

# Report

**Date:** 24 September 2019

**Security Level:** In Confidence

**To:** Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Children

**Report Number:** REP-OT/19/9/270

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## Enabling iwi and community-led development of early intervention

### Purpose of the report

- 1 This paper seeks your agreement to further engagement in Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whanganui, and with the strategic partners of Oranga Tamariki, to maintain momentum on community-led design of early intervention.
- 2 Subject to your agreement, the results of this engagement would inform the development of:
  - a paper seeking agreement from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee to the scope and process for iwi and community-led design, and
  - s 9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]

### Recommended actions

It is recommended that you:

- 1 **agree** that officials from the Child Wellbeing Unit follow up with Tamati Coffey MP and Pahia Turia and offer to meet with interested groups in Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whanganui to discuss their feedback on your recent letters
- 2 **note** that this engagement would include briefing iwi and community leaders on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, and what opportunities may exist for communities. It would be carried out in partnership with Oranga Tamariki regional offices, who have established relationships in these areas
- 3 **agree** that the chief executive of Oranga Tamariki contact the strategic partners of Oranga Tamariki to update them on this work and invite their involvement

**Agree / Disagree**

**Agree / Disagree**

- 4 **agree**, subject to the outcome of the engagement proposed in recommendations 1 to 3, to take a paper to Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee before the end of 2019 seeking agreement to the scope and process for iwi and community-led design of early intervention.

**Agree / Disagree**

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Geoff Short  
Executive Director  
Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Date

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Ralph Johnson  
Acting Deputy Chief Executive  
Policy and Organisational Strategy  
Oranga Tamariki

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Date

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Hon Tracey Martin  
Minister for Children

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Date

## **Government should offer iwi and communities the resources they need to lead the design of local early intervention systems**

- 3 We understand that one of your priorities for the development of early intervention is for it to be led by iwi and communities who are best placed to meet the needs of families and whānau.
- 4 Through recent engagement activity there has been a clear message from iwi and communities that, while government shouldn't pre-determine solutions, it should offer support for local design processes.
- 5 Iwi and communities have told us that:
  - the design process is time intensive and costly
  - iwi and communities need to be resourced by government to lead the design and implementation of local systems and services (or at least offered resource)
  - there needs to be a commitment to long-term system change, rather than piloting new services and initiatives
  - some aspects of the early intervention system need to be determined at a national level, in order to build the flexibility into the system that communities require to deliver local solutions.

## **We would like to hear more from iwi and communities about the nature and scale of support required to lead the design process**

- 6 We would like to find out more from iwi and communities about what sort of resource support they might need from government in order to lead a design process, and what national level settings they need.
- 7 We understand that you have not yet received responses to your letters to Tamati Coffey MP and Pahia Turia asking them to work with local communities to tell you what's working well and what could be improved in the early intervention space. Subject to your approval, officials from the Child Wellbeing Unit would like to visit Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whanganui to see how they are progressing and whether there is any support the Child Wellbeing Unit could offer.
- 8 The engagement would be face-to-face, and include briefing iwi and community leaders on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, and what opportunities may exist for communities. It will need to be carried out in partnership with Oranga Tamariki regional offices, who have established relationships in these areas.
- 9 The strategic partners of Oranga Tamariki reiterated their desire to explore new ways of working in partnership with Oranga Tamariki and other government agencies during consultation on the draft Cabinet paper: *Enhancing the wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi Māori: setting measurable outcomes and developing strategic partnerships*. They have a strong interest in any work that aims to improve whānau wellbeing. We seek your approval for the chief executive of Oranga Tamariki contact strategic partners to invite their involvement as well.
- 10 To build momentum following the publication of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, and your recent engagement in Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whanganui, we propose to make contact with these groups within the next two weeks. We would provide you with regular progress updates in the weekly status meetings.

## **At the same time, you may wish to continue conversations with the Māori Caucus**

- 11 We understand that the Māori Caucus may invite you to brief them on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, your approach to early engagement, and to seek their support in a small number of communities. The Child Wellbeing Unit can assist with this briefing.

**We recommend the results of this engagement inform advice to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee, s 9(2)(f)(iv)**

- 12 The pace and direction of this work will depend upon the willingness and readiness of iwi and communities to lead.
- 13 We know there is a high degree of interest in this work and high expectations for change. As such, we expect that the engagement proposed in this paper will reveal a need for some financial support from government, and national level settings that will require Cabinet approval. In order to meet those needs, we recommend:
  - seeking agreement from the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee to the process and scope of community-led design before the end of 2019
  - s 9(2)(f)(iv)
- 14 Both the Cabinet paper s 9(2)(f)(iv) are dependent on the outcome of the engagement proposed in this paper.

s 9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted text block]

- 16 Recent government engagement helps to answer questions 14.1 to 14.4 above and will support the development of proposals for the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee to consider.
- 17 To answer question 14.5, we propose to develop a long-term plan for supporting iwi and community-led design. The long-term plan would provide a framework for:
  - assessing the readiness of each iwi and community to lead the design process, based on current infrastructure, existing relationships and local leadership
  - working with iwi and communities to build the capability required to lead local design processes
  - how to respond to expressions of interest from iwi and communities as they arise.
- 18 As part of this framework, we will consider and provide advice on involving other government partners and the NGO sector.
- 19 We intend to provide further advice on proposals for policy settings after we have completed the engagement outlined in this paper, or earlier at your direction.

## **Next steps**

- 20 The process outlined in this paper is summarised in Appendix One. Subject to your approval, we will begin the engagement activity outlined in this paper.

## Appendix One: Proposed process for supporting iwi and community-led design of early intervention

