

31 March 2023

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

On 22 February 2023 you emailed the Ministry of Social Development requesting information and statistics around children and rangatahi in state care. On 2 March, you were advised that the following three questions were being transferred to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) for response. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

We have answered each of your questions below.

The rates of abuse in NZ state care from 2022-2023

Oranga Tamariki is dedicated to ensuring the safety of children and young people at risk of harm. When children come into state care, Oranga Tamariki is responsible for providing them with stable and secure placements and ensuring they are safe. National Care Standards set out the standard of care every child and rangatahi needs to do well and be well, and the support all caregivers can expect to receive when they open their hearts and homes to tamariki.

When an allegation of abuse involves an Oranga Tamariki caregiver, and where there is sufficient information for further assessment, an immediate safety assessment of any children placed with the caregiver is completed. We take all allegations of abuse seriously and the wellbeing and safety of the child or rangatahi is at the forefront of our concern.

Please see the table below for the number of distinct children in state care with findings of harm per financial year:

Financial year	Number of individual children
2018/19	464
2019/20	411
2020/21	486
2021/22	453
2022/23 to September 2022	132

IN-CONFIDENCE

The percentage of state care youths that are classified as Māori and Pasifika as of 2023;

The total number of those currently in state care

Please see the table below for the total number of children in custody of the Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive as at 31 December 2022. The numbers include rangatahi under Youth Justice custody, and children who are under a Care and Protection order on 31 December 2022.

Ethnicity	Number in care (Youth Justice) as at 31 December 2022	%	Number in care (Care and Protection) as at 31 December 2022	%
Māori	99	76%	2,553	57%
Māori -Pacific	17	13%	477	11%
Pacific	7	5%	293	7%
NZ European and other	8	6%	1,184	26%
Total	131	100%	4,507	100%

It is important to note that Māori are those children who identify Māori (but not Pacific) as one of their ethnicities. Māori-Pacific are those children who identify both Māori and Pacific as their ethnicities. Pacific are those children who identify Pacific (but not Māori) as one of their ethnicities. NZ European and other are those children who do not identify Māori or Pacific as any of their ethnicities but who either identify as New Zealand European, or another ethnicity which is listed in our data as 'unspecified'.

Please see the table below for the total number of Māori and Pasifika children and rangatahi in custody of the Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive as at 31 December 2022.

The numbers for Māori children in care include the total figures of both the *Māori* group and *Māori-Pacific* group listed in the above table, and the total number of Pacific children is the total of the *Pacific and Māori-Pacific* group. This means that some children are counted twice (i.e. if they identify with both the *Māori* group and the Pacific group):

Ethnicity	Number in care (Youth Justice) as at 31 December 2022	%	Number in (Care and Protection) as at 31 December 2022	%
Māori	116	89%	3,030	67%
Pacific	24	18%	770	17%

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We 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.

I trust the information provided is useful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with us directly by contacting OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman by contacting them on 0800 802 602 or www.ombudsman.parliament.nz.

Nāku noa, nā



Julie Miller
General Manager, Monitoring and External Relationships