

Information sharing

Information sharing under the Oranga Tamariki Act to support tamariki, rangatahi wellbeing and safety

for people working in the child welfare and protection sector

Sections 65A to 66Q of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 set out when individuals working in the child welfare and protection sector can request and share information about a child or young person.

Changes to section 66 of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 ('the Act') come into effect on 1 July 2019. The provisions enable child welfare and protection agencies, and some independent persons, to request, use, and share personal information for specific purposes related to the wellbeing and safety of tamariki or rangatahi. Safe and appropriate information sharing allows people working in the sector to ensure that everyone working with tamariki or rangatahi has the information they need to promote their safety and wellbeing, and enable the right support and services to be provided to them and their whānau.

Who is covered by the provisions?

The new provisions apply to people working in the child welfare and protection sector and some independent persons. They may be used by:

- ✓ non-government organisations
- ✓ district health boards and health practitioners
- ✓ government agencies
- ✓ community housing providers
- ✓ school teachers, principals, boards and earlychildhood services.

Guidance is available to support implementation

Guidance has been developed to support people working in the child welfare and protection sector to apply and use the provisions. It's been developed with input from a wide range of agencies and frontline staff from across the sector to make sure it is clear and easy to use.

The guidance sets out:

- ✓ what's different with the provisions
- ✓ who the provisions apply to
- ✓ the purposes for which information can be shared
- ✓ what information can be shared
- ✓ what you need to do if you're sharing information
- ✓ what you can expect from Oranga Tamariki when you share information with us, and
- ✓ a summary of how the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, the Family Violence Act 2018 and the Privacy Act 2020 work together.

The guidance provides practical information about all the above topics and more. There's also a flow chart to use if you're thinking about sharing information using the new provisions.

For guidance on using information sharing provisions in the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, visit the Oranga Tamariki website and search 'information sharing'.

For guidance on using information sharing provisions in the Family Violence Act 2018, visit the Ministry of Justice website and search 'information sharing'.