

12 December 2024

OIA-CE-2024-02702  
OIA-CE-2024-02703  
OIA-CE-2024-02704  
OIA-CE-2024-02705

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your emails, received on 24 November 2024, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information around residences and housing. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

- *Number of children in residential units, by month and by region since 2017.*
- *What follow-up is conducted for children after they leave Oranga Tamariki services? Are any checks made on housing situation post-service (after support and interaction with Oranga Tamariki). If so, what is the process for these checks?*
- *Are any checks made on housing situation post-service interaction at ages 21 years and 25 years. If so, please supply reports for post-service housing situation of individuals supported by Oranga Tamariki, by year and by region since 2017.*
- *What data does Oranga Tamariki capture on housing situation and/or homelessness of child and parent/caregiver when child(ren) enter service?*
- *Number of children who are unable to return to parent(s)/caregiver because the parent(s)/caregiver does not have stable housing, by month and by region since 2017.*

Please find our responses to each of your questions below.

- *Number of children in residential units, by month and by region since 2017*

Care and Protection Residential Services provide care for tamariki with complex needs, who are aged between 10 and 17 years.

Tamariki referred for residential care have the most complex needs within the care population. They face a range of difficulties which may include highly challenging behaviour and conduct and/or mental health issues, which are often a result of cumulative trauma and adverse childhood experiences. They may have intellectual, developmental, or other types of disabilities. They have usually experienced multiple placement breakdowns and may be disconnected from their whānau and communities.

These tamariki require intensive support, and other care options in the community or with whānau are not always able to meet their needs. When required, 24/7 care is provided in large groups of up to 10 tamariki by Oranga Tamariki staff

Please see the table below for the number of tamariki who have been admitted to a Care and Protection residence since 2017:

Year	Count of admissions	Count of distinct tamariki and rangatahi
2017	49	47
2018	98	93
2019	62	60
2020	38	38
2021	47	45
2022	37	37
2023	39	39
2024	23	23
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>393</b>	<b>382</b>

The Oranga Tamariki Youth Justice team manages five residences that accommodate up to 176 rangatahi. Rangatahi are placed in our Youth Justice Residences by the Youth Court, either on remand until a case is settled (awaiting trial or sentencing) or as sentenced by the Court.

Our Youth Justice services aim to address the underlying factors that contribute to youth offending. They give rangatahi who have offended a genuine opportunity to change their lives for the better without getting a criminal record, and to make positive strides forward.

Please see the table below for the number of admissions to Youth Justice residences since 2017:

Year	Count of admissions	Count of distinct tamariki and rangatahi
2017	399	383
2018	788	735
2019	885	812
2020	689	643
2021	734	661
2022	796	744
2023	853	802
2024	393	372
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>5537</b>	<b>5152</b>

Please note that we are unable to provide you with the figures broken down by region; where the number of young people is low or can be calculated, and demographic information is provided, this may result in identification of the tamariki. Accordingly,



this information has been withheld in accordance with section 9(2)(a) of the Act, in order to protect the privacy of the tamariki.

- *What follow-up is conducted for children after they leave Oranga Tamariki services? Are any checks made on housing situation post-service (after support and interaction with Oranga Tamariki). If so, what is the process for these checks?*
- *Are any checks made on housing situation post-service interaction at ages 21 years and 25 years. If so, please supply reports for post-service housing situation of individuals supported by Oranga Tamariki, by year and by region since 2017.*

Rangatahi aged 15 and over may be eligible for transition support services. These services provide support for the rangatahi throughout their transition to adulthood, up to the age of 25 years. It is voluntary for young people to access this support, and it can include support to obtain or maintain accommodation. More information around our transition support services can be found [here](#).

Oranga Tamariki also fund the Permanent Caregiver Support Service (PCSS). Eligible caregivers who have taken permanent care of a child after custody orders in favour of the chief executive are discharged can receive advice from PCSS, and can apply for funding to meet specific care needs. PCSS does not undertake housing checks. Further information can be found about this service [here](#).

As it is voluntary for young people to access these support services, Oranga Tamariki does not record or retain data and records of provider services supporting rangatahi into appropriate housing.

As Oranga Tamariki does not hold the requested information around the housing situations of individual young people that have left our care or custody, this part of your request has been refused under section 18(g)(i) of the Act as this is not held by Oranga Tamariki nor do we have reason to believe it is held by any other department.

- *What data does Oranga Tamariki capture on housing situation and/or homelessness of child and parent/caregiver when child(ren) enter service?*
- *Number of children who are unable to return to parent(s)/caregiver because the parent(s)/caregiver does not have stable housing, by month and by region since 2017.*

Oranga Tamariki first and foremost work with whānau to keep children safe and support their wellbeing. In most cases, concerns around tamariki being in unstable or transient housing are best remedied with the support of social services and agencies that can support them to resolve their lack of suitable housing or assist them to find a secure and safe residence to stay. Even if Oranga Tamariki do need to become involved because housing issues are so serious children are at serious risk, we will do everything we can, including leveraging our relationships with other agencies, to support parents and whānau resolve these. It would only be in the most rare and extreme circumstances, when all other avenues of resolution have been exhausted,

that we would entertain seeking custody of a child because of housing issues alone. If this were to occur, our priority would remain supporting the child's parent/s or usual caregiver/s to resolve their housing matters so custody could be discharged.

Information we record about the housing circumstances of children and families we are working with is typically held in individual case notes and is recorded as unstructured data. To obtain any relevant data would involve a manual check on a large number of files. As such, this part of your request is refused under section 18(f) in that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research

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. 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Michelle Malyon

**General Manager Public Information and Ministerial Services  
System Leadership**