



Malatest
International

Report of survey findings:

Hearing from young people - Just Sayin' 2023

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Executive summary

Oranga Tamariki established a Transition Support Service in 2019

The Transition Support Service (TSS) was established as a core Oranga Tamariki service to assist eligible young people who have been in statutory care or a youth justice residence to move into adulthood and independent living¹. TSS aims to provide relationship-based support to eligible young people including rangatahi Māori leaving care or custody up to age 21, with access to advice and assistance to age 25.

Transition support became a core component of the new operating model for Oranga Tamariki from 1 July 2019 and has been progressively rolled out.

The Just Sayin' surveys are annual surveys that contribute the voice of young people to the evaluation

Four surveys have been completed.

- Just Sayin' 20: completed by 141 young people eligible for transition worker support and 49 young people not eligible. The survey was augmented by a later additional survey of 16 year olds eligible for transition worker support.
- Just Sayin' 21: completed by 331 young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who were eligible for support from a transition worker.
- Just Sayin' 22: completed by 408 young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who were eligible for support from a transition worker.
- Just Sayin' 23: completed by 376 young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who were eligible for support from a transition worker and 66 young people older than 21.

We sent all young people eligible for transition worker support a text inviting them to complete a survey either online or over the phone. The initial invitation was followed by reminder texts and up to three phone calls.

As all eligible young people were invited to complete the survey each year, many young people in the older cohorts had completed the survey before. Most young people still in care will not previously have been included in the survey cohort.

¹ Office of the Minister for Children. Transforming our response to children and rangatahi at risk of harm. Paper Six: Transition Support.

This report is a summary of Just Sayin' survey findings

The report is a technical report and does not aim to reach evaluative conclusions. Just Sayin' survey data will inform the final evaluation report completed by the end of March 2024.

Key Just Sayin' survey findings

Transition planning is not consistent and young people in care² are not consistently asked whether they would like transition worker support

- Over half (59%) the young people still in care said Oranga Tamariki made things better for them. This percentage and young people's attitudes to their social workers have remained relatively constant since Just Sayin' 20.
- The planning and preparation aspects of service delivery were not consistent with the Oranga Tamariki national care standards as only 52% of young people recalled someone talking with them and working out a plan for when they leave care.
- At the time they completed the survey, 70% of young people in care recalled being asked if they wanted transition worker support. Most (85%) who were asked agreed to have a transition worker but a few (9%) had not yet met with their transition worker.
- Overall, 53% of young people in care had received support from a transition worker.

Young people are mobile when they leave care, highlighting the need for suitable accommodation

- Most young people in care lived with a foster family or whānau and had stable accommodation. However, 18% rated safety where they lived at 6 or below on a 10 point scale and 29% did not like it where they lived. Disabled and rainbow young people in care were less likely to feel safe and like it where they lived.
- Many (52%) young people in care planned to move to somewhere different when they left care and 47% recalled being told about Entitlement to Remain or Return to live with a caregiver (ETRR). The largest percentages of

² Throughout this report 'young people', 'young people in care' and 'young people not in care' refer to those who responded to the survey. The views presented may not reflect those of non-respondents. Similarly, demographic sub-groups also refer to young people who responded to the Just Sayin' survey.

young people wanted to live by themselves or with flatmates (45%), with friends (31%) or partners (27%)³.

- After leaving care, 73% of young people had moved to live somewhere different. Of this group, 57% felt they had a choice about moving to somewhere else.
- Only 29% of young people who had left care were currently living by themselves or with flatmates, 8% with friends and 21% with their partner.

Three-quarters of young people who had left care were connected with a transition worker

- Just over one-half (54%) of young people who had left care recalled someone talking with them and working out a plan for when they left care.
- Seventy-five percent of young people who had left care had been asked if they wanted to have a transition worker. Most (87%) had agreed to transition worker support but a few (4%) had not yet met with their transition worker.
- Overall, 62% of young people who had left care had received support from a transition worker.

Most young people were positive about the support they received from their transition worker

- When asked what is important in a transition worker, 81% of responses mentioned a personality, 26% gender and 20% age.
- Sixty-one percent of rangatahi Māori were supported by a Māori TSS partner or transition worker. The percentage has increased over the survey years. Of rangatahi Māori who did not have a Māori TSS partner, 28% would like to be supported by one.
- Fifty percent of Pacific Young people were supported by a Pacific TSS partner or transition worker. Of those not being supported by a Pacific organisation 12% said they would like to have a Pacific organisation support them.
- Most young people both in care (86%) and who had left care (82%) said their transition worker helps make things better for them.
- Across all young people, 85% said their transition worker helped make things better for them; 83% said their transition worker did what they said they would do; 82% said their transition worker was there when they needed them and 80% said their transition worker understands the kind of support they need.

³ Young people could select more than one option in response to this question.

- Most young people (both in care and who had left care) said their transition worker understands what kind of support they need, is there when they need them, and does what they say they would do (most or all the time). Percentages remained relatively constant between the annual surveys.
- The TSS is a relationship-based service and inevitably over time transition workers will leave their roles. Of young people with experience of transition support, 66% had been supported by one or two transition workers and 24% by more than two.
- One-third (35%) of young people said they no longer met with their transition worker. The percentage was higher for those who had left care (40%) than for those in care (25%). Those in care were most likely to have left because they were not getting help or because they did not like their transition worker. Young people who had left care most often left transition worker support because they no longer needed support.

Transition workers have helped connect young people to support and skills development opportunities

- Most young people (84%) said their transition worker had helped with at least one aspect of support:
 - Forty-two percent of young people said their transition worker has helped them to connect with a doctor or a nurse, 32% with a counsellor and 25% with a dentist.
 - Transition workers had helped 31% of young people connect with their birth whānau.
 - Just under a quarter (22%) of young people said their transition worker had helped them with employment and 47% said their transition worker had helped them with education or training.
- When asked what skills young people wanted for their future, most young people wanted to learn money management skills (58%). Other skills were getting their driver's licence (51%), followed by other general life skills like relationship skills (39%), cooking (34%), becoming work ready (30%), getting ID (26%), parenting skills (25%) and enrolling in training (24%).
- Thirty percent of young people had requested financial assistance through the transition assistance line (16%) or their transition worker (18%). A small percentage (4%) had asked for financial assistance from both.

Young people also received support from the transition assistance line and other organisations

- In response to the survey, 65% of young people knew how to contact Oranga Tamariki and 19% had called the transition assistance line. Most (86%) who had called felt the transition assistance line had helped them.

- Just under one-third (30%) of requests for transition assistance line support were about somewhere to live, education or training (25%) or health (25%).
- About half of all young people (51%) were receiving support from other organisations, including a counsellor (31%), a youth service (31%), a health provider (30%), someone at MSD or Work and Income (26%), an accommodation or housing provider (11%), or someone else (19%).

1. The Transition Support Service (TSS)

Oranga Tamariki has a Transition Support Service (TSS) for eligible young people leaving care or custody up to age 21, with access to advice and assistance to age 25. The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 requirements include:

- That care-experienced young people can request to remain or return to live with a caregiver between 18 to 21 years.
- The obligation that Oranga Tamariki must remain in contact with eligible young people once they leave care or a longer-term youth justice residential placement if aged 15 to 21 years.

The principles that specifically relate to Transition to Adulthood

- a) The young person is to increasingly lead decisions about matters affecting them and is to be supported by adults to do this.
- b) A holistic approach is to be taken and the young person's strengths and identity are to be built on and nurtured.
- c) The relationships between the young person and their family, whānau, hapū, iwi, and family group are, if appropriate, to be maintained and strengthened.
- d) Family, whānau, hapū, iwi, family groups, and communities are to be supported to help the young person move to independence.
- e) The relationships between the young person and a caregiver, other trusted adults, and the wider community are to be established, built on, and maintained.
- f) The young person is to be supported, to the extent that is reasonable and practicable, to address the impact of harm and to achieve and meet their aspirations and needs, with priority to be given to supporting the stability of their education.
- g) Assistance to the young person is to be provided proactively, promptly, and to be sustained regardless of the decision that the young person makes.

Roll-out of the TSS was phased over three years to 30 June 2022⁴. To the end of June 2023, a total of 1,989 young people had been referred to one of 70 external providers (TSS partners). The phased approach was planned to allow service strength to be built over time.

⁴ Details about the Transition Support Service can be found on the Oranga Tamariki website <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/support-for-families/how-we-support-whanau/from-care-to-adulthood/>.

2. The Just Sayin' Surveys

An evaluation of the TSS is led by the Oranga Tamariki Evidence Centre to “support evidence-informed development of the service and to gauge its effectiveness⁵”. Evaluation and monitoring activities are completed both internally and commissioned through Malatest International (an independent research and evaluation company).

The evaluation was phased to align with the three-year roll-out of TSS. We are now in the third and final phase of the evaluation.

This report summarises findings from Just Sayin' 23 - the fourth Just Sayin' survey⁶. The survey builds on earlier surveys:

- **Just Sayin' 1 – 2020:** 141 young people eligible for support from a transition worker. Augmented by an additional survey of 16 year olds.
- **Just Sayin' 2 - 2021:** 331 young people aged 16 to 21 who were eligible for support from a transition worker.
- **Just Sayin' 3 - 2022:** 408 young people aged 16 to 21 who were eligible for support from a transition worker.

- **Just Sayin' 4 - 2023:** completed by 376 young people between the ages of 16 and 21 who were eligible for support from a transition worker and 66 young people older than 21.

The survey questionnaire for Just Sayin' 23 has been modified to include a focus on the intended outcomes of the TSS. As this is the final survey in the Just Sayin' series, findings will be used to inform the outcomes evaluation. Details of the survey are provided in Appendix 1.

2.1. Notes about the analysis

Young people were allowed to skip questions in the survey. Hence the numbers of young people responding to a question vary and are described as a “n” value range.

⁵ Evaluation CSO 2019.

⁶ The first survey in 2020 was sent to the first cohort to be offered transition worker support and findings may be atypical.

Analysis is focused on:

- Two age groups:
 - Young people up to 22 years – the cohort eligible for referral to a TSS partner since the service started in July 2019.
 - The 22 years and older age group who had left care before the roll-out of the TSS but who may receive transition support, for example from the transition assistance line.
- Comparison between young people with and without support from a transition worker:
 - The group with transition worker support included any young people who said they had a transition worker or have had one in the past. Young people with past experience includes those who have exited transition worker support or have a range of other reasons for no longer seeing a transition worker.
 - The group with transition worker support did not include young people who had agreed to have a transition worker but had not yet met with one.

2.2. This report is a summary of Just Sayin' survey findings

This report provides a summary of survey findings. It does not provide evaluative conclusions. The information from the Just Sayin' surveys will inform the final TSS evaluation report to be finalised in March 2024.

2.3. The Just Sayin' 23 cohort

The demographic profile of survey respondents is summarised in Appendix 2 and compared to the transition eligible cohort. As in previous years, females and young people who identified as non-Māori and non-Pacific were slightly over-represented amongst the survey respondents⁷.

The ethnic profile of young people who completed Just Sayin' 23 was consistent across the in-care, left-care and over 21 year old groups (Table 1). As expected, the

⁷ We examined the need to weight the data to align it with the cohort demographic profile but found there were not substantial differences in findings based on responses weighted by gender and ethnicity. Some differences in ethnicity comparisons are likely the result of total count analysis of ethnicity in the Just Sayin' surveys and prioritised ethnicity in Oranga Tamariki data. The largest potential for bias in the representativeness of the survey is non-contact and non-response bias. That is, the lack of contact details for many rangatahi mean we do not have information about their experiences and perspectives.

group of young people who had left care were older than the group in care. A higher percentage of females who had left care responded to the survey than males.

Young people who completed Just Sayin' 2023 came from across Aotearoa New Zealand, with a similar spread to years prior (Figure 1, Figure 2). The areas with the smallest representation were Upper South and West Coast.

Table 1. Demographic information for Just Sayin' 4 respondents

Characteristics	In care (n=132)	Left care (n=244)	All under 22 (n=376)	22 and older (n=66)
Gender				
Female	54%	70%	64%	65%
Male	42%	28%	33%	33%
Gender diverse	4%	2%	2%	2%
Ethnicity (Total count)				
Māori	49%	50%	49%	53%
Māori and Pacific	9%	4%	6%	3%
Pacific	14%	14%	14%	12%
NZ European	64%	65%	65%	70%
Other	6%	5%	5%	0%
Age				
16	47%	7%	21%	-
17	40%	8%	19%	-
18	6%	21%	16%	-
19	2%	26%	18%	-
20	3%	18%	13%	-
21	2%	20%	13%	-
Other characteristics				
Disability	64%	53%	57%	52%
Rainbow status	26%	19%	22%	21%



Figure 1. Regional distribution of respondents aged 16-21 (n=343)

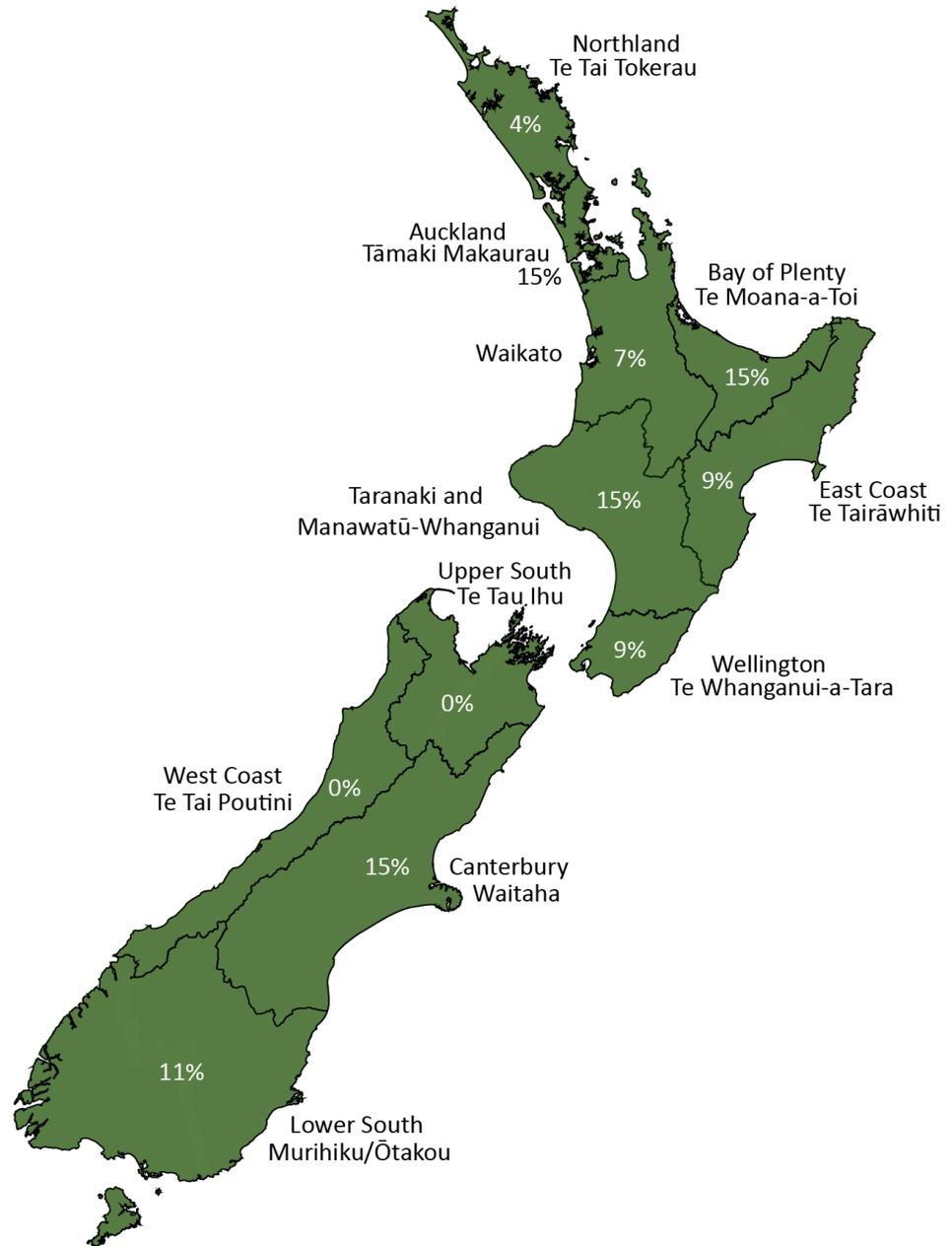


Figure 2. Regional distribution of respondents aged 22 or older (n=46)

2.4. Strengths and limitations of the information in this report

The surveys have provided repeat cross-sectional information about the cohort of young people eligible for transition support. The progressive roll-out of the TSS means young people aged over the survey years resulting in differences in age groups. In 2020, most of the potentially eligible cohort were still in care. In later years, more had left care and were supported by a TSS partner. Just Sayin' 23 includes the over 21 age group who have aged out of eligibility for transition worker support (although some exemptions apply). It also includes some young people who left care before the TSS was implemented.

The main limitation of the Just Sayin' surveys is our inability to contact young people for whom Oranga Tamariki do not have contact details. Therefore, the findings in this report reflect the views of the young people who responded to the survey. Young people for whom Oranga Tamariki do not have contact details may hold different views and be living in different circumstances. Despite this limitation the yearly comparisons provided by the survey are of similar groups of young people and enable changes to be tracked.

There were some differences between the transition eligible cohort and the young people who responded to the survey. Data were not weighted to account for these differences as we considered non-contact bias to be more substantial.

3. Preparation for transition for young people in Oranga Tamariki care

3.1. Young people’s attitudes to Oranga Tamariki social worker support have remained relatively constant

Over half (59%) of the Just Sayin’ survey respondents said Oranga Tamariki made things better for them. Many said their social workers understood their needs (64%) and were there when they needed them (67%). The highest percentage of young people agreed that their social worker did what they said they would do (Table 2).

Table 2. Young people's experiences of Oranga Tamariki social worker support

Connection with transition support services	Just Sayin’20	Just Sayin’21	Just Sayin’22	Just Sayin’23
Of those still in care	n=83	n=126-128	n=148	n=132
Does Oranga Tamariki help make things better for you? (3-yes, I think so, to 4-yes, definitely on 4-point scale)	64%	61%	59%	59%
Does your Oranga Tamariki social worker do what they said they would do? (3-most of the time, to 4-all of the time, on 4-point scale)	72%	65%	63%	72%
Is your Oranga Tamariki social worker there when you need them? (% yes)	67%	66%	66%	67%
Do you think your Oranga Tamariki social worker understands what kinds of support you need? (% yes)	64%	65%	66%	64%

3.2. Oranga Tamariki planning and preparing young people for transition is inconsistent

Preparation and planning with young people for transition is an Oranga Tamariki care standard⁸. The planning and preparation aspects of service delivery were not consistent with the Oranga Tamariki national care standards for approximately one-half of survey respondents.

The percentage of rangatahi who recalled being talked with and working out a plan for transition (52%) was similar to the Just Sayin’ 22 result (56%). Fewer (20%) said they had a copy of their plan (compared to 32% in 2022 and 38% in 2021). The percentage of young people who had a transition Family Group Conference (FGC) (52%) was also lower than the Just Sayin’ 2022 result (68%) (Table 3).

⁸ <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/children-in-our-care/national-care-standards/>

Table 3. Planning for leaving care for young people who were still in care

Transition planning ⁹	Just Sayin' 20	Just Sayin' 21	Just Sayin' 22	Just Sayin' 23
Of young people in care	n=83	n=129	n=153-154	n=132
Has anyone talked with you and worked out a plan for when you leave care? (% yes)	46%	49%	56%	52%
Have you been at a family group conference where people talked with you about what you wanted to do when you leave care? (% yes)	61%	68%	68%	52%
Do you have a copy of your plan for leaving care? (% yes)	N/A	38%	32%	20%
Of those who had discussed a plan, been part of an FGC and/or had a plan	-	n=98	n=119	n=90-91
Do you feel like you have had a say in your plan for leaving care? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	81%	75%
Does it reflect your goals and aspirations as you move towards adulthood? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	63%	66%
Did you want your whānau involved in the planning process? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	56%
Have your whānau been involved as much as you would like in the planning process? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	68%	61%

The percentage of young people who felt they had a say in their plan for leaving care, their plan reflected their goals and aspirations, and their whānau had been involved with the planning process as much as they would like was slightly higher among Māori and Pacific young people than those who were Non-Māori and non-Pacific (Table 4). A slightly higher percentage of non-Māori and non-Pacific young people said someone spoke to them about the places to live when they leave care, compared to Māori and Pacific young people.

⁹ Just Sayin' survey findings include Just Sayin' survey of 16 year olds (see Section 2) and exclude those in a Youth Justice residence.

Table 4. Transition experience of young people in care by ethnicity

	Māori	Pacific	Non-Māori, non-Pacific
	n=43-64	n=16-18	n=43-62
Do you feel you have had a say in your plan for leaving care (% yes)	77%	88%	72%
Does [your plan] reflect your goals and aspirations as you move towards adulthood (% yes)	70%	81%	63%
Have your whānau been involved with the planning process as much as you would like (% yes)	70%	80%	51%
Has someone from Oranga Tamariki spoken to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	31%	28%	44%

3.3. Connection with a transition worker

At the time they completed the survey, 70% of young people in care recalled being asked if they wanted transition worker support. Most (85%) young people in care who had been asked whether they wanted to have a transition worker agreed to have one. Of all young people in care, 53% have/had transition worker experiences.

Table 5. Connection with a transition worker while in Oranga Tamariki care

Connection with transition support services	Just Sayin'21	Just Sayin'22	Just Sayin'23
Young people who had left care	n=202	n=238	n=159-244
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	N/A	N/A	75%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	N/A	82%	87% (n=182)
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	N/A	N/A	4% (n=159)
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	N/A	N/A	62%

Young people who had left care and had no transition worker ¹⁰	n=27	n=14	n=37
Did you have a choice of transition worker?	N/A	47%	40%
Do you think it would help you to connect with someone from a Transition Support Service? (% yes) (Note: a slight variation between years) ¹¹	33%	36%	24%

3.4. Most young people in care lived with a foster family or whānau and had stable accommodation

Most young people in care had stable accommodation (92%). A few young people (8%) were living in unstable accommodation (including a garage, couch surfing, motels, cars/vans and sleeping rough) (Figure 3). The number living in unstable accommodation is likely to be under-counted because they may be less likely to have their contact details recorded in Oranga Tamariki administrative data (CYRUS).

The most common place young people in care lived was in a home with whānau or foster family (62%).

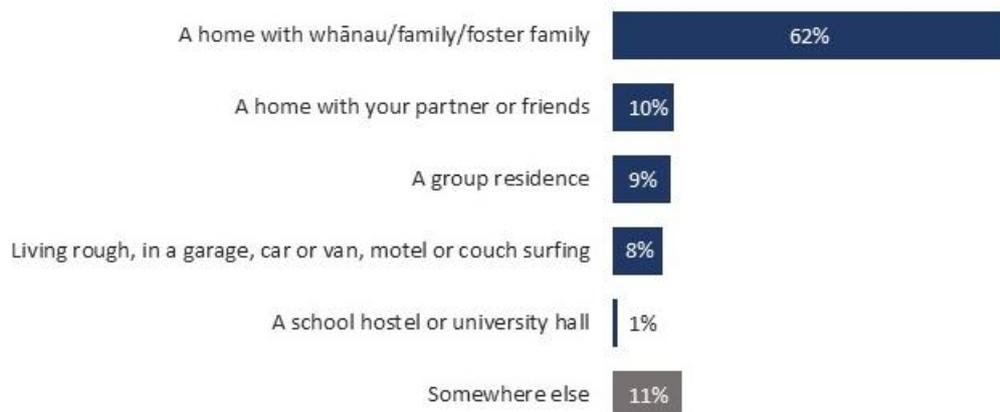


Figure 3. Where young people in care usually live (n=132)

While 82% of young people felt safe where they lived (7-10 on a 0-10 scale), 18% felt less safe. Approximately three-quarters (71%) liked it where they lived (7-10 on a 0-

¹⁰ Including young people who were not asked or were not sure if they were asked about wanting to have a TW, as well as young people who did not agree and those who agreed but did not get one

¹¹ In Just Sayin' 23 young people - % yes of young people who had not been asked if they wanted to have a TW and in Just Sayin' 21 and 22 - (% yes of those without/not sure if they have a TW who haven't/are not sure if they have been asked if they want one

10 scale). A lower percentage of disabled and Rainbow young people felt safe and liked where they lived¹².

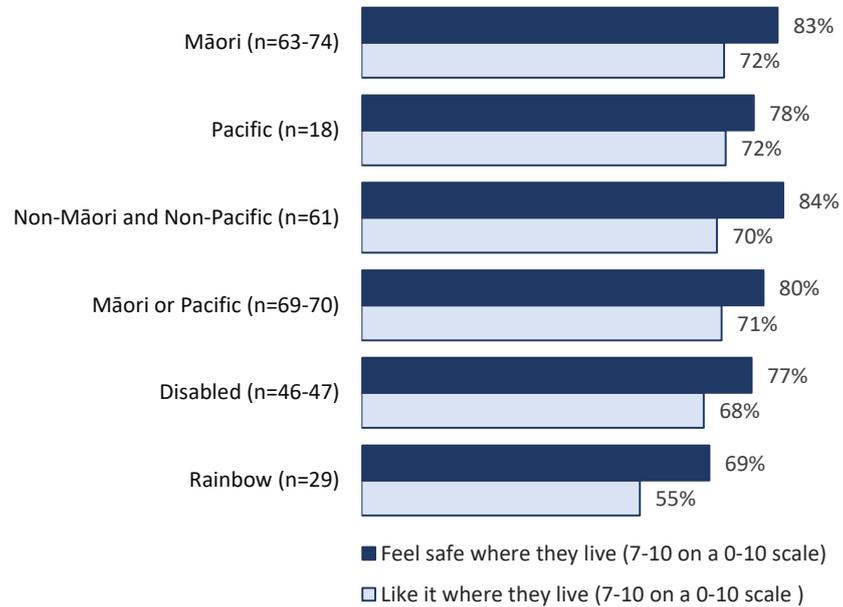


Figure 4. Percentages of young people (in care) who feel safe and like it where they live

Many young people in care reported they wanted to live by themselves, with flatmates, or friends and partners after they left care (Figure 5).

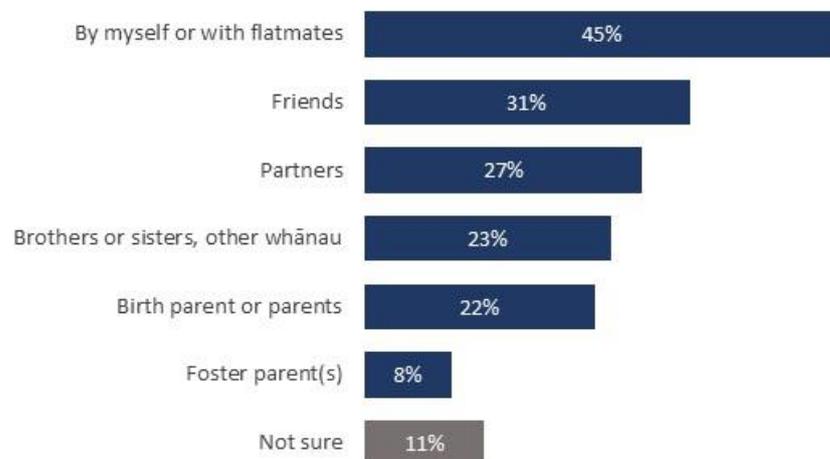


Figure 5. Who young people in care want to live with after leaving care (n=132)

¹² Rainbow 76% felt safe; non-rainbow 87%. Rainbow 72% liked it where they lived; non-rainbow 76%.

Disabled young people 78% felt safe; non-disabled 91%. Disabled young people 67% liked it where they lived; non-disabled 82%.

When leaving care:

- 52% plan to move to somewhere different
- 37% have discussed where to live with Oranga Tamariki or their transition worker
- 47% recalled being told about ETRR.

3.5. Opportunities to improve transition planning

Forty-three young people shared ideas about improving the transition planning process. Responses suggested:

- Having more in-depth discussions about their plan and having more input from themselves and their whānau

More checking in with my family and trying to support us in making plans together. (Young person)

- Setting more tangible goals for moving toward independence

Include more work in them towards going to course and getting to do some work experience. (Young person)

How to find places like depression clinics and other health places since it won't be the caregiver's responsibility anymore. (Young person)

- Receiving a hard copy of their plan so they can work towards their goals in their everyday life.

Giving me copies of everything. (Young person)

4. Connection to a TSS partner for young people who have left care

4.1. Transition planning conversations were recalled by approximately one-half of the survey cohort

Just over one-half (54%) of young people who had left care recalled someone talking with them and working out a plan for when they left care; and 57% said they had been at a Family Group Conference (FGC) where what they discussed their future (Table 6). Most young people (80%) felt they had a say in in their plan for leaving care most or all the time, but fewer (65%) said their whānau were involved in their planning as much as they would like (Table 6).

Table 6. Planning for leaving care for young people who had left care

Transition planning ¹³	Just Sayin' 20	Just Sayin' 21	Just Sayin' 22	Just Sayin' 23
Young people who had left care (16-17 years old only for JS 20-21, all young people under 21 for JS 22-23)	n=10	n=35	n=49	n=244
Had anyone talked with you and worked out a plan for when you leave care? (% yes of those who had recently left care)	40%	54%	51%	54%
When you left care had you been part of an FGC to discuss your future? (% yes of those who had recently left care)	50%	66%	65%	57%
Did you have a copy of your plan for leaving care? (% yes of those who had recently left care)	N/A	59%	41%	30%
Of those who had discussed a plan, been part of an FGC and/or had a plan	-	n=27	n=34	n=164
Did you feel like you have had a say in your plan for leaving care? (% yes of those with a plan ¹⁴)	N/A	N/A	62%	80%
Did it reflect your goals and aspirations as you move towards adulthood? (% yes of those with a plan)	N/A	N/A	53%	65%
Did you want your whānau involved in the planning process? (% yes of those with a plan)	N/A	N/A	N/A	58%
Was your whānau been involved as much as you would like in the planning process? (% yes of those with a plan)	N/A	N/A	62%	65%

¹³ Just Sayin' 20 survey findings include Just Sayin' survey of 16 year olds (see Section 2) and exclude those in a Youth Justice residence.

¹⁴ 'Those with a plan' is of those who selected yes, someone talked with them to work out a plan for leaving care or yes, they had an FGC to discuss their plans for leaving care.

4.2. Connection with a transition worker

At the time they completed the survey, 75% of young people who had left care recalled being asked if they wanted transition worker support. Most (87%) young people left care who had been asked whether they wanted to have a transition worker agreed to have one. Of all young people left care, 62% had transition worker support.

Of those who had left care and had experience with a transition worker, 40% said they had a choice of transition worker (Table 7).

Table 7. Young people’s connection with a transition worker by care status and year

Connection with transition support services	Just Sayin’21	Just Sayin’22	Just Sayin’23
Young people who had left care	n=202	n=220-238	n=159-244
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	N/A	N/A	75%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	N/A	82%	87% (n = 182)
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	N/A	N/A	4% (n=159)
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	N/A	N/A	62%
Did you have a choice of transition worker?	N/A	47%	40%
Young people who had left care and had no transition worker¹⁵	n=27	n=14	n=37
Do you think it would help you to connect with someone from a Transition Support Service? (% yes) (Note: a slight variation between years)	33%	36%	24%

Choice is influenced by the geographic locality where young people live as in smaller localities there may be only a few transition workers. Different regional processes also aligned with the extent young people felt they had a choice of transition worker. In the Lower South Island, more than half (53%) of young people felt they had a choice of transition worker. In Canterbury, where there is a central referral hub, monthly Oranga Tamariki champion meetings, and Oranga Tamariki and TSS partner monthly meetings, 39% of young people considered they had a choice of transition

¹⁵ Including young people who were not asked or were not sure if they were asked about wanting to have a transition worker, young people who did not agree and those who agreed but did not get one.

worker. In contrast, in the Upper South Island, one service covers a large geographic area and no young people considered they had a choice.

The percentage of young people who had left care who said they had a choice of transition worker varied from 37% for rangatahi Māori to 47% for young people who identified as Māori and Pacific (Figure 6).

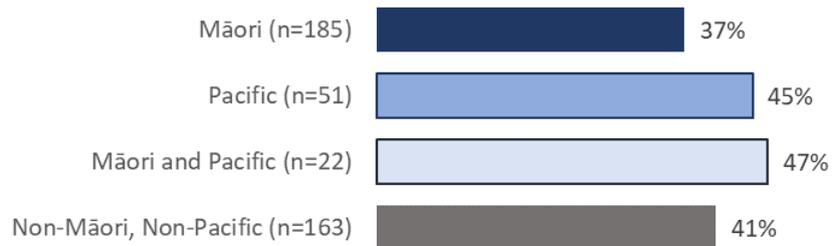


Figure 6. Percentages of young people who had a choice about their transition worker

4.3. Many young people leaving care wanted to live by themselves or with flatmates

After leaving care 73% of young people moved to live somewhere different. Of this group, 57% felt they had a choice about moving to somewhere else.

Before leaving care, most young people who had left care had lived with their foster parent(s) (36%), brothers or sisters, other whānau (27%), or birth parent(s) (25%) (Table 8). On leaving care, few (9%) wanted to remain with their foster parents. Many (38%) wanted to live by themselves or with flatmates after leaving care, or with a partner (25%). However, only 29% were currently living by themselves or with flatmates¹⁶ and 21% with a partner.

¹⁶ The questions about who young people lived with and wanted to live with allowed multiple responses. Before leaving care, 2% of young people selected both partner and myself/with flatmates; 9% of young people selected only partner or myself/with flatmates, respectively. After leaving care, 1% of young people selected both partner and myself/with flatmates; 20% only selected partner, and 28% only selected myself/with flatmates.

Table 8. Who young people lived with before leaving care, currently live with, and prefer to live with if given a choice (n=244)

Who they lived with	Before leaving care	After leaving care	Percentage who would live there if given the choice
Foster parent(s)	36%	7%	9%
Brothers or sisters, other whānau	27%	19%	18%
Birth parent or parents	25%	22%	22%
Partner	11%	21%	25%
By myself or with flatmates	11%	29%	38%
Friends	5%	8%	9%
Not sure	6%	2%	6%

After leaving care, fewer rangatahi Māori lived in the same place as before leaving care compared to young people from other ethnic groups (Table 9). Less than half of young people from all three ethnicity groups (i.e., Māori, Pacific, and non-Māori, non-Pacific) said someone from Oranga Tamariki spoke with them about places to live when they left care. Forty-five percent recalled being told about ETRR.

Table 9. Māori, Pacific, and non-Māori, non-Pacific young people living in the same place as before leaving care and were given housing advice by someone from Oranga Tamariki

	Māori	Pacific	Non-Māori, non-Pacific	All young people
	n=121	n=33	n=101	n=244
Do you live in the same place as before you left care? (% yes)	18%	30%	30%	24% ¹⁷
Did someone from Oranga Tamariki speak to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	38%	45%	44%	41%

While 85% of young people felt safe where they lived (7-10 on a 0-10 scale), 15% provided lower ratings about their safety. Approximately three-quarters (75%) liked it where they lived (7-10 on a 0-10 scale). A smaller percentage of disabled young people liked it where they lived.

¹⁷ 3% were not sure

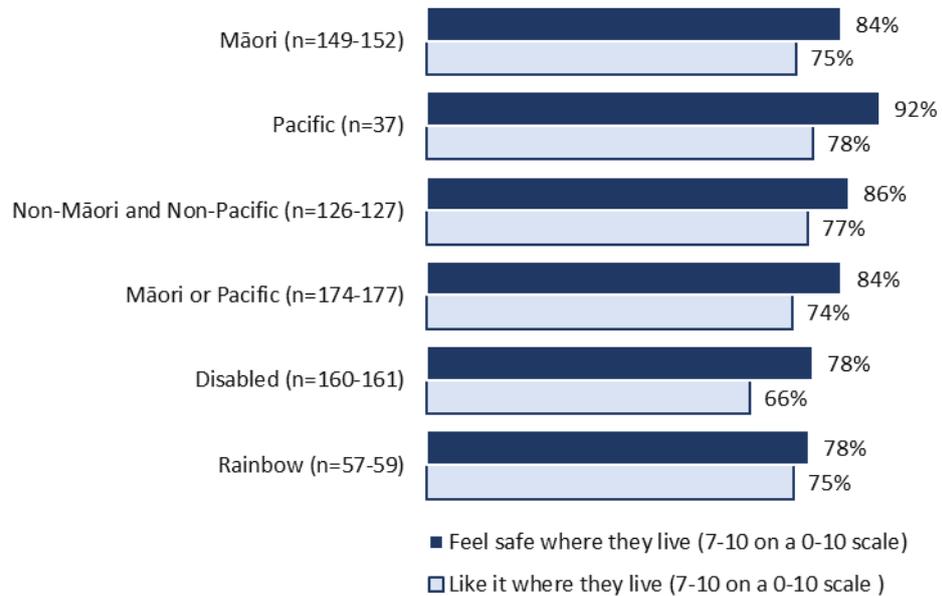


Figure 7. Percentages of young people who had left care who feel safe and like it where they live

4.4. Opportunities to improve transition planning

One hundred and three young people who had left care shared ideas about improving the planning process. Their suggestions, from most to least common:

- Ensuring young people’s voices are heard through their plans and enabling whānau to be involved in young people’s pathways to achieve their goals.
Having the individual, such as myself, who you're planning a future for to get them involved as much as possible and, despite them not yet being adults, because it is about them, I think they should be able to express their ideas and express their thoughts and feelings about adulthood and how it should be....
- Ensuring young people have a stable support system – that young people connect with whānau and have a plan for reconnection and have supports in place who are non-whānau.
Having decent supports other than family members.
- More consistent communication and proactive support pre-transition regarding the planning process.
They were not involved enough during the process.
Talking more about it rather than just a brief discussion.
- Ensuring young people have a plan to access support after transition.
...implement a regular check up (every 3-6 months) to see how the now young adults are tracking along after leaving your guys "care".

5. Transition worker support for young people

A network of transition partners has been established. On 30 June 2023, there were 70 TSS partners across Aotearoa/New Zealand, including kaupapa Māori, Pacific and other health and social service providers.

The TSS partners vary in size, geographical location and type of organisation. Some partners have extensive experience in supporting young people, and others were new to providing services for youth but brought a wealth of cultural knowledge and other expertise.

5.1. Transition worker characteristics are important to young people

When asked what is important in a transition worker, 81% of responses mentioned personality, 26% gender and 20% age (Figure 8).

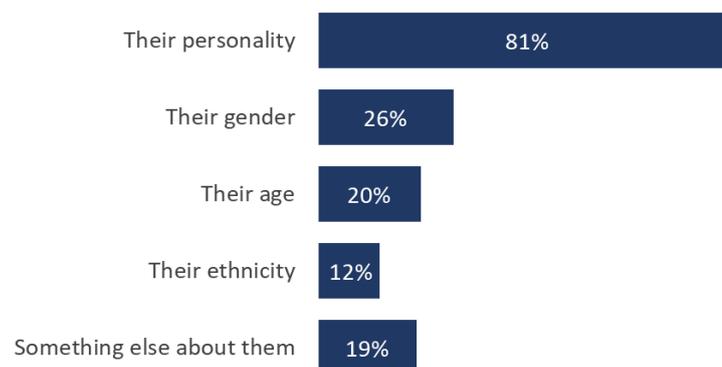
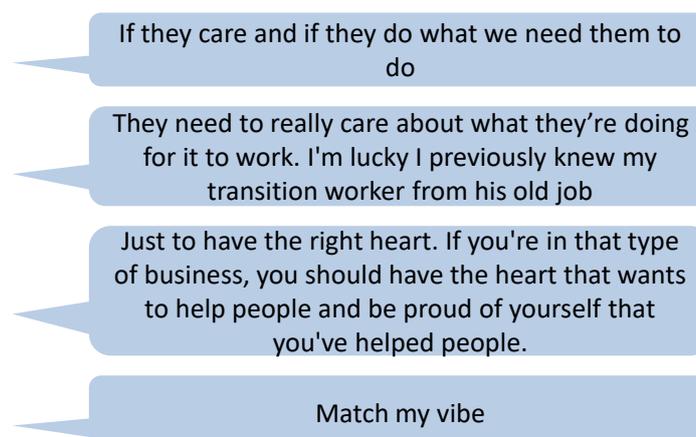


Figure 8. What is important to young people in a transition worker (n=237)



5.2. Many rangatahi Māori wanted transition support from Māori

Half (55%) of rangatahi Māori with a transition worker were supported by a Māori TSS partner and 51% by a Māori transition worker (Figure 9) – 61% of rangatahi Māori overall were supported by a Māori TSS partner or transition worker. The percentage has increased over the survey years. Of rangatahi Māori who do not have a Māori TSS partner, 28% would like to have one.

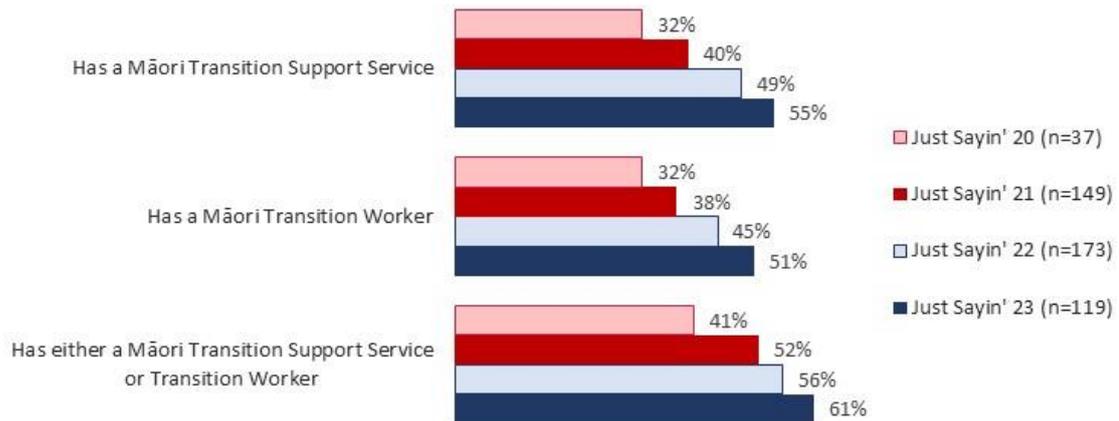


Figure 9. Ethnic match of transition support partners and workers for rangatahi Māori.

5.3. Some Pacific young people appreciated Pacific transition support

Just over one-third (39%) of Pacific young people with a transition worker were supported by a Pacific TSS partner and 39% by a Pacific transition worker (Figure 10) – 50% of Pacific young people overall were supported by a Pacific TSS partner or transition worker. Of those not being supported by a Pacific organisation 12% said they would like to have a Pacific organisation support them.

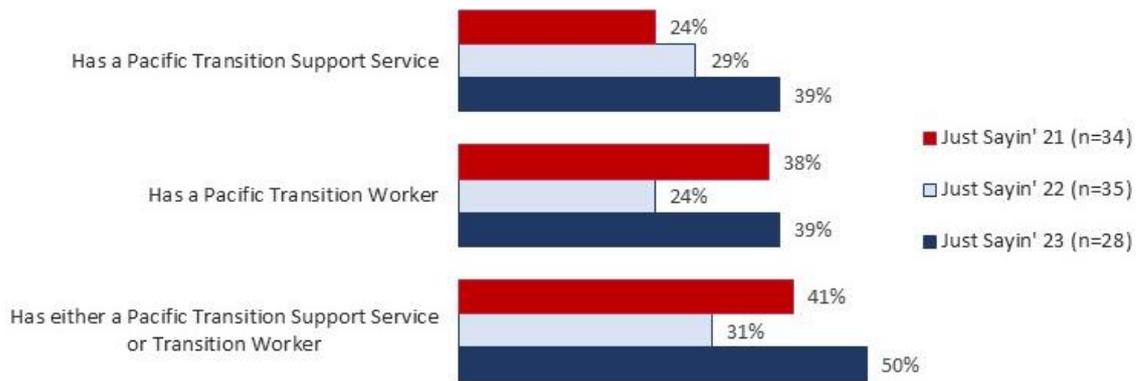


Figure 10. Ethnic match of transition support partners and workers (asked of all Pacific)¹⁸.

5.4. Most young people said their transition worker made things better for them

Most young people both in care (86%) and who had left care (82%) said their transition worker helps make things better for them.

Across all young people, 85% said their transition worker helped make things better for them; 83% said their transition worker did what they said they would do; 82% said their transition worker was there when they needed them and 80% said their transition worker understands the kind of support they need.

Most young people (both in care and who had left care) said their transition worker understands what kinds of support they need, is there when they need them, and does what they say they would do (most or all of the time) (Table 10).

The characteristics of young people who were positive in response to all three questions about their transition worker compared to those who were less positive, did not vary substantially by care status, ethnicity, rainbow status or age.

¹⁸ 16-year-olds were not asked all questions in 2020. These questions are marked with an asterisk beside the 2020 figure.

Table 10. Young people’s experiences of transition worker and social worker support^{19*}

Connection with transition support services	Just Sayin’ 20	Just Sayin’ 21	Just Sayin’ 22	Just Sayin’ 23
Young people in care (who have/had a transition worker)	n=38	n=91-92	n=106-107	n=76-100
Do you think your transition worker understands what kinds of support you need? (% yes)	87%*	80%	83%	80%
Does your transition worker do what they say they would do? (3- most of the time, to 4- all of the time, on a 4-point scale)	92%*	83%	80%	82%
Is your transition worker there when you need them? (% yes)	89%*	83%	78%	80%
Does your transition worker help make things better for you? (3- yes I think so, to 4- yes, definitely, on a 4-point scale)	89%*	80%	78%	86%
Young people who had left care (who have/had a transition worker)	n=23	n=163	n=218	n=158
Do you think your transition worker understands what kinds of support you need? (% yes)	91%*	81%	83%	79%
Does your transition worker do what they say they would do? (3- most of the time, to 4- all of the time, on a 4-point scale)	87%*	79%	82%	81%
Is your transition worker there when you need them? (% yes)	78%*	78%	79%	80%
Does your transition worker help make things better for you? (3- yes I think so, to 4- yes, definitely, on a 4-point scale)	91%*	79%	83%	82%

5.5. Most young people were happy with their frequency of transition worker contact

Sixty-four percent of young people who had a transition worker thought their frequency of contact with their transition worker was about right. A larger percentage of those who had left care thought their frequency of contact was about right, compared to those in care (in care - 57%, left care - 67%).

Of young people who were still seeing their transition worker, half (50%) saw their transition worker weekly or fortnightly, consistent with the 2022 results (Table 11).

Table 11. How often young people still saw their transition worker (of those still seeing their transition worker).

Frequency	2022 (n=190)	2023 (n=134)	Change in % points from 22 to 23
Weekly or more	23%	20%	-3%
Fortnightly	22%	30%	+8%
Monthly	20%	16%	-4%
Every few months	16%	10%	-6%
Once or twice a year	1%	2%	+1%
Just when I request it	17%	19%	+2%
Never ²⁰	2%	2%	0%

Of young people who said they were still meeting with their transition worker (n=134), just 1% said they wanted to see their transition worker less and 25% wanted to see their transition worker more often (Figure 11). Over half (56%) of those who wanted to see their transition worker more often currently saw their transition worker once or twice a year or less or only when they requested.

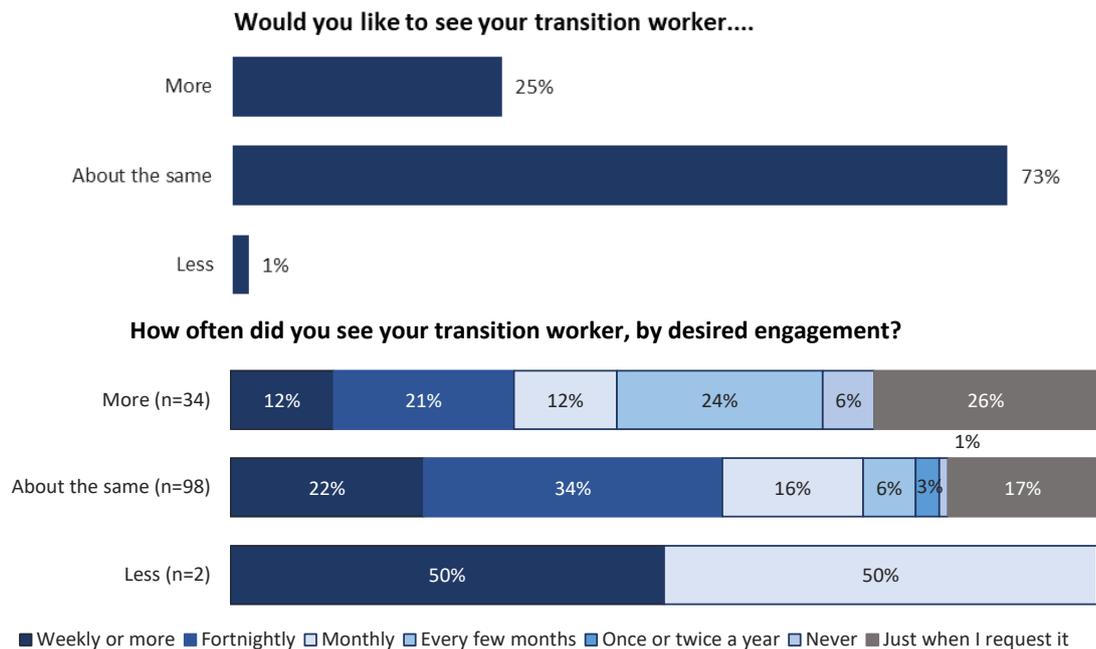


Figure 11. Frequency of support from transition workers (n=134)

²⁰ Young people who selected 'never' could have been assigned a transition worker but not yet met them or in an exit process.

5.6. Changes in transition worker

The TSS is a relationship-based service and inevitably over time transition workers will leave their roles. Of young people with experience with transition support, 66% had been supported by one or two transition workers and 24% by more than two.

5.7. Leaving transition worker support

One-third (35%) of young people said they no longer met with their transition workers. The percentage was higher for those who had left care (40%) than for those in care (25%) and they gave different reasons for leaving. Those in care were most likely to have left because they were not getting help or because they did not like their transition worker. Young people who had left care most often left transition worker support because they no longer needed support.

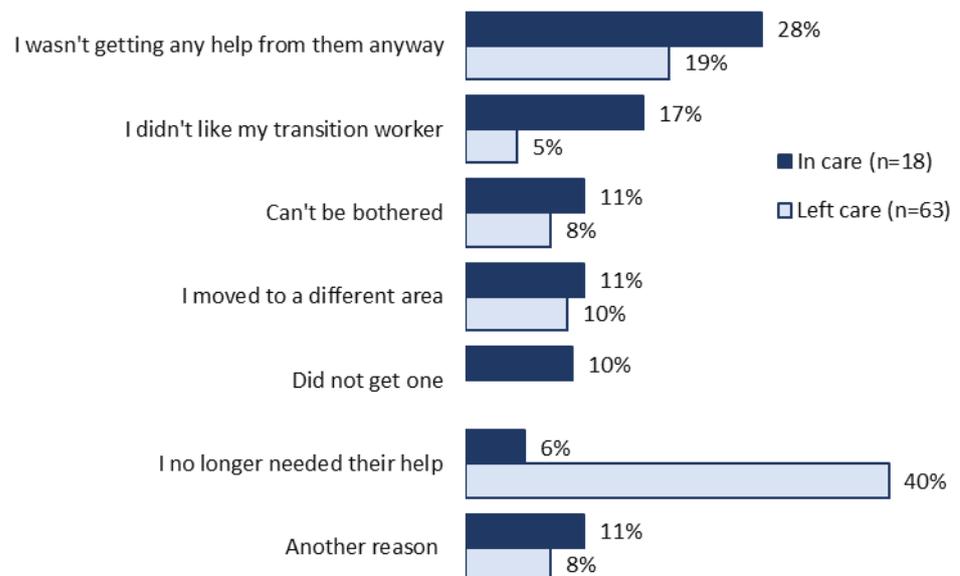


Figure 12. Reasons young people stopped working with their transition worker. Note: excludes 14 young people who said they stopped because they were over 21 (n=81).

6. How transition workers have supported young people

6.1. Health and wellbeing

Young people were asked to assess their life in general. There has been a steady decrease in the percentage of young people who feel their life in general is good or excellent. Hopefulness has remained constant but lower than in Just Sayin' 20, where numbers surveyed were smaller.

Table 12. Attitudes to life in general

Life in general	Just Sayin' 20	Just Sayin' 21	Just Sayin' 22	Just Sayin' 23
Young people who have/had a transition worker	n=37-61	n=120-196	n=266-318	n=187-222
How do you feel about your life in general? (4-very good, to 5-excellent on 5-point scale)	38%	42%	32%	27%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	72%	75%	73%	64%
Are you worried about anything in your life just now? (7 to 10, severe worries, on a 10-point scale)	14%	29%	24%	28%
Young people who have not had a transition worker	n=13-33	n=72-131	n=59-72	n=110-153
How do you feel about your life in general? (4-very good, to 5-excellent on 5-point scale)	48%	38%	29%	24%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	82%	67%	69%	68%
Are you worried about anything in your life just now? (7 to 10, severe worries, on a 10-point scale)	14%	24%	20%	33%

6.2. Support with health and wellbeing

Most (76%) young people considered they had an adult they could turn to for support (Table 13). The percentage was slightly higher for young people with transition worker support.

Slightly higher percentages of young people with a transition worker were receiving support for their physical, mental and dental health. Forty-two percent of young people said their transition worker had helped them to connect with a doctor or a nurse, 32% with a counsellor and 25% with a dentist (Table 17).

Table 13. Who young people would go to for support

More young people have a trusted adult in their lives	Just Sayin' 20	Just Sayin' 21	Just Sayin' 22	Just Sayin' 23
Young people who have/had a transition worker	n=60	n=192	n=317	n=222
If you were going through a difficult time and needed help, do you have someone you could turn to? (% yes)	85%	76%	77%	79%
Are you receiving the health support you need for your physical health? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	50%
Are you receiving the health support you need for your mental health? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	49%
Are you receiving the health support you need for your dental health? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	47%
Young people who have not had a transition worker	n=32	n=128	n=71	n=153
If you were going through a difficult time and needed help, do you have someone you could turn to? (% yes)	78%	75%	77%	71%
Are you receiving the health support you need for your physical health? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	45%
Are you receiving the health support you need for your mental health? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	42%
Are you receiving the health support you need for your dental health? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	45%

6.3. Whakapapa and whānau reconnection

Young people who have/had transition worker support were not more positive about aspects of their identity than other young people (Table 14).

Table 14. Sense of identity

Sense of identity	Just Sayin' 20	Just Sayin' 21	Just Sayin' 22	Just Sayin' 23
Young people who have/had a transition worker	n=61	n=196	n=317	n=221
To what extent do you feel secure in your identity? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	74%	74%	78%	74%
To what extent do you feel proud of who you are? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	77%	76%	73%	68%
Young people who have not had a transition worker	n=32	n=131	n=71	n=153
To what extent do you feel secure in your identity? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	81%	69%	76%	76%
To what extent do you feel proud of who you are? (3-reasonably to 4-very on 4-point scale)	73%	68%	73%	72%

There was little change between surveys in some of the factors with the potential to enable young people to strengthen their identity including chances to connect with whānau, and support to find out about their ancestry or whakapapa. There were no differences between young people with and without transition worker support. However, 31% of young people said their transition worker had helped them to reconnect with birth whānau. More Pacific young people received help from their transition worker to connect with their birth whānau (42%) than young people from other ethnic groups. Just over half of rangatahi Māori wanted to know more about their whakapapa (51%). Of all young people, 43% wanted to know more about their whakapapa.

Table 15. Knowledge of whakapapa and whānau reconnection

Knowledge of whakapapa and whānau reconnection	Just Sayin' 20	Just Sayin' 21	Just Sayin' 22	Just Sayin' 23
Young people who have/had a transition worker	n=61	n=197	n=317	n=222
Do you want to know more about your ancestry or whakapapa? (% yes)	56%	50%	43%	42%
Do you want more chances to connect with your birth whānau? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	31%
Has your transition worker helped you connect with your birth whānau? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	31%
Young people who have not had a a transition worker	n=33	n=132	n=72	n=153
Do you want to know more about your ancestry or whakapapa? (% yes)	36%	52%	54%	43%
Do you want more chances to connect with your birth whānau? (% yes)	N/A	N/A	N/A	31%

6.4. Young people wanted to learn a range of skills

When asked what skills young people wanted for their future, most young people wanted to learn money management skills (58%). Other skills were getting their driver's licence (51%), followed by other general life skills like relationship skills (39%), cooking (34%), becoming work ready (30%), getting ID (26%), parenting skills (25%) and enrolling in training (24%).

The percentage of young people who said they were getting the support they needed to learn those skills differed between people with a transition worker and those without. A higher percentage of young people with a transition worker felt supported in money management, becoming work ready and cooking. Conversely, young people without a transition worker felt more supported in other areas of skills

development (Table 16). There were minimal differences between young people in care and those not in care.

Table 16. Percentage of young people who felt supported to learn the skill they wanted to learn

Skills	Skills all young people wanted to learn (n=363)	Support for young people with a transition worker (n=120)	Support for young people without a transition worker (n=66)
Money management	58%	58%	48%
Driver's licence	51%	44%	56%
Relationship skills	39%	34%	39%
Cooking	34%	37%	26%
Becoming work ready	30%	29%	23%
Getting ID	26%	23%	32%
Parenting skills	25%	23%	17%
Enrolling in training	24%	22%	26%
Connecting with culture	19%	21%	23%
Something else	10%	-	-

6.5. Education, training and employment

One-third (33%) of young people who responded to Just Sayin' 23 had paid employment. Young people aged 16 to 17 were more likely to have regular part-time jobs while those aged 18 to 21 were more likely to have full-time jobs (Figure 13). Overall, just over one-third (38%) of young people who had a job are in casual employment.



Figure 13. Type of employment for young people aged 16 to 17 and 18 to 21 who had employment (n=122)

Just under a quarter (22%) of young people said their transition worker has helped them to get a job and 8% were not sure. Thirty-one young people who received help from their transition worker with getting a job provided comments about how their transition worker supported them:

- One-half were supported with crafting their curriculum vitae.
- Roughly one-fifth said their transition worker supported them with searching for jobs.
- Other various assistance included helping them with their application or practicing interview questions, supporting them to get their driver licence for a role, and referring them to employment agencies or to personal networks for finding roles.

We went and did job agencies together. I asked if my transition worker could come in and sit with me in an interview, as I couldn't do it by myself. (Young person)

Just under half (47%) of young people said their transition worker had helped them with education or training and 13% were not sure. Overall, one-third (32%) of young people felt it would help to receive transition support for education or training. Most (84%) young people who felt it would help to receive transition support for education or training had a transition worker.

Seventy young people provided comments about how their transition worker supported them with education or training:

- Just over one-half said their transition worker supported them to enrol in a course.
- Other responses included supporting them with their schoolwork, with accessing financial support, gaining their driver licence to travel to an education opportunity, applying for scholarships, accessing course supplies and mental and physical health to be well enough to access education and training.

Motivation all-round. Support with options for my education and what not. Helped me get household things when I moved out of home. (Young person)

They have helped me by letting me know about scholarships and opportunities available. (Young person)

Took me to an open day at [name] beauty and helped me with application. (Young person)

6.6. Financial assistance

Thirty percent of young people had requested financial assistance through the transition assistance line (16%) or their transition worker (18%). A small percentage (4%) had asked for financial assistance from both.

Seventy-nine percent of the 121 young people who had requested financial assistance had received or partially received the financial support they requested. The main reasons young people asked for financial support were for essentials, housing, travel, health, and education support (Figure 14).

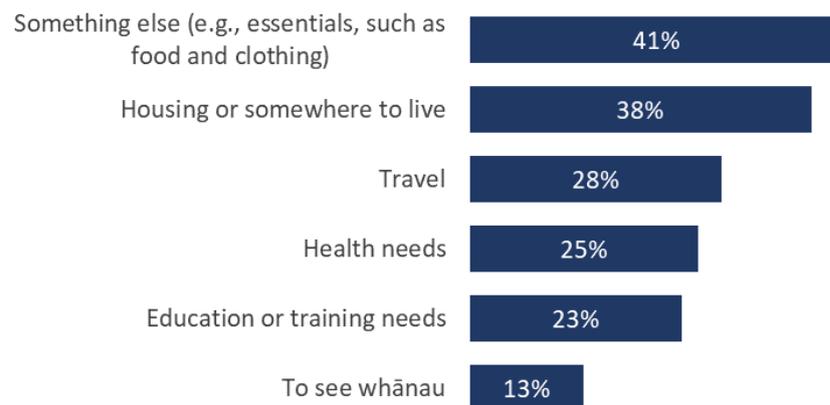


Figure 14. The reasons young people asked for financial support (n=111 – reason not provided by 10 young people)

6.7. Summary of transition worker support

Transition workers have helped young people with important aspects of their lives, including connecting young people with their birth whānau, health professionals, and education and employment opportunities (Table 17). Most (84%) had received support for at least one aspect.

Table 17. The extent young people with transition worker support considered their transition worker had helped with aspects of their lives

Young people who thought their transition worker had helped with...	All young people (n=221-222)	Rangatahi Māori (n=112-113)	Pacific young people (n=30)
Connection with birth whānau	31%	33%	43%
Connection with doctor or nurse	42%	40%	57%
Connection with counsellor	32%	29%	30%
Connection with dentist	25%	22%	30%
Connection with education and training	47%	43%	50%
Connection with employment	22%	23%	30%
Received transition worker support across at least one of the aspects above	84%	83%	90%

7. Transition assistance line and other support

In response to the survey, 65% of young people knew how to contact Oranga Tamariki if they needed help and 19% had called the transition assistance line. Most (86%) young people felt the assistance line helped them a little to a lot (Table 18).

Table 18. Awareness of how to contact Oranga Tamariki for support (Source: Just Sayin')

Maintaining contact with young people	Just Sayin' 20 (n=163)	Just Sayin' 21 (n=321)	Just Sayin' 22 (n=388)	Just Sayin' 23 (n=368)
Do you know how to get support from Oranga Tamariki if you needed help? (% yes)	79%	69%	72%	65%
Have you called the Transition Support Line at Oranga Tamariki? (% yes)	17%	21%	27%	19%
Those who have called: Did they help you? (% yes – a little or a lot)	82%	80%	84%	86%

Just under one-third (30%) of requests for transition assistance line support were about housing or somewhere to live, followed by education or training needs (25%) or health needs (25%). Calls for 'something else', included relocation, transport and car repairs (Figure 15). The value of the transition assistance line in linking young people with transition support is demonstrated by 21% of reasons for calls being to link young people with a transition worker.

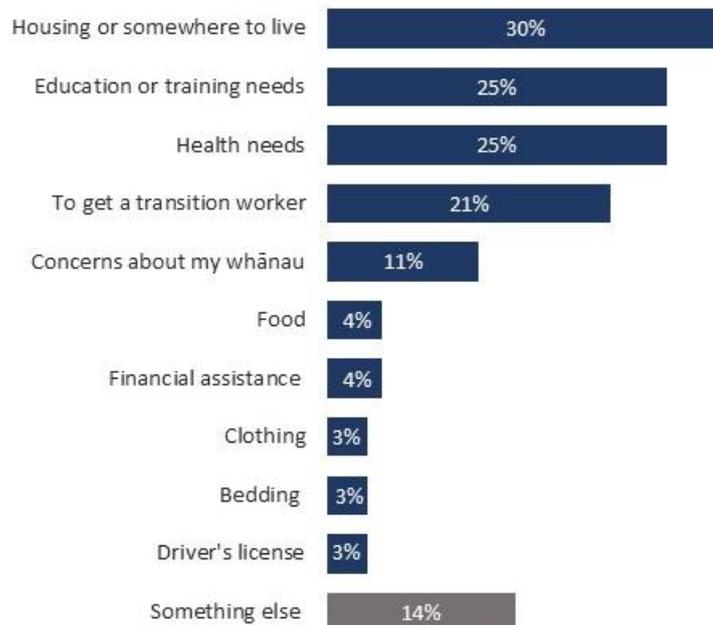


Figure 15. Reasons for support requested through the transition assistance line (n=71)

7.1. Support from other organisations

Just under half (49%) of young people said they were not receiving any support other than the TSS. About half of all young people (51%) were receiving support from other organisations, including a counsellor (31%), a youth service (31%), a health provider (30%), someone at the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) or Work and Income (WINZ) (26%), an accommodation or housing provider (11%), and someone else (19%) (Figure 16).

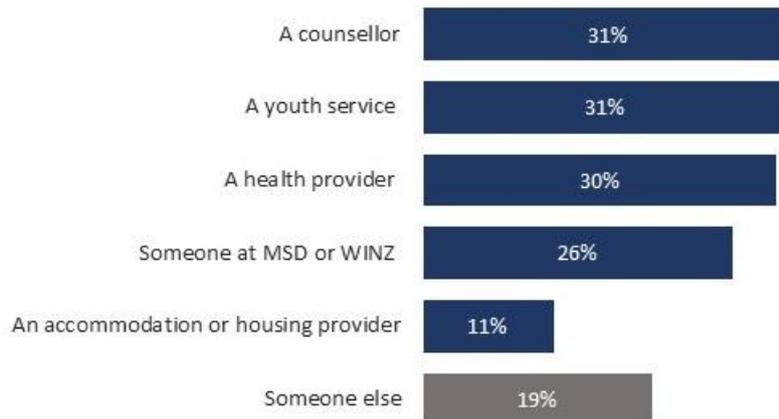


Figure 16. Other services where young people said they received support (n=191)

Among the young people who did not have a transition worker, just under half (46%) said they were not receiving support from any other organisations.

7.2. VOYCE Whakarongo Mai

The percentage of young people who knew about VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai has been consistent across years (Table 19).

Table 19. Awareness of VOYCE Whakarongo Mai (Source: Just Sayin')

Maintaining contact with rangatahi	Just Sayin' 20 (n=163)	Just Sayin' 21 (n=320)	Just Sayin' 22 (n=388)	Just Sayin' 23 (n=367)
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? (% yes)	61%	65%	65%	62%

8. Young parents

Twenty percent of young people aged 16-21 said they were either a parent, about to become a parent and/or were hapū (pregnant). Eighty-two percent of parents said their child/children lived with them either some or all the time; up from 74% in 2022. Most were women (82%).

Of the 55 young people whose child lived with them, 65% ranked the support they received as 7 to 10 on a 10 point-scale, compared to 59% in 2021 (Figure 17).



Figure 17. Young parents' perceptions of the support they received to look after their child (n=55, young parents whose children lived with them)

8.1. Young parents were positive about their transition worker support

- A similar percentage of young parents (69%) to other young people (74%) recalled being asked about whether they wanted to have transition worker support.
- A similar percentage of young parents (88%) and other young people (86%) agreed to have a transition worker.
- A similar percentage of young parents (69%) and other young people (72%) were positive about the transition worker support they received.

8.2. Many aspects of the quality of life of young parents were similar to other young people

- A higher percentage of young parents had received dental support through their transition worker than other young people – possibly reflecting dental support initiatives for young mothers. However, 38% of young parents said they were not receiving the dental support they needed.
- A smaller percentage of young parents knew how to get in contact with Oranga Tamariki if they needed help.

Table 20. Transition experiences and quality of life of parent and non-parent young people

All young people	Young parents	Other young people
	n=19-74	n=122-337
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	69%	74%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	88%	86%
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	7%	6%
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	57%	60%
Did you have a choice about your transition worker? (% yes)	49%	37%
All positive about transition worker (understands what kind of support I need, is there when I need them, makes things better for me) (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	69%	72%
How do you feel about your life in general? (% of 'very good' or 'excellent')	23%	27%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')	72%	64%
I feel safe where I live (% of ratings 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	72%	84%
I like it where I live (% of ratings 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	66%	74%
To what extent do you feel... (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')		
Secure in your identity	76%	75%
Proud of who you are	72%	70%
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills for your future? (% yes)	51%	51%
Do you know how to get support from Oranga Tamariki if you need help? (% yes)	51%	68%
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? (% yes)	64%	61%
Are you receiving the health support you want for your:		
Physical health	45%	49%
Mental health	37%	48%
Dental health	38%	48%

Has your transition worker helped you to connect with:		
A doctor or nurse	38%	41%
A counsellor	22%	32%
A dentist	29%	24%
Has your transition worker helped you with education or training? (% yes)	47%	44%

9. Disabled young people

Disability was self-identified by young people using questions derived from the Washington short-form questionnaire.

Overall, 57% of young people reported a difficulty on the Washington Scale²¹.

Table 21. Young people who reported a difficulty on the Washington Scale

A young person was defined as “disabled” if they report they ‘often’ or ‘always’ have difficulty with one or more of the following:	% of disabled young people (n=214)
Difficulty seeing	29%
Difficulty hearing	12%
Difficulty doing physical activities	11%
Difficulty learning, remembering or concentrating	60%
Emotional, psychological or mental health conditions	71%

Of those who reported a disability, 59% reported only disability associated with emotional, psychological or mental health conditions, 11% reported only a physical disability, and 30% reported both psychological and physical disability. The profile of disabled young people below outlines these groups.

9.1. Transition experiences differed for disabled young people

Disabled young people were asked if they wanted transition worker support at a similar rate to other young people. However, disabled young people gave lower ratings to their transition worker compared to those with no disability (Figure 18). There were minimal differences between male and female young people.

²¹ A young person is defined as “disabled” if they report they ‘often’ or ‘always’ have difficulty with one or more of the following: Seeing (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses), hearing (even when wearing hearing aids), doing physical tasks like walking, learning remembering or concentrating, emotional, psychological or mental health conditions.



Figure 18. Disabled and non-disabled young people’s positivity about their transition workers and social workers

9.2. Fewer disabled young people were positive about their quality of life

Disabled young people generally gave lower ratings than non-disabled young people when asked about their life. A substantially lower percentage of disabled young people indicated good wellbeing, secure identity, pride in who they are and hope for their future. Disabled young people were also less likely to receive support for their health and skills development compared to those without a disability.

- **Living arrangements:** A higher percentage of disabled young people recalled someone from Oranga Tamariki speaking with them about where they would live when they left care (45% compared to 23%). However, disabled young people were less likely to feel safe where they lived (78% compared to 91%) and less likely to like where they lived (67% compared to 82%).
- **Wellbeing:** A smaller percentage of disabled young people rated their life in general as very good or excellent (20% compared to 34%).
- **Identity:** A smaller percentage of disabled young people were positive about all aspects of the questions about their identity (43% compared to 67%).
- **Skill support:** A smaller percentage of disabled young people received the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted to learn for their future (43% compared to 62%).
- **Health support:** Smaller percentages of disabled young people felt they were getting the physical health support (43% compared to 55%), mental health support (40% compared to 54%) and dental health support (40% compared to 54%) they need.

Table 22. Transition experiences and quality of life of disabled and non-disabled young people

	Disabled	Not disabled
Young people in care	n=53-84	n=37-48
Do you feel you have had a say in your plan for leaving care (% yes)	74%	76%
Does [your plan] reflect your goals and aspirations as you move towards adulthood (% yes)	64%	68%
Have your whānau been involved with the planning process as much as you would like (% yes)	62%	60%
Has someone from Oranga Tamariki spoken to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	45%	23%
Young people who have left care	n=130	n=114
Do you live in the same place as before you left care? (% yes)	19%	30%
Did someone from Oranga Tamariki speak to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	42%	39%
All young people	n=150-214	n=84-162
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	75%	70%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	94%	76%
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	5%	6%
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	66%	49%
Did you have a choice about your transition worker? (% yes)	36%	45%
All positive about transition worker (understands what kind of support I need, is there when I need them, makes things better for me) (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	67%	79%
How do you feel about your life in general? (% of 'very good' or 'excellent')	20%	34%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')	56%	78%
I feel safe where I live (% of ratings 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	78%	91%
I like it where I live (% of ratings 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	67%	82%
To what extent do you feel... (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')		
Secure in your identity	67%	86%
Proud of who you are	62%	81%
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills for your future? (% yes)	43%	62%

	Disabled	Not disabled
Do you know how to get support from Oranga Tamariki if you need help? (% yes)	60%	71%
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? (% yes)	66%	56%
Are you receiving the health support you want for your: (% yes)		
Physical health	43%	55%
Mental health	40%	54%
Dental health	40%	54%
Has your transition worker helped you to connect with: (% yes)		
A doctor or nurse	43%	36%
A counsellor	30%	31%
A dentist	23%	27%
Has your transition worker helped you with education or training? (% yes)	43%	46%
Would it help to receive transition support for education/training? (% yes of those who said their transition worker did not help them with education or training)	35% (n=65)	26% (n=34)

10. Rainbow young people

Young people who defined themselves as LGBT+ and those undecided or questioning their identity were grouped into a rainbow grouping²². The rainbow group is described below²³ in comparison to young people.

Rainbow young people profile Just Sayin' 2023

Breakdown of 22% (n=81) people who were rainbow and 78% (n=295) who were non-rainbow.

22% Were defined as rainbow through identifying as LGBT+		78% Were non-rainbow young people	
62%	Were female	64%	Were female
28%	Were male	36%	Were male
9%	Were another gender.	0%	Were another gender.
40%	Were Māori	52%	Were Māori
7%	Were Pacific	15%	Were Pacific
56%	Were non-Māori, non-Pacific.	40%	Were non-Māori, non-Pacific.
80%	Reported a disability on the Washington Scale.	51%	Reported a disability on the Washington Scale.

10.1. Transition experiences were similar for rainbow young people

Rainbow and non-rainbow young people were similar in how positive they were about their transition workers and their social workers (Figure 19). There were minimal differences between male and female young people.

²² Responses to the survey questions about rainbow identity were provided by 376 young people: 81 young people described themselves as rainbow and 295 did not.

²³In the data profile breakdown, total count ethnicity was used, so young people may be represented within multiple ethnicities.

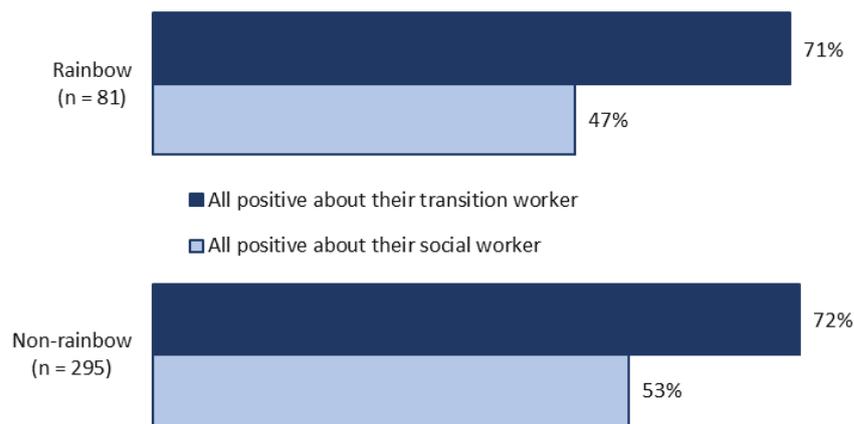


Figure 19. Rainbow and non-rainbow young people’s positivity about their transition workers and social workers

10.2. Rainbow young people reported a poorer quality of life compared to other young people

Rainbow young people gave lower ratings about many aspects of their lives than non-rainbow young people. A substantially lower percentage of young people in the rainbow community indicated good wellbeing, secure identity, pride in who they were and hope for their future.

- **Wellbeing:** A smaller percentage of rainbow young people rated their life in general as ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’ (17% for rainbow compared to 28% for non-rainbow) and were hopeful about their future (49% compared to 70%).
- **Living arrangements:** A smaller percentage of rainbow young people felt safe where they lived (76% compared to 87%).
- **Identity:** A smaller percentage of rainbow young people felt secure in their identity (56% compared to 80%), proud of who they were (52% compared to 75%).
- **Skills development:** A smaller percentage of rainbow young people considered they were receiving the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted for their future (42% compared to 54%).
- **Health support:** Higher percentages of rainbow young people were also in the disabled group. Similar percentages of rainbow and other young people were getting the physical health support (43% compared to 50%), mental health support (44% compared to 47%) and dental health support they needed (43% compared to 47%).

Table 23. Transition experiences and quality of life of rainbow and other young people

	Rainbow	Not Rainbow
Young people in care	n=21-34	n=69-98
Do you feel you have had a say in your plan for leaving care (% yes)	76%	74%
Does [your plan] reflect your goals and aspirations as you move towards adulthood (% yes)	67%	66%
Have your whānau been involved with the planning process as much as you would like (% yes)	67%	59%
Has someone from Oranga Tamariki spoken to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	53%	32%
Young people who have left care	n=47	n=197
Do you live in the same place as before you left care? (% yes)	17%	26%
Did someone from Oranga Tamariki speak to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	47%	39%
All young people	n=58-81	n=176-295
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	77%	72%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	94%	84%
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	5%	6%
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	68%	57%
Did you have a choice about your transition worker? (% yes)	28%	43%
All positive about transition worker (understands what kind of support I need, is there when I need them, makes things better for me) (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	71%	72%
How do you feel about your life in general? (% of 'very good' or 'excellent')	17%	28%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')	49%	70%
I feel safe where I live (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	76%	87%
I like it where I live (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	72%	76%
To what extent do you feel... (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')		
Secure in your identity	56%	80%
Proud of who you are	52%	75%
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills for your future? (% yes)	42%	54%
Do you know how to get support from Oranga Tamariki if you need help? (% yes)	63%	65%

	Rainbow	Not Rainbow
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? (% yes)	68%	60%
Are you receiving the health support you want for your: (% yes)		
Physical health	43%	50%
Mental health	44%	47%
Dental health	43%	47%
All three areas	21%	29%
Has your transition worker helped you to connect with: (% yes)		
A doctor or nurse	53%	36%
A counsellor	40%	27%
A dentist	26%	24%
Has your transition worker helped you with education or training? (% yes)	41%	46%

11. Young people from different ethnic groups

About half (49%) of young people responding to Just Sayin' 23 identified as Māori, and 14% as Pacific. Young people who were non-Māori and non-Pacific accounted for 43%²⁴.

The same percentage (35%) of Māori (n=185) and Pacific (n=51) young people were still in care, and 65% in both groups had left care. Over half (67%) the young people who were neither Māori nor Pacific (n=163) had left care.

11.1. Young people from all ethnic groups were positive about transition worker support

Most Māori (89%), Pacific (89%), and non-Māori and non-Pacific (83%) young people agreed to have a transition worker. Fewer had a choice of transition worker: Māori (37%), Pacific (45%), and non-Māori and non-Pacific (41%) (Table 24).

Most young people from Māori (75%), Pacific (74%), and non-Māori and non-Pacific (68%) groups gave positive ratings (7-10 on a 0-10 scale) for all three aspects about their transition worker support (Table 24).

11.2. Young people from different ethnic groups rated aspects of their lives

- **Wellbeing:** Similar percentages of Māori (59%), Pacific (65%), and non-Māori and non-Pacific (64%) young people felt their life in general was 'very good' to 'excellent'.
- **Identity:** Similar percentages of Māori (76%), Pacific (75%), and non-Māori and non-Pacific (75%) young people felt secure in their identity, proud of who they are (Māori (70%); Pacific (79%); non-Māori and non-Pacific (69%)), and hopeful for their future (Māori (67%); Pacific (65%); non-Māori and non-Pacific (63%).
- **Living arrangements:** Young people from all three ethnicity groups (Māori, Pacific, and non-Māori and non-Pacific) gave high ratings about the safety (over 8.6 on a 0-10 scale) of the place where they lived. Smaller percentages said they liked where they lived (over 7.7 on a 0-10 scale).
- **Education and training:** Similar percentages of Māori, Pacific, and non-Māori and non-Pacific young people received transition worker support for education or training. Among young people who did not receive education/training support, higher percentages of Māori and Pacific²⁵ young people

²⁴ Total count ethnicity where young people are counted in each ethnic group they identify.

²⁵ Note: the Pacific sample size was small

said they felt it would be helpful to receive transition support for education or training compared to non-Māori and non-Pacific young people.

- **Skill support:** A smaller percentage of Māori group (43%) and Pacific (53%) young people felt they were getting the support they needed to learn the skills for their future compared to non-Māori and non-Pacific (61%) young people.
- **Health support:** A smaller percentage of Māori group (43%) and Pacific (53%) young people felt they were getting the physical health, mental health and dental health support they needed compared to non-Māori and non-Pacific young people.

Table 24. Transition experiences and quality of life of young people from different ethnic groups

	Māori	Pacific	Non-Māori, non-Pacific
Young people in care	n=43-64	n=16-18	n=43-62
Do you feel you have had a say in your plan for leaving care (% yes)	77%	88%	72%
Does [your plan] reflect your goals and aspirations as you move towards adulthood (% yes)	70%	81%	63%
Have your whānau been involved with the planning process as much as you would like (% yes)	70%	80%	51%
Has someone from Oranga Tamariki spoken to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	31%	28%	44%
Young people who have left care	n=121	n=33	n=101
Do you live in the same place as before you left care? (% yes)	18%	30%	30%
Did someone from Oranga Tamariki speak to you about places to live when you leave care? (% yes)	38%	45%	44%

	Māori	Pacific	Non-Māori, non-Pacific
All young people	n=118-185	n=31-51	n=101-162
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	72%	69%	76%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	90% (n =133)	89% (n =35)	83% (n =124)
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	5% (n=119)	3% (n=31)	8% (n=102)
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	61%	59%	58%
Did you have a choice about your transition worker? (% yes)	37%	45%	41%
All positive about transition worker (understands what kind of support I need, is there when I need them, makes things better for me) (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	75%	74%	68%
How do you feel about your life in general? (% of 'very good' or 'excellent')	59%	65%	64%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')	67%	65%	63%
I feel safe where I live (% of ratings 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	84%	84%	84%
I like it where I live (% of ratings 7-10 on a 0-10 scale)	73%	75%	75%
To what extent do you feel... (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')			
Secure in your identity	76%	75%	75%
Proud of who you are	70%	79%	69%
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills for your future? (% yes)	43%	53%	61%
Do you know how to get support from Oranga Tamariki if you need help? (% yes)	62%	67%	68%
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? (% yes)	62%	71%	62%
Are you receiving the health support you want for you: (% yes)			
Physical health	44%	45%	54%
Mental health	43%	47%	50%
Dental health	38%	47%	55%
All three areas	23%	33%	33%

	Māori	Pacific	Non-Māori, non-Pacific
Has your transition worker helped you to connect with: (% yes)			
A doctor or nurse	39%	55%	39%
A counsellor	27%	29%	33%
A dentist	22%	29%	29%
Has your transition worker helped you with education or training? (% yes)	42%	48%	47%

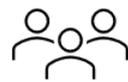
12. Young people aged 22 or older

Young people over 21 were included in Just Sayin' 23. This cohort of young people were mostly not eligible for transition worker support before leaving care, as the TSS was implemented from 1 July 2019.

Young people who have left care and don't have a transition worker are placed on an 'outbound calling' list at the transition assistance line. Advisors attempt to contact them every two months to check in, see how they are doing and offer support (which may lead to referral to a transition worker after they have left care).

Some of the over 21 cohort may have received support directly from the transition assistance line or been referred to a transition worker through the transition assistance line.

Young people over 21 profile Just Sayin' 2023



66 survey respondents were 22 years or older.

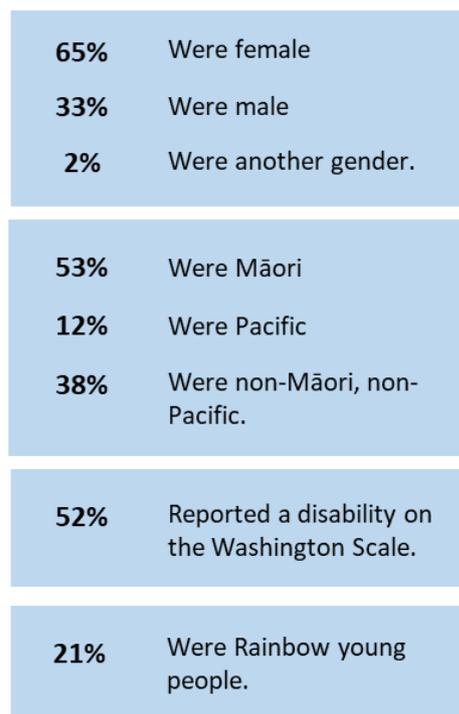


Figure 20. The demographic profile of young people in Just Sayin' 23 aged 22 or older

12.1. Young people 22 and older were less positive about their transition experiences

Most of the young people aged 22+ in the survey would not have been eligible for transition worker support at the start of the TSS roll-out. Young people 22+ were:

- Less likely to have a plan for leaving care - 22+ (41%), 16-21 (54%)
- Have a say in their plan for leaving care - 22+ (51%), 16-21 (79%)
- Feel their plan reflected their goals and aspirations for leaving care - 22+ (42%), younger (64%)
- Feel their whānau was involved with the planning process as much as they would like - 22+ (54%), younger (65%).

A small percentage of young people over 21 have /had transition worker support. They gave lower ratings about their transition worker compared to young people 21 or younger. They were less likely to feel their transition worker understood what kind of support they need (22+ (62%), younger (78%)), do what they said they would do (22+ (77%) younger (80%)) and make things better for them (22+ (77%), younger (82%)).

12.2. Quality of life differed for young people 21 and older compared to the younger cohort

Young people 22+ reported a more positive picture of wellbeing, living arrangements and support for education, training and employment. Areas of improvements included skill support and health support.

- **Living arrangements:** Similar percentages in each age group felt safe where they live (over 21 (80%), younger (84%) and like where they live (22+ (74%), younger (74%)).
- **Identity:** Similar percentages in each age group were proud of who they were.
- **Education, training and employment:** A higher percentage of young people over 21 were working in paid employment (22+ (38%), younger (33%)) and had transition worker support with education or training (over 21 (54%), younger (44%)).
- **Skill support:** A smaller percentage of young people over 21 reported receiving the support they needed to learn the skills they wanted to learn for their future (22+ (43%), younger (51%)).
- **Health support:** Similar percentages of each group felt they were getting the physical health, mental health and dental support they needed..

Table 25. Transition experiences and quality of life of young people by age group

	Over 21	21 and younger
All young people	n=13-66	n=234-376
Young people asked if they want to have a transition worker (% of all young people)	26%	73%
Of those asked: Young people who agreed to have a transition worker	77% (n = 17)	87% (n =274)
Of those who agreed: Young people who have not yet had a transition worker	8% (n=13)	6% (n=236)
Young people who have/had a transition worker (% of all young people)	75%	87%
Did you have a choice about your transition worker? (% yes)	38%	39%
All positive about transition worker (understands what kind of support I need, is there when I need them, makes things better for me) (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	62%	71%
How do you feel about your life in general? (% of 'very good' or 'excellent')	26%	26%
To what extent do you feel hopeful about your future (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')	67%	65%
I feel safe where I live (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	80%	84%
I like it where I live (% of ratings equal to and greater than 7 on a 0-10 scale)	74%	74%
To what extent do you feel... (% of 'reasonably' to 'very')		
Secure in your identity	65%	75%
Proud of who you are	79%	70%
Are you getting the support you need to learn the skills for your future? (% yes)	43%	51%
Do you know how to get support from Oranga Tamariki if you need help? (% yes)	44%	65%
Have you seen or heard about an organisation called VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai? (% yes)	31%	62%
Are you receiving the health support you want for your:		
Physical health	45%	48%
Mental health	47%	46%
Dental health	31%	46%
Has your transition worker helped you to connect with:		
A doctor or nurse	46%	40%
A counsellor	46%	30%
A dentist	23%	25%

	Over 21	21 and younger
Has your transition worker helped you with education or training? (% yes)	54%	44%
Would it help to receive transition support for education/training? (% yes of those who said their transition worker did not help them with education or training)	20% (n=5)	32% (n=91)

13. Messages for Oranga Tamariki

A final survey question invited young people to send final messages to pass on to Oranga Tamariki or their transition worker. Of the 111 young people who left messages, approximately one-half were negative, just over one-quarter were positive, and the remainder were neutral.

From most to least prevalent, messages included:

- Feedback about care from a caregiver or social worker, consisting predominantly of messages about failings of social workers and care experience

You guys don't even do what you say. You guys are useless . (Young person)

My last social worker said I will get \$2000 when I got to the transition process but I never get it. (Young person)
- Positive feedback to the transition support service and support provided

What you do makes a difference. A lot of the workers don't know that, as they think they're just doing their job, but in reality, they are helping so many people. (Young person)

Could you tell [my transition worker] "cheers!" (Young person)
- Calls for young people's voices to be heard more

Listen to the kids. Listen to where they are coming from. Don't always just listen to social workers. They haven't been in care, they don't understand. (Young person)
- General feedback to improve the care system

To OT - do better (Young person)

OT need to sort there s**t out asap because they are a horrible organisation and all they do is give people trauma. (Young person)
- Specific feedback to improve their care

When you are working with us in public, take off your tags. It's embarrassing. (Young person)

Please always try and check up on those who have left care especially in rural areas as it seems children in rural areas are let down and have zero support. (Young person)

I would like a check-up with a transition worker. I never had a consistent transition worker come to me. (Young person)

- Suggestion to improve communication including about entitlements and eligibility

Make it easier to do quotes for furniture allowance - so much misinformation. Communication was not good. (Young person)

Yes I applied for my last support assistance with household items for my flat of \$1500 and was told by my OTTSS that it was being processed. The last I heard in February/March it was still going processed and that was me following up. Heard nothing since. (Young person)

- Negative feedback to Oranga Tamariki from young people who did not access support past 18

U guys suck I just got dropped at 18 had no where to live had to turn to WINZ to help me (Young person)

Let the youth know all of what you offer in support. The minute I turned 18, I was left alone to fend for myself (Young person)

Appendix 1: Just Sayin' 23 details

The 2023 Just Sayin' survey was completed by 376 young people

Young people were eligible to complete Just Sayin' if they were eligible for transition worker support. Just Sayin' 23 was also completed by 66 young people who were 22 years or older and not eligible for transition worker support when they left care but who may have received other forms of transition support. Their responses have been analysed separately.

Just Sayin' heard from 376 of the 610 (62%) valid contacts for young people (17% of the eligible cohort of 2,232). 9 of these were partial responses included in the final analysis. Of the 376 included in analyses in this report, 132 were still in Oranga Tamariki care and 244 had left care. Young people responding to Just Sayin' were broadly representative of the total eligible cohort in age, ethnicity and geographical location. However, women were over-represented in the sample (64% in Just Sayin' 2023 compared to 48% of total eligible cohort).

The results from the 376 respondents cannot be conclusively extrapolated to all the young people who are eligible for TSS. It is probable that the views and experiences of those young people without contact details differ from those who have current contact information recorded. A further consideration in interpreting the findings is that information from young people is self-reported.

How young people took part in Just Sayin' 2023

Oranga Tamariki provided Malatest with a list of names with contact phone numbers of young people eligible for the survey. Oranga Tamariki was not told who completed the survey, unless the young person specifically asked for Oranga Tamariki to contact them (a final question in the survey).

Young people were invited to take part in Just Sayin' by text message and phone calls through:

- An initial text message one week before calling young people to give them the opportunity to decline participation in the survey
- Three more text invitations
- Two-to-three phone calls to each young person (on different days and different times of the day).

Young people were told they could respond 'No' to a text message and they would not be contacted again. Text messages contained a direct link to the survey and a link to the Just Sayin' website (Justsayin.nz) with more information. Malatest also

asked TSS partners to promote the survey and to encourage young people to complete it. The survey was reviewed by the ethics advisor from Oranga Tamariki and approved prior to any contact with young people.

Young people could complete the survey online or by telephone. The survey and all information about the survey was available in English and te reo Māori. Those who completed the survey received a \$30 voucher in recognition of their time. Data collection began in July and finished 7 September 2023.

Survey respondent characteristics are similar between the years, although the cohort ages reflecting the time since TSS roll out (Table 26). We considered weighting the results of the Just Sayin' surveys to align with the cohort demographics more closely. We decided that non-contact and non-response bias were larger factors with an unknown effect on the representativeness of survey respondents. Therefore, it was decided no weighting would be done for the analysis.

Table 26. Survey respondent characteristics

Survey respondents	Just Sayin' 2020 n=165	Just Sayin' 21 n=331	Just Sayin' 22 n=408	Just Sayin' 23 n=376
Sex: Male	30%	36%	33%	33%
Sex: Female	67%	63%	64%	64%
Sex: Gender diverse	2%	2%	3%	3%
Age: 16	27%	18%	19%	21%
Age: 17	30%	25%	25%	19%
Age: 18	33%	28%	21%	16%
Age: 19	5%	19%	17%	18%
Age: 20 and older	5%	11%	18%	26%
Ethnicity²⁶ Māori	54%	61%	53%	49%
Ethnicity Pacific	16%	13%	13%	14%
Ethnicity Non-Māori and non-Pacific	42%	36%	40%	43%
Care status: In care	62%	39%	38%	35%
Care status: Left care	38%	61%	62%	65%

²⁶ Total count used for ethnicity. Therefore percentages may add to more than 100.

Appendix 2: Transitions and Just Sayin’ 23 survey cohort descriptions

The percentages of young people from different regions were similar to the cohort who were eligible for TSS. Auckland was under-represented in the survey and Canterbury and Lower South were slightly over-represented. (Table 27).

Table 27. Ethnicity breakdown by region

Region	TSS eligible cohort (n=2,820)	Just Sayin’ 23 respondents (n=389 ²⁷)
Auckland	(n=797, 28%)	(n=63, 16%)
Māori	51%	43%
Māori and Pacific	18%	14%
NZ European & Other	15%	30%
Pacific	16%	13%
Bay of Plenty	(n=246, 9%)	(n=39, 10%)
Māori	73%	63%
Māori and Pacific	7%	6%
NZ European & Other	17%	31%
Pacific	3%	0%
Canterbury	(n=303, 11%)	(n=70, 18%)
Māori	45%	43%
Māori and Pacific	6%	5%
NZ European & Other	46%	49%
Pacific	3%	3%
East Coast	(n=271, 10%)	(n=29, 8%)
Māori	73%	52%
Māori and Pacific	4%	8%
NZ European & Other	19%	36%
Pacific	4%	4%
Lower South	(n=180, 6%)	(n=51, 13%)
Māori	33%	22%
Māori and Pacific	4%	7%
NZ European & Other	60%	72%
Pacific	2%	0%

²⁷ Only young people who completed the survey via the unique link sent to them can be matched with the demographic data from Oranga Tamariki. Some young people completed the survey through a link on the Just Sayin’ website.

Northland	(n=196, 7%)	(n=24, 6%)
Māori	77%	59%
Māori and Pacific	10%	5%
NZ European & Other	12%	27%
Pacific	1%	9%
Taranaki-Manawatu	(n=246, 9%)	(n=39, 10%)
Māori	60%	53%
Māori and Pacific	7%	6%
NZ European & Other	33%	41%
Pacific	1%	0%
Upper South	(n=84, 3%)	(n=11, 3%)
Māori	42%	18%
Māori and Pacific	1%	0%
NZ European & Other	56%	82%
Pacific	1%	0%
Waikato	(n=282, 10%)	(n=33, 8%)
Māori	60%	53%
Māori and Pacific	8%	10%
NZ European & Other	27%	30%
Pacific	5%	7%
Wellington	(n=215, 8%)	(n=30, 8%)
Māori	53%	62%
Māori and Pacific	14%	8%
NZ European & Other	23%	23%
Pacific	10%	8%

The profile of survey respondents was consistent with the overall demographics of participants, although young women were over-represented (Table 28).

Table 28. Demographic comparison between the young people eligible for Transition Support Service and Just Sayin' 23 respondents

Characteristics	Cohort eligible for TSS (n=2,820)	Referred young people (n=1,732)	Respondents to JS 23 (n=376 ²⁸)
Gender			
Female	40%	41%	64%
Male	59%	58%	33%
Gender diverse	1%	1%	3%
Ethnicity²⁹			
Māori	56%	57%	49%
Māori and Pacific	10%	10%	6%
Pacific	7%	6%	14%
NZ European and other	27%	27%	68%
Age			
15	14%	4%	N/A
16	16%	12%	21%
17	16%	18%	19%
18	19%	24%	16%
19	19%	24%	18%
20	16%	18%	13%
21	N/A	N/A	13%

²⁸ Only included young people aged 21 or younger.

²⁹ Young people with more than one identified ethnicity were assigned to a 'prioritised ethnicity' group in the demographic dataset received from Oranga Tamariki. Just Sayin' 4 used a total count approach for ethnicity, which counted respondents in all ethnic groups they identify with. The Oranga Tamariki dataset combined 'New Zealand European' and 'Other'.

Appendix 3: Definitions

Term	Description
Complex needs	Self-reported assessment on questions derived from the Washington Group Short-form Scale. A young person is defined as “having complex needs” if they report they ‘often’ or ‘always’ have difficulty with one or more of the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeing (even when wearing glasses or contact lenses) • Hearing (even when wearing hearing aids) • Doing physical tasks like walking • Learning remembering or concentrating • Emotional, psychological or mental health conditions.
Entitlement to Remain or Return (ETRR)	The intention of the ETRR is to support eligible young people to remain in a stable caregiving arrangement past the age of 18 and up to the age of 21, should they wish. Young people can also potentially return to a previous caregiver whose home they have left. To meet the intention of the ETRR, caregivers are supported in providing the agreed arrangement with the young people.
Ethnicity	Young people were able to select multiple ethnic groups. If they selected Māori for one of their ethnic groups, then they were included as Māori and the same applied for Pacific ethnicities. If a young person identified as both Māori and Pacific, they were included in both ethnic groups (a total count approach). All young people not identifying as Māori or Pacific were included in a non-Māori and non-Pacific group.
National Care Standards	The National Care Standards set out the standard of care every child and young person needs to do well and be well, and the support all caregivers can expect to receive when they open their hearts and homes to tamariki. They came into effect on 1 July 2019.
Positive about social worker	Refers to answering positively to all the following three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My social worker understands the support I need leaving care (Yes) • My social worker is there when I need them (Yes) • My social worker does what they say they would (Most or all of the time).
Positive about transition worker	Refers to answering positively to all the following three questions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • My transition worker understands the support I need leaving care (Yes) • My transition worker is there when I need them (Yes) • My transition worker does what they say they would (Most or all the time).
Rainbow	Young people who reported they identify as part of the LGBTQIA+/rainbow community.
Rangatahi	Māori young people.
Social worker	The young person’s Oranga Tamariki social worker if still in care or their former social worker if they have left care.
Transition support service partner (TSS partner)	A community organisation contracted to provide transition support to eligible young people in the form of transition workers.
Transition worker	The young person’s assigned transition worker from a TSS partner.