

4 February 2021

Judge Peter Boshier
Chief Ombudsman
PO Box 10 152
Wellington 6143

By email: Peter.Boshier@ombudsman.parliament.nz

Tēnā koe Peter

Please find attached our second quarterly report on progress in implementing actions in response to your recommendations for change outlined in *He Take Kōhukihuki | A Matter of Urgency*.

You will note from our attached report that good progress has been made on reviewing and revising our internal policies and guidance, developing our internal case audit tool, and changing our frontline practice around unborn and new-born babies. Our work programmes around subsequent children and disability continue to develop, although these are on a longer track for completion given the inherent complexities of the work.

We are pleased to report that the numbers of tamariki entering care continue to decline, including pēpi. You will likely be aware that we recently presented evidence in the Waitangi Tribunal Oranga Tamariki urgent inquiry, showing that the number of tamariki entering care under s78 orders has more than halved in F2020 when compared with F2018. The policy and practice changes made in late 2019, which we set out in our previous quarterly update to you, have contributed to this.

We note that representatives from Oranga Tamariki are scheduled to meet with members of your Systemic Improvement Investigations and Systemic Improvement Monitoring and Resolution teams in mid-February 2021 to discuss our progress thus far. We are looking forward to the opportunity to discuss our work programmes in response to *He Take Kōhukihuki* and to identify any areas that require significant amendment or acceleration.

Ngā manaakitanga



Gráinne Moss (she/her)
Te Tumu Whakarae mō ngā Tamariki
Secretary for Children