

27 May 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 11 May 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on adoptions from Pacific Island countries. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

Can you provide the number of adoptions from each Pacific Island country over the last ten years?

On 14 May 2026, we sent you a letter requesting clarification of your request. As we have not received a response to this request, we have responded to the best of our ability below.

There are three primary ways that children and young people from other countries can be adopted into New Zealand.

Firstly, intercountry adoptions can be undertaken under the Adoption (Intercountry) Act 1997, which applies to adoptions that are completed under the Hague Convention of the Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption (the Convention). New Zealand is a contracting state to the Convention and Oranga Tamariki is the Central Authority responsible for these adoptions. Fiji is the only Pacific Island nation which is also a contracting state to the Convention.

New Zealand reports each year to the Hague Conference on the number of intercountry adoptions that are completed under the Convention. This information is publicly available online [here](#). The number of adoptions of children from Fiji completed under the Hague Convention per financial year are below.

- 2017-18: 4
- 2018-19: 3
- 2019-20: 3
- 2020-21: 3
- 2021-22: 1

IN-CONFIDENCE

- 2022-23: 1
- 2023-24: 1
- 2024-25: 4
- 2025-26 (to date, as at 11/5/2026): 5.

Secondly, in some circumstances, adoption applications can be filed in the New Zealand Family Court in respect of overseas-based applicants or an overseas based-child and determined under the Adoption Act 1955. The Ministry of Justice keeps records of adoption orders that are granted each year in the New Zealand Family Court. This information is available on their website [here](#).

These figures do not distinguish the children who were citizens of another country or who were adopted intercountry. Oranga Tamariki records the number of social work reports provided to the Court when the child concerned lives overseas or is a child with non-New Zealand citizenship. We do not hold this data by country of origin – however, the numbers involved are small.

The number of social work reports provided to the New Zealand Court when the child concerned lives overseas or is a child with non-New Zealand citizenship per calendar year are as follows:

- 2021: 6
- 2022: 4
- 2023: 7
- 2024: 14
- 2025: 7.

Please note that:

- the number of reports provided to the Court does not necessarily equal the number of adoption orders granted by the Court
- these figures do not distinguish adoptions from Pacific Island countries, but refer to all adoptions where the child concerned lives overseas or is a child with non-New Zealand citizenship

Finally, section 17 of the Adoption Act 1955 allows for the recognition of certain overseas adoptions. The Adoption Amendment Act 2025, enacted in September 2025, temporarily suspended recognition of some overseas adoption orders made offshore to New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. Further information about adoption law reform is available on the Ministry of Justice website [here](#).

In circumstances where that suspension does not apply (including for overseas adoption orders made before the Amendment Act was enacted), the legislation has the following effect:

- Where an adoption is recognised for a child aged under 14 years of age, they can receive New Zealand citizenship by descent, enabling them to enter New Zealand. The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) is responsible for granting citizenship by descent.
- Where an adoption is recognised for a child aged 14 years and above, they can have their offshore adoption to New Zealand citizens and permanent residents recognised for the purpose of granting a Dependent Child Resident Visa.

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Immigration New Zealand (INZ), part of the Ministry of Business, Immigration and Employment (MBIE), is responsible for granting Dependent Resident visas following an overseas adoption.

Please note that, while we would normally transfer your request directly to these agencies, we have not done so in this case as we are uncertain whether the scope of the request included citizenship by descent and Dependent Child Resident Visas. If you would like further information about these topics, we recommend that you submit a request to the relevant agency.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'DL', with a large loop at the bottom.

Darren Lee
**General Manager Operations Delivery & Enablement
Tamariki and Whānau Services**