



# COVERSHEET

<b>Minister</b>	Hon Tracey Martin	<b>Portfolio</b>	Children
<b>Name of package</b>	Transforming our Response to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm: Paper Six: Transition Support	<b>Date of issue</b>	02 August 2019

<b>List of documents that have been proactively released</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Author</b>
5 November 2018	Transforming our Response to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm: Paper Six: Transition Support	Office of the Minister for Children
31 October 2018	SWC-18-MIN-0153 – Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee Minute	SWC Committee Secretary

<b>Information withheld</b>	
<p>Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest in making the information available has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.</p>	
<b>Section of the Act</b>	<b>Reason for withholding</b>
Section 9(2)(g)(i)	The release may undermine the future ability of Ministers to provide free and frank advice on Budget expenditure options. The importance of this process means it is not outweighed by the public interest in transparency.

Office of the Minister for Children

Chair, Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## TRANSFORMING OUR RESPONSE TO CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF HARM

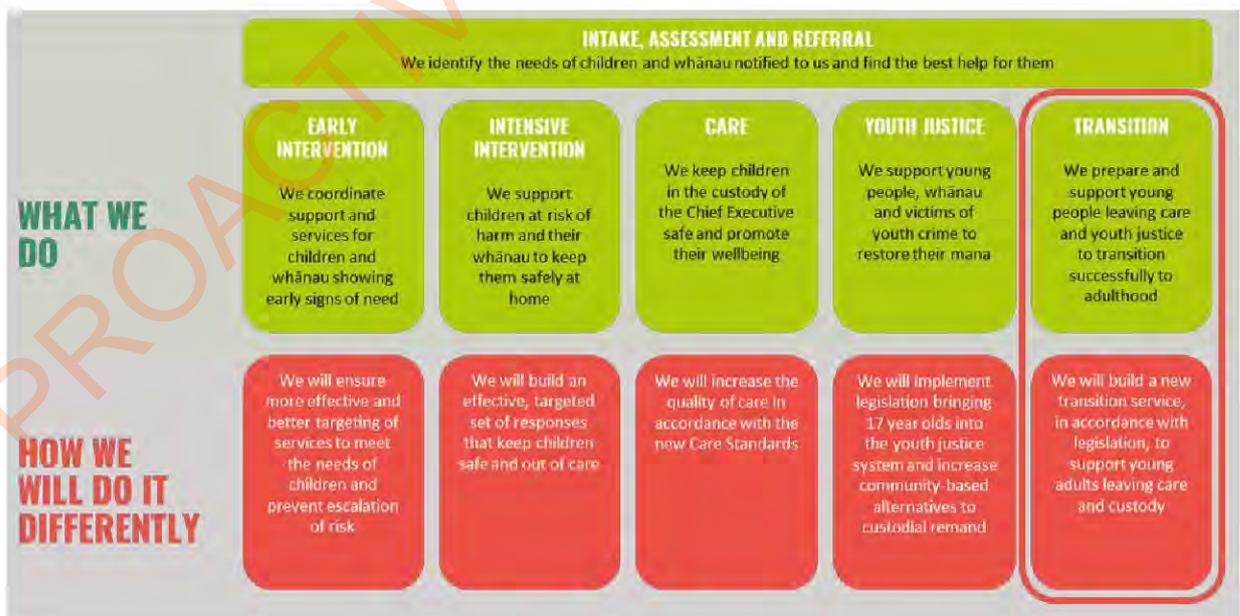
### PAPER SIX: TRANSITION SUPPORT

#### Proposal

- 1 This paper outlines my proposed approach for establishing a transition support service for young people moving out of care or a youth justice residence into adulthood. I am seeking agreement to policy proposals that will enable Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) to meet its legislative obligations in relation to these young people from 1 July 2019.
- 2 Subject to Cabinet agreement, this approach will form the basis of a Budget 2019 initiative.

#### Executive summary

- 3 A transition support service needs to be established by 1 July 2019 to meet legislative requirements to assist some young people who have been in care or a youth justice residence to move into adulthood and independent living. Transition support is one of the core functions of the Oranga Tamariki operating model.



- 4 Young people who have been in statutory care or a youth justice residence are among those who have the highest needs and require the most support in New Zealand. The current system does not adequately provide for the range or intensity of supports many of these young people need as they transition into adulthood. Evidence shows that providing early

transition support to this at-risk cohort will help to improve their stability and long-term wellbeing outcomes.

- 5 The transition support service will be underpinned by a graduated service model which supports young people through their transition, starting while they are still in care or a youth justice residence, through to age 25. Drawing on what young people have said they need, the legislative requirements, and the evidence base, I propose that this service should:
  - 5.1 be underpinned by a **relationship-based model**, with a focus on building a relationship with the young person and supporting them to build positive relationships with their family, whānau and other trusted adults
  - 5.2 start **preparation and planning** as early as possible
  - 5.3 provide for **after-hours crisis support**
  - 5.4 be able to **respond to reasonable requests for financial assistance**, with a focus on maximising existing entitlements
  - 5.5 be able to provide or facilitate a **range of housing supports** for young people.
- 6 A whole-of-system approach is needed to provide for wider access to services for these young people. This means families, family groups, whānau, hapū, iwi, and communities need to be involved, as well as key government agencies.
- 7 I am seeking agreement to investment in a relationship-based transition support service that prioritises spending early on, and provides a strong level of support throughout young people's transitions. This approach strikes the best balance between achieving the outcomes we want to achieve for these young people as they move into adulthood, and being manageable for Oranga Tamariki to implement by 1 July 2019.
- 8 Subject to Cabinet agreement, this approach will be further refined and will inform the basis of a Budget 2019 initiative. Once we have made a decision about this policy approach, the scaling and phasing choices for the delivery of the service will be worked through as part of the standard Budget process. I intend for the service to be scaled up as Oranga Tamariki builds its capacity and capability (and that of its partners), and as young people age into the service over time.
- 9 Initial work will be needed ahead of 1 July 2019 to establish the transition support service and enable Oranga Tamariki to meet its legislative obligations. I intend to report back to Cabinet later this year seeking a pre-commitment for funding to resource this work.

## Background

- 10 Improving the wellbeing of children and young people is a priority for this Government. We want New Zealand to be the best place in the world to be a child or young person. A critical part of achieving this is helping those young people who have been in care or a youth justice residence to move successfully into adulthood and independent living.
- 11 In March 2016, Cabinet agreed that a transition support service for these young people will be a core component of the new operating model for Oranga Tamariki [SOC-16-MIN-0023]. The service will need to meet new and amended legislative provisions in the Oranga

Tamariki Act 1989 (the Act) relating to transition support. These provisions come into effect by 1 July 2019, but some will only apply to certain young people.<sup>1</sup> The key provisions are:

- 11.1 new purposes and principles for transition support
  - 11.2 a new entitlement for young people who have been in care to be supported to live with a caregiver from age 18 to 21
  - 11.3 a new duty to take reasonable steps to maintain contact with young people up to age 21 when they have been in care or a youth justice residence
  - 11.4 an extension of the current duties around the provision of advice and assistance to young people up to the age of 25 who have been in care or a youth justice residence.
- 12 The design of the service also needs to contribute to meeting:
- 12.1 requirements in the Oranga Tamariki (National Care Standards and Related Matters) Regulations 2018 (the National Care Standards) around preparing young people for their transition out of care while they are still in care<sup>2</sup>
  - 12.2 the existing legislative duty to support children and young people to express their views, and to ensure these are taken into account in the development of Oranga Tamariki services and policy<sup>3</sup>
  - 12.3 commitments made by Oranga Tamariki to improve outcomes for Māori children and young people, in line with section 7AA of the Act (see *Paper Two* for more detail).

#### *Co-design and consultation process*

- 13 Oranga Tamariki officials have taken a co-design approach to the design of the transition support service, working extensively with young people and other stakeholders, including caregivers, frontline professionals and other groups, to inform the design and development of the transition support service.<sup>4</sup> This included working with Māori young people, iwi and Māori organisations to integrate their views into the design of the service.

#### **Case for the transition support service**

*Young people who have been in care or a youth justice residence are at significant risk of poor wellbeing outcomes*

*Young people have said that when they leave care at age 18, they are at a vulnerable age and are too young to be left without support.*

- 14 Young people leaving care or a youth justice residence are among those who have the highest needs and require the most support in New Zealand. They are likely to have high health needs and/or rates of disability, and insecure or inadequate housing. They are less

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<sup>1</sup> The provisions apply when the young person was in care or a youth justice residence for a continuous period of at least three months since reaching the age of 14 years nine months. The entitlement to live with a caregiver will only apply to those who turn 18 from 1 July 2019. The duty to maintain contact with a young person will only apply to those who are subject to any process or proceeding under the Act from 1 July 2019. The other provisions will apply to all eligible groups from 1 July 2019.

<sup>2</sup> Part 5, subpart 2.

<sup>3</sup> Sections 7 and 11.

<sup>4</sup> This included consultation with 82 young people, 77 caregivers, 236 Oranga Tamariki staff, 146 practitioners across the sector, 20 providers and surveying 470 additional caregivers.

likely to engage with education and employment than their peers. Many have fewer social and financial supports. Many also suffer the enduring effects of childhood trauma.

- 15 Wellbeing outcomes for young people aged 18 to 20 who have left care or a youth justice residence are significantly poorer than for young people who have had no contact with Oranga Tamariki. These care or youth justice-experienced young people are:
  - 15.1 between 20 and 80 times more likely to be involved in serious offending, and between nine and 20 times more likely to be involved in low-level offending
  - 15.2 five to seven times more likely to be on a benefit
  - 15.3 three to seven times more likely to access mental health services
  - 15.4 12 to 30 times more likely to access substance abuse services
  - 15.5 two to four times more likely to be hospitalised
  - 15.6 half as likely to achieve a tertiary qualification.<sup>5</sup>
- 16 These disparities in outcomes continue as these young people grow older.
- 17 A significant number of young people who have left care or a youth justice residence will have multiple and complex needs. A needs survey carried out by Oranga Tamariki indicated that 40 percent of the eligible group of young people have high or very high needs.<sup>6</sup>

*The current system does not adequately support these young people to transition into independence*

*Young people have said that they felt anxious and unprepared for adult life by their time in care, and often experienced chaos, transience and in many cases periods of homelessness on their discharge from care. Many of these young people struggled to meet their basic needs after leaving care and often didn't know how to access support when they needed it.*

- 18 Young people leaving care or a youth justice residence are not getting adequate support at the time when they need it most. For these young people, the transition to adulthood often comes early, abruptly and with little in the way of a safety net. Many face a 'cliff edge' in the support available once they leave their placement.
- 19 Transitioning to adulthood successfully covers all aspects of wellbeing. However, the range of supports currently available to these young people is limited in scale and scope. While there are some youth-focused services available,<sup>7</sup> most of the supports these young people

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5 Based on information on the 2001 birth cohort sourced from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) managed by Statistics New Zealand, extracted in February 2018. They are not official statistics, they have been created for research purposes from the IDI.

6 The survey found that within the group of young people who will soon be eligible for transition support and who have high or very high needs: 47% had or were suspected to have a disability; 54% had or were suspected to have substance abuse issues; and 78% had or were suspected to have mental health needs. Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children. 2018. *Summary Findings of the Transitions Cohort Needs Surveys*. Unpublished.

7 Key youth-focused services currently available include the Ministry of Social Development (MSD)-funded Youth Service; the Oranga Tamariki-funded Transition from Care to Independence pilots being delivered in Auckland; the Oranga Tamariki-funded supported living pilots, offering 18 places; and certain Ministry of Housing and Urban Development-funded initiatives, including the Supported Accommodation for Youth initiative, offering 12 places. Youth One Stop Shops provide some holistic services but are currently only available in 11 sites across New Zealand.

can access are not designed to address the full range of material, physical and mental health, education and safety needs they have.

- 20 Young people with multiple and complex needs have even more difficulty accessing the help they need. They are likely to require more flexibility, intensity and perseverance in support, such as through mental health or disability services.

*Transition support helps to improve outcomes for young people and contributes to government priorities*

- 21 International evidence shows that providing a range of transition supports could help to improve immediate and longer-term wellbeing outcomes for these young people. See Appendix A for more detail.
- 22 Through helping to improve wellbeing outcomes for young people, the transition support service will make a key contribution to government priorities, including agreed priorities for Budget 2019 and outcomes sought through the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

**The transition support service will deliver graduated support across three stages**

- 23 The transition support service will be underpinned by a graduated service model which supports young people to build to independence through three stages:
- 23.1 The **pre-transition** stage prepares a young person for their transition.
- 23.2 The **transition** stage responds to a young person's needs as they leave care or a youth justice residence.
- 23.3 The **post-transition** stage helps a young person to become and remain independent.
- 24 Advice and assistance will be available to young people through the *transition* and *post-transition* stages. During the *transition* stage, young people who have spent the minimum period of time in care will be able to live with a caregiver up to age 21 if they choose. The young person will be expected to contribute a portion of their income towards the living costs of this support arrangement,<sup>8</sup> and Oranga Tamariki will provide financial assistance to cover the remainder of those living costs, where necessary.
- 25 Eligible young people who are 18 years or older and who have been sentenced to imprisonment or a community sentence by the District or High Courts will still be entitled to receive some transition supports.
- 26 Appendix B sets out the future state service model for transition support in more detail, including how this maps against the legislative requirements.

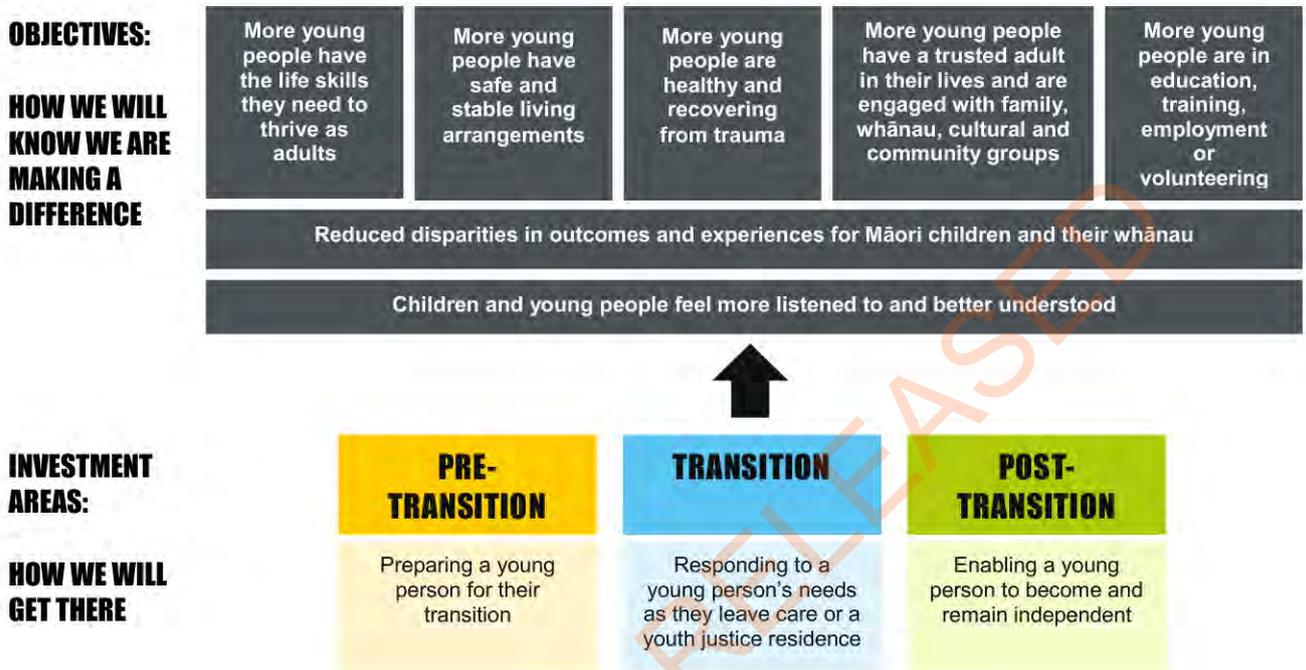
**The service will work towards clear improvements in outcomes for these young people**

- 27 The changes I am proposing to the care and youth justice systems will help to improve outcomes for many of these young people (See *Paper Four* and *Paper Five* for more detail), but support needs to continue as they age out of these services.

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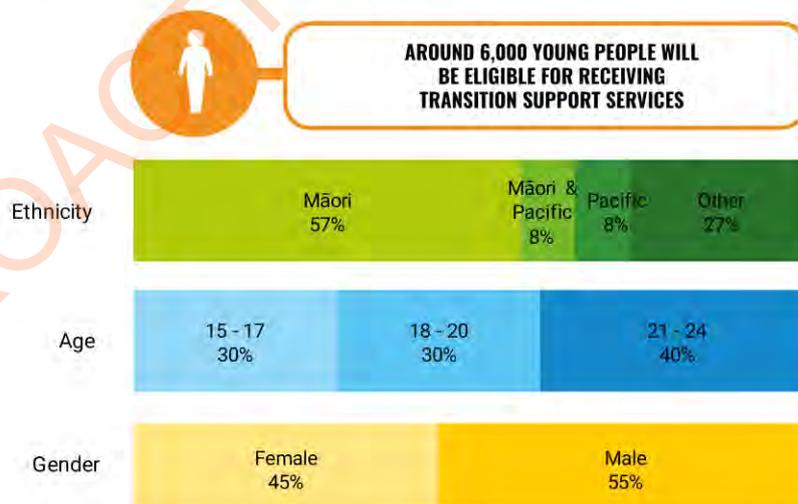
<sup>8</sup> This has been modelled on 60% of the young person's income.

28 Officials have developed objectives that set out the changes that the transition support service needs to make. These are informed by what young people have told them, the legislative purposes and principles for transition support, and international evidence. They are set out in the outcomes framework below.



### Cohort analysis

29 The numbers of young people eligible for transition support from 1 July 2019 are estimated to remain fairly constant at around 6000 – with around 600 young people becoming eligible for support each year, and 600 aging out of the service. The diagram below shows estimates of how the cohort varies in ethnicity, age and gender.

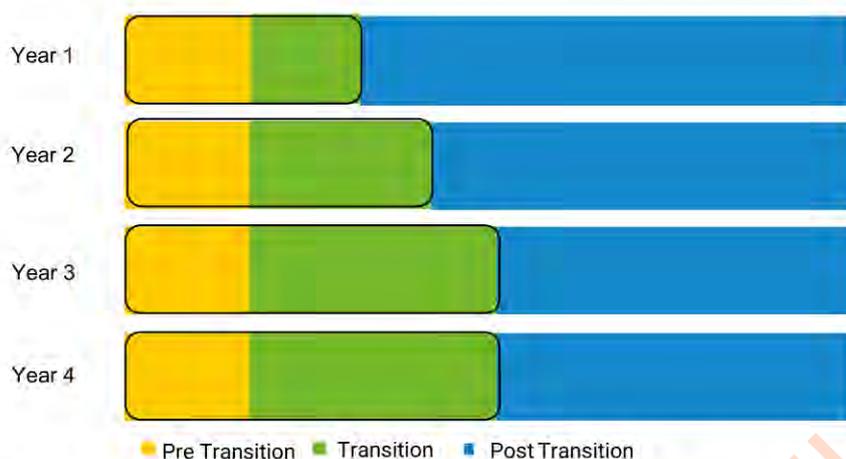


*Legislative phasing is reflected in the service*

30 Legislative requirements mean that some service components are available to all eligible young people immediately, while others will phase in over time for certain groups. The entitlement to live with a caregiver and the duty to maintain contact apply for eligible young

people as they turn 18 from 1 July 2019 (until they turn 21), but the advice and assistance component is available from 1 July 2019 to all eligible young people aged between 18 and 25.

- 31 Due to the legislative phasing, the number of young people eligible within each phase of the service will change over the first three years, as young people age into certain entitlements, and stabilise at the end of year three. This is illustrated in the diagram below.



- 32 By the end of its first year, the transition support service is estimated to be working *proactively* with around 2000 young people. Of those, around 1000 will be under age 18 and still in care or a youth justice residence and will need focused preparation for living independently. An additional 4000 young people up to age 25 will be eligible to approach Oranga Tamariki for advice and assistance (and the service will work with them *reactively*).

### Key elements are needed for a successful transition support service

- 33 Based on what young people have told us, and the evidence base, certain elements are needed for a successful transition support service. To enable the service to deliver on its objectives and support compliance with legislative requirements, I propose that it should:
- 33.1 be underpinned by a **relationship-based model**, because this is critical for enabling young people to successfully transition to independence and to build positive relationships with their family, whānau, and others
  - 33.2 start **preparation and planning** as early as possible, because this is also critical to enabling successful transitions for young people into adulthood
  - 33.3 provide **after-hours crisis support**, because this is when young people need help the most
  - 33.4 be able to **respond to reasonable requests for financial assistance**, when existing entitlements have been exhausted
  - 33.5 be able to provide or facilitate a **range of housing supports** for young people where this is needed, because housing is a critical factor in becoming independent.
- 34 Appendix C includes more detail about the rationale for these elements.

### A whole-of-system approach is needed to provide for wider access to services

- 35 My current priority is to establish the core transition support service these young people need. Over time, social sector agencies, iwi and community partners will need to work

together to build a whole-of-system approach to supporting these young people. This will include helping them to build community connections and access services to address their needs (including services for education, employment, health and housing).

36 I expect that the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan and strategic partnerships will be key mechanisms for setting strategy and building the whole-of-system approach (see *Paper One* and *Paper Two* for more detail). Oranga Tamariki will consider opportunities to align with the Joint Venture Family Violence and Sexual Violence as part of this work.

## Options analysis

37 A significant level of investment will be needed to achieve our ambitions for our young people. I have considered three options for investment in the service. Each of these options meets the legislative requirements for transition support. They provide for different combinations of the service elements set out in paragraph 33:

37.1 **Option One: minimum service** – primarily a phone-based service supported by existing and new frontline workers to respond in person to assessed need

37.2 **Option Two: strong preparation, continuing response** – a relationship-based service that prioritises investment while young people are preparing to transition out of care or a youth justice residence, and provides a strong level of support throughout their transition

37.3 **Option Three: high-intensity service** – an ambitious relationship-based service that is based on delivering a high intensity of support across all stages, and securing a high level of engagement and take-up from young people.

38 The table below sets out my assessment of these options against the evaluation criteria detailed in Appendix D.

Option	Assessment
<b>Option One:</b> <b>Minimum service</b>	This option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is largely based on using the existing care system workforce</li> <li>is the cheapest and most manageable option to stand up by 1 July 2019</li> <li>goes some way towards delivering on the policy intent</li> <li>provides for a minimum level of support for young people, and the least likely to deliver on the objectives for transition support</li> <li>does not provide what young people have said they <b>need</b>.</li> </ul>
<b>Option Two (recommended option):</b> <b>Strong preparation, continuing response</b>	This option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>creates a dedicated relationship-based service up to age 21, with the highest level of investment focused in the <i>pre-transition</i> stage and moderately high investment in the <i>transition</i> and <i>post-transition</i> stages</li> <li>will be manageable to stand up by 1 July 2019 and for Oranga Tamariki to build on and extend as the eligible cohort ages through the service. It would have a moderate fiscal impact</li> <li>goes further than Option One towards meeting the policy intent</li> <li>is likely to deliver on the transition support objectives (though not as far as Option Three)</li> <li>aligns with what young people have told us they need, as well as with approaches taken in comparable overseas jurisdictions.</li> </ul>

Option	Assessment
<b>Option Three:</b>  <b>High intensity service</b>	This option: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provides a dedicated relationship-based service with the highest ratios of staff to young people and the highest levels of financial assistance and supported housing</li> <li>• is the most difficult option to deliver by 1 July 2019 and has the highest fiscal impact</li> <li>• goes the furthest towards meeting the policy intent</li> <li>• is likely to go furthest to deliver on the objectives for transition support</li> <li>• aligns the most with what young people have told us they need, as well as with best-practice approaches taken in other countries.</li> </ul>

39 Appendix E provides further detail on what can be achieved through each option, their estimated costs, and analysis against the evaluation criteria.

### Proposed option

40 My aim is to be ambitious for our young people and deliver a quality service, building up over time from a strong foundation. I therefore propose **Option Two**. Across the three stages, Option Two looks like:

40.1 **Pre-transition** – The young person receives a holistic needs assessment. A transition key worker builds a relationship with the young person alongside their social worker, engages with key people and agencies in the young person’s life to agree how to meet their transition needs and develop a plan. The transition worker provides or arranges services to meet the young person’s needs.

40.2 **Transition** – The transition key worker maintains a relationship with the young person and proactively maintains contact until age 21. The worker supports eligible young people to live with a caregiver if they wish or to find suitable accommodation, and provides or arranges advice, services and assistance to meet their reasonable needs (in some cases including financial assistance). The worker supports the young person to build and maintain positive relationships with their family, family group, whānau, hapū, iwi, or wider community where they wish to do so.

40.3 **Post-transition** – The young person is connected to adult services to prepare them for the final move to adulthood. The service is available to respond to requests for advice and assistance until the young person turns 25. Ongoing support is available for young people who need it, including those with multiple and complex needs, through to age 25.

41 This approach balances the need to deliver on the service objectives and the legislative requirements, while still being manageable for Oranga Tamariki to establish by 1 July 2019.

### Impacts and benefits

42 If Option Two is implemented, I expect to see the following key changes for young people who have been in care or a youth justice residence:

42.1 young people have a more supported and graduated transition to adulthood

42.2 young people are better able to maintain stable living and working situations

- 42.3 young people have improved physical and mental health
  - 42.4 young people have healthier relationships and stronger community connections
  - 42.5 young parents are better supported, reducing intergenerational impacts of harm.
- 43 I expect that achieving these changes will lead to significant improvements in life outcomes for these young people and narrow the gap in wellbeing between them and other young people. This is expected to include improved engagement with education, employment and training; reduced offending; and reduced need for mental health or substance abuse treatment.
- 44 This work will contribute to the wider shifts we want to see across the operating model to reduce disparities in outcomes for Māori young people, and to ensure children and young people feel more listened to and better understood.
- 45 Oranga Tamariki will model some of the longer-term wellbeing benefits for transition support through the Children's Wellbeing Model as part of the Budget process.

### Implementation approach

- 46 I intend for this service to be scaled up as Oranga Tamariki builds its capacity and capability (and that of its partners), and as young people age into the service over time. This will include:
- 46.1 building service strength over time, starting with *pre-transition* and *transition* stages
  - 46.2 working in a co-ordinated way with other services (across the Oranga Tamariki operating model, as well as wider services and supports) to maximise existing entitlements and avoid duplication of functions
  - 46.3 taking a mixed-model approach to service delivery, with a mix of direct provision, purchasing and contracting, and partnering with agencies, iwi and communities
  - 46.4 building on the services already being delivered to young people across the country.
- 47 The legislative settings and service choices available allow for a phased approach to implementation:
- 47.1 preparation for young people can be scaled up over the first year by focusing on young people who are about to transition first, and then extending support out to younger cohorts during the year as the workforce builds
  - 47.2 the entitlement to live with a caregiver and the duty to maintain contact with a young person will only apply to those who turn 18 after 1 July 2019, allowing for workforce and caregiver supply to build over time
  - 47.3 although advice and assistance will be available to all eligible young people from 1 July 2019, the transition support service will only proactively offer these supports to the initial group of young people leaving care or youth justice. This also allows time to build the workforce and scale up additional services.
- 48 Options around phasing and scaling will be explored further as part of the Budget process.

## Risks and mitigations

- 49 There are a number of issues that could act as barriers to implementing the transition support service by 1 July 2019. These are:
- 49.1 workforce supply and capability to deliver transition support to young people, and wider workforce challenges
  - 49.2 caregiver supply and capability for young people who wish to exercise their entitlement to live with a caregiver
  - 49.3 sourcing the right type or quality of service providers to meet young people's needs
  - 49.4 available capacity of services provided by other agencies (such as mental health services)
  - 49.5 limited Oranga Tamariki capacity to deliver the required infrastructure for the new service, such as information technology.
- 50 Taking a phased approach to implementation, as outlined in paragraph 47, is the best way to mitigate these risks. This approach will allow officials sufficient time to build up the necessary workforce, caregiver provision and services needed.
- 51 Oranga Tamariki will aim to use existing infrastructure and contract with existing services as much as possible for the first year, and will build new infrastructure as needed over time.

## Evaluation, monitoring and continuous improvement

- 52 Oranga Tamariki intends to take a continuous improvement approach to testing the effectiveness of the transition support service, in addition to delivering outcomes and impact-focused evaluations. This approach will include:
- 52.1 *implementation monitoring* – exploring to what extent the initiatives are being implemented and operating as intended, who is participating, what resources are being utilised and how
  - 52.2 *process evaluations* – investigating the delivery of particular processes and practices in depth, and prioritising new or high-risk services for early feedback
  - 52.3 *early impact analysis* – exploring short-term outcomes being achieved through individual service elements
  - 52.4 *outcomes evaluation* – exploring impacts of the service on longer-term outcomes for young people (e.g. employment).
- 53 The *pre-transition* stage of transition support will also be subject to both internal and external monitoring through the National Care Standards.

## Consultation

- 54 This paper was prepared by Oranga Tamariki. The following agencies were consulted in the preparation of this paper: the Ministries of Health, Education, Justice, Social Development, and Youth Development; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development; the Ministry for Pacific Peoples; the Ministry for Women; Te Puni Kōkiri; the Department of Corrections; the New Zealand Police; the Office

of Disability Issues; the Accident Compensation Corporation; Inland Revenue; the Joint Venture Family Violence and Sexual Violence; the Tertiary Education Commission; the State Services Commission; the Treasury; the Policy Advisory Group, Child Wellbeing Unit and the Child Poverty Unit at the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet; and the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

- 55 Officials have consulted extensively on these proposals with young people (including Māori young people) and other stakeholders, including caregivers, frontline professionals, iwi and other groups.

### Financial implications

- 56 The table below sets out the indicative funding required over the four years for the roll-out of Option Two.

	\$m				
	Year 1 2019/20	Year 2 2020/21	Year 3 2021/22	Year 4 2022/23	Total cost
Total operating	████	████	████	████	████
Total capital	████	████	████	████	████
Total cost	████	████	████	████	████

9(2)(g)(i)

- 57 I propose to progress the delivery of Option Two as a Budget 2019 initiative.
- 58 Initial work will be needed ahead of 1 July 2019 to establish the transition support service and enable Oranga Tamariki to meet its legislative obligations. I intend to report back to Cabinet later this year seeking a pre-commitment for funding to resource this work.

### Legislative implications

- 59 New legislation is not required to implement the proposals in this paper. However, the Act does enable regulations to be made to cover some detailed policy settings for transition support services. While operational policy outlining detailed requirements for transition support will be in place by 1 July 2019, regulations do not need to be made by that date.
- 60 Regulations for the National Care Standards, which will come into force on 1 July 2019, also cover some aspects of the *pre-transition* stage of the transition support service.

### Impact analysis

- 61 Impact analysis requirements do not apply to this paper.

### Human rights

- 62 The legislative proposals underpinning transition support were previously assessed against the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 (BORA) and the Human Rights Act 1993 (HRA) [CAB-16-MIN-0492]. The analysis found that the proposals are prima facie inconsistent with the freedom from discrimination based on age, as defined by section 19 of BORA and section 21(1)(i) of HRA, but that this can be reasonably justified.

- 63 Support given to children in the *pre-transition* stage will increase New Zealand's alignment with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular Article 20, which relates to the entitlement to special protection and assistance for children who cannot remain in their family or whānau environment. The proposals will also align with New Zealand's statement of support for the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

### Gender implications

- 64 Boys and young men are slightly over-represented in care and significantly over-represented in the youth justice system, and are likely to benefit from these proposals. The transition support service is being designed to be responsive to the individual needs of young people, including those related to gender identity.

### Disability perspective

- 65 The proposals in this paper apply to all young people who are transitioning out of the care and youth justice system, including those with disabilities. There is an over-representation of disability needs in the group of young people who will be transitioning out of the care and youth justice systems. I expect that an on-going priority for the transition support service will be to ensure that it is responsive to the needs of disabled eligible young people. The proposals in this paper provide for additional supports, including specialist services, to be provided to young people with higher needs, including those with disabilities.

### Publicity

- 66 Any announcements relating to final Budget 2019 decisions for Vote Oranga Tamariki will be made following Budget release day in May 2019. Any announcements will be co-ordinated with the Office of the Minister for Children.

### Proactive release

- 67 Consistent with section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act 1982, the content in this paper is under active consideration until final Budget 2019 decisions have been made. Proactive release of this paper will be considered closer to Budget release in May 2019.

### Recommendations

- 68 It is recommended that the Committee:
- 1 **note** that a transition support service is needed to meet provisions in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 that will come into effect on 1 July 2019
  - 2 **note** that the transition support service will be based on a graduated service model which supports eligible young people to achieve independence through three stages:
    - 2.1 a *pre-transition* stage which prepares a young person for their transition as early as practicable
    - 2.2 a *transition* stage which responds to a young person's needs as they leave care or a youth justice residence
    - 2.3 a *post-transition* stage which enables a young person to become independent
  - 3 **note** that where a young person has chosen to live with a caregiver up to age 21, they will be expected to contribute a portion of their income towards the living costs of that support

arrangement, and Oranga Tamariki will provide financial assistance to cover the remaining living costs, where necessary

- 4 **agree** that in order to successfully support young people to transition to independence, the transition support service should:
  - 4.1 take a relationship-based focus in which a transition worker builds and maintains a relationship with the young person to support them as they transition into adulthood
  - 4.2 start preparation and planning as early as practicable, while the young person is still in care or a youth justice residence
  - 4.3 provide 24-hour after-hours crisis support to ensure support is available to eligible young people at all times
  - 4.4 be able to respond practically to any reasonable request for financial assistance, with a focus on maximising existing entitlements
  - 4.5 be able to provide or facilitate a range of housing supports for young people where this is needed
- 5 **note** that social sector agencies will work with iwi and community partners to develop a whole-of-system approach to delivering transition support over time
- 6 **note** that three options for investment to establish the transition support service have been considered:
  - 6.1 **Option One: minimum service** – primarily a phone-based service, supported by existing and new care and youth justice workers to respond to assessed need
  - 6.2 **Option Two: strong preparation, continuing response** – a relationship-based service with a dedicated workforce that prioritises spending early on, and provides a strong level of support throughout their transition
  - 6.3 **Option Three: high-intensity service** – an ambitious relationship-based service that delivers a high intensity of support across all stages of transition
- 7 **agree** to Option Two, which will provide for a relationship-based service that prioritises the early preparation of young people for their transition, and provides a strong level of support throughout their transition, subject to decisions in Budget 2019
- 8 **invite** the Minister for Children to submit a detailed bid for Budget 2019 that reflects the direction outlined in recommendation 7
- 9 **note** that choices about phasing and scaling of the transition support service will be worked through as part of the Budget 2019 process
- 10 **note** that the Minister for Children will report back to Cabinet later this year seeking pre-commitment funding from Budget 2019 to establish the transition support service to be available from 1 July 2019 and enable Oranga Tamariki to meet its legislative obligations

- 11 **note** that Oranga Tamariki will take a continuous improvement approach to evaluating the effectiveness of the transition support service.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Tracey Martin

Minister for Children

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

## Appendix A: Evidence for the effectiveness of transition support

- 1 International evidence suggests that providing a package of transition support services that can respond to the range of needs of young people leaving care or the youth justice system will help to improve their long-term wellbeing. A randomised controlled trial of a comprehensive support service for young people leaving care in the USA found that the services boosted earnings, increased housing stability and economic wellbeing and improved some health and safety outcomes for young people leaving care.<sup>9</sup> There is also evidence to suggest that transition support services can improve mental health outcomes for this group.<sup>10</sup>
- 2 Several international cost-benefit analyses have estimated that increased investment in services for youth transitioning from care yields benefits and savings in the long term.<sup>11</sup> The Midwest Study, focusing only on the education impacts of providing extended support for young people in care, found that every \$1 spent on foster care beyond 18 years of age returned \$2 of benefits to foster youth as a result of increased earnings.<sup>12</sup> A separate Washington State study showed a return on investment from extending support to young people leaving foster care through into tertiary education.<sup>13</sup>
- 3 Establishing a transition support service will also bring New Zealand into closer alignment with comparable countries. A number of jurisdictions, including the United Kingdom, Canada and states in Australia and the United States, offer a package of transition support or 'aftercare services' for young people who have been in the care system.

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9 Valentine, E., M. Skemer & M. Courtney (2015). *Becoming Adults: One-year Impact Findings from the Youth Villages Transitional Living Evaluation*. MDRC: New York, USA.

10 Garcia, A. R., O'Brien, K., Kim, M., Pecora, P., Harachi, T., Aisenberg, E (2015). Adverse Childhood Experiences and Poor Mental Health Outcomes Among Racially Diverse Foster Care Alumni: Impact of Perceived Agency Helpfulness. *Journal of Child and Family Studies*, 24(11), 3293-3305.

11 Provincial Advocate for Youth (2012). *25 is the New 21: The Costs and Benefits of Providing Extended Care & Maintenance to Ontario Youth in Care Until Age 25*. Author: Toronto, Ontario.

12 Courtney, M. (2015). Do the Benefits of Extending Foster Care to Age 21 Outweigh the Costs? Evidence from Illinois, Iowa, and Wisconsin. Wisconsin Family Impact Seminar Number 33. <https://www.purdue.edu/hhs/hdfs/fii/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CourtneyReportChapter.pdf>

13 Burley, M., Lee, S. (2010). *Extending foster care to age 21: Measuring costs and benefits in Washington State*. Olympia: Washington State Institute for Public Policy. <http://www.wsipp.wa.gov/pub.asp?docid=10-01-3902>

# TRANSITION SUPPORT SERVICE – FUTURE STATE SERVICE MODEL

## OUTCOMES SOUGHT

### TRANSITION SUPPORT OBJECTIVES

More young people have the life skills they need to thrive as adults

More young people have safe and stable living arrangements

More young people are healthy and recovering from trauma

More young people have a trusted adult in their lives and are engaged with family, cultural and community groups

More young people are in education, training, employment or volunteering

### NEW OPERATING MODEL OUTCOMES

Reduced disparities in outcomes and experiences for Māori children and their whānau

Children and young people feel more listened to and better understood

## KEY LEGISLATIVE PROVISIONS

Someone talks to me about my future, assesses my life skills and we talk about the support I will need when I leave care (s386A(2)(a) - needs assessment)

I am supported to prepare to leave care and advised of my entitlements (s386A - planning and preparation)

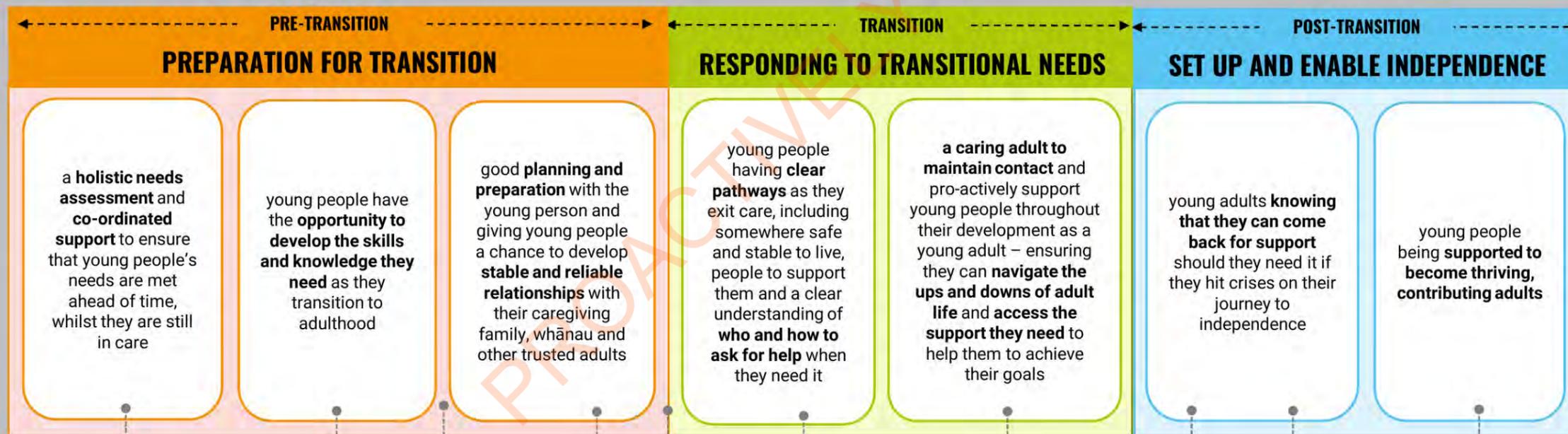
Someone **proactively maintains contact** with me after I leave care/custody to check if I need support, and provides this (s386C – keep in contact)

I can live with a caregiver if I want to (s386AAD – live with a caregiver)

I can **ask for advice and assistance from Oranga Tamariki** at any time I need it after I exit care/custody (s386A, s386B – advice and assistance)



## KEY COMPONENTS OF FUTURE SERVICE



## YOUNG PERSON'S FUTURE EXPERIENCE

Heard

Prepared

Informed

Hopeful

Aware

Part of the conversation

Important, valued

Empowered

Safe, remembered

Excited for the future

## Appendix C: Proposed elements of the transition support service

- 1 Based on what young people have said they want and need, and on the international evidence base, I propose that the transition support service should include the following elements:

### Relationship-based model

- 2 The transition support service should be underpinned by a relationship-based model, in which a transition key worker builds and maintains a relationship with the young person to support them as they move into adulthood. Young people have been clear that when they leave care or a youth justice residence, they need someone to spend time with them, walk alongside them, and give them both emotional and practical support.
- 3 In line with the legislative purposes and principles for transition support, the worker will, where appropriate, help the young person to:
  - navigate and engage with services
  - maintain existing relationships with a caregiver (where the young person has exercised their entitlement to live with a caregiver in a support arrangement up to age 21), or with another trusted adult
  - build and strengthen the young person's relationships with their family, family group, whānau, hapū, iwi, and wider community.
- 4 New Zealand evidence shows that having a consistent relationship with a support worker is a key factor both in a young person successfully transitioning into adulthood, and in helping them to build additional supportive relationships with others.<sup>14</sup> Overseas studies suggest that the worker-client relationship is integral to delivering positive outcomes for young people.<sup>15</sup> Taking a relationship-based approach to transition support is also well aligned with the approaches taken in comparable jurisdictions.<sup>16</sup>

### Start preparation and planning as early as practicable

- 5 A key focus for the transition support service should be to prepare young people for transition as early as possible, starting when they are still in care or a youth justice residence. Young people have been clear that they need time and support to prepare for their transition to adulthood.
- 6 International evidence suggests that engaging with a young person early, building their relationships and practical skills, and planning their transition out of care are key factors in their ability to cope effectively post-care. Effective preparation is particularly important for those young people with emotional and behavioural difficulties, those who have limited family, whānau and community connections, and those with a disability.<sup>17</sup>

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14 Alessi, L., R. Munford, J. Sanders, W. Johnston, and R. Ballantyne. (2018). *The Youth Transitions Study (New Zealand): Young People's Experiences with Services: Technical Report 27*. Wellington: Massey University. Retrieved from: [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325881170\\_Young\\_People%27s\\_Experiences\\_with\\_Services\\_Technical\\_Report\\_27](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/325881170_Young_People%27s_Experiences_with_Services_Technical_Report_27).

15 Monash University (2017). *Evaluation of the Berry Street Stand by Me Program Wraparound support during the transition from out-of-home care*. Retrieved 5 July 2018 from: <https://www.childhoodinstitute.org.au/sites/default/files/2018-05/Stand-by-Me-Evaluation.pdf>

16 Examples include transition 'Personal Advisors' in the United Kingdom, 'Stand By Me' Support workers in Victoria, Australia, and Youth Worker/Transition Facilitators in Canada.

17 Mendes, Johnston and Moslehuddin (2011). 'Effectively preparing young people to transition from out-of-home care: An examination of three recent Australian studies'. *Australian Institute of Family Studies Family Matters* No. 89. Retrieved from <https://aifs.gov.au/sites/default/files/fm89g.pdf>.

- 7 In order to provide robust preparation and planning, the transition support service needs to:
- integrate well with the broader operating model, building on the role of statutory social workers in *pre-transition* preparation and planning activities and support
  - work alongside young people so that they are fully engaged in the needs and life skills assessments and planning processes
  - take a holistic approach, building on the young person's strengths and identity
  - involve appropriate people (eg, from the young person's family, family group, whānau, hapū, iwi, or community) in the transition planning
  - engage with the right services, agencies, iwi and Māori organisations, NGOs and communities at the right time to provide assistance.
- 8 This preparation and planning will complement other elements of the care service, such as the support to develop life skills that young people will receive at earlier points during their time in care.

### **Provide for after-hours crisis support for eligible young people**

- 9 The transition support service should provide for 24-hour support to be able to respond when eligible young people are in crisis.
- 10 Young people have said it is important to them that support is available when they really need it. Being proactive in providing advice and assistance means ensuring this is available at all times, and that young people understand what to do or where to go in a crisis or emergency. This is critical. These are times when they are at their most vulnerable, and often when existing supports have failed.

### **Respond to reasonable requests for financial assistance**

- 11 The transition support service should be able to respond sensibly and practically to any reasonable request for financial help, in line with the legislative provisions for advice and assistance.<sup>18</sup>
- 12 Young people leaving care or the youth justice system often struggle financially, and have fewer networks that can offer help if things go wrong. It is essential that these young people receive the financial assistance they are entitled to (such as from Work and Income or StudyLink). However, many of them have difficulty accessing their existing entitlements, and may require knowledgeable and unfailing support to help them navigate the system.
- 13 It is difficult to estimate how many young people will require additional financial assistance or the level of financial support they may need. However, we do know that key factors in this group becoming independent include stable housing, good health, and activities like education, training, job-seeking or employment. These are among the key elements these young people are likely to seek financial assistance for.<sup>19</sup>
- 14 With any request for financial assistance, Oranga Tamariki will first ensure that our young people know of and are supported to access all entitlements currently available to them, before it provides any additional financial support. Officials will develop guidelines and parameters for the provision of this financial support as required. However, I do not want to set limits from the outset on the service's ability to respond to genuine need. This approach will allow officials to evaluate and learn from the roll-out of services, and set clear limits if necessary.

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<sup>18</sup> Section 386B of the Act.

<sup>19</sup> Through our service design engagement, our young people said they need support covering basic needs in an emergency like food, shelter, transport. The young people seeking financial support from Oranga Tamariki over the last several years have asked mostly for help with accommodation and education costs.

## Provide or facilitate a range of housing supports

- 15 The transition support service should be able to provide or facilitate housing supports to young people where this is needed.
- 16 Housing insecurity and homelessness are key issues for young people leaving care or the youth justice system. Not only is housing an essential requirement for achieving independence, but it impacts on a range of wider outcomes including health, employment, education and benefit receipt. Government has a key responsibility in this area because it uplifted these young people from their families and homes to secure their care or retain them in a youth justice residence, and they may not be able to return to their families or homes.
- 17 The majority of housing supports available are funded or contracted by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD).<sup>20</sup> While some of these supports take a youth focus, in general the services available are targeted at adults and are not tailored for the specific needs of our young people.
- 18 New Zealand evidence suggests that a good-practice approach to housing support for these young people includes providing a range of housing options suitable to meet the needs of different young people and ensure a 'graduated transition' as they move into independence.<sup>21</sup>
- 19 Oranga Tamariki will look to trial a wider range of needs-based housing solutions. Potential examples include:
  - expansion of the existing Oranga Tamariki supported housing pilots
  - emergency accommodation to support young people in crisis while returning to live with a caregiver or supported housing options are explored<sup>22</sup>
  - shorter, transitional arrangements aimed at supporting a young person into independence
  - supported boarding placements in the community, particularly for those leaving custody.
- 20 These housing supports will sit alongside and complement other housing supports available to these young people, including those funded by MSD.

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<sup>20</sup> These include: the Housing First programme; Emergency Housing Special Needs Grants; the Income-Related Rent Subsidy; supported accommodation for youth; the Accommodation Supplement; and Temporary Additional Support payments for essential living costs.

<sup>21</sup> Atwool, N. (2016). 'Journeys of exclusion: Unpacking the experiences of care leavers in New Zealand.' In P. Mendes & P. Snow (Eds.), *Young people transitioning from out-of-home care: International research, policy and practice* (pp. 309-328). London, England: Palgrave.

<sup>22</sup> Our service design engagement, and feedback from the Supported Living pilot providers, has indicated that returning to live with a caregiver or entering supported accommodation should be done in a planned manner, rather than in response to a crisis, as ensuring the right match is seen as essential to the success of the placement.

## Appendix D: Evaluation criteria for options for investment in the transition support service

The table below details how the policy and investment options were assessed.

Criteria	Assessment	Weighting
<b>Meets legislative and policy intent</b>	The extent to which the proposed action is likely to best enable the chief executive to deliver the desired care outcome sought and is consistent with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the purposes and principles of the Oranga Tamariki Act, including those set for transitions support</li> <li>the legislative requirements for the service</li> <li>the policy intent for transitions support (including the specific objectives and outcomes sought from each component of the service).</li> </ul>	<b>High</b>
<b>Contributes towards transition support objectives</b>	The extent to which the proposed action is likely to contribute to meeting some or all of the objectives for transition support. These are that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>more young people have the life skills they need to thrive as adults</li> <li>more young people have safe and stable living arrangements</li> <li>more young people are healthy and recovering from trauma</li> <li>more young people have a trusted adult in their lives and are engaged with family, whānau, cultural and community groups</li> <li>more young people are in education, training, employment or volunteering</li> <li>there are reduced disparities in outcomes and experiences for Māori young people and their whānau</li> <li>children and young people feel more listened to and better understood.</li> </ul> <p>These objectives are expected to contribute to a young person's wellbeing and life quality.</p>	<b>High</b>
<b>Flexibility</b>	The extent to which each action: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>is able to support an emerging operating model, where systems and practical approaches change over time</li> <li>is able to adapt to the changing circumstances and needs of young people.</li> </ul>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Clarity and Accountability</b>	The extent to which the proposed actions are clear and easy to understand so that people (including caregivers and young people) know what they can expect from the service. There will be clear accountabilities across the system, not just for Oranga Tamariki.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Ease of implementation and practice</b>	The extent to which the proposed action is achievable either immediately or in the future.	<b>High</b>
<b>Fiscal impact</b>	The fiscal impacts of each option including on Oranga Tamariki and other agencies.	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Potential value for money</b>	How the option provides value for money (ie optimal mix of potential benefits, costs and risks).	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Aligns with youth-centred and wider government objectives</b>	Supports a youth-centric approach which considers the rights, needs and aspirations and the circumstances of the young person. It will consider whether the options align with other objectives Government is seeking to achieve, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>relevant government policy settings and legislation which are likely to have a direct impact on the provision of support to young people transitioning from care</li> <li>government policy on youth employability, education, housing, justice and mental health.</li> </ul>	<b>Medium</b>
<b>Consistency with Treaty of Waitangi and international obligations</b>	The extent to which the proposed action is consistent with the Treaty of Waitangi and international obligations such as the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.	<b>High</b>

Appendix E: Options for investment in the transition support service

# TRANSITION SUPPORT SERVICE – INVESTMENT OPTIONS

## OPTIONS

Investment option	Option 1 Minimum service	Option 2 Strong preparation, continuing response	Option 3 High intensity service
<b>Snapshot of service and investment</b>	Primarily a <b>phone-based service</b> supported by existing and new frontline workers to respond to assessed need. Provides a minimum of support at all stages of transition.  Minimum levels of investment across all components of transition support.	A <b>relationship-based</b> service that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• prioritises spending early on, to prepare young people for transition</li> <li>• provides solid support during the initial years of their transition</li> <li>• retains a solid level of support as they age through the transition support service.</li> </ul> Invests strongly in younger cohorts. Retains support for ages 21 to 25.	An ambitious <b>relationship-based service</b> that is based on delivering a high intensity of support across all components, at all stages, and securing a high level of engagement and take-up from young people.  Maximum levels of investment across all components of transition support.
<b>Nature of service</b>			
<b>PRE-TRANSITION</b>			
<b>TRANSITION</b>			
<b>POST-TRANSITION</b>			
Crisis Support			
Financial support			
Housing support			
<b>INDICATIVE COST</b>			

## ANALYSIS BY KEY FACTORS

	Option 1	Option 2	Option 3
<b>Aligns with what young people want</b>	✗ Does not align with what young people have told us they want	✓✓✓ Aligns closely with what young people have told us they want at all phases	✓✓✓ Aligns most closely with what young people have told us they want
<b>Aligns with policy and legislation</b>	✗ May be sufficient to align with legislative requirements, but not policy intent	✓✓ Aligns with legislative requirements and policy intent	✓✓✓ Aligns with legislative requirements and policy intent
<b>Delivers on the investment objectives</b>	✓ Least likely to deliver on the investment objectives	✓✓✓ Goes further than Option 1 in delivery, but not as far as Option 3	✓✓✓ Likely to go the furthest to deliver on investment objectives
<b>Provides scope for partnerships</b>	✓ May provide some scope for partnership with other agencies, iwi, hapū, and whānau	✓✓ Provides scope for partnership with other agencies, iwi, hapū, and whānau	✓✓✓ Provides the greatest scope for partnership with other agencies, iwi, hapū, and whānau
<b>Gives effect to s7AA of the Act</b>	✓ As not primarily relationship-based, this is unlikely to enable us to give effect to s7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (the Act)	✓✓ Supports us to give effect to s7AA of the Act, as provides the capacity and flexibility to deliver culturally responsive support	✓✓✓ Provides maximum capacity and flexibility to deliver culturally responsive support to give effect to s7AA of the Act
<b>Achievability by 1 July 2019</b>	✓✓✓ Most achievable by 1 July 2019. Quick to establish, but utilises existing workforce so will create pressures elsewhere in system	✓✓ This is achievable by 1 July 2019, but requires significant work to stand up new workforce	✓ Most difficult to achieve by 1 July 2019, requires significant up-lift in workforce capacity and capability
<b>Summary of analysis</b>	Support at this level is unlikely to meet young people's needs, some risk that this will leave the Ministry exposed	<b>Preferred option.</b> A relationship-based service that builds up from a solid foundation to deliver strong support to care and justice leavers of all ages	Based on an intensity of support and level of engagement and uptake that is extremely ambitious, and may not be achievable in the foreseeable future



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

*This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.*

### Transforming Our Response to Children and Young People at Risk of Harm - Paper Six: Transition Support

Portfolio Children

On 31 October 2018, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee:

- 1 **noted** that a transition support service is needed to meet provisions in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 that will come into effect on 1 July 2019;
- 2 **noted** that the transition support service will be based on a graduated service model which supports eligible young people to achieve independence through three stages:
  - 2.1 a pre-transition stage which prepares a young person for their transition as early as practicable;
  - 2.2 a transition stage which responds to a young person's needs as they leave care or a youth justice residence;
  - 2.3 a post-transition stage which enables a young person to become independent;
- 3 **noted** that where a young person has chosen to live with a caregiver up to age 21, they will be expected to contribute a portion of their income towards the living costs of that support arrangement, and Oranga Tamariki will provide financial assistance to cover the remaining living costs, where necessary;
- 4 **agreed** that in order to successfully support young people to transition to independence, the transition support service should:
  - 4.1 take a relationship-based focus in which a transition worker builds and maintains a relationship with the young person to support them as they transition into adulthood;
  - 4.2 start preparation and planning as early as practicable, while the young person is still in care or a youth justice residence;
  - 4.3 provide 24-hour after-hours crisis support to ensure support is available to eligible young people at all times;
  - 4.4 be able to respond practically to any reasonable request for financial assistance, with a focus on maximising existing entitlements;
  - 4.5 be able to provide or facilitate a range of housing supports for young people where this is needed;

- 5 **noted** that social sector agencies will work with iwi and community partners to develop a whole-of-system approach to delivering transition support over time;
- 6 **noted** that three options for investment to establish the transition support service have been considered:
- 6.1 option one: minimum service – primarily a phone-based service, supported by existing and new care and youth justice workers to respond to assessed need;
- 6.2 option two: strong preparation, continuing response – a relationship-based service with a dedicated workforce that prioritises spending early on, and provides a strong level of support throughout their transition;
- 6.3 option three: high-intensity service – an ambitious relationship-based service that delivers a high intensity of support across all stages of transition;
- 7 **agreed** to option two, which will provide for a relationship-based service that prioritises the early preparation of young people for their transition, and provides a strong level of support throughout their transition, subject to decisions in Budget 2019;
- 8 **noted** that the Minister for Children will submit a detailed bid for Budget 2019 that reflects the decision in paragraph 7;
- 9 **noted** that choices about phasing and scaling of the transition support service will be worked through as part of the Budget 2019 process;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister for Children will report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee later in 2018 seeking pre-commitment funding from Budget 2019 to establish the transition support service to be available from 1 July 2019 and enable Oranga Tamariki to meet its legislative obligations;
- 11 **noted** that Oranga Tamariki–Ministry for Children will take a continuous improvement approach to evaluating the effectiveness of the transition support service.

Jenny Vickers  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Rt Hon Winston Peters  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Dr David Clark  
Hon Nanaia Mahuta  
Hon Jenny Salesa  
Hon Tracey Martin  
Hon Aupito William Sio  
Hon Julie Anne Genter  
Michael Wood, MP  
Jan Logie, MP

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
The Treasury  
Ministry of Education  
Office of the Chair  
New Zealand Police  
Oranga Tamariki–Ministry for Children  
Officials Committee for SWC

**Hard-copy distribution:**

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