

Just Sayin'

The survey of young people and Transition Support Services

We talked with 331 rangatahi between the ages of 16-20 who were eligible for Transition Worker support...

to understand what was going on in their lives and how Oranga Tamariki could better support their transition to independence through the Transition Support Service. Here are some of the key results from the survey, highlighting opportunities for further support.



49%

Transition planning

of young people in care had talked with someone to work out a plan for leaving care.

For those who had already left care, this number rose to 62%. Many young people reported they had not been involved in planning what will happen when they left care. Around one-third (30%) of those in care and 42% of those who had left care said they had a copy of their plan.

Preparing and planning for transition

I get to have a say in important decisions about my life, all or most of the time

78%

79%

■ In care ■ Not in care

The important people in my life are involved in planning what happens with my life as much as I would like

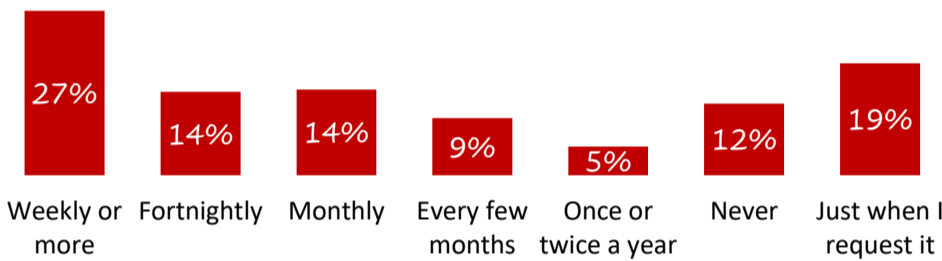
58%

54%

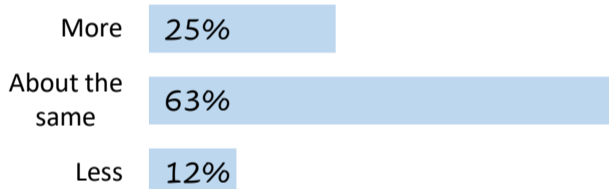
Most (In care: 78%, left care: 79%) young people felt they had a say in the important decisions about their lives most or all of the time. Over half (In care: 58%, left care: 54%) said the important people were involved in planning what happened in their lives as much as they wanted them to be.

Frequency of interactions with Transition Workers

How often do you see your Transition Worker?



Would you like to see more/less of your Transition Worker?



Almost two-thirds (63%) of young people thought the frequency of contact with their Transition Worker was about right. Preference did not correlate with reported frequency of contact.

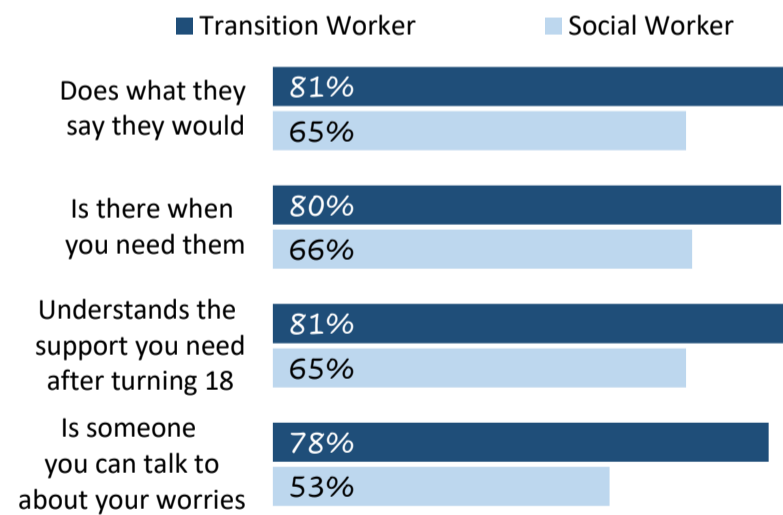
81%

Transition support

of young people told us their Transition Worker helped make things better for them.

Young people's perceptions of support from their Transition Worker and social workers

Young people who answered most of the time to all of the time on a four-point scale to the following statements:



Just under half (43%) of young people said they felt they had a choice with the organisation supporting with their transition. One-half (52%) of rangatahi Māori told us they were being supported by a Māori organisation or Transition Worker, with many reporting this made a positive difference to their transition experience.

"It helps a lot that I have a Transition Worker that understands the boundaries I have put in place to ensure everything being done follows my cultural preference." (Rangatahi Māori)

The importance of developing a transition plan

51%

of young people were moderately to seriously worried about something.

Over two-thirds (68%) of young people said they had an adult to turn to if they needed help during a difficult time, but 21% only had a friend or sibling to turn to and 11% said they had no one.

78%

of young people felt they could talk to their Transition Worker about their worries.

Around half (53%) felt they could talk to their Oranga Tamariki Social Worker.

"[My Transition Workers] understand where I'm at and how/who I am and if anything needs to be elaborated or anything. They bring me opportunities that will help me

"[My Transition Worker] was very helpful with communicating my needs to my OT social worker."

"[My Transition Worker is] the reason i'm in the house I am in and the job I am in because she encouraged me to go out and look for a job and I've had the same job for 3 years now."

"Hopefully a qualified chef, working in a kitchen, married by then, not sure where I will be living but with my husband."

"Being a fluent Māori student with a hope to achieve being in a modelling career or just beginning to become one."

"Going to uni and saving heaps and making an impact on the people around me and happier and confident."

72%

Hope for the future

of young people said they felt hopeful for their future.

Almost two-thirds of young people (62%) had goals that related to jobs including employment in the defence force, beauty industry, trade, and so on. One-third spoke of goals relating to accommodation, 21% spoke of hopes for their future whānau, and 18% had goals of graduating from university or another tertiary provider. Some spoke of financial goals, such as owning a car, being financially stable or earning a good income (16%).

Education, training and employment

Just under one-fifth (19%) of young people were Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET). This is likely an underestimate, but is a higher proportion than the national NEET rate of 12% for 15-24 year olds.

A smaller proportion of young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care had been supported to achieve NCEA level 2 compared with national statistics. Of those not currently in education or training, only 47% had NCEA level 2, compared to 81% of school leavers nationally.

For rangatahi without a job

Yes, I would like to have a paid job **91%**

For rangatahi with a job

Yes, I would like to work more hours **62%**

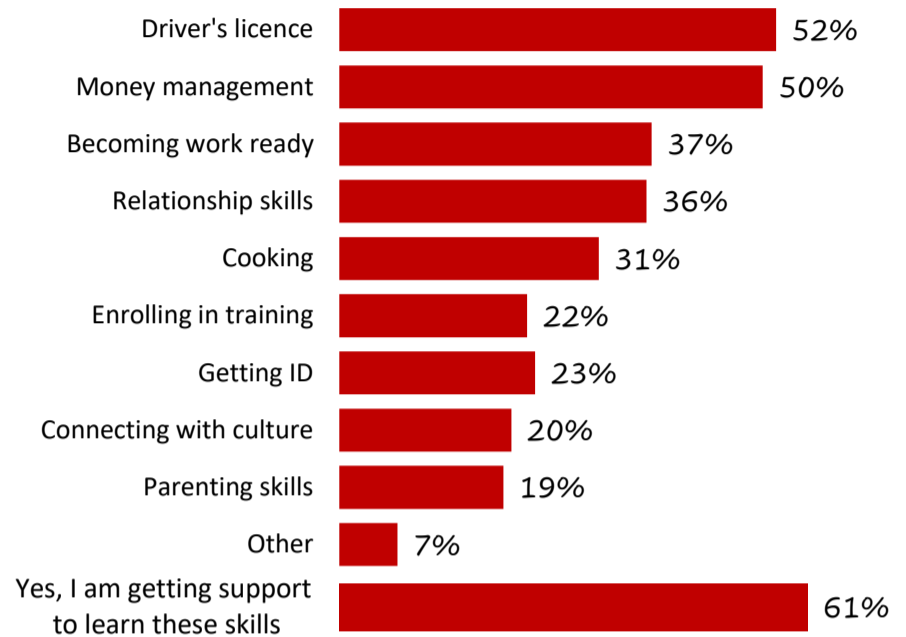
17%

Parenting

of young people said they were either a parent and/or hapū/pregnant.

Nearly two-thirds of parents said their child/children lived with them either some or all of the time. Mothers most commonly lived with their child/children (75%) compared to fathers (33%). There is room to better support these young people.

Skills young people would like to learn for their future



While many (61%) young people felt they were getting the support they needed to learn the skills they would like to learn, there is still room to grow support in this area.

"[My Transition Worker] understands my needs and goals. She goes much further into detail when I don't understand things. She helps me complete many many things and I feel sooo good about them!!! Also, She is helping me suss my future out which is a major biggi to me."

59%

Health and wellbeing

of young people reported a disability.

The most common disabilities were difficulties 'learning, remembering or concentrating' (34% of total population) and 'emotional, psychological or mental health conditions' (38% of total population). Young people with a disability were less likely to rate their social worker positively.

One-third (34%) of young people were not able to access healthcare when they needed to, sometime in the last 12 months. Below are some reported barriers to young people accessing healthcare:

"I feel unsafe at hospitals and doctors."

"Not having a car to get me there, and not having enough money to pay for a bus or taxi."

"My social worker not organising things from her end such as transport and the financial side of things."

Response from Oranga Tamariki

The Transition Support Service started on 1 July 2019 and is now into its third year. It was set up after lots of discussion with young people about what support was needed when leaving care. We are committed to continue to hear what young people think about the support provided to them, and to ensure their voices inform the way we continue to work to improve our services. We are grateful to all the young people who took part.

One of the main things we heard was that some young people experience struggles due to disability. We will advocate on behalf of these young people to ensure government agencies, including Oranga Tamariki, are recognising and providing the support young people need.

We want to make sure that all eligible young people are told about what the Transition Support Service is and what supports are available to them as they transition from care into adulthood. We will work to improve planning for young people to ensure they feel more prepared for what happens after their discharge from care. We will also work to connect young people with Transition Workers early (if that is what they want), so they have another person to support them as they journey into adulthood.