



Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee

Minute of Decision


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Independent Children's Monitor's Report on Compliance with the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations 2018: Key Findings

Portfolio Social Development and Employment / Children

On 19 February 2025, the Cabinet Social Outcomes Committee:

- 1 **noted** that this is the fourth year that the Independent Children's Monitor (the Monitor) has been monitoring compliance with the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations 2018 (the Regulations), and that there has been limited progress with compliance against the regulations;
- 2 **noted** the Monitor's report highlighted the following concerns (outlined in more detail in Appendix 1, attached to the submission under SOU-25-SUB-0006), including that:
 - 2.1 one third of children and young people were not being visited frequently by a social worker, which has not improved over the last four years;
 - 2.2 government agencies were not consistently providing services to children and young people in care;
 - 2.3 financial assistance continues to be a barrier for caregivers;
 - 2.4 the number of children and young people experiencing abuse or neglect while in care has increased since previous reports, reaching 507 children and young people for the 2023/24 year (8.8 percent of all children and young people in care); and
 - 2.5 children and young people reported a mix of positive and negative experiences relating to their involvement in transition planning and transitioning into independence;
- 3 **noted** the key findings from the Monitor's latest report on compliance with the Regulations, as outlined in paragraphs 13 to 15 of the paper under SOU-25-SUB-0006, and Appendix 1;
- 4 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]
- 5 s 9(2)(f)(iv) [Redacted]

- 6 **noted** that the Monitor intends to publish their report titled “Experiences of Care in Aotearoa” on 26 February 2025, and the Minister for Children must present a copy of the final report to the House of Representatives as soon as practicable;
- 7 **noted** that the Monitor has discussed the key findings of the report with Oranga Tamariki, and the Ministries of Health and Education, and each agency will provide a response to the Monitor;
- 8 **noted** there are several Government actions already underway to address concerns in the children’s system, such as: investing in Frontline Technology System Upgrades for Oranga Tamariki social workers, performance reporting by Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive, and legislation both to improve the safety of residences and to improve oversight of the children’s system;
- 9 **s 9(2)(f)(iv)** 
- 10 **noted** that Oranga Tamariki will respond to the Monitor’s report as required under section 30 of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022.

Sam Moffett
Committee Secretary

Present:

- Rt Hon Christopher Luxon
- Hon David Seymour
- Hon Nicola Willis
- Hon Simeon Brown
- Hon Erica Stanford
- Hon Paul Goldsmith
- Hon Louise Upston (Chair)
- Hon Tama Potaka
- Hon Matt Doocey
- Hon Nicole McKee
- Hon Shane Jones
- Hon Casey Costello
- Hon Andrew Bayly
- Hon Karen Chhour
- Hon Nicola Grigg

Officials present from:

- Office of the Prime Minister
- Office of the Chair
- Office of Hon Nicole McKee
- Office of Hon Karen Chhour
- Officials Committee for SOU
- Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children