

Māori Inquiry into Oranga Tamariki

Why an Inquiry into Oranga Tamariki?

The Māori Inquiry into Oranga Tamariki is an independent review of the New Zealand Government's child protection agency Oranga Tamariki. The Inquiry is a result of the continued inaction by Government to respond to ongoing, serious issues around the actions of their agency in perpetuating inter-generational harm of Māori whānau, in particular around the unethical, forced removal of tamariki from their whānau. The emerging body of evidence around the harmful effects of these removals is in direct contravention of the Government's stated aim of ensuring tamariki are where they can be safe, connected and flourishing.

What will the Inquiry look into?

Scope and purpose of the Inquiry

- The scope of the Inquiry is the historical and contemporary incidence of removal of tamariki from their whānau by Oranga Tamariki – the Ministry for Children and its predecessors (Children Young People and Families Service and the Department of Social Welfare) – and the adverse effects of this practice on whānau
- The purpose of the Inquiry is to identify, examine, and report on the matters in scope. The Inquiry will be informed by the voices of whānau, hāpori and those with lived experience of the policies and practices of Oranga Tamariki.

The Inquiry commenced in July 2019, and will conclude by February 2020.

Who can make a Submission?

Submissions are invited from anyone that would like to participate in the Inquiry process. While the focus of the Inquiry is on whānau, the Inquiry is also prepared to hear voices, stories and viewpoints from any other interested parties.



How will Submissions be received?

Ngā Pou Whakaaro or Whānau Listening Posts are designed to provide a safe and private space for whānau to share their experience in relation to Oranga Tamariki. Ngā Pou Whakaaro aim to:

- Raise awareness with whānau about the Inquiry purpose and scope
- Engage and facilitate whānau opportunities to share lived experiences with Oranga Tamariki
- Manage the dissemination and collation of information.

There are a number of ways that whānau can share their experience noted below. Whānau Ora partners are appropriately placed to facilitate this part of the process because they live, breathe and know best their whānau, and their community. Whānau Ora partners and Te Pūtahitanga, the South Island Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency will also be set up as Ngā Pou Whakaaro.

Kanohi ki te kanohi

Many whānau that have had a positive or negative experience with Oranga Tamariki will likely be familiar with their local Whānau Ora partner or Kaiārahi/Navigator. Whānau can contact their local Whānau Ora partner to share their story.

Guidelines for Kanohi ki te kanohi:

- Whānau contacting the Inquiry team will be provided with contact details for their local Whānau Ora partner
- Whānau will be supported with their submissions online www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDGDHJ5
- Whānau will also be supported with written submissions then emailed to maoriinquiry@whanauora.nz
- Whānau will be supported to talk to the Inquiry team by calling 0800 929 282

Tukua mai ōu whakaaro

Whānau can choose to share their story anonymously.

Guidelines for Tukua mai ōu whakaaro:

- Whānau submissions can be made online www.surveymonkey.com/r/TDGDHJ5
- Whānau submissions can be hand written and emailed to maoriinquiry@whanauora.nz
- Whānau can talk to the Inquiry team by calling 0800 929 282

He hui whakarongo

The Inquiry team will work closely with Whānau Ora partners and other community groups to identify opportunities to host hui where whānau can make a submission in person. For further information about hui email maoriinquiry@whanauora.nz

All submissions close **31 October 2019**.

Do you require further information?

For further information about the Māori Inquiry into Oranga Tamariki

- Visit www.whanauora.nz
- Email maoriinquiry@whanauora.nz
- Call 0800 929 282