

22 May 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 22 April 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on substantiated findings of abuse against children. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each part of your request below.

1. *Substantiated findings of:*
 - a. *emotional abuse*
 - b. *physical abuse*
 - c. *sexual abuse*
 - d. *neglect*
 - e. *behavioural / relationship difficulties*
 - f. *self harm / suicidal*

Please provide gender breakdown of the victims for each category
Please provide ethnicity breakdown of the victims for each category
Please provide relationship of abuser breakdown to the victim for each category

2. *Number of Not Found cases of child abuse and neglect for each year*
3. *Number of notifications requiring further action for each year*
4. *Number of notifications received for each year*

Please find attached as **Appendix One** a spreadsheet containing the information you have requested. Please note that we are only able to provide information from 2015 onwards.

Information is broken down by gender and ethnicity on the sheets titled “Gender with Subs Abuse” and “Ethnicity with Subs Abuse”. The data is broken down by abuse category on each sheet, including instances in which abuse was not found.

Please note that, as per guidance from Statistics NZ, any instances in which a field has a value of five or fewer have been suppressed in order to reduce the risk of identifiability and protect the privacy of individuals.

Please also note we are unable to provide information on the relationship of the child to their abuser, as this information is not stored in a category that can be filtered or reported on. Providing this information would require a manual review of all case notes, which would require a substantial amount of time and resources. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) of the Act, on the grounds that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Information on the number of Reports of Concern (RoCs) resulting in further action required can be found on the sheet titled "RoC to FAR". Information on the total number of RoCs received per year can be found on the sheet titled "Total RoC".

Further, as part of the Oranga Tamariki Annual Report, we publish a Safety of Children in Care report which contains further context and analysis of matters relating to harm against children. You can find this on page 129 of the Oranga Tamariki Annual Report 2024/25 [here](#).

5. Number of child homicides for each year

Oranga Tamariki is not the responsible agency for reporting death statistics, and we do not have the mandate to confirm the cause of death of children. We are reliant on the Coroner to confirm cause of death. The New Zealand Police publish the Homicide Victims Report, which contains summary information about victims of murder, manslaughter, and infanticide in New Zealand. The latest report was published in July 2024, and can be found [here](#).

We are able to provide information on the number of deaths of children by suspected homicide since 1 April 2017. Please find this information attached as Appendix Two.

Because definitions used across agencies are not always identical, this information may not be directly comparable with other information available in the public domain. The definitions and bounds used to provide this information are outlined below:

- "Suspected homicide" has been defined in the attached table as cases in which, at the time of death or shortly after, Oranga Tamariki understood this was an inflicted death or death caused by abuse. If the New Zealand Police opened a homicide investigation, the case would be included below. However, this is not necessarily tracked all the way through the Court process or through the coronial process for the purpose of this table. As such, if charges of murder or manslaughter were subsequently dropped, the case is still counted in this list.
- "Recent involvement" is defined as involvement within the 12 months prior to the death of a tamaiti or rangatahi.
- "Previous involvement" is defined as involvement that took place more than 12 months prior to the death of a tamaiti or rangatahi.
- A tamaiti or rangatahi having a record in our case management system (CYRAS) does not necessarily indicate involvement. A CYRAS record could mean that

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Oranga Tamariki had interactions when the child was born but has had no involvement since, as CYRAS records are never deleted.

- Similarly, a CYRAS record may be created for a tamaiti or rangatahi after their death because we receive a notification at the time of their death regarding the wellbeing and safety of their siblings, even if we had no interactions with the family prior to their death.
- It is possible that suspected homicides have not been added to the table where Oranga Tamariki had no history of involvement with the victim.

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

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



ORANGA TAMARIKI
Ministry for Children

Request type:	OIA	
Purpose:	The purpose of this request is provide demographic data on children with substantiated findings, as well as RoCs resulting in FAR and total notifications for the 2025 calendar year (01/01/2025 - 31/12/2025)	
Extract date:	11/05/2026	
Notes/caveats:	Snapshot Data	This data represents a snapshot in time and is extracted from live operational systems. It may not reflect subsequent updates, corrections, or changes made after the time of capture. As such, figures and records are subject to change and should be interpreted with this context in mind.
	Gender	<p>We "collect" gender, not sex.</p> <p>Gender refers to a person's social and personal identity as male, female, or another gender or gender that may be non-binary.</p> <p>Some people may give a different answer to a question on gender, depending on the context it is asked in. The degree of privacy, safety and relevance as well as the perceived relevance for collecting this information may dictate how an individual responds.</p> <p>A person's gender may change over time. Individuals may give different answers in different collections.</p>

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	<p>Ethnicity</p>	<p>Ethnicity data is based on combined prioritised ethnicity, prioritising Māori and Pacific. Other ethnicities for those without Māori or Pacific heritage are recorded in Other. Descriptions of the ethnic groups used for reporting are:</p> <p>Māori - children who identify Māori (but not Pacific) as one of their ethnicities;</p> <p>Māori-Pacific - children who identify both Māori and Pacific as their ethnicities;</p> <p>Pacific - children who identify Pacific (but not Māori) as one of their ethnicities;</p> <p>NZ Euro/Other - children who do not identify Māori or Pacific as any of their ethnicities, includes "New Zealand European"</p> <p>To get the total number of tamariki Māori - add the total Māori group and the total Māori-Pacific group. Similarly, the total number of Pacific children is the sum of the Pacific group and the Māori-Pacific group. Other than for reports of concern, in most cases the parent(s) have identified the ethnicity, and in some cases Oranga Tamariki may have identified the ethnicity based on knowledge of the family/whānau.</p>
	<p>Reports of Concern</p>	<p>Reports of concern are received from members of the public, family or whānau, the Police, schools, health professionals, or other government or community agencies about the wellbeing of a child or young person. These reports indicate children or young people who may require support. Reports of concern are assessed by a social worker to decide if further action is required.</p> <p>The "Total Reports of Concern" tables show the sum of children or young people with a report of concern. Some children and young people may have more than one report of concern in the period shown. The "Distinct Children and Young People" tables show the total children or young people, counted only once in the period, with a Report of Concern.</p>

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	Substantiated Abuse	<p>Within Oranga Tamariki, substantiated abuse refers to an assessment outcome where, based on the information available at the time, abuse or neglect is assessed as being likely to have occurred, or where there is sufficient concern about a child's safety or wellbeing to warrant a statutory child protection response. A substantiation is an administrative and professional judgement rather than a legal finding and does not imply criminal guilt or require proof beyond reasonable doubt. These decisions are informed by professional judgement, statutory thresholds, and available evidence, which may be incomplete, and may change if new or additional information becomes available. Substantiated findings are intended to support risk assessment and service decision making for children and whānau, and should be interpreted cautiously and in context.</p>
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Substantiated abuse findings broken down by gender and calendar year for the period (01/01/2015 - 31/12/2025)

Calendar Year	Gender	Emotional abuse	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Neglect	Behavioural / relationship	Self harm	Not found
2025	Male	2919	1659	110	1389	1271	36	9348
2025	Female	3032	1517	746	1300	1178	105	9365
2025	Another Gender	7	9	S	S	7	S	20
2025	Unknown or not entered	219	45	S	158	27	0	840
2024	Male	3107	1808	152	1444	1281	22	9708
2024	Female	3104	1572	913	1290	1224	118	9508
2024	Another Gender	6	10	S	S	11	S	34
2024	Unknown or not entered	262	46	S	141	49	S	866
2023	Male	2514	1648	143	1183	1111	20	7922
2023	Female	2751	1545	923	1106	1155	94	8086
2023	Another Gender	8	8	10	S	19	S	34
2023	Unknown or not entered	249	28	9	127	38	S	821
2022	Male	2581	1407	162	1061	1074	22	8115
2022	Female	2600	1310	982	941	1061	75	8322
2022	Gender Diverse	8	S	6	S	14	S	42
2022	Unknown or not entered	260	34	12	139	44	S	749
2021	Male	3202	1520	170	1147	1239	31	9122
2021	Female	3146	1327	1112	965	1249	115	9399
2021	Gender Diverse	7	6	11	S	26	S	45
2021	Unknown or not entered	349	49	S	182	50	S	977
2020	Male	3711	1530	160	1569	1300	31	9834
2020	Female	3747	1371	946	1387	1203	98	9815
2020	Gender Diverse	S	S	S	0	7	S	8
2020	Unknown or not entered	371	53	11	257	45	S	1028
2019	Male	3573	1747	173	1660	1339	29	9867
2019	Female	3744	1546	879	1467	1236	115	9677
2019	Unknown or not entered	331	55	6	245	50	S	1052
2018	Male	3108	1561	145	1674	1198	29	8787
2018	Female	3133	1355	839	1508	1102	119	8598
2018	Unknown or not entered	309	55	9	234	43	0	941
2017	Male	3060	1463	157	1496	1003	23	7583
2017	Female	3064	1332	799	1447	931	76	7582
2017	Unknown or not entered	301	42	0	228	33	S	854
2016	Male	3455	1587	162	1655	1221	30	8405
2016	Female	3631	1428	902	1646	1193	77	8390
2016	Unknown or not entered	182	31	7	72	22	0	606
2016	null	S	0	0	0	S	0	S
2015	Male	2120	798	103	933	794	19	5085
2015	Female	2186	759	505	916	769	51	5068
2015	null	S	0	0	S	0	0	S
2015	Unknown or not entered	76	19	S	28	11	S	304

Substantiated abuse findings broken down by ethnicity and calendar year for the period (01/01/2015 - 31/12/2025)

Calendar Year	Ethnicity	Emotional abuse	Physical abuse	Sexual abuse	Neglect	Behavioural / relationship	Self harm	Not found
2025	Māori	3370	1390	354	1599	1115	44	8500
2025	Māori Pacific	528	284	62	284	230	16	1609
2025	Pacific	508	502	99	211	153	10	1907
2025	NZ European and Other	1371	829	279	612	859	65	5324
2025	Not specified	392	224	71	143	125	9	2198
2024	Māori	3471	1571	466	1628	1189	57	9207
2024	Māori Pacific	688	350	65	333	234	10	1681
2024	Pacific	602	476	129	219	163	13	1972
2024	NZ European and Other	1415	911	345	612	881	60	5593
2024	Not specified	289	128	66	84	97	7	1631
2023	Māori	3071	1493	453	1437	1085	45	7677
2023	Māori Pacific	540	303	79	225	159	10	1289
2023	Pacific	469	447	147	186	116	12	1633
2023	NZ European and Other	1202	866	333	500	898	50	4869
2023	Not specified	235	120	72	67	65	S	1375
2022	Māori	2995	1215	490	1183	1039	31	7996
2022	Māori Pacific	540	267	83	207	144	S	1294
2022	Pacific	444	426	127	142	105	15	1650
2022	NZ European and Other	1269	770	390	559	834	47	5090
2022	Not specified	196	78	72	50	71	S	1172
2021	Māori	3738	1267	561	1280	1263	74	9313
2021	Māori Pacific	648	299	94	196	179	10	1374
2021	Pacific	527	432	126	145	117	7	1701
2021	NZ European and Other	1579	805	431	629	923	51	5876
2021	Not specified	200	99	86	44	80	7	1250
2020	Māori	4313	1329	421	1857	1165	51	9959
2020	Māori Pacific	771	247	74	341	165	14	1503
2020	Pacific	626	430	112	220	179	13	1931
2020	NZ European and Other	1899	865	449	740	984	51	6080
2020	Not specified	211	84	62	52	61	S	1181
2019	Māori	4173	1523	413	1965	1270	68	9917
2019	Māori Pacific	664	285	62	297	221	12	1492
2019	Pacific	800	565	119	208	187	16	2145
2019	NZ European and Other	1792	893	412	832	897	45	5845
2019	Not specified	207	82	52	66	49	S	1160
2018	Māori	3655	1366	398	1938	1056	74	8899
2018	Māori Pacific	576	262	55	301	175	10	1260
2018	Pacific	693	542	100	316	166	22	1917
2018	NZ European and Other	1459	727	373	776	882	38	5027
2018	Not specified	162	74	67	78	64	S	1202
2017	Māori	3539	1238	361	1773	957	56	7813
2017	Māori Pacific	535	262	56	304	128	S	1112
2017	Pacific	642	486	106	246	136	10	1619
2017	NZ European and Other	1518	765	374	792	703	28	4498

2017	Not specified	183	86	59	53	43	S	961
2016	Māori	4116	1427	424	1875	1118	44	8530
2016	Māori Pacific	644	224	45	309	148	8	1149
2016	Pacific	617	534	115	239	183	15	1663
2016	NZ European and Other	1722	791	434	881	939	37	5176
2016	Not specified	170	70	53	69	49	S	887
2015	Māori	2424	711	236	1024	741	36	5141
2015	Māori Pacific	364	124	25	174	83	S	675
2015	Pacific	367	269	53	159	97	7	911
2015	NZ European and Other	1104	421	248	494	612	21	3134
2015	Not specified	124	51	47	27	41	S	597

Number of Notifications resulting in a FAR outcome broken down by calendar year (01/01/2015 - 31/12/2025)

Calendar Year	Count
2026	14342
2025	42996
2024	44100
2023	37953
2022	36412
2021	37585
2020	41300
2019	43620
2018	41551
2017	40283
2016	41357
2015	22917

Number of Notifications broken down by calendar year (01/01/2015 - 31/12/2025)

Calendar Year	Count
2026	33793
2025	108586
2024	95353
2023	70660
2022	67393
2021	71409
2020	78902
2019	85009
2018	91937
2017	86826
2016	83207
2015	41815

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Appendix Two: deaths of children by suspected homicide since 1 April 2017

Financial year	Total deaths by financial year	Total children with Oranga Tamariki involvement by financial year	Involvement category	Total children per involvement category
FY2017	1	0	No involvement	1
FY2018	2	0	No involvement	2
FY2019	11	7	Custody	1
			Current involvement	2
			Recent involvement	3
			Previous involvement	1
			No involvement	4
FY2020	6	4	Current involvement	2
			Recent involvement	1
			Previous involvement	1
			No involvement	2
FY2021	3	3	Current involvement	1
			Recent involvement	1
			Previous involvement	1
FY2022	14	6	Custody	1
			Recent involvement	3
			Previous involvement	2
			No involvement	8
FY2023	4	3	Recent involvement	3
			No involvement	1
FY2024	5	4	Current involvement	2
			Recent involvement	2
			No involvement	1
FY2025	4	3	Recent involvement	1

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			Previous involvement	2
			No involvement	1
FY2026	4	1	Current involvement	1
			No involvement	3