

Circles of Support (pilot) – Service description summary

Note: this summary document is an overview, and does not replace the detail provided in the supporting procurement documentation.

Key concepts

Circles of Support: definition	Rangatahi whaikaha: definition	Theory of Change
A Circle of Support is an intentionally created network of trusted, freely given and reciprocal relationships around and with rangatahi whaikaha who might otherwise only have paid supporters in their lives.	For this pilot, rangatahi whaikaha are those with disability and/or communication impairment who currently have only paid supporters in their life, and are eligible for Transition Support Services. This includes rangatahi whaikaha Māori for whom connection back into whānau, hapū and iwi has not yet been effectively supported. Rangatahi whaikaha is an inclusive term, intended to refer to disabled youth, tāngata whaikaha Māori and tagata sa'ilimalo.	When supported by skilled and sustained facilitation, Circles of Support can broaden informal networks, increase opportunities for community participation, and strengthen choice and supported decision-making. This occurs as trusted people develop a better understanding of the interests, communication and preferences of rangatahi, and help create opportunities for participation and reciprocal relationships. The pilot will test if and how these relationships become self-sustaining and lead to stronger safeguarding, reduced reliance on only paid relationships, and safer transitions.

Service structure

PURPOSE / SERVICE NEED	COHORT	SERVICE	OUTCOMES (PHASED)
The purpose of a Circle of Support is to provide enduring connection, advocacy, safeguarding and support to rangatahi whaikaha, through the continuity of mutually beneficial freely given relationships.	Ten rangatahi whaikaha in the Tāmaki Makaurau region who are transitioning from Oranga Tamariki care or custody and are eligible for Transition Support Services, and who have limited or no freely given relationships outside of paid support networks. To be identified by the local Regional Disability Advisors and Social Workers.	Specialist facilitators build trusted relationships with participating rangatahi whaikaha and, based on their strengths and interests, identify and develop one or two new (or re-established) freely given, reciprocal relationships that will establish the foundations for a Circle of Support. Facilitators also work alongside Oranga Tamariki staff and other relevant stakeholders; participate in a Community of Practice; and provide progress reporting, insights and contributions to the pilot’s evaluation. See the sample position description*, indicative only.	Outcomes for rangatahi whaikaha will build over time. See the outcomes identified in the Intervention Logic Model*, which groups these into two phases: - Initial: the changes we expect for rangatahi within the first 6–9 months. - Intermediate: the changes that should occur for rangatahi once early effects build over 12–24 months.

* Documents provided within the Invitation to Participate pack

Statutory and regulatory context

- This service is a Disability Programme pilot within Transition Support Services.
- Transition to adulthood purposes and principles relate to sections 386AAB–C of the [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989](#).
- Transition to adulthood eligibility criteria for rangatahi are listed here: [Transition to adulthood — Preparation, assessment and planning | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#), and can be confirmed by the Transitions Helpline at transitionsupport@ot.govt.nz and 0800 55 89 89.
- Providers need to be an Oranga Tamariki accredited provider and to gain [Social Services Accreditation](#) Level 2, as managed by [Te Kāhui Kāhu](#).