



**ORANGA  
TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children



# **Making Oranga Tamariki social work services better for tāngata whaikaha / disabled people**



**November 2022**

# About this document



This document is from **Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children**.



**Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children** is the part of the Government that works to make things better for children.



Oranga Tamariki has been finding out about supporting **oranga** for **tāngata whaikaha**.



**Oranga** is about living well.



In this document **tāngata whaikaha** means disabled people.



Oranga Tamariki has been listening to what tāngata whaikaha have to say about the:

- **care system**
- **youth justice system.**



The **care system** is how children who cannot live with their parents are looked after.



The **youth justice system** deals with young people who have broken the law.



Oranga Tamariki has also been finding out things by:

- listening to other people who work with children
- looking at things written in the past 10 years about these systems.

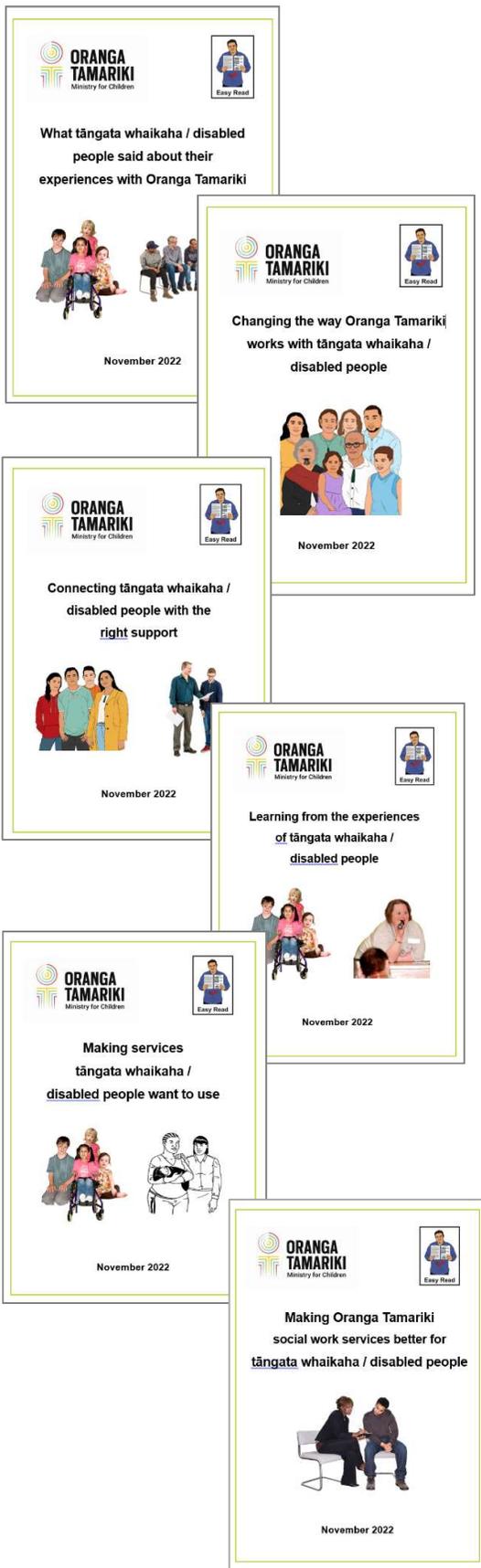


There are 6 Easy Read documents about changes to the systems.

The documents are about what Oranga Tamariki found out about:

- the experiences of tāngata whaikaha / disabled people
- what is best to do because of those experiences.





The 6 documents are called:

- What tāngata whaikaha / disabled people said about their experiences with Oranga Tamariki
- Changing the way Oranga Tamariki works with tāngata whaikaha / disabled people
- Connecting tāngata whaikaha / disabled people with the right support
- Learning from the experiences of tāngata whaikaha / disabled people
- Making services tāngata whaikaha / disabled people want to use
- Making Oranga Tamariki social work services better for tāngata whaikaha / disabled people.



You can find all these documents at:

[www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/consultations/  
supporting-oranga-for-disabled-people/](http://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/consultations/supporting-oranga-for-disabled-people/)

This document is about what Oranga Tamariki found out about making **social work** better.



**Social work** is about supporting people with things like:

- keeping safe
- having somewhere to live
- getting other kinds of support.



The people who do this work are called social workers.

## What tāngata whaikaha / disabled people told Oranga Tamariki



Tāngata whaikaha / disabled people told Oranga Tamariki that they:

- need support even if they do not fit the rules for some services
- want to be listened to
- want to be treated kindly
- want to be told the truth
- want to have time to think about things which means they are not told them at the last minute
- need to trust the people who support them so it feels safe to talk about important things.





Tāngata whaikaha / disabled people also told Oranga Tamariki that the way people work with them / their whānau can be:

- **disempowering**
- harmful.



**Disempowering** means taking away the power people have over their own lives.



Tāngata whaikaha / disabled people also told us that people who support them do not get the information they need.

## Ideas for change



Tāngata whaikaha / disabled people and other people supporting children had these ideas for change:



- information on how social workers should work should include information about supporting tamariki whaikaha / disabled children



- there should be **experts** for when social workers need more support for whānau



- social workers should be given more time to work well with young people



- make ways to support tamariki whaikaha who may not have medical **diagnoses**.



**Experts** are people who know a lot about something.



**Diagnoses** are when doctors say you have a health condition.

Tāngata whaikaha / disabled people and other people supporting children also said support networks should get:



- the right information
- at the right time.



Tāngata whaikaha / disabled people and other people supporting children also said that everyone working with tamariki needs training on:

- how to work with tāngata whaikaha / disabled people
- how to support tāngata whaikaha Māori
- how to support disabled Pacific people.



## Where to find more information



You can find more information on the Oranga Tamariki **website**:

**[www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/consultations/supporting-oranga-for-disabled-people/](http://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/consultations/supporting-oranga-for-disabled-people/)**



If you have any questions you can:

**Phone:** 0508 326 459



**Email:** [enquiry@ot.govt.nz](mailto:enquiry@ot.govt.nz)

**Post to:** Oranga Tamariki National Office



PO Box 546

Wellington



This information has been written by Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children.



It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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