
KEI MUA I TE AROARO O TE RŌPŪ WHAKAMANA
I TE TIRITI O WAITANGI

BEFORE THE WAITANGI TRIBUNAL

WAI 2750

IN THE MATTER OF the Treaty of Waitangi Act 1975

AND

IN THE MATTER OF Kaupapa inquiry into claims concerning
Housing Policy and Services

EVIDENTIAL FACT SHEET
TRANSITION SUPPORT SERVICE
(ORANGA TAMARIKI – MINISTRY FOR CHILDREN)
30 Whiringa-ā-rangi | November 2021

CROWN LAW

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Waitangi Tribunal

30 Nov 2021

Ministry of Justice
WELLINGTON

1.	Basic information	<p>Title of policy / programme: Transition Support Service for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care</p> <p>Year introduced: 2019</p> <p>Still current?: Yes</p> <p>Administering agency(ies):</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) through a partnered model with community-based NGOs including iwi and Māori organisations.</p> <p>High level summary of policy/programme:</p> <p>The TSS is provided in partnership with providers and offers young people leaving care:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing contact up to the age of 21 • The ability to remain living with, or return to live with, a caregiver, until they are 21 • Advice and assistance until they are 25. <p>The service seeks to help young people to maintain and build relationships, networks and knowledge to support their decision making, plan for their future and achieve their goals.</p> <p>At 30 June 2021 (being the second year of service delivery with service being rolled out over four year), there were 63 TSS partners and more than 120 transition workers. The TSS partners are a range of NGO and iwi organisations located throughout the country and so far 1,251 young people have been referred to a TSS partner (53% of the eligible cohort).¹ There has been an increase in referral rates from the first year to the second year and increases are expected to continue as the service is further established.</p> <p>In considering the statistics it is important to remember that this service is voluntary and so, for rangatahi that are not referred, the Transition Helpline at the National Contact Centre maintains contact and continues to offer support.</p>
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¹ [Transitions Support Service synthesis report | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

		<p>The Transition Support Service (TSS) was established following amendments to the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (the Act) in 2019. The legal framework for the TSS is set out in sections 386AAA to 386C of the Act.² The Chief Executive has the following obligations under these sections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Must provide, or arrange for the provision of support, by way of advice and non-financial assistance. This can include the requirement of the Chief Executive to maintain a relationship with the rangatahi through regular contact with a transition support worker (s386A). 2. May provide advice and financial assistance that the young person will need to achieve independence. This can include assistance to obtain accommodation, enrol in education or training, or obtain employment (s386B). 3. Must provide the entitlement to remain or return to live with a caregiver for eligible rangatahi and their caregivers who choose to opt in this service (s386AAD). <p>Overlapping/Related policies/programmes: The cross-government Homelessness Action Plan: Supported accommodation for young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care is being expanded as one of 18 immediate actions in the Homelessness Action Plan. In 2019, \$17.5 million was provided to expand the supported accommodation initiative through the Homelessness Action Plan contingency fund (this funding being in addition to base funding for TSS, discussed at section 2 below).</p>
2.	Description of Policy / Programme	<p>The Transitions Service:</p> <p>As above, the TSS was established following the amendments to the Oranga Tamariki Act (1989) to support young people to transition from care or youth justice to independence.</p> <p>Legislative obligations</p> <p>The legislative provisions came into effect from 1 July 2019 and required Oranga Tamariki to provide a significantly strengthened level of transition support (s 386AAA – s 386C). This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a new entitlement for young people who have been in care to be supported to live with a caregiver from age 18 to 21 • a new duty to take reasonable steps to maintain contact with young people up to age 21 when they have been in care or custody • an extension of the current duties around the provision of advice and assistance to young people who have been in care or custody up to the age of 25.

² Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 legislation [Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 No 24 \(as at 05 October 2021\), Public Act Contents – New Zealand Legislation](#)

		<p>Under this legislation, the TSS also does the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • have regard for mana tamaiti (tamariki), whakapapa and whanaungatanga and ensure these principles are embedded in policies, practices and services (as per section 7AA and the principles in s 386AAC)) • have regard for young people’s views and take these into account in the services and policy (s 7(2)(c)) • contribute to meeting requirements in the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations 2018 around preparing young people for their transition. <p>Funding</p> <p>Budget 19 provided \$153.7 million over four years for Oranga Tamariki to build and refine the TSS. This included the provision of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • new specialist transition support staff • 60 supported accommodation places to expand the supported accommodation pilot programme³ • support arrangements for young people to continue to live with their caregiver • the provision of advice and assistance to individual young people. <p>Eligibility</p> <p>To be eligible for the TSS, young people will have been in one or more of the following, for a continuous period of at least three months after the age of 14 years and 9 months:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • a care and protection placement; • a residential youth justice placement (including remand) or Police custody; or • on remand or a custodial sentence in the adult justice system before turning 18. <p>Additional</p> <p>The financial assistance component of the TSS is discretionary and can also include temporary supported accommodation placements for some young people. The discretion of the Chief Executive to provide financial assistance is set out in section 386B (1)(b) of the Act.⁴</p>
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³ An additional \$17.5 million secured in contingency funding from HUD, through the Homelessness Action Plan provides for a further 168 placements over four years increasing the total number of placements to 228 by 2023.

⁴ Operational guidance on how the discretion is applied is set out here: [Transition to adulthood — Advice and assistance | Practice Centre | Oranga Tamariki](#)

3.	Outline of the process to develop this Policy / Programme	<p>2015 – Expert Panel Report</p> <p>An Expert Panel undertook a comprehensive review of Child, Youth and Family 2015.</p> <p>The Expert Panel released an interim and final report (Expert Panel Report) which identified that young people leaving care are very vulnerable and known to experience poor long-term outcomes.⁵ The Expert Panel also found that the care, protection and youth justice systems did not sufficiently meet the needs of children and young people, and that a bold overhaul of the system was required.</p> <p>The Expert Panel Report was informed by engagement with iwi and Māori groups such as the Iwi Chairs Forum, children, young people, whānau, caregivers and social service providers,⁶ including Ngāti Kahu Social Services, Te Waka Whānau, the Māori Women's Welfare League and Turuki Health.</p> <p>With regards to proposed support options for young people leaving care, the Expert Panel also drew on several international examples of transition support including Youth Villages, a US-run programme for care leavers. These examples highlighted intensive individualised and clinically focused case management, support, and counselling as good approaches for supporting young people transitioning from care. This formed the starting point of the Oranga Tamariki approach to developing its own Transitions Service.</p> <p>2016 and 2017 – Legislative Reform</p> <p>Initial legislative changes in 2016 provided for some support to a smaller cohort of young people (aged 15-20 years).⁷ This enabled discretionary support to be provided to eligible young people and was less prescriptive than the subsequent legislative reforms made later in 2016 and 2017. These new statutory requirements to support young people aging out of the care system or a youth justice residence were phased through two legislative amendment bills to the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Advocacy, Workforce, and Age Settings) Amendment Act. This was passed in December 2016 and came into force on 1 April 2017. Key changes included extending the jurisdiction of the care and protection system to include 17-year-olds, and enabled shifts in practice so social workers could better prepare young people who were leaving care. • Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Act
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⁵ Established by Hon Anne Tolley, Minister of Social Development. On the Panel were Paula Rebstock (Chair), Mike Bush, Peter Douglas, Duncan Dunlop, Helen Leahy, Professor Richie Poulton.

⁶ Details of the Expert Advisory Panel and Reports have been the subject of evidence in the WAI 2915 urgent inquiry. For more information, see Second Affidavit of Hoani Jeremy Lambert dated 25 March 2020, prepared for the Urgent Inquiry into Oranga Tamariki (WAI 2915, ref #A20).

⁷ These legislative changes were first incorporated into the Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989 (now known as the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989) by section 36 of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families (Vulnerable Children) Amendment Act 2014 (2014 No 41). This inserted a new provision in the Act (s [386A, Advice and Assistance for people moving from care to independence](#))

		<p>This was passed in July 2017 and came into force on 1 July 2019. This introduced a number of changes to the Oranga Tamariki Act, including more specific obligations on Oranga Tamariki to provide support to eligible care leavers up to 21 years, and discretionary support up to 25 years. These changes laid the foundation for the establishment of the Transitions Service.</p> <p>From 2009 – 2016 (prior to the commencement of work to establish Oranga Tamariki) the system response was limited and left young people leaving care at significant risk of poor wellbeing outcomes compared to other young people their age. Young people had little say in the process of leaving care and were inconsistently supported through that process, including having to navigate a range of universal services without additional support. Young people who had left care and required support would have relied on other government services, such as Housing New Zealand Corporation (as it then was), or the Ministry of Social Development Youth Service and/or Whānau Ora services.</p> <p>In addition, prior to 2017, most young people in the care system were ‘aged out’ of the care system at 17 years, creating a gap in terms of what supports could be provided to them. Once out of care or custody, the young person was often left unsupported, finding it difficult to know who and where to go to for advice. Accordingly, young people felt they had no choice and moved into unsafe living situations, became homeless or compromised their health, education and/or employment.</p> <p>In March 2016 Cabinet agreed to amend the Oranga Tamariki Act (1989) to provide a range of transition supports for young people who were aging out of care⁸, as a component of a new operating model for Oranga Tamariki. These reforms came into effect on 1 July 2019, as above.</p> <p>2018 – Supported accommodation pilot programme (previously referred to as Supported Living Pilots)</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki established pilots with social service providers to test and refine the design of its TSS (and more specifically its supported accommodation programme) in 2018. The objectives of the pilots were:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • to test whether supported accommodation is an effective option for providing transitional accommodation and the development of living skills for young people leaving care • to understand the key aspects of what works and what doesn’t work in practice to inform the approach to scaling supported accommodation options for young people leaving care. <p>Following an evaluation of the pilots in early 2018, the findings of this study were used to inform Budget 2019 proposals as part of the establishment of the broader TSS.⁹</p>
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⁸ The statutory care and protection system covers children and young people up to the age of 18 years. If a young person is still in the custody of the chief executive of Oranga Tamariki by their 18th birthday or chooses to exit the system after being in care for 3 continuous months at any time from their 15th birthday, they are considered to be ‘aging out’ of the care and protection system and are entitled to transition support assistance through Oranga Tamariki.

⁹ The first evaluation ‘Qualitative process evaluation for the Supported Living Demonstration’ (ORT.002.0001) was completed in March 2018. Further information on the evaluations is outlined in section 7 of this Fact Sheet.

		<p>2018 - Cabinet Paper - Transforming our Response to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm: Transition Support</p> <p>In October 2018, Oranga Tamariki tabled a suite of six Cabinet papers which included detailed information on core components of the Oranga Tamariki operating model and areas of investment intended for Budget 2019. Paper Six: Transition Support (ORT.001.0102), sought agreement to key aspects of the transition support function of the Oranga Tamariki operating model, including the TSS (which had mostly been co-designed at that point by Oranga Tamariki with input from young people, iwi and Māori organisations¹⁰) and noted that funding would be required for it to operate from 1 July 2019.¹¹</p> <p>2019 - Establishment of the Oranga Tamariki Transitions Support Service</p> <p>The legislative provisions came into effect from 1 July 2019 and required Oranga Tamariki to provide a significantly strengthened level of transition support (s 386AAA – s 386C), as above.</p>
4.	<p>Aims or Objectives of the Policy / Programme</p>	<p>The TSS seeks the following outcomes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved outcomes for rangatahi Māori who are transitioning to adulthood • more young people have safe and stable living arrangements • more young people have the life skills they need to thrive as adults • more young people are healthy and recovering from trauma • more young people have a trusted adult in their lives and are engaged with family/whānau, cultural and community groups • more young people are in education, training, employment or volunteering. <p>The TSS (and supported accommodation as part of that) provides:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • opportunities to address youth homelessness by supporting young people at risk of homelessness (noting there is a correlation between young people leaving state care and homelessness, resulting from the impacts of childhood trauma and unmet high and complex needs); • opportunities to strengthen partnerships with iwi and Māori (more generally) and encourage communities to take an active interest in supporting young people transitioning out of state care; • opportunities to identify where there might be gaps in a young person’s connection to their culture and community, ensuring that steps are taken to address this where possible. <p>Oranga Tamariki also has legislative obligations to improve outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori through section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, which are also relevant to the TSS. These include:</p>

¹⁰ Also included consultation with 82 young people, 77 caregivers, 236 Oranga Tamariki staff, 146 practitioners across the sector, 20 providers and surveying 470 additional caregivers.

¹¹ [Transition-Support-Minutes-operating-model.pdf \(orangatamariki.govt.nz\)](#)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • rangatahi Māori are engaged with iwi and Māori service providers • to support, strengthen and assist rangatahi Māori, and their whānau to prepare for return home or transition into the community • to support young people to establish, maintain, or strengthen cultural identity and connections to whānau, hapū and iwi • to reduce disparities in outcomes and experiences for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau • to partner with iwi and Māori organisations to improve outcomes for Māori. <p>Rangatahi Māori make up 65 percent of young people who are eligible for transition support through Oranga Tamariki.¹²</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki also provides assistance and advice to support independent living and/or navigating an emergency.</p> <p>This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing advice to eligible young people: young people are able to contact their transition worker, contact their local site or call a dedicated team within the National Contact Centre (NCC) and receive advice and assistance based on their needs. Oranga Tamariki (and its contracted providers) are required to have the capability to give effect to Oranga Tamariki’s Treaty obligations under section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act. • Providing financial assistance in an emergency or crisis: Oranga Tamariki can provide immediate assistance to eligible young people when all other options have been exhausted, including any of their tamariki, in an emergency or crisis. The assistance Oranga Tamariki can provide includes, but is not limited to, food and transport. Support for emergency accommodation (short-term motel use), and some financial support is also available if the young person has exhausted all other universal entitlements first. • Providing financial assistance to support young people to find and maintain suitable accommodation: this includes assistance with bond payments, rent arrears or living expenses.
5.	<p>Outline of steps taken to implement the Policy / Programme</p>	<p>The legislative mechanisms which supported the implementation of the TSS is articulated above.</p> <p>Design of the Transition Support Service</p> <p>The Transition Support Service was designed with rangatahi and the community, with over 1,000 people across the country contributing their perspectives on what works, the challenges and what is needed to give rangatahi leaving care or youth justice a good start to their adult lives.</p> <p>Funding for the Transition Support Service</p> <p>The TSS received \$153.7 million over four years through Budget 2019.</p>

¹² Refer section 2 above re eligibility.

The main accommodation options under TSS provided for young people transitioning out of care are ETRR (see below) and Supported Accommodation.

Funding for the Supported Accommodation Initiative

The Supported Accommodation initiative was allocated \$29.6 million over six years as part of Budget 2019.

Through the Homelessness Action Plan, \$17.5 million was secured in contingency funding from HUD to provide for 168 additional Supported Accommodation placements over four years, increasing the total number of placements up to 228 by 2023, however this funding is time limited.¹³

The table below outlines the funding for Supported Accommodation placements over a six-year period:

	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	Funding received for placements
Budget 19 placements	30	30	60	60	135	200	\$29,682,110
HUD contingency funding placements	33.75	96.75	118.5	168			\$17,513,963
Total placements funded for	63.75	126.75	178.5	228	135	200	\$47,196,073

Improvement to Entitlement to Remain or Return placements (ETRR)

Entitlement to Remain with or Return to (ETRR) a caregiver is the main type of accommodation support funded as part of the Transition Service. Young people who have been in care are eligible to remain with or return to living with a caregiver from the age of 18, until they turn 21. The arrangement must be mutually agreed to by the caregiver and young person. This means that young people leaving care have additional support options to help them transition more successfully to adulthood.

The uptake of the ETRR is lower than anticipated (with initial modelling estimating 25% uptake), although is slowly increasing. There have been 54 ETRR placements in the 12 months to September 2021. There is a programme of work underway to ensure more eligible young people¹⁴ are aware of their entitlement, and caregivers are aware they can be supported to maintain this relationship for longer.

¹³ As at September 2021, Partnering for Outcomes (PFO), on behalf of TSS, have delivered 117 placements.

¹⁴ There are approximately 940 eligible young people as at September 2021.

6.	<p>Outline of monitoring and evaluation built in to Policy / Programme</p>	<p>Monitoring</p> <p>The Partnering for Outcomes (PFO) business area in Oranga Tamariki is responsible for the monitoring of Oranga Tamariki service providers by reporting on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki is required to report publicly each year on measures it takes to improve outcomes for Māori under section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. The first report was released in July 2020 and is publicly available on the Oranga Tamariki website.¹⁵</p> <p>Evaluation</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki publishes annual surveys of young people eligible for support from a transition worker. The second annual survey - <i>Just Sayin' 2021</i> - ran from June to August 2021. The survey included young people aged 16 to 20 who were eligible for support from a transition worker.</p> <p>Just Sayin' survey findings are also included in a series of theme reports and fact sheets including reports about young people leaving Youth Justice residences, the transition needs of rangatahi Māori and young Pacific, young parents, and young people with complex needs.¹⁶</p> <p>The 2018 Transition Cohort Needs Survey¹⁷ undertaken by the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre surveyed social workers and case managers about the transition needs of 15-17 year olds currently in care who were eligible for the transition service support, and the level of services currently available to them. In stage one of the two step survey around 950 rangatahi cases were reviewed and 40 percent of the cohort were identified by the social workers as having 'high needs' or 'very high needs'.</p> <p>Stage two of the survey explored the needs and services available for the high needs and very high needs groups specifically and found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A third (31 %) of the transitioning population in care were identified as having high/very high needs AND had (or were suspected to have) mental health needs. Trauma/stress conditions, followed by anxiety and depression were most common. • A quarter (26 %) of the transitioning cohort were identified as having high / very high needs AND are identified as exhibiting behaviour which puts themselves or others at risk of harm. The most common types of risky behaviours identified were impulsive behaviour/lack of control, verbal violence/aggression, absconding and associating with dangerous people. • One in five (22 %) of the transitioning cohort were identified as having high / very high needs AND having, or were suspected to have, a substance abuse problem.
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¹⁵ [\(Section 7AA Report | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children\)](#).

¹⁶ *Just Sayin' 2021* is currently being reviewed for publication. The first Just Sayin' survey (from 2020) can be found here: <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Aboutus/Research/Latest-research/Just-Sayin-Survey-of-rangatahi-eligible-for-a-Transition-Worker/Just-Sayin-Survey-of-rangatahi-eligible-for-a-Transition-Worker.pdf>

¹⁷ Details of the survey can be found on the Oranga Tamariki website [Transition-Cohort-Needs-Assessment-Stage-2-Survey-Results.pdf \(orangatamariki.govt.nz\)](#)

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One in five (19 %) of the transitioning cohort were identified as having high / very high needs AND were identified as either having, or were suspected to have, a disability. Most commonly these were neurological (e.g. FASD Autism) and intellectual disabilities. • Comorbidity across the broad health-related need categories was common. A quarter (25 %) of the transitioning cohort were identified as having high /very high needs in more than one category (mental health, disability and substance abuse). • Nearly one in three (30 %) of the transitioning cohort were identified as having high / very high needs AND needing some form of supported living arrangements going forward: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One in five (20 %) would require either on-call support (8 %) or regular (weekly or daily) check-ins (12%) ○ One in ten (10 %) would require 24-hour support (either one to one, or group supervised living). <p>Other evaluative activities include ‘deep dives’ into a range of service elements and rangatahi areas of need. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Qualitative process evaluation of the Supported Living Demonstration. Malatest International (April 2020). ○ Evaluation of the Supported Living extension pilots. Malatest International (April 2020 – finalised June 2020). ○ Formative evaluation of Entitlement to Remain or Return ○ Qualitative exploration of the needs of young people transitioning from Youth Justice residences. ○ Qualitative exploration of the needs of rangatahi Māori and Pacific young people transitioning from Oranga Tamariki care. <p><i>Independent evaluation</i></p> <p>Oranga Tamariki have commissioned independent evaluations of its supported accommodation initiative. The first evaluation ‘Qualitative process evaluation for the Supported Living Demonstration’ (ORT.002.0001) was completed in March 2018. A second evaluation ‘Evaluation of Supported Living Extension Pilots’ (ORT.002.0063) was completed in April 2020 which examines the partner and participants of one high cost/high needs pilot programme with six Supported Accommodation placements.</p>
7.	Availability of quantitative or qualitative data to demonstrate success or failures of the Policy / Programme	<p>The TSS is currently in its third year of operation and still developing.</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki undertakes surveys of the transitioning cohort and qualitative research with rangatahi and providers.</p> <p>The 2021 <i>Just Sayin’</i> survey¹⁸ found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of those rangatahi who had lived with a caregiver (a main criteria to be eligible for ETRR), 46% recalled being told about ETRR.

¹⁸ *Just Sayin’ 2021* is currently being reviewed for publication. The first Just Jayin’ survey (from 2020) can be found here: [Just-Sayin-Survey-of-rangatahi-eligible-for-a-Transition-Worker.pdf \(orangatamariki.govt.nz\)](https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/just-sayin-survey-of-rangatahi-eligible-for-a-transition-worker)

<p>to achieve its stated aims</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Two-thirds of young people in the transition cohort who were eligible for a transition support worker had positive feedback about their experience with their social worker and Oranga Tamariki. • Not all young people reported they had been involved in planning what will happen when they leave care – including exploring their housing/accommodation options and preferences; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Yes, someone talked with me and worked out a plan for when I leave/left care – in care (49%, left care: 62%) ○ Have/had a copy of their plan (in care: 30%, left care: 42%). ○ Conversations about where young people would live were recalled by 32% of those still in Oranga Tamariki care and 45% of those who had left care. ○ Less than half (of all in unstable accommodation and cohort overall) had talked to the transition worker or someone from OT about other places to live or ETRR options. • Four-fifths (81%) of young people supported by a transition worker said they made things better for the young person. Approximately the same proportion provided positive ratings about their transition worker: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Understanding what kinds of support I need (81%) ○ Being there when I need them (80%) ○ Doing what they say they would do (most or all of the time) (81%) • One-half (52%) of rangatahi Māori who had a transition worker were being supported by a Māori organisation and/or a Māori transition worker. Two-fifths (41%) of Pacific young people with a transition worker were being supported by a Pacific organisation and/or a Pacific transition worker. • Young people are in a range of living arrangements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Most young people (87 %) said they lived in only one place. The most common <i>place</i> young people lived was in a family home (43 %). Rangatahi were most likely to <i>live with</i> their whakapapa whānau (44 %). A higher proportion of rangatahi Māori lived with whakapapa whānau than other ethnic groups. ○ 19 % were living with a partner or at a friend’s home. 16% paid rent and 13% lived in a foster home. ○ 28 % of young people who had left care were living in the same place as before they left care. ○ While a substantial proportion of young people may have safe and stable living arrangements with whānau or foster families, nearly one-in-ten young people (9%) were living in unstable accommodation (e.g. living rough, couch surfing) and many of this group did not feel safe, warm or that they belonged. <p>Oranga Tamariki is investigating options for strengthening preparation, planning and assessment prior to leaving care. This includes looking at ways for partners to play a greater role in supporting this work.</p> <p>In November 2021, Oranga Tamariki published a synthesis report, which is an evaluation of the Transitions Support Service.¹⁹</p>
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¹⁹ [Transitions Support Service synthesis report | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

	<p>This synthesis report has been informed by a range of studies, including preliminary findings from the second annual survey of rangatahi eligible for a transition worker, <i>Just Sayin' 2</i>, which Oranga Tamariki expects to publish later in 2021. The synthesis report found that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The new service had been successfully established. • Pre-transition planning was not yet consistent, with variations in practice noted. It seems that transition planning works best in regions with a dedicated Oranga Tamariki transition resource. • The support offered by transition workers matched the needs of rangatahi. This support includes help with life skills and becoming independent, obtaining ID documents, goal setting and help with work, education and training. • Forty percent of rangatahi Māori said they were supported by a Māori TSS partner, and a further 23 percent said they would like to be. Learning from kaupapa Māori partners has been welcomed by all involved. • Although it is early days, there are promising indications that transition support has improved outcomes for young people leaving care. The vast majority of young people involved said they trusted their TSS worker, and that their TSS worker understood their needs. <p>During year three, the size of the eligible cohort will increase. Further development of the service will be informed by the voices of young people with care experience and from ongoing research.</p> <p>Data about accommodation availability</p> <p>Supported Accommodation capacity is provided through a range of Supported Accommodation partners. Capacity has increased from 47 at the end of June 2020 to 117 at the end of September 2021, however, demand exceeds the places available.</p> <p>Housing shortages for young people have been raised in every evaluation as a major challenge for young people transitioning from care. Young people leaving Youth Justice residences were often linked with a Supported Accommodation partner but demand exceeds supply and some were disconnected from whānau and had nowhere to go.</p> <p>Young people who have been in statutory care or youth justice are among New Zealand's most vulnerable people. Young people aging out of state care or a youth justice residence face significant challenges in accessing the necessary supports they need to successfully transition to adulthood. One of the key contributors for this appears to be an insufficient supply of suitable housing options for these vulnerable young people by the housing sector, and a lack of appropriate support available to navigate available services.</p>
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