

28 FEB 2020



Tēnā koe 

Thank you for your email of 4 February 2020 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

- *How many prospective adoptive parents you have at the moment; and also*
- *How many adoptions happened last year?*

Adoption in New Zealand is governed by the Adoption Act 1955 and is administered by the Ministry of Justice. The Ministry of Justice publishes on its website the number of applications for adoption and whether these were successful. These statistics will help to answer your enquiry into the number of adoptions which occurred last year. I have included the link to the Ministry of Justice statistics on adoption below for your information:

<https://www.justice.govt.nz/assets/Documents/Publications/4z64t6-Children-adopted-jun2019-v1.0.xlsx>.

As you will know from previous correspondence with us, Oranga Tamariki is responsible for assessing the suitability of adoptive applicants and providing information about the adoption process. Once people have decided to adopt, and their application has been successful, their information can be made available to birthparents who wish to place their child for adoption. Please find below a link to more information about the adoptions process, and also alternative pathways to permanently caring for a child in New Zealand:

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/adoption/adopting-in-nz/>.

With regard to your request for the number of prospective adoptive parents, Oranga Tamariki can advise that, as at 31 December 2019, there are 116 carers approved for adoption only. Of these, 57 carers are approved for domestic adoption, 48 are approved for intercountry adoption, and the remaining 11 carers are approved to care for either domestic or intercountry adoption.

There is an additional group of 157 carers who are approved for domestic or international adoption, as well as being approved for respite care, transition care, or Home for Life care, or a combination of any of the above. Home for Life care is when a child can't be cared for by their own family, and they are placed permanently with a caregiver.

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](mailto:OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. 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



Steve Groom  
**General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services**