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**In Confidence**

# **Oranga Tamariki— Understanding disability**

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

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# Oranga Tamariki— Understanding disability

## 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 **understanding and responding to the experiences of tangata whaikaha**.

## Feedback from tangata whaikaha

The system that is supposed to meet my needs makes things too complicated.

Our rights are not upheld because of discrimination and stereotypes.

Not all tangata whaikaha need the same support.

You don't listen to my thoughts when making plans with me and my family.

Being disabled does not mean I can't be a parent or look after myself.

Tangata whaikaha all have potential, we need people working with us to believe this.

# Ideas for change

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

- Everyone working with tangata whaikaha should understand that they have diverse needs, including cultural needs.
- Training should be provided to change harmful attitudes and beliefs about tangata whaikaha.
- Ask tangata whaikaha about their thoughts, and use that information to help them achieve their goals.
- People working with children need to get rid of discrimination in their behaviour, the rules they use, and the way they work.