

Oranga Tamariki - Social work practices and policies

Feedback about supporting oranga for tangata whaikaha (disabled people).

Tangata whaikaha (disabled people) and other people working with children have shared their thoughts on the care and youth justice systems.

We've collected research, reports and feedback published over the last 10 years.

Here is a summary of what was said about **strengthening professional, well-informed, and rights-based social work**.

Feedback from tangata whaikaha



Sometimes, the way you work with me and my whānau is **disempowering and harmful**.

Please **treat me with kindness**, listen to me and tell me the truth.



I still need help, even if I don't qualify for some services.



I need to trust the people that support me, so **I feel safe to talk about important things**.



My family, caregiving whānau, social worker, school or job **didn't get the information** they needed to support me.

Please **don't tell me things last minute**.

I want time to process what's happening.



Ideas for change

Here is a summary of suggestions for change made by tangata whaikaha and other people working with children:

- Everyone working with tamariki needs training on how to work with tangata whaikaha – including how to support tangata whaikaha Māori and disabled Pacific people.
- Advice and guidelines for social workers should include information about supporting tamariki whaikaha (disabled children).
- Experts should be available when social workers need extra support for whānau.
- Give social workers more time to work in meaningful ways with young people.
- Create ways to support tamariki whaikaha who might not have a medical diagnosis.
- Help support networks receive the right information at the right time.

