

# Oranga Tamariki Disability Strategy – Oranga Tamariki is safe and proactive

To achieve our vision, Oranga Tamariki and our partners have identified four shifts that must occur.

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## Shift four – Oranga Tamariki is safe and proactive

Tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa are listened to, ensuring Oranga Tamariki is safe and proactive.

We need this shift because currently some tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa (disabled people and their champions) experience stigma, harm and discrimination when seeking help from Oranga Tamariki.

## Ideas we've heard to achieve the shift

From our engagements and feedback, we have also heard some ideas on how to achieve this shift:

- Review the Oranga Tamariki approach to non whānau based service care, or residential care, for tamariki Māori whaikaha (Māori disabled children) and tamariki whaikaha (disabled children).
- Revise and develop current assessments (such as Gateway and “All about Me” plans) so disabled tamariki are identified early and have the supports in place to prevent crisis.
- Assessments need to be collaborative, utilising expertise from across the children’s and disability systems.
- Implement ‘navigators’ for each disabled tamaiti (child) and their whānau to support them to navigate both the children’s and disability systems.
- Provide transparent and accessible information to tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa about all children’s and disability supports, services, funding, entitlement, and rights across the systems.
- Ensure tāngata whaikaha me o ratou toa are connected to their communities before crisis occurs. For tamariki whaikaha Māori, this means searching for and connecting to whānau, hapu and iwi early.
- Provide respite care options that meet the needs of tamariki (children), rangatahi (young people) whaikaha and their whānau and caregivers.
- When safe, ensure parents and family are included in the life of disabled tamariki.
- Develop opportunities for partnership between providers, iwi, and hapu for shared understanding of disability.
- Identify, understand, support and resource the needs of disabled tamariki including disability training for whānau and parents.
- Recruit caregivers who have experience in disability.

