

# Oranga Tamariki Update for Partners: July 2021

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## Working together beyond CARMSA

We're pleased to be able to let you know the transition of services from Oranga Tamariki to the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) is drawing to a close.

While this marks the end of the Oranga Tamariki and MSD Contract and Relationship Management Service Agreement (known as CARMSA), both agencies will continue to stay connected to ensure the new arrangements work as smoothly as possible for you.

We'd like to say a special 'thank you' to everyone for your understanding and support as we've worked through the transition process. Together we can ensure the new arrangements have a positive impact on tamariki, whānau and communities.

Mauriora

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## **New ways of working and continuing to collaborate from 1 July 2021**

You will be aware that MSD has a Social Service Contracting team to manage the work coming back from Oranga Tamariki. Your relationship or contract manager from Oranga Tamariki and/or MSD will have contacted you to touch base and talk through any important information for the transition, and to discuss any concerns or questions you might have.

We are committed to continue to work together to support the wider social services and wellbeing goals we collectively have. At a practical level, this means Partnering for Outcomes (PfO) staff and the new MSD Regional Relationship Managers will look to coordinate monitoring/assurance arrangements wherever possible, and more generally the other work we are doing together.

You will also be aware that Oranga Tamariki will be completing F21 year-end activities on behalf of MSD, which means that your PfO Advisor will continue to be your first point of contact for end of year F21 invoices and reports, and any queries. Oranga Tamariki will also be issuing new contracts (starting 1 July 2021) on behalf of MSD. Once signed by Oranga Tamariki, MSD will be making payments on these new contracts and then managing funding and contracting activities from that point forward.

A reminder that if you are an NGO partner that receives Oranga Tamariki funding only, you will not be affected by these changes.

## **Closure of Te Oranga**

Oranga Tamariki has taken the decision to close our Care and Protection residence in Christchurch, Te Oranga.

The decision comes after a number of serious issues involving staff and tamariki have come to light. Closing the facility while investigations are underway is the safest option for the children and young people. Final decisions about the future of Te Oranga will only be made once all reviews and investigations are completed. Our priority is the safety and wellbeing of young people in our care, and we will be talking to tamariki and rangatahi across all our residences to assure they have the support they need.

You can find further information here about the [Announcement of Te Oranga Closure](#)

## **New clauses in contracts - Section 7AA / Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

Oranga Tamariki will be including new clauses relating to Section 7AA and Te Tiriti o Waitangi in its Outcome Agreements when they are next renewed or varied. Eventually, they will be included in all Outcome Agreements.

Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (the Act) sets out the duties of Oranga Tamariki in order to recognise and provide a practical commitment to the Treaty of Waitangi I Te Tiriti o Waitangi. It seeks to improve outcomes for tamariki Māori and their whānau that we work with by ensuring that Oranga Tamariki:

- policies and practices must seek to reduce disparities by setting measurable outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori (s7AA(2)(a))
- policies, practices and services must have regard to the mana tamaiti and whakapapa of tamariki and rangatahi Māori and the whanaungatanga responsibilities of whānau, hapū and iwi (s7AA(2)(b))
- seeks to develop strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations, including iwi authorities (s7AA(2)(c)).

The commitments in section 7AA are specific to tamariki Māori.

Oranga Tamariki must publicly report on the measures taken to meet these legal requirements at least once a year. The first section 7AA report was published in July 2020. You can read that here: [Section 7AA Report | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

## What does section 7AA mean for our partners?

Section 7AA places additional responsibilities on our partners. These responsibilities are set out in section 7AA(2)(b) above. Our goal is that tamariki Māori are thriving under the care and protection of their whānau, hapū and iwi. Underpinning this goal are the following five mana tamaiti objectives:

1. Ensuring participation in decision-making: we will ensure the participation of tamariki Māori, whānau, hapū and iwi in decisions affecting them at the earliest opportunity to enhance their wellbeing and safety.
2. Preventing entry into care or custody: we will support, strengthen and assist whānau Māori to care for their tamaiti or tamariki to prevent the need for their removal from home into Care or a Youth Justice response.
3. Placing with whānau, hapū and iwi: If removal from home is necessary, we will preference placements for tamariki Māori (including their siblings) with members of their wider whānau, hapū, iwi or family group who is able to meet their needs, including for a safe, stable, and loving home.
4. Supporting identity and belonging: we will support tamariki Māori in the custody of the chief executive to establish, maintain or strengthen their sense of belonging through cultural identity and connections to whānau, hapū and iwi.
5. Leaving care or custody: we will support, strengthen and assist tamariki Māori and their whānau to prepare for their return home or transition into the community.

Because all Oranga Tamariki services (including services provided on the Ministry's behalf) must meet this provision in the Act, the objectives are designed to guide the Ministry, and our partners, in meeting our section 7AA commitments. As a partner, it is expected that services provided on our behalf, meet these objectives.

In practical terms:

- we are asking partners to consider the five mana tamaiti objectives when delivering services
- not all of the objectives will be relevant for all partners and all services
- at a minimum, services should seek to ensure whānau, hapū and iwi are involved and empowered to make decisions at the earliest opportunity
- this includes allowing space for whānau, hapū and iwi to exercise their tikanga and kawa in reaching decisions.

We acknowledge that this way of working will be intrinsic for most of our iwi and Māori partners.

You can find [guidance for working effectively with Māori on the Oranga Tamariki Practice Centre](#), which includes applying the mana tamaiti objectives in practice.

## What are the new clauses?

The following new clauses will be included in our Outcome Agreements when they are next renewed or varied.

- 8.5 In addition to our broader Treaty of Waitangi obligations, section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 sets out the practical commitments the Purchasing Agency has to the

principles of the Treaty of Waitangi I Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Section 7AA(2)(b) requires services to have regard to the mana tamaiti and whakapapa of a Māori child or young person and the whanaungatanga responsibilities of their whānau, hapū and iwi. To meet this commitment, the Purchasing Agency has section 7AA Quality Assurance Standards [Section 7AA Quality Assurance Standards | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#) that apply to the development, design, review and implementation of its services, including Standard 4 which reflects our obligation under section 7AA(2)(b).

- 8.6 The Provider will support the Purchasing Agency's Chief Executive to deliver on the section 7AA(2)(b) commitments outlined in clause 8.5 above through the Provider's provision of the Services, including by following the Purchasing Agency's reasonable requests to assist the Purchasing Agency in implementing Standard 4 of the section 7AA Quality Assurance Standards.

Please talk to your PfO Advisor about what this might mean in practice for your organisation, and about the support and resources we have available if you need them.

## Partnered Care webpage now live

The new [Partnered Care webpage](#) on the Oranga Tamariki website is now live. This page contains information on the Partnered Care changes relating to the National Care Standards, which come into effect from today, 1 July 2021.

This is a milestone worth celebrating – we have worked together for many months on these changes, and we have been enormously grateful for the continued involvement, expertise, and guidance of the people that have worked with us throughout this process.

## Background

Since November 2019, following the introduction of the National Care Standards, the Engaging Care Partners programme team have engaged and worked extensively within Oranga Tamariki and with 60 care partners in the sector to design new working arrangements for Partnered Care. The changes to the way we work with care partners are aligned with the intent and aspirations of the Care Standards and wider commitments such as [Section 7AA](#).

We thank our care partners and Oranga Tamariki colleagues across the country who participated in this consultation from November 2019 to April 2021. The four-phased engagement was supported by an online platform and included nearly 30 webinars, dozens of face-to-face hui and online Teams hui, and countless one on one conversations with care partners supported by PfO care leads and advisors in the regions. Most recently, we have spent May and June travelling round the country to facilitate workshops and hui with care partners and Oranga Tamariki staff in the regions.

It is clear from these engagements that care partners and Oranga Tamariki are both committed to working together to provide quality care and support for children and young people in care to achieve better outcomes.

## Changes for Partnered Care

The changes we designed together over the course of our nearly two-year engagement include new service specifications and care model summary contract documents, revised funding models, and a new quality assurance function and approach for Partnered Care.

The [Partnered Care webpage](#) is where you will find all information and resources related to these changes.

If you have any questions about the information on the Partnered Care webpage, please get in touch with your local PfO contact or the Engaging Care Partners programme team at:

[PfO.Partnered.Services.Project.Team@ot.govt.nz](mailto:PfO.Partnered.Services.Project.Team@ot.govt.nz)

## COVID-19 Update - Contact Tracing and Face Coverings

There is increasing prevalence of the Delta variant of COVID-19 around the world, which is understood to be more transmissible than previous variants. To keep people safe and reduce the chances of COVID-19 spreading in the community, the Government is considering options to mandate contact tracing record keeping and use of face coverings.

Any requirements would only apply at certain COVID-19 Alert Levels and in specified situations, but we do expect that they may apply to some of the environments and situations your people work in. Consequently, we ask that you make sure you are prepared for any potential new requirements. No decisions have been made at this stage.

### Contact tracing record keeping

- Contact tracing record keeping enables faster identification of contacts during any community outbreak, which helps to ensure contacts are isolating and being tested as needed.
- You are reminded that all workplaces and businesses legally must display an NZ COVID Tracer QR code for each location. This applies at all Alert Levels.
- Also, at Alert Level 2 and higher, you legally must have an alternative system for people who do not use the NZ COVID Tracer app. You may be contacted if your business is a potential location of interest.
- You can find more information and support around [Contact tracing at your workplace on the Government's COVID-19 website](#).

### Face coverings

- The use of masks and other face coverings in higher risk situations can provide an additional layer of protection when there is risk of COVID-19 spread.
- Government officials have been considering activities and places where there may be a higher level of risk of spread of COVID-19, and providing advice on the use of face coverings in these situations.
- Most people will now have their own reusable face coverings for the purposes of travelling on public transport, etc.
- Accumulated stocks of personal protective equipment will enable your organisation to respond to a resurgence of COVID-19 or other events. This should include face coverings you can provide to staff and clients if they do not have one.

We will provide further information as Government decisions are made around any new requirements. As always, do please visit the [Government's COVID-19 website](#) for the most up to date and comprehensive information on current Alert Levels and requirements.

## Counting diversity - survey for Rainbow rangatahi 14-26 years

If you support and/or work alongside young people who identify as Rainbow (LGBTTIQA+ MVPAFF) you may wish to promote the 'Identify Survey' with them – it is open till mid-July. This survey, funded by the Faculty of Education and Social Work at the University of Auckland, hopes to identify what it's like to be a Rainbow young person or a Rainbow ally/friend in Aotearoa New Zealand today. The questions cover experiences of education and/or employment, health, family and whānau, home life, values, and community. The information gathered will be used towards identifying how to better support Rainbow young people.

The research team behind the survey comprises of people working with, and for, Rainbow young people and communities. They are Drs John Fenaughty, Elizabeth Kerekere (Whānau a Kai, Ngāti

Oneone, Te Aitanga a Mahaki, Rongowhakaata, Ngāi Tāmanuhiri), Jaimie Veale, Patrick Thomsen, Peter Saxton, Mohamed Alansari, as well as Alex Ker, Tabby Besley (InsideOUT) and Frances Arns (RainbowYOUTH).

For more information on the survey please go to [www.identifysurvey.nz](http://www.identifysurvey.nz)

## **Tērā a Matariki - Matariki rising**

One of the most significant dates in the Māori calendar is Matariki, a celebration that marked the end of the harvest season. Traditionally, Matariki was a time when pātaka kai (food storage houses) were filled with food after the harvest. These resources would see iwi through the coming months when the land was at its most unproductive.

This period of time is usually celebrated in June or July as the Matariki star cluster rises above the horizon. You can use the following resources to grow your understanding of the period's significance, and support the participation of your organisation and people in this special time of year:

- [Te Iwa o Matariki – The nine stars of Matariki](#)  
A website with general information, downloadable resources and digital media related to Matariki by Te Wānanga o Aotearoa.
- [Matariki booklet](#)  
An online booklet outlining the origins and significance of Matariki by Te Taura Whiri I Te Reo Māori – the Māori Language Commission.
- [Matariki: Te Tau Hou Māori – Matariki: the Māori New Year](#)  
An online collection of stories, recipes, star-finding guides, activity booklets and lectures by Te Papa Tongarewa.
- [Living by the Stars](#)  
A Facebook page led by Professor Rangī Matamua (Tūhoe), who shares extensive knowledge about Māori astronomy. The Living by the Stars Youtube channel also has a [te reo Māori web series on Matariki](#).
- [Matariki events around the country](#)  
An online calendar of Matariki celebrations around the country by Eventfinda.