



# The education experiences and needs of young people moving to independence from care and youth justice

## Focus of this Assessment

This assessment examines the specific education needs and experiences young people moving to independence from care and youth justice. Of these young people, this assessment focuses on those who are eligible for the Oranga Tamariki Transition Support Service and considers the needs of some young people who are not eligible for that Service, specifically those who left care before the age of 15.

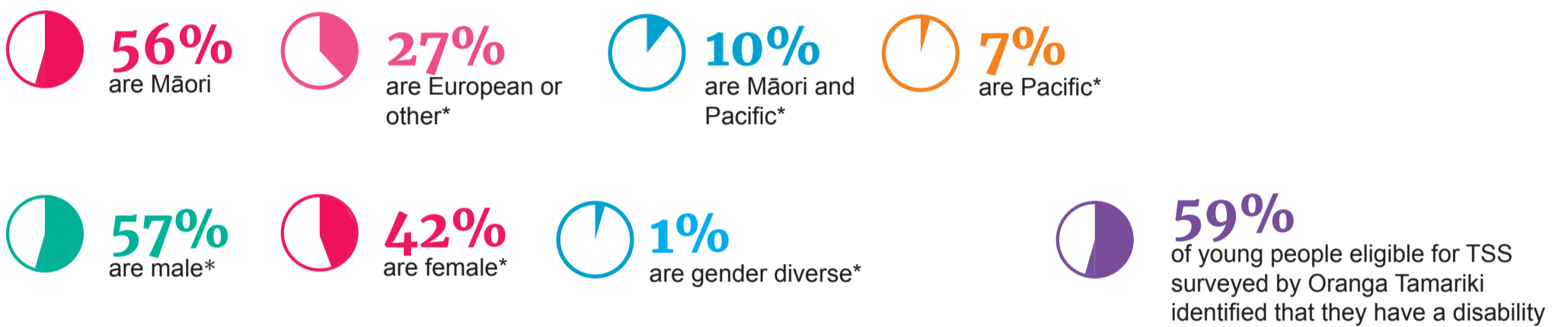
 As of 30 September 2022:

- 2,761** young people aged 15-20 were eligible for Transition Support Service (TSS)
- 1,656** were referred to a TSS provider
- 1,530** had a transition support worker

## We listened to people with experience

Engagement occurred with care- and youth justice-experienced rangatahi through VOYCE Whakarongo Mai and the Oranga Tamariki Youth Advisory Group; Oranga Tamariki Transition Support Service kaimahi; Oranga Tamariki regional kaimahi; Pacific and Māori transition providers; and Transition Workers from the Transition Partners working with rangatahi through the Transition Support Service. This in addition to the multi-agency collaboration.

## About these young people eligible for the Transition Support Service



\*Demographic characteristics of the young people that the Oranga Tamariki Transition Support Services are working with as at 30 September 2022

## Current state

Young people who are involved with Oranga Tamariki care are more likely to have adverse education experiences in their lifetime.

**Young people born 1993-1997 who had a care placement are more likely to be not in education, employment and training (NEET) and for longer, over a 5-year period when they were aged 17-21**

**88%** were not in employment, education and/or training (NEET) for some or all of the period compared to 56% of those with no care placement

**2.5 years (10 quarters)** not in employment, education and/or training (NEET) compared to 5.3 quarters NEET for those with no care placement

**Young people who are eligible for transitions support are less likely to have NCEA than any other young people**

**59%** of those aged between 18-24 have achieved NCEA Level 1 compared to 88% of the general population

**49%** of those aged between 18-24 have achieved NCEA Level 2 compared to 83% of the general population

**Care experienced young people are less likely to obtain a tertiary qualification**

**87%** of 25 year olds with care experience had no tertiary qualifications compared to 49% of all 25-year-olds

**8%** of 25 year olds with care experience had a tertiary diploma or certificate compared to 27% of all 25-year-olds

**6%** of 25 year olds with care experience had a degree or above compared to 23% of all 25-year-olds

\*These results are not official statistics. They have been created for research purposes from the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) which is carefully managed by Stats NZ. For more information about the IDI please visit [www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/](http://www.stats.govt.nz/integrated-data/).

## Current Education System

Education and Training Act 2020 (ETA 2020)  
MoE, TEC, NZQA, ERO and Education NZ

Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP)

Tertiary Education Strategy (TES)

## Who shapes the system and how do they support learners

**MOE:** Lead advisor on NZ's education system. Ensuring its policies, programmes and services focus on improving the education system.

**TEC:** Leading Government's relationship with the tertiary education sector and to provide career services from education to employment.

**Te Pūkenga:** New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (Te Pūkenga) was established on 1 April 2020 as one of the seven key changes from the Reform of Vocational Education. Te Pūkenga brings together 16 Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics and nine Industry Training Organisations to become Aotearoa New Zealand's largest tertiary education provider.

# Support provided by Oranga Tamariki

Oranga Tamariki set up the Transitions Support Service on 1 July 2019 to stay in contact with and support eligible young people transitioning to independence out of Oranga Tamariki care or custody. The focus of the Transition Support Service is to help young people to maintain and build relationships, networks, and knowledge to support their decision making, plan for their future, and achieve their goals.

## Support provided by Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

MSD provides employment and income support services through Work and Income, and student allowances and loans through StudyLink. MSD's Youth Service supports taiohi to get the education they need for bright, independent futures, and works with young people receiving Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, and eligible young people aged 16 or 17 who aren't in employment, education or training and need the most support.

### System gaps

### Driving change

#### Young people have not been supported to believe they can achieve

This often reflects their schooling experiences which prevent them from believing they can achieve educationally.

#### Building educational aspirations of young people

Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Education, Social Wellbeing Agency and the Tertiary Education Commission will work together to identify how to prevent, reduce, and address the education system's negative impacts on the aspirations of young people transitioning to independence. This work will also consider how to work with and enable families and communities to contribute to building the educational aspirations of care and youth justice experienced young people. This will also look at how opportunities can be provided earlier to support young people in this cohort to have confidence in themselves and their abilities.

#### Young people have not been supported to obtain basic skills

Young people often have gaps in basic skills, particularly literacy and numeracy, that impact on their being prepared for, participating in, and achieving in the tertiary education system.

#### Building the basic skills of young people

Oranga Tamariki will work with the education agencies (primarily the Ministry of Education and the Tertiary Education Commission) to identify literacy and numeracy needs of young people and connect young people to services and supports that will build these vital skills.

#### Additional supports are needed for young people to access and continue with education

Many young people in this cohort have difficulties accessing educational and training opportunities. Some require further knowledge of what is available as well as additional support to access educational or training services.

#### Supporting young people to access and continue with education

Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Education, and the Tertiary Education Commission will work together to identify and implement system enablers that will support care or youth justice experienced young people to access or continue to access tertiary education. Oranga Tamariki will develop a life skills tool that will support the identification of basic life skill needs of young people who are entering into the transition support services and transitioning to independence.

#### There are barriers for young people accessing financial support

Young people in this cohort can have difficulties accessing government financial support such as student allowances. For example, young people have had to provide evidence that they have no relationship with their parent or parents, which can have a detrimental psychological impact on the young person.

#### Improving access to financial support for young people

Oranga Tamariki will work with the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Social Development to improve access to student allowances and other financial support. Oranga Tamariki will also actively support young people to live with whānau caregivers, while they continue their education.

#### Additional support is needed to enable young people to access workplace learning opportunities

While education is important to young people, many want to be in some form of paid employment. This is an avenue by which young people could be supported into education and training (and earn while they learn).

#### Supporting young people to access workplace-based training

Oranga Tamariki will work with the Ministry of Education, Te Pūkenga, the Tertiary Education Commission and the Ministry of Social Development to build transition workers' knowledge and connections to the workplace-based training components of the schooling and tertiary systems, including secondary-tertiary transitions programmes and initiatives, and to reduce barriers for this cohort.

This A3 is designed to be a summary of the full Needs Assessment available on [orangatamarikiactionplan.govt.nz](http://orangatamarikiactionplan.govt.nz) or on request from the Action Plan team by emailing [otap@ot.govt.nz](mailto:otap@ot.govt.nz)

#### About the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan Needs Assessments

Action 3 is that Oranga Tamariki will lead a series of in-depth assessments focused on housing, health and education. These will identify unmet needs and set a direction to improve services for these children and young people. Together agencies are working on nine in-depth assessments focused on the housing, health, and education needs of children and young people most at risk. It is critical that we have a solid understanding of the experiences and needs of these children and young people so we can make changes where required and make a meaningful difference for children and young people. These assessments will set out very clearly what is going well and what we need to do better.



Child and Youth Wellbeing

