



**ORANGA
TAMARIKI**
Ministry for Children

New Zealand Government

Oranga Tamariki Performance Report

Quarter Two 2025/26

Purpose of this report

This report outlines Oranga Tamariki’s progress against the four key Ministerial priorities and performance areas for Oranga Tamariki in Quarter Two of the 2025/26 fiscal year. This report is made up of the following sections:

Contents

1. Performance context. Key care and protection and youth justice system statistics.	Page 3
2. Ministerial Priorities/Performance. Quarter Two results for Ministerial priorities	Page 5
3. Hine Wawata – Our Performance System. Results against He Ringaringa Mōu (Performance Impacts) measures for Quarter Two.	Page 11
4. Appropriation results. How Oranga Tamariki is performing against measures related to our funded functions and activities.	Page 12
5. Financial performance. How we are tracking budget expectations.	Page 16
Appendix A – Performance Impact: He Ringaringa Mōu Measures reported in Quarter Two 2025/26	Page 17
Appendix B – Appropriation measures reported in Quarter Two 2025/26	Page 18

2025/26 Quarter Two highlights

We face a number of challenges that impact improvement of our performance with factors in and out of our control. Improvements have been made since quarter one, however action will need time to show positive change in performance results. In Quarter Two we saw an emphasis on kaimahi training, improved processes and better reporting. Challenges such as staff capacity and resourcing, complexity of cases and increases in volumes of children who require our attention, require sustained focus.

We received high volumes of reports of concern. In Quarter Two 2025/26 the volumes of reports of concern were similar to volumes in Quarter One 2025/26. This equates to 700 more Reports of Concern than the volume of reports of concern for Quarter Two 2024/25.

Of the four key Ministerial Priorities:

- The number of children who have been visited within eight weeks has remained steady in meeting the standard, while the responses to critical and very urgent Reports of Concern remains being off target with a five percent decrease in results (current result being 80 percent).
- The analysis of the Caregiver's Survey is yet to be completed, and results will be reported in in the Q3 report.
- The number of young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour continues to decrease (current result is 856, a 22 percent reduction from the June 2023 baseline of 1,100) and remains below the standard of less than 1,100.
- Our quarterly complaints that are fully met by Oranga Tamariki standards remains steady at 62 percent, being two percent above the standard set at 60 percent.

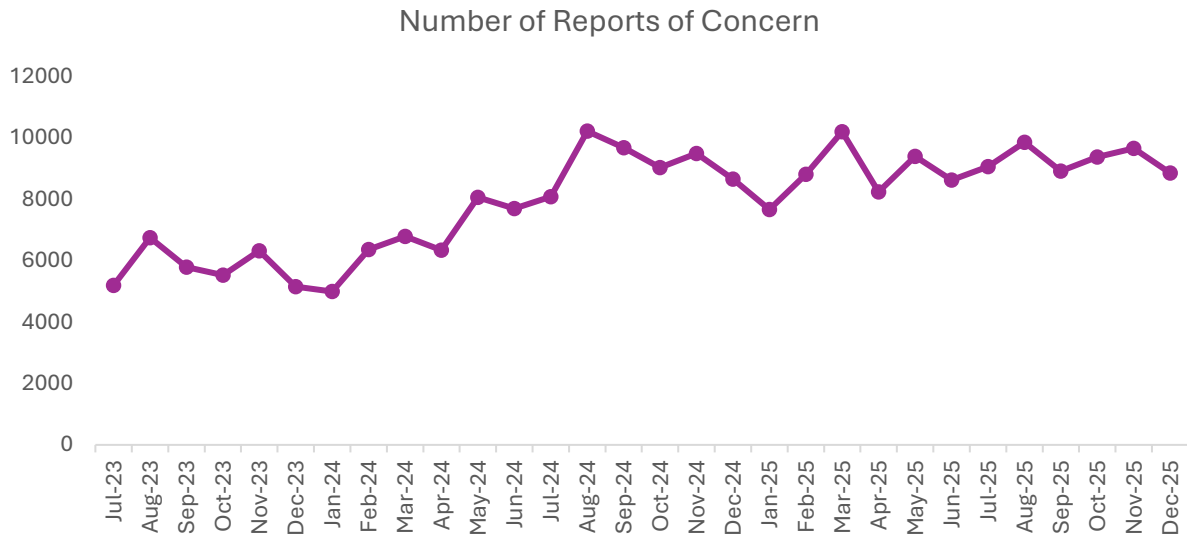
Our quarterly Hine Wawata impact measures show a stable organisational performance trajectory, but improvements are needed to create positive change. In particular, the proportion of Tiaki Oranga completed on time is decreasing – and is not tracking on our desired trend. The reasons for this are the same as those for our critical and very urgent Reports of Concern.

We are on track to achieve 15 out of 20 appropriation measures that are available in Quarter Two. This is an increase of one appropriation measure where our appropriation measure on timeliness of Official Information Act 1982 responses improved from the Quarter One result of 64 percent to the Quarter Two result of 100 percent. Timeliness of engagement with external partners was the focus for improvement for this measure.

Performance Context

Reports of Concern volumes remain very high

In Quarter Two (October to December 2025) 27,866 Reports of Concern were received – this was a relatively small increase from Quarter Two 2024/25.



Based on previous years’ patterns we expect this upward trend to continue and then flatten, which may have cost and workforce pressures, particularly due to potential flow on impacts to the Intervention and Care phases.

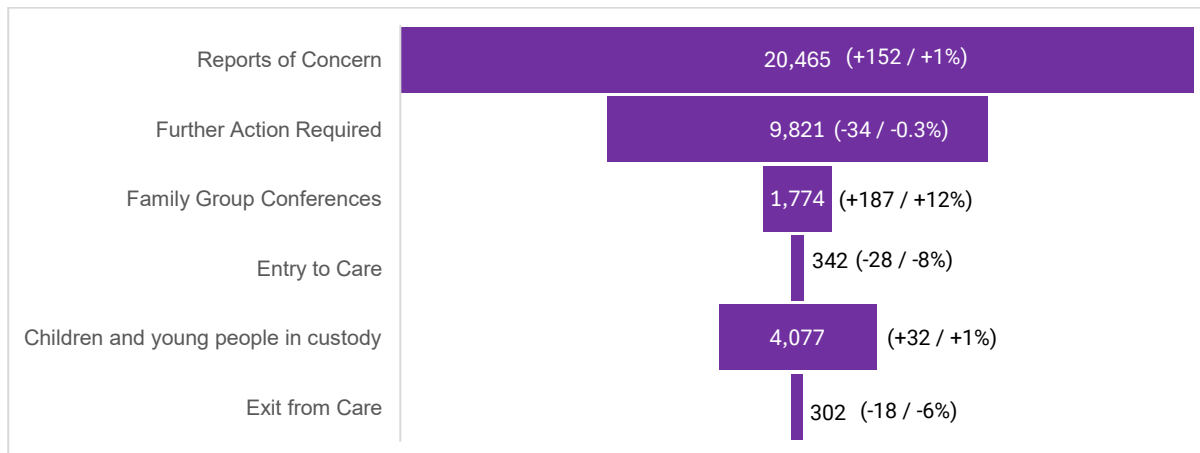
Research on Reports of Concern growth indicate that from 2024, the volume of reports of concern is likely to increase over the next 1-2 years and will have a moderate impact.

The number of Reports of Concern received surpassed the forecasted demand projections for two quarters of 2025/26.

Comparing report of concern volumes – 2023-2026 and forecast	2025/26	2024/25	2023/24	2025/26 Forecast
Quarter 1	27,813	27,961 (-1%)	17,731 (+57 %)	27,541 (+1%)
Quarter 2	27,866	27,170 (+3%)	16,988 (+64 %)	27,594 (+1%)

Need for care and protection remains high

Figure 1 – Care and Protection System Volumes Quarter Two 2025/26 (changes from Quarter One)



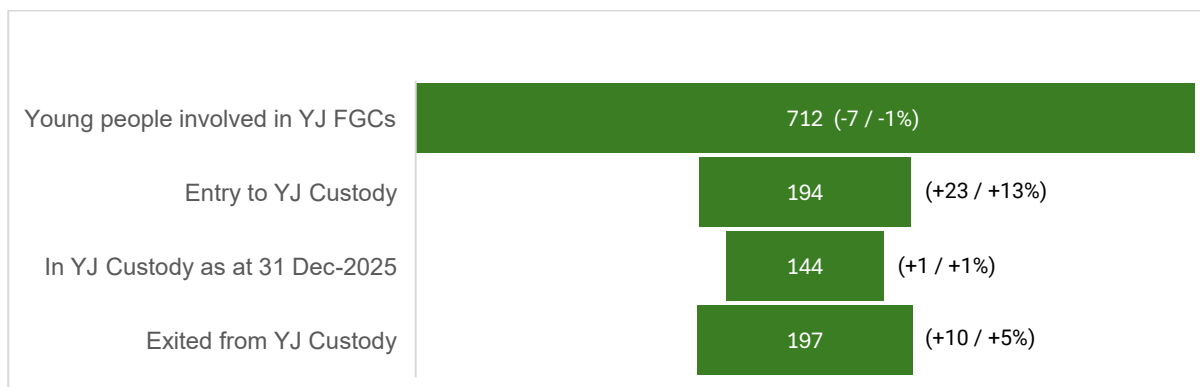
In Quarter Two, we responded to 27,866 care and protection Reports of Concern for 20,465 children (similar volumes to Quarter One 2024/25). Forty percent of these reports required further action from a social worker. There were 1,774 children who had a care and protection family group conference and 342 children entered our care and protection. As of 31 December 2025, there were 4,077 children and young people in care. Despite the higher volumes of Reports of Concern, fewer children entered and exited our care.

Youth Justice service need is stable





During Quarter Two, we held youth justice family group conferences for 712 young people. More young people exited (197) than entered (194) our youth justice custody as part of the youth justice system. As of 31 December 2025, there were 144 young people who were in Youth Justice Custody.

The diagram below shows the number of young people in the Youth Justice system for Quarter Two, 2025/26.

Figure 2 – Youth Justice System Volumes Quarter Two 2025/26 (changes from Quarter One)



Ministerial Priorities

Ministerial Priority	Measure	Q2 result	Trend
Priority 1 – Ensuring the safety of children and young people	The percentage of children in care who have been visited by their social worker at least once in the last eight weeks to ensure their ongoing safety and wellbeing. ¹	97%	 On-track
	The percentage of critical or very urgent reports of concern, addressed within operational timeframes, will be at least 95%. ²	80%	 Off-track
Priority 2 – Supporting caregivers	Percentage of caregivers satisfied with support from their social worker.	74% (2024)	N/A
Priority 3 – Addressing child and youth offending.	An 18% reduction in the total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour. [Jun 2023 Cabinet agreed baseline: 1,100]. ³	856	 On track
Priority 4 – Improving complaint management and practice	The proportion of complaints audited that were handled in a way that fully met Oranga Tamariki standards.	62%	 On track

Performance in Quarter Two shows steady progress in several priority areas, alongside targeted work to address persistent challenges. Safety for children in care remains strong, with social worker visit rates consistently exceeding the 95 percent standard, and 96 percent of children and young people in care reporting they felt safe where they live in the most recent survey (80 percent ‘yes, definitely’; 16 percent ‘yes, I think so’). However, response times to Critical and Very Urgent Reports of Concern continue to fall below target.

While caregiver satisfaction declined in 2024, new survey results due in April 2026 will help refine support efforts. In youth justice, the number of children and young people involved in serious and persistent offending continues to reduce, supported by legislative changes and investment in Military-Style Academy programmes. Complaint-handling quality also continues its upward trend, surpassing its improvement target for the second consecutive quarter.

¹ This measure reports on social worker visits to all children in care and complements our appropriation measure ‘*The percentage of children in care with regular engagement with an Oranga Tamariki practitioner*’ that is reported in the Oranga Tamariki Quarterly Performance Report based on case file analysis of sampled case files.

² This is also an appropriation measure reported in our [Annual Report 2024/25](#).



³ Target 3 figures now use the Oranga Tamariki monthly Police RCOS data feed. Minor cohort variances may occur compared with Ministry of Justice figures due to a small difference in the age-at-offence calculation and Cabinet rounding of baseline/target values. Trends remain almost identical. Percentage reductions calculated against the Cabinet-agreed baseline may appear slightly larger than reductions calculated against the prior Ministry of Justice baseline.

Across all four priority areas, targeted actions are underway:

- We are testing efficiency changes at the National Contact Centre that reduce the number of people involved in processing urgent Reports of Concern received by email and reduce the time it takes to complete initial assessments (an area of improvement identified in a recent insights report).
- Support initiatives for caregivers continue and will be informed by the upcoming 2025 survey results.
- Preparations for a second Military-Style Academy programme—starting 9 March 2026—are well advanced, building on lessons from the 2024/25 Pilot as the Young Serious Offender legislation progresses.
- In complaints management, the focus has shifted to strengthening frontline practice through targeted site level follow-up and improved engagement with complainants.

These actions aim to strengthen safety, support, accountability, and outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi, and their caregivers.

Priority 1 – Ensuring the safety of children and young people: We are not completing safety assessments within time

Measure	Standard	2024/25 result	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of children in care who have been visited by their social worker at least once in the last eight weeks to ensure their ongoing safety and wellbeing. ⁴	95%	96%	97%	97%	 On-track
The percentage of critical or very urgent reports of concern, addressed within operational timeframes, will be at least 95%. ⁵	95%	86%	85%	80%	 Off-track

We have consistently met the measure for ‘the percentage of children in care who have been visited by their social worker at least once in the last eight weeks’ in recent years, even accounting for the challenges that sometimes prevent social workers visiting which are beyond their control, such as families actively avoiding social workers.

The proportion of Critical and Very Urgent Reports of Concerns responded to within operational timeframes, while generally between 80 and 93 percent, consistently falls short of the target of 95 percent.

⁴ This measure reports on social worker visits to all children in care and complements our appropriation measure ‘The percentage of children in care with regular engagement with an Oranga Tamariki practitioner’ that is reported in the Oranga Tamariki Annual Report based on case file analysis of sampled case files.

⁵ This is also an appropriation measure reported in our [Annual Report 2024/25](#).

In late October 2025, Oranga Tamariki completed insights work exploring the underlying factors hindering Oranga Tamariki from consistently responding to critical and very urgent Reports of Concern quickly. Report highlights are below.

Responding to Critical and Very Urgent Reports of Concern

Insights analysis was completed to better understand the factors that either support or hinder responding to Critical and Very Urgent reports of concern in the assigned timeframe. This analysis confirmed that our frontline kaimahi are passionate and invested in advocating for system improvements to ensure reports of concern are responded to in a timely and tamariki-centric manner where safety is paramount. The analysis identified several factors contributing to this decline in timeliness:

- **Reports of concern received via email take much longer** to refer to site than those received via phone, due to time-consuming notifier follow-ups required when emails do not contain sufficient information. In addition, some sites believe they are legally required to wait until the referral is made on CYRAS to begin work, while others begin when the NCC makes an initial phone call to site, ahead of the official referral.
- **Rural sites** (classified as those serving a population of fewer than 20,000) were less likely than urban or provincial sites to complete a Tiaki Oranga within the response timeframe.
- **Education (schools) were the biggest notifier of critical and very urgent reports of concern** (35% over the reporting timeframe). It was widely reported that reports of concern from schools represent several challenges in meeting timeframes, including the time of day the report of concern is received.
- **Staff vacancies and lack of social work experience** in some sites puts greater pressure on responding within the timeframes.

Oranga Tamariki has already commenced a pilot at our National Contact Centre to reduce the number of people involved in processing urgent Reports of Concern received by email. This pilot seeks to address a key finding in the report.

We have also initiated mandatory sessions with site managers and supervisors to support more accurate recording, which was another issue identified in the report that contributes to the performance measure falling short of its target.



Priority 2 - Supporting caregivers: 2025 Caregiver Survey results will be available in April 2026

Oranga Tamariki measures performance for supporting caregivers through the Annual Caregiver **survey**.

Caregiver Survey results	2023	2024	Δ%
Percentage of caregivers satisfied with support from their social worker	76%	74%	-2%
Percentage of caregivers satisfied with overall support from Oranga Tamariki	52%	45%	-7%
Percentage of caregivers who would recommend becoming a caregiver to their family and friends	57%	47%	-10%
Percentage of caregivers who are thinking about stopping being a caregiver.	22%	22%	0%

The 2025 annual caregiver satisfaction survey went out in November 2025. This survey provides important insights to better understand caregivers’ experiences and needs, and their overall satisfaction with the support provided. Final results are pending and will be published from May 2026.

For 2025/26 we have started reporting on the percentage of caregivers who are visited in line with their Caregiver Support Plan as a complementary measure to the annual survey results. Initial results show positive progression against this measure.

Measure	Desired trend	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of caregivers who are visited in line with their Caregiver Support Plan, and at least once every six months		69%	71%	 On-track


One of ten priority areas in the National Care Standards Action Plan attends directly to this measure. However, it is also this measure that has shown the least movement since the start of the National Care Standards Action Plan in May 2025.

Oranga Tamariki has three high level workstreams to deliver its response to the Royal Commission. It has received \$16 million for Workstream Two: Recognising and Responding to Abuse of Children and Young People in Care. Using this funding, Oranga Tamariki has created the Integrated Safe Care Response Programme. This is intended to strengthen safeguarding and reduce abuse and harm in community homes, remand homes, and individual caregiver placements. The aim is to improve the safety and wellbeing of tamariki in care.

During Quarter Two, the programme focused on scoping the work, defining key milestones, bringing resources onboard and preparing the full delivery plan, ahead of implementation.

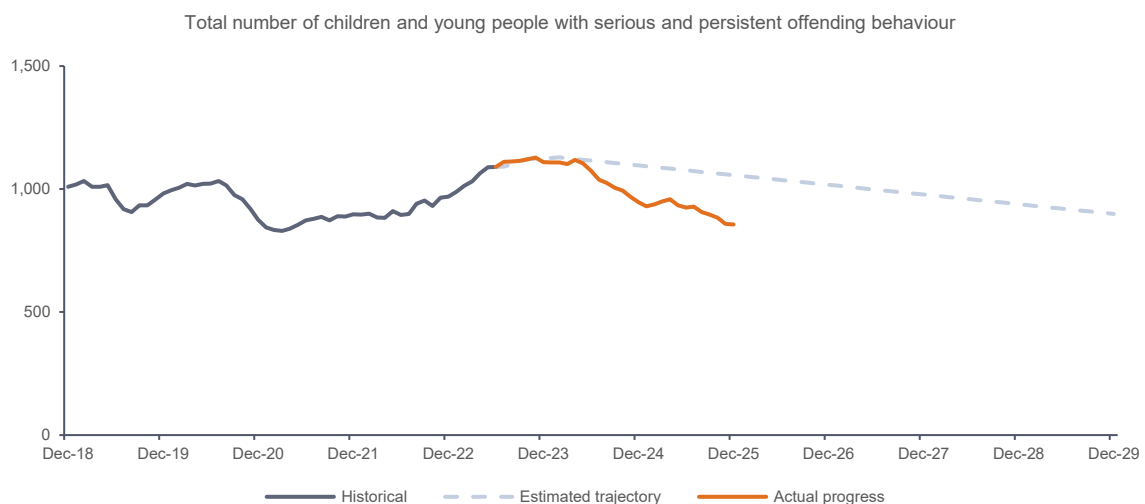
Oranga Tamariki has also progressed work related to the Minister’s priorities for caregivers. Some initiatives—such as clarifying caregivers’ rights and responsibilities—are expected to be progressed through business-as-usual activities. Other areas, such as training and support for caregivers, will be delivered through this programme.

Priority 3 – Addressing child and youth offending: The number of youth serious offending is still reducing

Measure	Standard	2024/25 result	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
An 18% reduction in the total number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour. [Jun 2023 Cabinet agreed baseline: 1,100 ⁶]	<900 by 2030	923	892	856	

As at the end of December 2025, the number had reduced by 22 percent to 856 children or young people, against the June 2023 baseline of 1,100.

The Oranga Tamariki (Responding to Serious Youth Offending) Amendment Bill is currently awaiting its second reading. This legislation will enshrine YSO Declarations in law, with a Military-Style Academy (MSA) Order as a sentencing option. Timing for the remaining stages of the Bill is subject to scheduling of the Government’s legislative programme. Below is the latest projection of how we are performing beyond the predictions for reducing the number of children and young people with serious and persistent offending behaviour.




⁶ Target 3 figures now use the Oranga Tamariki monthly Police RCOS data feed. Minor cohort variances may occur compared with Ministry of Justice figures due to a small difference in the age-at-offence calculation and Cabinet rounding of baseline/target values. Trends remain almost identical. Percentage reductions calculated against the Cabinet-agreed baseline may appear slightly larger than reductions calculated against the prior MoJ baseline.

In the interim, Oranga Tamariki is preparing a second MSA programme, with a confirmed start date of 9 March 2026. This will operate under existing legislation, with a voluntary cohort of rangatahi. It will build on the 2024/25 pilot. The pilot programme evaluation showed promising results in driving change for participants. The second programme will incorporate lessons learnt from the pilot and will provide further learnings to assist in the implementation of MSA programmes once the YSO legislation is passed.

Priority 4 – Improving complaint management and practices: Focus on improving engagement with complainants.

Oranga Tamariki is committed to responding to and working with people to resolve their concerns through our feedback and complaints process.⁷ We measure success against this priority through how we respond to complaints.

Measure	Standard	2024/25 result	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The proportion of complaints audited that were handled in a way that fully met Oranga Tamariki standards. [Baseline: 48% and target 25% increase from baseline]	60%	58%	62%	62%	 On-track

Overall, this measure has seen an upwards trend from the 48 percent nominal base line. The results for both Quarter One and Quarter Two is stable and above the 60 percent target for improvement.

Last year Oranga Tamariki focused on resolving overdue and outstanding complaints. However, timeliness and lack of engagement with the person making the complaint remain the most common reasons for not meeting standards for complaint practice. Practice is now focused on following up with individual sites/teams to improve responses and engagement with new complaints.

⁷ Read about our feedback and complaints processes at: www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/about-us/contact-us/feedback/

Hine Wawata – our performance system

Hine Wawata is the name given to the Oranga Tamariki performance system – a framework deliberately centred on the aspirations of tamariki and rangatahi. Developed with care-experienced young people, it reflects a Māori worldview and anchors how we measure the success of Our Strategy.











To see the progress, we have made towards our Strategy, we have two layers of measures that lead to our core functions and outcomes contributing towards our outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi:

- **Ngā Wawata** – the core outcomes that describe what tamariki and rangatahi need to thrive, reported in the Annual Report.
- **He Ringaringa Mōu** – the three statutory functions that show how well Oranga Tamariki and the wider children's system are performing: Protection, Partnership and Prevention, reported through the quarterly reports.

These measures are key to contributing to our overall performance as an organisation and how these impact the outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi.

No significant improvement in impact performance

The below table summarises Quarter Two 2025/26 results and trends compared with 2024/25. The number of contracted service providers measure is not reported in Quarter Two as it is an annual measure.

Performance Impact	Measure	Desired trend	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
Practice Protects	Initial Tiaki Oranga (safety & wellbeing assessment) completed on time	 Increase	43%	42%	39%	 Off track
	Tamariki and rangatahi with an allocated social worker	 Increase	71%	71%	70%	 Monitoring
Partners Deliver	Out of home placements with family or whānau	 Increase	49%	49%	49%	 Monitoring
System Prevents	Tamariki and rangatahi who enter care per month	 Decrease	119	119	119	 Monitoring
	Renotification within 12 months where NFA or referred to a partner	 Decrease	41%	43%	43%	 Monitoring

Overall, results indicate that while performance is steady, further efforts are needed to drive positive change in performance against these measures. The one measure that was off-track in Quarter Two is discussed below:

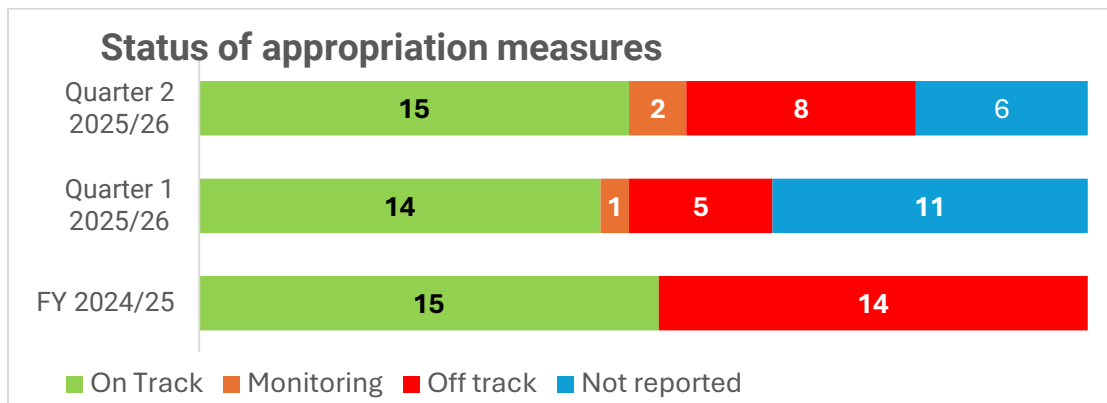
- **Our completion of Tiaki Oranga (safety and wellbeing assessment) on time has declined.** This measure includes the Urgent RoCs. While the Urgent RoCs are important, the focus remains on responding to the Very Urgent and Critical RoC. Explanation of Very Urgent and Critical RoC is provided in the Ministerial Priority of ‘Ensuring the safety of children and young people’ and is relevant to this measure.

Appendix One presents the results of the He Ringaringa Mōu measures in Quarter Two, why these are important, desired trends and comparisons with the 2024/25 results.

Appropriation measures

Our appropriation measures indicate how Oranga Tamariki is performing in delivering the core services and activities we are funded for. We assess this performance against 31 appropriation measures within Vote Oranga Tamariki⁸.

The graph below shows the status of Quarter Two 2025/26 appropriation measures in comparison with Quarter One 2025/26 and 2024/25 results.




Appendix Two presents Quarter Two results for reported appropriation measures along with commentary and comparisons against Quarter One 2025/26 and 2024/25 results.


Not all appropriation measures can be reported on a quarterly basis. There are six appropriation measures that cannot be reported for Quarter Two. These measures are reported annually and results for these measures will be reported in our Annual Report 2025/26.

⁸ Vote Oranga Tamariki documents can be found at budget.govt.nz/budget/2025/by/vote/oratam.htm

Persistent challenges in meeting performance standards for five key measures


Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of critical or very urgent reports of concern, addressed within operational timeframes, will be at least 95%	95%	86%	85%	80%	 Off track

This measure is also a Ministerial Priority and explanation of this is provided in the Ministerial Priority of ‘Ensuring the safety of children and young people’

Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of children in out of home placement more than three months, who are placed with family/whānau, will be at least 58%	58%	50%	50%	50%	 Off track


When there are safety and wellbeing concerns for children, we firstly seek to address these without the need for children to enter care. If it is necessary for tamariki or rangatahi to enter care to keep them safe, we work to place children with family or whānau whenever possible, alongside working to keep siblings in care together.

One of the biggest challenges in identifying and maintaining whānau placements occurs in the context of children or young people with high needs. Care in some cases can require life changes or place demands on people that are difficult to meet despite caregivers being highly dedicated and in receipt of support. High needs can also prevent siblings from being cared for in the same home, either because of the ability of caregivers to manage, or in some cases, because it is not in the best interests of one or more siblings.


Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The number of young people, held in police custody for more than 24 hours will be less than 140	140	227	263	260	 Off track

Safety and wellbeing are a priority in placement decisions, and there can be a delay in an appropriate placement option becoming available or being able to transport the young person.

In these instances, while remaining in police custody beyond 24 hours is not ideal, it is the safest place for the young person as they are supervised and supported. This measure is a helpful indicator but decisions to oppose bail or remand a young person in custody are not in the control of Oranga Tamariki. Demand for youth justice custodial beds fluctuates but remains higher than historical demand.

Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of young people held on remand, who are placed within their community, will be at least 30%	30%	24%	24%	25%	 Off track


While there are benefits for young people when they can be placed within their home communities, this must be considered against s4A of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, which requires us to balance the wellbeing of the young person with public safety and the interests of the victims. There are times when being placed in their own community is not legally possible, e.g. due to conditions imposed by the Courts.

Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The number of supported accommodation places available to young people will be at least 150	150	134	134	136	 Off track

Placements have increased to 136, with an existing provider offering two additional placements at no extra cost. However, as with the last quarter, budget constraints mean it is likely this measure will not be met this year. A recommendation has been made to shift the measure to report on the number of young people that have accessed supported accommodation, rather than the number of placements available.

Preliminary case file analysis results highlight three areas where Oranga Tamariki is off-track


The first round of case file analysis for 2025/26 was completed in Quarter Two (October to December 2025). A total of 235 cases were sampled for this round.

Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of children in care with regular engagement with an Oranga Tamariki practitioner will be at least 95%	95%	66%	N/A	70%	 Off track


The result for this measure is slightly higher but remains statistically consistent with 2024/25 result (66 percent). Regular and quality engagements with children and young people in care remain one of the priorities of the National Care Standards Action Plan, and over the last six months there has been a specific focus on weekly visits in the first four weeks of a return home, supported by twice weekly case specific reporting and follow-up.

The previous year's analysis showed of those tamariki that had not received regular engagement as defined by the care standards measure (consistently over a 12-month period), 59 percent had been visited at least six times over the 12-month period (with

88 percent having been visited at least four times). In 16 percent of those cases, there was documented evidence of reasons outside of the social worker’s control that prevented planned visits taking place, such as transience of tamariki and their carers, or situations where tamariki were unexpectedly absent for planned visits.

Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of children in care with quality engagement with an Oranga Tamariki practitioner will be at least 95%	95%	86%	N/A	88%	 Off track

The result for this measure is slightly higher than the full year result for 2024/25 (86 percent) but the trajectory remains similar. Oranga Tamariki have been developing competency and capability through the Practice Approach since 2022, which is framed by the Treaty of Waitangi and supports by a mana-enhancing paradigm for practice. It places great emphasis on relational practice, on understanding, respecting and valuing the experiences and expertise held by tamariki and their whānau, and frames safety in the context of oranga. The Practice Approach continues to help guide and enhance our relationships with tamariki, rangatahi and their whānau, and is foundational to quality engagement.

Measure	Standard	2024/25	Q1 result	Q2 result	Trend
The percentage of tamariki Māori, in care for more than three months, who are being supported to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with their marae, hapū or iwi or for whom strong connections are already in place will be at least 95%	95%	49%	N/A	44%	 Off track

This measure is a priority for Oranga Tamariki under the National Care Standards Action Plan, and most other priority areas under the plan have shown at least a small improvement. The current result for this measure is below the full year result of 2024/25 but has improved compared to the 2023/2024 result of 42 percent. Further, as noted in our Annual Report, while this result remains far from aspirations:

- for almost all tamariki Māori whose cases were reviewed (99 percent), members of their immediate whānau had been identified by their social worker
- for 86 percent of tamariki Māori with a current assessment, their need to establish, maintain or strengthen connection with their whānau was identified in that assessment and, for 88 percent of tamariki Māori with a current plan, this need was addressed in the plan

- for 76 percent of tamariki Māori, there was evidence that their whānau had an opportunity to undertake their whanaungatanga responsibilities for their tamaiti (for example, whānau, hapū or iwi may have taken specific support roles in the plan, or there may have been evidence of our supporting the tamaiti to travel with their whānau to attend events of significance to them)
- for 85 percent of tamariki Māori whose cases were reviewed, there was evidence that they were being supported for contact with their immediate whānau or family group to occur
- for 98 percent of tamariki Māori with a current plan, the plan contained details on contact arrangements with members of their immediate whānau.

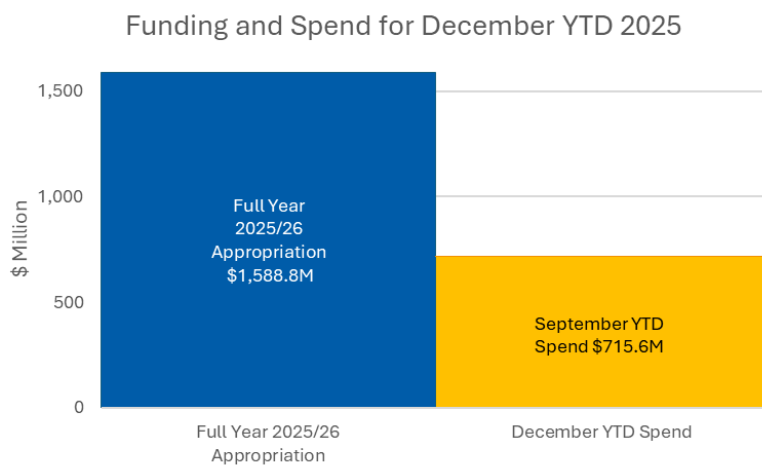
Financial performance

Funding summary

The Oranga Tamariki appropriated departmental baseline funding for 2025/26 is \$1,588.8 million after the October Baseline Update (OBU). Funding is allocated across three areas:

- Personnel - 38 percent
- Administration - 16 percent
- Third party children's expenditure - 46 percent

Quarter Two expenditure was on track with budgeted expectations. Our year-to-date expenditure of \$717 million is in line with budget expectations as of 31 December 2025. Our year-to-date expenditure is 45% of the total \$1,588.8 million appropriated departmental funding for 2025/26 as shown in the figure above. Expenditure is expected to increase in the second half of the year.



Appendix A: Oranga Tamariki Organisational Performance He Ringaringa Mōu Measures reported in Quarter Two 2025/26

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & trend	How have we performed in Q2?
Practice Protects						
Safety is paramount – We work relationally, inclusively & restoratively with tamariki & whānau to act and protect te tamaiti every time we are concerned about their safety or wellbeing						
Percentage of tamariki and rangatahi who have their initial Tiaki Oranga completed on time.	When a concern is raised about te tamaiti, assessing tamaiti safety as quickly and effectively as possible is the principal responsibility of Oranga Tamariki. This is why our primary measure focuses on all initial Tiaki Oranga – it is our first interaction with te tamaiti and it sets the trajectory for tamaiti safety and oranga	Trending up	43%	41%	39% Off track	This measure includes all reports of concern, including Urgent RoC. While these are important, the focus remains on responding to Critical and Very Urgent RoC.
Oranga is a journey – So Tamariki-whānau oranga and its potential is protected						
Proportion of tamariki and rangatahi with an allocated social worker	To truly support an oranga-focused journey and protect its potential, Oranga Tamariki must ensure every tamaiti has strong relationships with those that matter to them – starting with ensuring they have an allocated social worker. A social worker plays a vital role in helping te tamaiti stay connected to the people who matter to them, actively participate in their practice journey, have their needs are understood and perspectives understood and central to all decision-making and changes.	Trending up	71%	71%	70% Monitoring	Since January 2025, we have seen a gradual increase in the number of tamariki and rangatahi waiting to be allocated to a social worker, with a noticeable rise in November and December 2025. We now have kaimahi to further developing the tool and ensuring that insights from it inform operational and strategic decision-making, with the aim of optimising current capacity.
Partnerships Deliver						
Partnership led – We build strong locally led partnerships with iwi Māori, community groups and service providers enabled by a nationally-coordinated Children’s System						
Number of contracted service providers	Community service providers are often best placed to deliver the supports and services that tamariki and rangatahi need. Our role begins with ensuring there are enough service providers – including iwi Māori and community groups – to deliver locally led responses. Without this collective of providers and communities, partnership is not possible.	Within our expected range	509	N/A	N/A	This measure is reported at year-end.
Generationally focused – So tamariki and whānau can access the right supports and services they need, when they need them, for as long as they need them						
Percentage of tamariki in out of home placement	When safe and appropriate, Oranga Tamariki must keep tamariki and their whānau connected. This includes – but is not limited to tamariki remaining in the care of their whānau, living with their siblings and – in	Trending up	49%	49%	49% Monitoring	A new fixed-term role established will use the insights from the new workforce analysis reporting tool recently developed

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & trend	How have we performed in Q2?
who are in a family/whānau placement	the context of Youth Justice – within reasonable travelling distance of their whānau and/or their iwi/community. When tamariki are connected to their whānau/community, their intergenerational wellbeing is almost always better.					to understand our capacity and caseloads across the motu, a major step towards a nationally consistent, coordinated and systematic approach to workforce planning.
System Prevents						
Prevention every time – We prevent the escalation of involvement for all tamariki and rangatahi that come to our notice, including those in care, custody, or offending						
Number of tamariki and rangatahi who enter care per month	Tamariki who come to our attention often face serious safety or wellbeing concerns and it is vital that they receive the right support. However, that support does not always require statutory intervention as community-led responses are increasingly better placed to step in to care for tamariki and rangatahi. Oranga Tamariki’s role should be reserved for the most complex of cases, where statutory powers are truly required, and supporting those responses that are better placed. Prevention begins with reducing the number of tamariki who enter the statutory system in the first place.	Trending down	119	119	119 Monitoring	The number of tamariki and rangatahi entering care each month remains steady.
Prevention everywhere – So that every opportunity is used to prevent and address harm						
Tamariki and rangatahi renotified within 12 months of a ROC where NFA was required or we referred them to a partner	Oranga Tamariki alone cannot prevent harm to tamariki and rangatahi. We are part of a wider Children’s System, that works together to prevent and address harm. We do our very best to respond to safety concerns as they arise. This includes having the right response the first time. For this reason, we monitor the proportion of tamariki and rangatahi who are renotified after a report of concern where no further action was required, or support was referred to partners.	Trending down	41%	43%	43% Monitoring	An addition is underway to our recording system that will allow us to identify referrals to community support that are not contracted by Oranga Tamariki. This will enable targeted follow-up analysis around renotification rates.

Appendix B: Oranga Tamariki Appropriation Measures reported in Quarter Two 2025/26

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
Adoption Services						
The percentage of assessments of suitability to adopt that are completed within three months will be at least 90%	We handle adoption assessments in a timely way to make the process quick, while still being thorough. A suitability check requires us to gather and consider specific information about individuals like police vetting and referee checks, to inform our overall assessment of suitability and risk.	90%	95%	100%	95% On track	56 assessments were completed in Quarter Two. Three were completed outside the timeframe. Leave for social workers is important but cover for social workers is not always available.
Connection and Advocacy Services						
Expenditure supports the delivery of services to children and young people with care experience and progress on contracting measurables is reported quarterly to Oranga Tamariki.	This measure relates to government non-departmental expenditure funding for VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai, a non-government organisation, to provide care experienced children and young people with connection and advocacy services independent of Oranga Tamariki.	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved	Achieved On track	In Quarter Two (a short reporting quarter), VOYCE Whakarongo Mai engaged with 1508 children and young people. 346 were supported with advocacy, 868 had an ongoing relationship and 910 were invited to attend local connection events. VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai continued to present their 'Kei te rongo koe? Are you listening?' report on the state of care in Aotearoa to key stakeholders. Rangatahi members presented the report at the Kempe Conference and at a hui with representatives of Oranga Tamariki, Ministries for Health, Education, Police and Social Development. For the National Day of Reflection on 12 November 2025, VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai ran a series of workshop to provide an opportunity for survivors of the care system to come together and connect.
Intensive Response						
The percentage of children who received intensive response services in the last twelve months, who	Stopping re-entry to care through effective intensive response is an early but significant step towards breaking cycles of harm.	97%	98%	100%	100% On track	Of the seven sites offering intensive response services, no child required an out of home placement in Quarter Two.

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
subsequently did not require an out of home placement will be at least 97%						
Policy Advice and Ministerial Advice						
The percentage of ministerial OIA request replies completed five working days prior to the statutory time limit, unless otherwise agreed, will be at least 95%	This measure allows us to track if we're supporting the Minister to meet legislative obligations under the Official Information Act. This includes being transparent and giving people timely access to information unless there is a good reason to withhold it.	95%	96%	64%	100% On track	During Quarter Two, all ministerial replies, Parliamentary questions and Official Information Act 1982 requests were completed by their set timeframes.
The percentage of ministerial replies completed within twenty working days of receipt by Oranga Tamariki, unless otherwise agreed, will be at least 95%	This measure allows us to track if we are providing a timely response for questions from the public to the Minister or Associate Minister for a written answer.	95%	100%	100%	100% On track	
The percentage of Parliamentary question responses provided to the Minister's Office so that the answers can meet the timeframe set in Parliamentary Standing Orders will be at least 95%	This measure allows us to track if we are providing a timely response for questions from opposition members in the House of Parliament to the Minister or Associate Minister for a written or oral answer.	95%	92%	100%	100% On track	
Prevention and Early Support						
The percentage of all contracted services which achieved or exceeded the target for their primary contracted	Most of our Early Support work is delivered by service partners who are contracted to reach certain volumes, or specific results, with the goal that more families receive appropriate support, and fewer children require statutory intervention. Working in partnership with providers enables our social workers to focus on case management if or when issues eventuate or compound.	75%	74%	77%	75% On track	At Quarter Two 2025/26, contract performance is tracking within our target range, at 75.2%.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
measure will be at least 75%						
The percentage of all service contract funding contracted with Iwi and Māori organisations will be greater than 23%	Most children in care, and young people in custody, are Māori. This measurement shows our commitment to procuring iwi and Māori organisations that can play a unique role in supporting, strengthening and culturally connecting tamariki Māori, supplemented by specialist tauwiwi services.	23%	32%	34%	34% On track	The percentage of funding with Iwi and Māori organisations is tracking within our target range, at 33.8 percent. The percentage of organisations funded that are Iwi and Māori organisations is 28 percent.
The percentage of critical or very urgent reports of concern, addressed within operational timeframes, will be at least 95%	When a critical or very urgent report of concern is made, it indicates that a child may have been seriously harmed or be at risk of serious harm. This measure tells us if responding in an appropriate timeframe, based on the level of risk identified, to ensure the immediate safety of the child.	95%	86%	85%	80% Off track	The proportion of Critical and Very Urgent RoCs responded to within operational timeframes, while consistently between 80 percent and 90 percent, has been declining since late 2024/early 2025. The standard for this measure is 95 percent. In late October 2025, Oranga Tamariki completed insights work exploring the underlying factors hindering Oranga Tamariki from consistently responding to critical and very urgent RoCs quickly. The report highlights delays when RoCs are received by email rather than phone (likely associated with the need to gather more information), the disproportionate challenges smaller rural sites experience in responding quickly, additional challenges sometimes associated when RoCs are received from schools and the impact of higher vacancy levels at some sites. Oranga Tamariki will develop specific actions in response to the report's findings in the coming quarter.
Statutory Intervention and Transition						
The percentage of siblings in out of home placements, who are placed with at least one sibling, will be at least 73%	Keeping siblings together is key to healing from harm and avoiding trauma when staying at home isn't safe. Siblings must be placed together where possible and practical unless there are safety concerns like family abuse that are being addressed.	73%	74%	73%	74% On track	When there are safety and wellbeing concerns for children, we firstly seek to address these without the need for children to enter care. If it is necessary for tamariki or rangatahi to enter care to keep them safe, we work to place children with

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
						family or whānau whenever possible, alongside working to keep siblings in care together. Oranga Tamariki launched the integrated care programme in late 2025 which is working to build capacity and efficiencies in the care system, especially around high needs and urgent care. This work is likely, over time, to increase opportunities for siblings to be placed together when it is in their best interests.
The percentage of young people held on remand who are placed within the community will be at least 30%	We want to keep rangatahi who have offended close to their support networks, so they can more easily settle back into their community after rehabilitation. More community-based remand options will help rangatahi remain home (with added supports) or within their local community in a bespoke home.	30%	24%	24%	25% Off track	While there are benefits for young people when they can be placed within their home communities, this must be considered against s4A of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, which requires us to balance the wellbeing of the young person with public safety and the interests of the victims. There are times when being placed in their own community is not legally possible, e.g. due to conditions imposed by the Courts.
The number of supported accommodation places available to young people, will be at least 150	For rangatahi leaving care, getting into their first flat can be hard. Supported accommodation entitles them to access safe accommodation up to age 25 with support to increase knowledge and skills to live independently in a safe environment.	150	134	134	136 Off track	Placements have increased to 136, with an existing provider offering two additional placements at no extra cost. However, as with the last quarter, budget constraints mean it is likely this measure will not be met this year. A recommendation has been made to shift the measure to report on the number of young people that have accessed supported accommodation, rather than the number of placements available.
The percentage of eligible young people who are referred for support from a transition support worker will be at least 60%	To enable rangatahi to be well supported and confident to leave care, they should have the opportunity to connect with a transition support worker if they want or need.	60%	72%	74%	74% On track	Referral rates are similar to Quarter One with 74 percent referred and 77 percent offered a referral. The rate of young people declining support dropped slightly from last quarter to three percent.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
The percentage of under eighteen-year-olds who previously had a Youth Justice family group conference, who had a subsequent Youth Justice family group conference, will be less than 40%	Youth Justice family group conferences give young people, along with their family, victims and professionals, a chance to help find solutions when they have offended. We want to strengthen this practice and avoid reoffending that leads to repeat family group conferences.	40%	38%	39%	40% Monitoring	Our performance against this measure remains stable and on track.
The number of young people eligible to return or remain with a caregiver beyond age eighteen, who are enabled to do so, will be at least 95	Young people in care should continue to be supported if they need it after they turn 18. Like all children, they should be welcome to continue to stay with their caregiver as long as they need to.	95	119	134	147 On track	The number of young people wishing to remain or return to living with a caregiver has increased in Quarter Two.
The number of young people, held in police custody for more than 24 hours will be less than 140	We want to ensure that rangatahi spend as little time as possible in police custody after their arrest. Although Police respond in the first instance, we want young people to be redirected to safer placements.	140	227	263	260 Off track	Safety and wellbeing are a priority in placement decisions, and there can be a delay in an appropriate placement option becoming available or being able to transport the young person. In these instances, while remaining in police custody beyond 24 hours is not ideal, it is the safest place for the young person as they are supervised and supported. This measure is a helpful indicator but decisions to oppose bail or remand a young person in custody are not in the control of Oranga Tamariki. Demand for youth justice custodial beds fluctuates but remains higher than historical demand.
The percentage of children in out of home placement more than three months, who are placed with family/ whānau, will be at least 58%	Ideally, we want children to safely remain within their wider family or whānau when they're away from home, but the situation of each tamaiti is unique and complex, and their safety, wellbeing and best interests are the most important consideration.	58%	50%	50%	50% Off track	When there are safety and wellbeing concerns for children, we firstly seek to address these without the need for children to enter care. If it is necessary for tamariki or rangatahi to enter care to keep them safe, we work to place children with family or whānau whenever possible,

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
						alongside working to keep siblings in care together. One of the biggest challenges in identifying and maintaining whānau placements occurs in the context of children or young people with high needs. Care in some cases can require life changes or place demands on people that are difficult to meet despite caregivers being highly dedicated and in receipt of support. High needs can also prevent siblings from being cared for in the same home, either because of the ability of caregivers to manage, or in some cases, because it is not in the best interests of one or more siblings.
The percentage of children in out of home placement who have two or fewer caregivers over the year will be at least 85%	Stable living arrangements can support children living away from home. While some changes can be beneficial, multiple and unplanned care arrangements have been associated with negative outcomes for children.	85%	86%	86%	87% On track	
The percentage of children who have been in statutory care for more than six months, who have a completed Gateway assessment, will be at least 75%	A Gateway assessment is an interagency process that helps to clarify and identify ways to address the health and education needs of children we work with. A gateway assessment referral should be made within 10 working days of entering our care, but the assessment process can take time to complete.	75%	83%	83%	82% On track	
Report on the percentage of children to exit out of home placement in the last eighteen months, who subsequently require an out of home placement	We want to decrease and prevent children re-entering our care where possible. However, it's important that children can return to care if their home life becomes unsafe again. Therefore, there is no target for this measure.	Report on (no target)	Achieved: 25%	Achieved: 24%	Achieved: 24% On track	
The percentage of children, in care for	Ideally, we want children to safely remain within their wider family or whānau when they're away from home, but the situation of each	95%	85%	N/A	94% Monitoring	This result represents a statistically significant increase from the previous

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
more than three months, whose plan reflects actions to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with members of their family, whānau, and/or family group, will be at least 95%	tamaiti is unique and complex, and their safety, wellbeing and best interests are the most important consideration.					full-year result for 2024/25 (85 percent) and is the highest result recorded since the measure was introduced.
The percentage of children, in care for more than three months, with a current plan that contains actions to address their needs, when those actions will be taken, and by whom, will be at least 95%	Each tamaiti in our care must have a clear plan for how their unique circumstances and needs will be supported. An example of an 'actionable' plan is the All About Me Plan, which includes detailed and comprehensive information about their interests, needs and goals, and how these will be met while they're in care.	95%	86%	N/A	95% On track	This result represents a statistically significant increase from the previous full year result for 2024/25 (86 percent) and is the highest result recorded since the measure was introduced.
The percentage of children in care with regular engagement with an Oranga Tamariki practitioner will be at least 95%	We want to be confident that our visits to children in care are occurring regularly, where the child is visited as per the frequency of visits set out in their assessment or plan or visited at least once every eight weeks if no visiting frequency was specified.	95%	66%	N/A	70% Off track	The result is slightly higher but remains statistically consistent with the full year result for 2024/25 (66 percent). Note that the measure has been revised to cover a six-month review period rather than twelve months. This change improves methodological consistency; however, the shorter review period is likely to increase the percentage reported for this measure. The margin of error for Round 1 is ±6 percent, and this is expected to reduce to around ±3 percent once the next two rounds are completed.
The percentage of children in care with quality engagement with an Oranga Tamariki practitioner will be at least 95%	We want to be confident that our visits to children in care are regular but also include quality engagement and give the tamaiti the opportunity to safely share any concerns.	95%	86%	N/A	88% Off track	The result is slightly higher but remains statistically consistent with the full year result for 2024/25 (86 percent). Note that the measure has been revised to cover a six-month review period rather than twelve months. This change improves methodological consistency.

IN-CONFIDENCE

Measure	Why is this measure important?	Desired trend	2024/25 result	Q1 2025/26 result	Q2 2025/26 results & status	How have we performed in Q2?
<p>The percentage of tamariki Māori, in care for more than three months, who are being supported to establish, maintain or strengthen connections with their marae, hapū or iwi or for whom strong connections are already in place will be at least 95%</p>	<p>Each tamaiti in our care must have a clear plan for how their unique circumstances and needs will be supported. An example of an 'actionable' plan is the All About Me Plan, which includes detailed and comprehensive information about their interests, needs and goals, and how these will be met while they're in care.</p>	<p>95%</p>	<p>49%</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>44% Off track</p>	<p>The result is slightly lower but remains statistically consistent with the full year result for 2024/25 (49 percent). Note that the margin of error for this measure for Round 1 is ±8 percent, and this is expected to reduce to around ±5 percent once the next two rounds are completed.</p>