

EVIDENCE CENTRE
TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

Damian O'Neill (Oranga Tamariki) –
Understanding young people with high
needs transitioning out of care

Research Context

- 600 young people move out of care each year
- Wellbeing outcomes are significantly poorer
- New legislative obligations from July 2019
- New Transition Support Service

Why did we do the research?

- To build a systematic understanding of the transitioning cohort
- Inform design of Transition Support Service
- So young people are better prepared and supported to manage their transition





- *“We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future”*

– Franklin D Roosevelt

What did we do?

- Assessed the level of need across the full current cohort
- Identified that 40% had high or very high needs (around 240pa)
- Undertook a survey of the high and very high needs group

High Needs Survey methodology

- Random selection of 135 high or very high need cases
- Structured interviews with social workers
 - » Relationships and behaviours
 - » Needs and challenges
 - » Service requirements
 - » Service availability in their area
- 30 minute telephone interviews
- 89% response rate

What did we find?



1. Challenging circumstances

- **1 in 5** young women are a parent or caregiver (or expecting to be)
- **1 in 3** -new placement in last 3 months
 - not in regular education, training or employment
- **3 in 5** -have a trusted, positive influence adult in lives
 - exhibit dangerous or risky behaviour weekly

2. Health and Disability related needs



2. Health and Disability (cont)

- **4 in 5** have a mental health need
- Half have a trauma or stressor related disorder
- Nearly a third have an anxiety disorder
- A quarter have a depressive disorder

2. Health and Disability (cont)

- **3 in 5** have a substance abuse issue
 - Half smoke marijuana
 - A third drink alcohol
 - One in 6 use tobacco and/or synthetic cannabis

2. Health and Disability (cont)

- **1 in 2** have a disability
- A quarter have a neurological disability
(FASD, autism, Asperger's)
- One in 5 have an intellectual disability

2. Health and Disability (cont)

- Most have complex, multiple health and disability related needs
- **2 in 3** had more than one need type
 - » stress disorders and substance abuse
 - » disability and anxiety
- **1 in 7** had all three need types

3. Patchy service availability and take-up

- *Of those with a mental health need:*
- **7 in 10** have the mental health services they need available to them
- **4 in 10** are currently accessing these services & addressing their needs

4. Living arrangements going forward

- **3 in 4** require supported living arrangements
 - » 24hr support
 - » Access to on-call support
 - » Regular check-ins
- **1 in 3** expected to stay with or return to a care giver



Next steps

- Research has identified:
 - » high levels of risk to harm to self and others
 - » complex mixes of health and disability related needs
- Informing development of the new Transition Service:
 - » Region by region service mapping & cross agency planning
 - » Scoping Transition Specialists role



Find the report – ‘Transition Needs Survey’

www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/research/latest-research





EVIDENCE CENTRE

TE POKAPŪ TAUNAKITANGA

READ OUR RESEARCH:

Check out the Research web page at
<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/news/category/research>

EMAIL US:

research@ot.govt.nz



ORANGA TAMARIKI
Ministry for Children

