

5 May 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe

Thank you for your email, received on 18 March 2026, by the office of Hon Karen Chhour, Minister for Children, requesting information regarding regional boards'. Your email was transferred to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) on 2 April 2026 as the matter falls within our area of responsibility.

We have treated your request for information under the Official Information Act 1982.

On 7 April 2024, we emailed you seeking clarification of your request. As we did not receive a response, we have interpreted your request to be about Care and Protection Resource panels (CPRP).

Section 7 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (the Act) lists the duties of the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki. This list includes section 7(2)(d) - to establish and fund CPRP panels.

Section 428 of the Act gives the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki the authority to:

- establish CPRPs to carry out the advisory functions specified by section 429 of the Act, along with other functions as the Chief Executive sees fit
- specify the number of members on the panel
- appoint members, and
- discharge, alter or reconstitute any panel.

In making appointments to a CPRP, the Chief Executive shall have regard to the desirability of having as members of such panels, persons from occupations and organisations (including voluntary and statutory organisations, cultural and community groups, government departments, and government agencies), that are concerned with the care and protection of children and young persons (section 428(3)).

The Chief Executive has delegated these responsibilities to each Site Manager.

I have responded to each part of your request below.

How are the people on Oranga Tamariki regional boards selected?

CPRPs are set up under the Act to:

- Carry out the functions described in section 429 of the Act and such other functions as the Chief Executive sees fit
- enable social workers, police and care and protection co-ordinators to consult or inform the panel when required by the Act at various points in the care and protection process
- provide advice about the care and protection of children and the families or family groups of such tamariki and rangatahi
- bring the perspectives of the local community, other agencies, disciplines, cultures, and experience to these decisions.

Oranga Tamariki has the following requirements for appointments:

- A CPRP must be representative of agencies and groups involved in care and protection matters in the local community, such as representatives from Health, Education, Police, NGO and /or Corrections. Representatives from local Iwi are also encouraged.
- Oranga Tamariki requires a minimum attendance of three members to hold a meeting. Meetings may be held in-person or virtually to enable members to participate. A CPRP must be a workable unit with enough members to meet the workload. Given the commitments of most people appointed to panels, most areas appoint more panel members than are usually able to meet at any one time. Numbers vary according to the workload of an area, but the average panel comprises 8–10 people,
- CPRP members must be formally appointed to a specific, named panel for a period of two years. Panel members' appointments can be renewed if desired.
- A panel Chairperson should be appointed.

When appointing panel members, the Site Manager must consult with existing panel members, as well as appropriate community agencies and groups, to seek nominations and establish a suitable selection process.

It is advisable for panels and managers to keep and maintain a list of potential members/nominees, or groups to consult about members. This helps to avoid long delays in replacing members. Panel members must apply for positions in accordance with Oranga Tamariki's recruitment processes.

How are they screened?

Panel members are subject to police and background vetting checks, and their appointment is conditional upon the satisfactory outcome of these checks. Police vetting is carried out in accordance with the Children's Act 2014.

Oranga Tamariki completes previous employment and history checks through internal systems prior to confirmation of appointment. Additional periodic vetting checks may be required for re-appointment into a panel member position.

Confirmation of re-appointment will be subject to the satisfactory outcome of these checks.

What are the criteria for these people in that role? s9(2)(a)

We have interpreted this part of your question to refer to panel duties.

A panel member's main responsibility is to give advice to Oranga Tamariki staff or Police who are addressing care and protection concerns for a child or young person. Panel members may not undertake casework visits or inquiries unless this is part of an agreed investigation plan. Duties include:

- Attending regular panel consultation meetings to give advice which includes:
 - providing information or suggestion
 - attending other panel meetings when required to discuss other panel business and being available for emergency consultation if necessary.
- Developing and maintaining a thorough knowledge of:
 - the care and protection provisions of Act and those relating to Te Tiriti o Waitangi
 - Oranga Tamariki Policy and procedures
 - the nature and dynamics of child abuse and neglect
 - knowledge of services and resources available both locally and nationally for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau.
- Being involved in any panel project or activities related to coordinating community services for clients,
- advising the relevant Oranga Tamariki manager on matters related to the appointment of care and protection co-ordinators
- willingness to share the panel tasks from time to time. These may include:
 - being panel chair
 - drafting/letters and taking minutes
 - being responsible for reviewing correspondence and resources
 - drafting the annual report
 - arranging meetings and functions.

From time to time, an individual panel member may be asked to attend the information giving stage of a family group conference to provide specialised information.

Further information regarding CPRPs is publicly available on our Practice Centre [here](#) and [here](#).

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with any personal details removed.

Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Simon Harding
Chief Advisor, Tamariki and Whānau Services