

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

What are the national care standards regulations?

The national care standards regulations set out the standard of care every child and young person in care needs to be well and do well. They also set out what caregivers can expect when they have children or young people in their care.

Why have the care standards been made?

In 2015, an Expert Advisory Panel was established to review the current care and protection system. Children and young people told the Panel about their poor experiences and outcomes while they were in care, and the Panel recommended that national care standards be created, which Cabinet agreed to do. The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 required the Minister for Children to recommend the making of national care standards regulations. The care standards regulations were made on July 2 this year.

For children and young people in care:

The national care standards will help all children and young people in care by telling them what support they are entitled to. The focus of the care standards is making the child's or young person's care experience better. They are just one of the things Oranga Tamariki is working on to make sure children and young people are in safe, stable and loving homes, and are supported to be well and do well.

For caregivers:

The care standards will make it clear what support caregivers can expect to get when they have children in their care. This means making sure caregivers have the right support and information they need.

How the care standards have been developed:

From the start, the care standards were built around what children and young people said they need when they're in care. Caregivers, iwi social services, care providers, and Oranga Tamariki staff were also consulted. Research was also done into care standards in other countries.

Responsibility for meeting the care standards:

The Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki and their delegates will be responsible for meeting the care standards. Organisations who have legal custody of children or young people who are approved under section 396 of the Oranga Tamariki Act will also be responsible for meeting the care standards.