need to work alongside a wide variety of valued partners from all walks of life. That means parents, caregivers, families, whānau and the wider community – as well as health professionals, police, educators, iwi, community groups and providers.

We’ll also need the help and acceptance of the wider New Zealand public. Because only once we accept collective responsibility for our tamariki, can all of New Zealand change how we value and treat them.

It won’t happen immediately, but we have a plan for the next 4-5 years, and committed people willing to do what it takes.

We hope you’ll join us with open hearts and minds as we embark on this journey of transformation in how we care for our most vulnerable children.

Gráinne Moss
Chief Executive
Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children
WHERE WE’RE GOING

Our vision:
New Zealand values the wellbeing of tamariki above all else

Our purpose:
To ensure that all tamariki are in loving whānau and communities where oranga tamariki can be realised

WHERE WE’VE BEEN

Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children, is a new Ministry dedicated to supporting any child or young person in New Zealand whose wellbeing is at significant risk of harm now, or in the future.

We were formed from Child, Youth and Family, the Children’s Action Plan, Community Investment and other parts of the Ministry of Social Development, bringing all these services for children together in one Ministry with a single focus.
Our children’s voices

HEARING THEM LOUD AND CLEAR

Our child-centred approach starts and ends with the voices of the children and young people we help support. Their voices inform everything we do. Children and young people told us:

...they crave love
“That’s all I want. Love, affection and support.”

...they need long term relationships
“Just tell them that you’re always there for them.”

...they need to be included in decision-making
“I wanted to stay with her, but we weren’t allowed for some reason. They didn’t tell me why.”

...they need to belong
“They accept me... it feels like I’m their actual child.”

...they need to connect to their culture
“I needed to know who I was... my blood, my ancestors and everything.”

...they need to be told the truth
“No one should make promises if they’re not going to live up to them.”
THE ORANGA TAMARIKI WAY

For change to happen, we need a new way of doing things. The Youth Advisory Panel Te Whānau Aroha directed us to create a new way of looking at the world that guides how we act:

WE PUT TAMARIKI FIRST
We will challenge when things aren't right for the child.

WE VALUE WHAKAPAPA
Tamariki are part of a whānau and a community.

WE RESPECT THE MANA OF PEOPLE
We listen, we don't assume, and we create solutions with others.

WE BELIEVE AROHA IS VITAL
It keeps us focused on what is right.

WE ARE TIKA AND PONO
We do what we say we'll do.

WE RECOGNISE THAT ORANGA IS A JOURNEY
We understand the long-term impact of our actions today.
FOUNDATIONS FOR OUR NEW WAY OF WORKING

Important ways of working will underpin everything we do:

A child-centred system
We'll ask ourselves ‘Is this the right thing to do for the child?’ at every step of the way.

High aspirations for tamariki Māori
We'll expect the very best for our tamariki Māori, and will work closely with whānau, hapū and iwi to make it happen.

An investment approach
We'll consider a lifetime view of the wellbeing of individual children and intervene early in evidence-based ways to address their needs.

Strategic partnerships
We'll actively build bridges between our partners, and encourage a deeper commitment and more shared responsibility.

Practice framework
We'll develop a trauma-informed, system-wide framework to guide ourselves and others working with vulnerable children and their families, so they have a coherent experience.

Engaging all New Zealanders
We know we can't do this on our own. All New Zealanders have a role to play in providing love, care and support to vulnerable children, young people and their families.

OUR CORE SERVICES

We're building these five core services which will come into place within the next four to five years.

Transition into adulthood
We'll prepare young people for their journey into adulthood and help them to become healthy, confident, and contributing members of our communities.

Prevention
We're moving from a system focused on crisis response to one focused on prevention and early intervention.

Intervention
We'll develop intervention services that work intensively with families and whānau with the aim of keeping children safe in their own homes.

Youth Justice
We'll help young people accept responsibility for their actions, and support them so they don’t re-offend.

Care support
We'll make sure our caregivers are well supported, so they can provide stable homes and loving care for children and young people who can’t safely stay with their own families.
We've also changed how we're organised to ensure less duplication of services, and more cohesion and collaboration:
Worried a child or young person you know could be at risk of abuse or neglect?

Call Freephone: 0508 326 459
Lines open 24/7, or email contact@ot.govt.nz

For general enquiries, call 0508 326 459 or email info@ot.govt.nz

For media, call 04 916 3496 or email media@ot.govt.nz

You can also find out more at www.orangatamariki.govt.nz