

Just Sayin'

The survey of young people and Transition Support Services

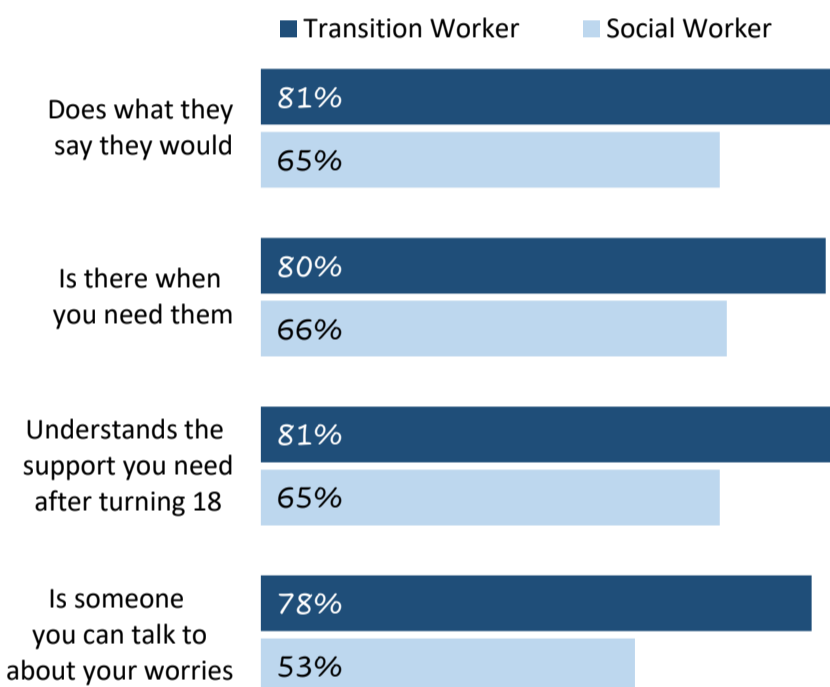
We heard from 331 rangatahi between the ages of 16-20 who were eligible for Transition Worker support

We wanted to understand what was going on in your lives and how Oranga Tamariki could better support your transition to independence, through the Transition Support Service. Here's some of the key results from the survey.



What you told us about your Transition Workers and Oranga Tamariki social workers

Most of you told us that having a Transition Worker you trust and who is supportive and reliable makes a difference to your lives. The Transition Support Service aims to give you a choice about what type of organisation supports you, and 43% of you said you had a choice. The Transition Support Service also aims to connect you with a culturally appropriate organisation if you are Māori or Pacific. Half (52%) of rangatahi Māori told us they were being supported by a Māori organisation or Transition Worker.



In 2019, Oranga Tamariki launched their Transition Support service for 15-25 year olds transitioning from care to independence. If you are eligible for transition support, you can be connected to a Transition Worker, who will guide and support you to:

- Identify your strengths and interests so you can set and achieve goals
- Develop life skills and connect with your identity, culture, and whānau
- Gain confidence to access services independently.

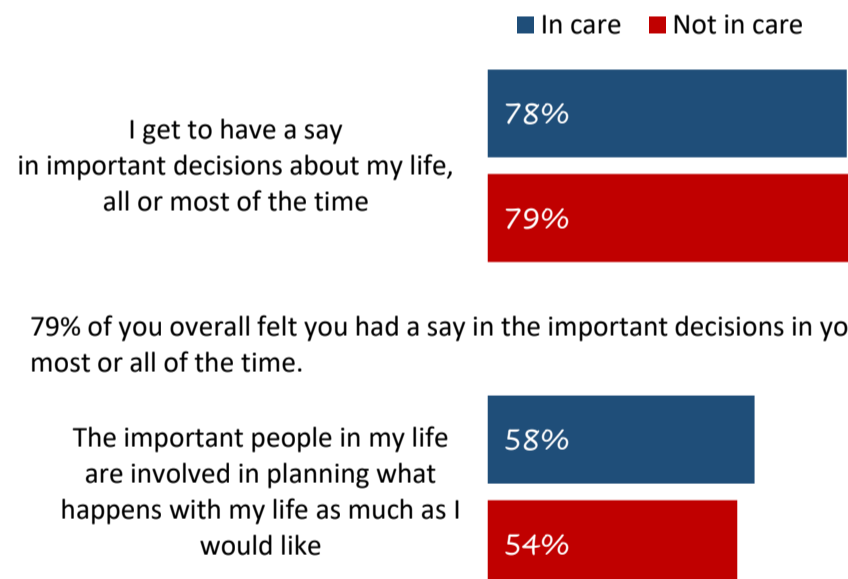
85%

Transition Support Service

of you said you had been asked whether you wanted a Transition Worker.

Over half (60%) of you had a Transition Worker at the time of the survey and 17% of you said you used to have one.

Preparing and planning for transition



79% of you overall felt you had a say in the important decisions in your lives most or all of the time.

More than half of you said that the important people were involved in planning what happened in your life as much as you wanted them to be.

How your Transition Worker helps you

81%

of you told us your Transition Worker helped make things better for you.

Here's some of the things you said they did:

- Provided a listening ear
- Helped to improve your wellbeing and confidence
- Was consistently there for you
- Supported your independence and future planning
- Made you feel listened to and respected.

87%

Who you live with

of you told us you lived in one place. Almost half (43%) of you said you lived in a family home.

Around three-quarters of you (72%) didn't live in the same place after leaving care, and 68% felt you had a choice about where to move to.

"My Transition Workers did more than just help me. They met me half way and helped me become the young lady I am today. They made me believe I could do anything and strive for what I want to be in life."

"Any problems I have, she will go above and beyond to make things work. She will make the time and put in the effort to help me."

"My Transition Worker helped me feel more confident in myself. They made me feel supported and accepted, when my caregiver didn't."

Hope for the future

72%

of you said you felt hopeful for your future.



More than half of you (62%) had goals that related to jobs including employment in the defence force, beauty industry, and trade. One-third (35%) of you spoke of goals relating to accommodation, such as living in your own house, flatting, living somewhere stable and living alone. Below are some examples of goals you had for the future.

"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."

48%

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai
0800 486 923

of you said you knew how to contact VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai.

Of those who had contacted VOYCE, four-fifths (84%) of you said they helped you. Here are some of the things you said they helped with:

"Just to sit with me in court for support."

"Scholarship money and how to access it when needed."

"About the struggles of being in hostel and having to ask for sanitary products."

69%

Transitions support line
0800 55 89 89

of you said you knew how to contact Oranga Tamariki if you needed help.

Of those who had called the transitions helpline, four-fifths (80%) of you said they helped you. Here are some of the things you said they helped with:

"Financial assistance, living assistance, mental health support."

"Housing problems that social worker wasn't helpful with."

"To help get my passport."

Skills you want to learn

52%

of you told us you wanted to get your driver licence when we asked what skills you would like to learn.

This was followed by money management (50%), skills to become work ready (37%), and relationship skills (36%).

When we asked if you were getting the support you needed to learn these skills, 61% of you said yes.

Health and Wellbeing



Over half (59%) of you reported you had a disability. Of the overall population, almost two-fifths (38%) reported 'emotional, psychological or mental health conditions' and one-third (34%) reported trouble with 'learning, remembering or concentrating'.

Identity



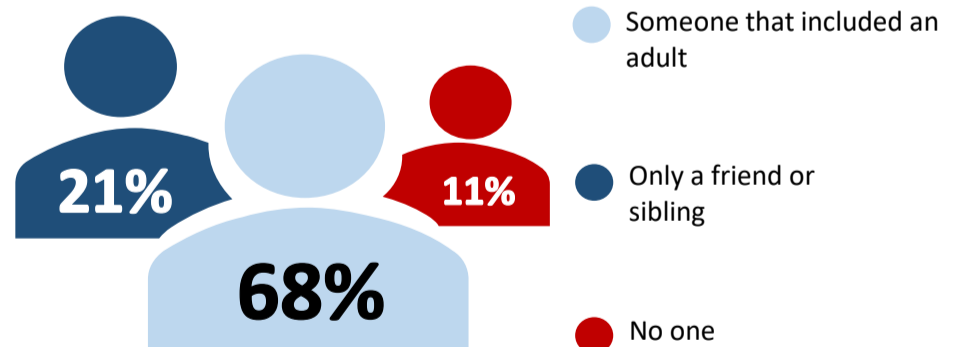
Around three-quarters (72%) of you felt either secure in your identity, proud of who you were or hopeful about your future. Over half (58%) of you felt all three.

Education



Half (49%) of you were still in education or training at the time of the survey. Of those who weren't, 47% of you had NCEA level two or higher.

Who you would turn to if you needed help during a difficult time



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.