

WELCOME TO:

SUPPORTING VULNERABLE YOUTH THROUGH TIMES OF TRANSITION

The second in a seminar series hosted by the Oranga
Tamariki Evidence Centre

Speakers: Mya Liston-Lloyd of Oranga Tamariki and
Nicholas Pole from the Education Review Office



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UNDERSTANDING WHAT WORKS FOR TAMARIKI

The Oranga Tamariki Evidence Team works to build the evidence base that helps us better understand wellbeing and what works to improve outcomes for New Zealand's children, young people and their whānau.

SUPPORTING YOUNG PEOPLE THROUGH TIMES OF TRANSITION

What we learnt from an evaluation of the
Transition from Care to Independence Service



OUR POPULATION

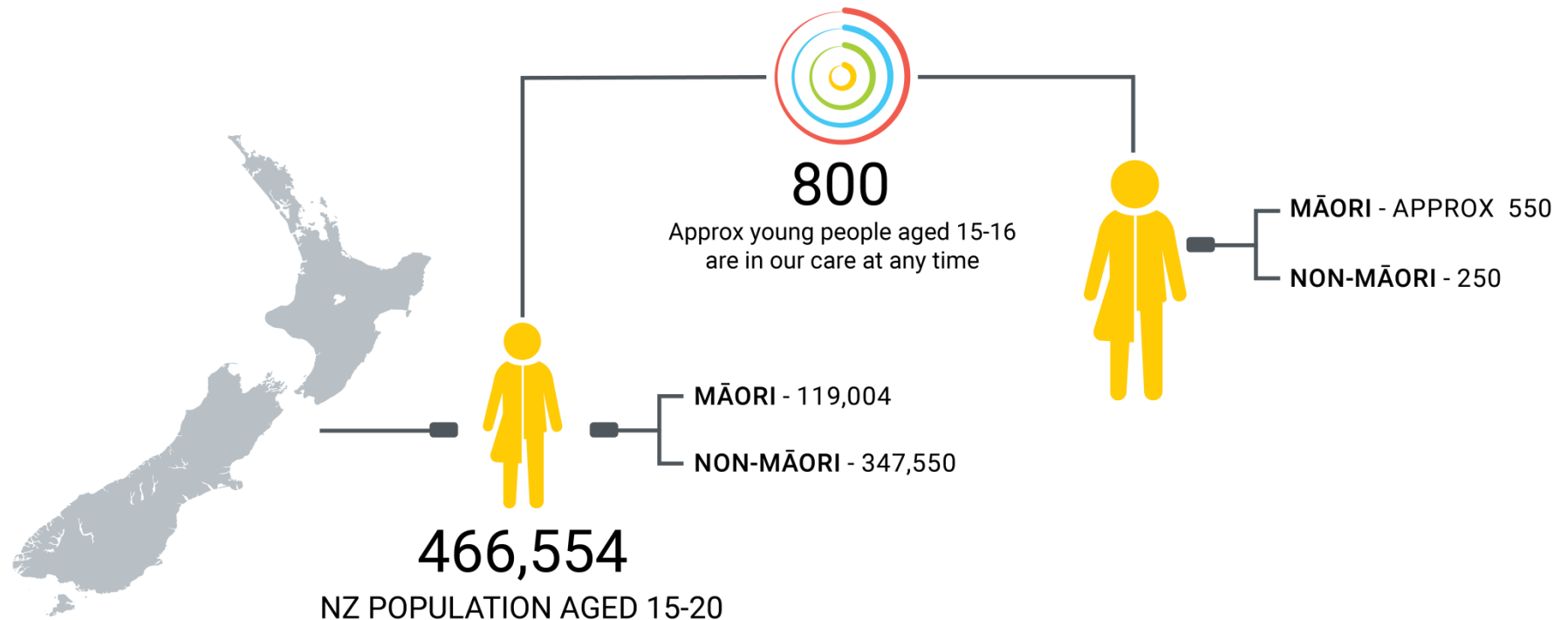


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DEMOGRAPHICS



The results in this document are not official statistics, they have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) managed by Statistics New Zealand.

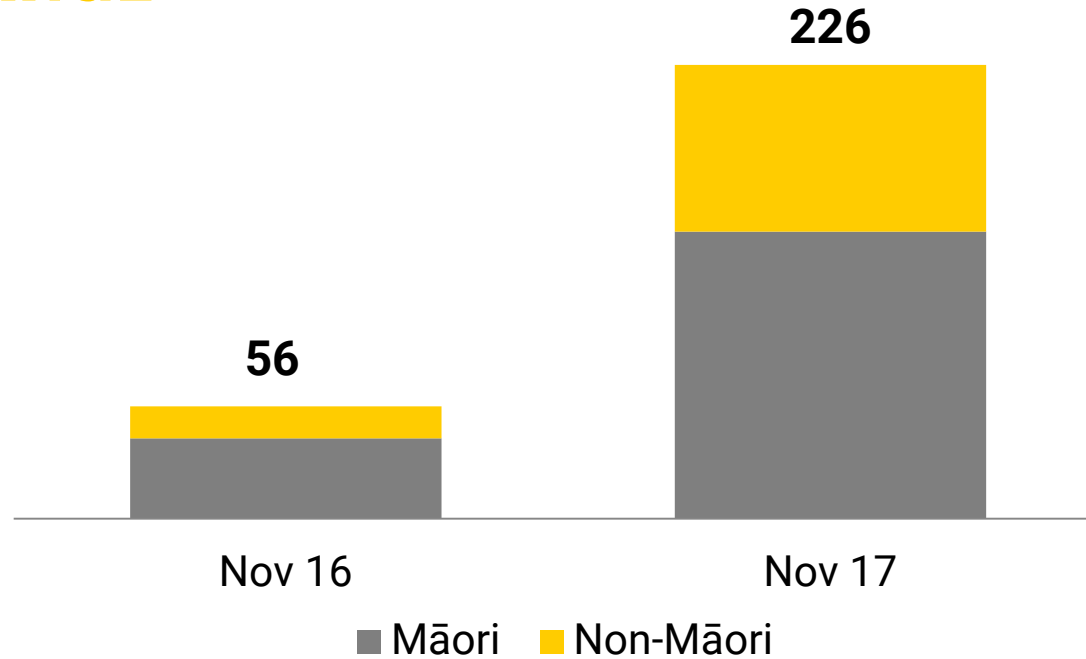


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INCREASE IN NUMBER OF 17 YEAR OLDS AFTER AGE CHANGE



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WHAT SORTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REFERRED TO TCI?

Young people who have a permanency goal of:
Achieving independence

Rather than....

- Living with a parent/guardian/person previously having care of them
- Living with family/whānau
- Living with non-family/whānau



WHAT SORTS OF YOUNG PEOPLE ARE REFERRED TO TCI?

Social workers will refer when....

- Inadequate whānau support/unstable living situation

Social workers will not refer if....

- Strong support network/highly functioning
- Alternative support available within health and disability system



THE NEED FOR TRANSITION SUPPORT



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HISTORICALLY, THE PROVISION OF TRANSITION SUPPORT WAS LIMITED

Ward, T. (2000). **Happy birthday...Goodbye!** *Social Work Now*, 17, 21-27.

Yates, D. (2001). **Sink or swim:** Leaving care in New Zealand. *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, 16, 155-173.



BEING A TEENAGER IS HARD

Moving to adulthood is hard for young people with strong support

It's especially hard for young people who:

- have been in care
- who are recovering from trauma
- who might need somewhere to live
- who might not know how to cook, clean, or pay rent
- **who are doing it all without a network of support**



YOUNG PEOPLE WHO LEAVE CARE OFTEN EXPERIENCE POOR OUTCOMES

- Health
- Education
- Employment
- Offending



THE EAP REPORT HIGHLIGHTED A NEED FOR IMPROVED TRANSITION SUPPORT

Transition support identified as one of five major service areas.

I need the system to...

Set me up with the knowledge, skills and tools to flourish as an independent young adult

Continue to be there for me as I find my way



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EVALUATION DRIVER AND INTENT



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EAP IDENTIFIED EXISTING TCI SERVICES AS EXAMPLES OF “GOOD PRACTICE”

Informing future service design

Formative evaluation designed to understand....

- How the services operate on-the-ground
- Key success factors and challenges
- Experiences of young people, staff and social workers



WHAT WE DID

Intervention Logic Models

Qualitative methodology involving 33 semi-structured interviews with....

- 15 young people (four had left the service)
- 10 TCI staff members
- 6 social workers
- 2 key stakeholders from Oranga Tamariki

Formative evaluation report looking at aggregate findings



EVALUATION FINDINGS



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OVERALL, YOUNG PEOPLE WERE HIGHLY POSITIVE ABOUT THE TCI SERVICE

No [I wouldn't change anything], this programme's pretty fun, eh. To be honest, everyone's really friendly here, easy to talk to.

The truth? [Without the TCI service] I think I'd either be dead or in prison.

I probably wouldn't be alive right now, to be honest, because when I came into [the service] I think that year I was really suicidal.

- comments from young people reflecting on their overall impression of TCI



YOUNG PEOPLE HIGHLY VALUED THE SUPPORT PROVIDED BY THEIR TCI WORKER

Having someone akin to a family member, who is constantly available and who will do their best to help:

I don't have my family...I don't really have anyone to depend on or whatever, but they're constantly there and it's kind of like texting your mum for a ride, because that's kind of what they are.

Support that was unconditional, responsive and caring:

My case worker, she takes care of me like she's supposed to, like legally. But [my TCI worker] was more like a friend. She was actually like a friend to me, or like even more than a friend, like close to family-ish. Let me put it like that.



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CHARACTERISTICS OF QUALITY TCI WORKERS

Being ‘youth-led’; listening to them, being receptive to their needs, and letting them have a say.

Non-judgmental, patient, honest, positive, and chilled-out:

I wanted to work with someone who was honest and everything, because I can judge a person on their personality to see if I could fit with them, and [my TCI worker] was perfect for that.

He’s not so uptight. I’ve met a lot of people that are uptight and [my TCI worker] was one of the first people that I’ve met that’s like real, real chilled.



YOUNG PEOPLE PARTICULARLY VALUED SOME OTHER ASPECTS OF THE TCI SERVICE

- Support with **practical goal setting** and attainment, particularly getting a drivers license.
- Support in **crisis situations**, including when young people have nowhere to live or nothing to eat.
- The **long duration** of the service, and the ability to **disengage and re-engage**.
- The opportunity to engage in **activities with other care experienced young people**.



ASPECTS OF THE REFERRAL PROCESS COULD BE IMPROVED

The Needs Assessment process can be difficult – some young people described this as an interview they had to pass.

I had a CYFs worker who thought I could do an interview with [the TCI worker] so I had to pass it to be able to work with [the TCI service].

Some young people didn't understand what the service was about initially, and social workers could do a better job of explaining it to them.

Well it was a bit scary at first. I wasn't sure what I was going into because it... sounded like I was ...going out of CYFS then going into another thing that was pretty much like CYFS...



YOUNG PEOPLE IDENTIFIED SOME OTHER PARTS OF THE SERVICE THEY WOULD CHANGE OR IMPROVE

- Strengthened focus on **building supportive relationships** with other people, including reconnecting with whānau
- Support **finding youth-focused housing**, including supported accommodation options
- Increased **flexibility around the age of discharge** from the service



CONCLUSION



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OVERALL JUDGMENT

- Overall, feedback highlighted a perception that existing TCI services are generally well-functioning and effective
- Findings from this evaluation suggest that these services have the potential to inform a national transition support model
- Evaluation included several recommendations for service design



NEXT STEPS FOR ORANGA TAMARIKI TRANSITION SUPPORT

Transition support part of the first tranche of change

Legislation changes relating to transition support have been passed:

- remain living with caregiver until 21
- remain in contact until 21
- access transition support to 25

On-going transition service design using a human- centred design approach



CONTACT INFORMATION

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EVALUATION REPORT

**[https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/news/
from-care-to-independance-report/](https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/news/from-care-to-independance-report/)**





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