

19 March 2021

[REDACTED]

Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

Thank you for your email of 19 February 2021 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *policies and procedures related to Oranga Tamariki's obligations to provide care for a child when they come into care*
- *policies and procedures as to when a Gateway Assessment needs to be completed and the requirements for doing so*
- *policies and procedures regarding what a child or young person is required to do when in short term residence (including if schooling/housework is required or to be provided)*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]. Please find our response to your request below.

- *policies and procedures related to Oranga Tamariki's obligations to provide care for a child when they come into care*

Our purpose is to ensure that all tamariki are in loving whānau and communities where oranga tamariki can be realised. In July 2019, Oranga Tamariki introduced the National Care Standards, which set out the standard of care every child and young person in care needs to be well and do well, and the support caregivers can expect to receive from us. The National Care Standards cover a range of things that are really important for tamariki and rangatahi, like supporting them to express their views, keeping them connected to their family/whānau, enhancing, and supporting their cultural belonging and identity, and ensuring their full range

of needs are assessed and a plan is in place to meet their needs. Since the implementation of these standards, Oranga Tamariki has created a range of new items for children in care, to help them understand what they are entitled to, provide a way for them to record important events in their life, and prepare them to know what to expect when moving to a new placement. Further information on the National Care Standards, as well as a range of policies, practice tools, resources and guidance outlining our obligations to tamariki and rangatahi who enter our care or custody, is available on the Oranga Tamariki Practice Centre via the link below.

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/care-standards/>

We have also included a link below to a specific policy on the Practice Centre website that you may be interested in – *Support for tamariki in care or custody*.

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/policy/support-for-tamariki-in-care-or-custody/>

- *policies and procedures as to when a Gateway Assessment needs to be completed and the requirements for doing so*

A Gateway Assessment is an interagency process that supports children and young people entering care, those already in care, or those who are at risk of coming into care. It collects and details information about the child or young person's health, educational, social, and emotional needs. This helps us to identify any supports that may be needed and means we can connect the child with the appropriate agencies at the earliest opportunity.

Information about Gateway Assessments is available on our Practice Centre. This includes our '*Health and education assessments*' policy, information about when and how Gateway Assessments are used, and resources for parents/guardians and caregivers. Please refer to the links below for a copy of this information.

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/policy/assessment/#health-and-education-assessments>

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/practice-tools/other-practice-and-assessment-tools/gateway-assessments/>

- *policies and procedures regarding what a child or young person is required to do when in short term residence (including if schooling/housework is required or to be provided)*

We do not have any specific policies or procedures for what a child or young person is 'required' to do when in a short term residence. The expectation is that these tamariki will receive the level of care outlined in the National Care

Standards. In saying that, we understand that being placed in residential care can be a different experience than living in a family/whānau or non-family/whānau placement. To ensure that our tamariki and rangatahi feel supported when entering a residential placement, we have specific guidance that our staff can use to aide this process. A link to this guidance has been included below.

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/residential-care/working-in-residences/the-journey-through-residence-for-tamariki-and-rangatahi/>

As you have noted schooling in your request, we have also included a link below to information on the Practice Centre about supporting tamariki and rangatahi with their education and schooling needs.

<https://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz/our-work/care/caring-for-tamariki-in-care/supporting-tamariki-with-their-education-and-training-needs/>

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.

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

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review this decision. 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 'Steve Groom', enclosed in a thin black rectangular border.

Steve Groom

General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services