



# EXPLORING CARE

## Adoption and Caregiving



**ORANGA  
TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children

[New Zealand Government](#)

**Whakataka te hau ki te uru  
Whakataka te hau ki te tonga  
Kia mākinakina ki uta  
Kia mātaratara ki tai  
E hī ake ana te atakura  
He tio, he huka, he hau hūnga  
Tīhei mauri ora!**

Cease the winds from the West  
Cease the winds from the South  
Let the breezes blow over the land  
Let the breezes blow over the ocean  
Let the red-tipped dawn come  
With a sharpened air, a touch of frost  
A promise of a glorious day!



# After a session with us...

## **We hope that you will better understand**

- How Oranga Tamariki works and how we work with you
- The journey of tamariki or rangatahi who come into our care or are placed for adoption
- What you and your family need to consider before agreeing to caregiving and/or adoption
- The different types of care available to choose from
- How the assessment and approval process to become a caregiver or adoptive applicant works





# ORANGA TAMARIKI

Ministry for Children

New Zealand Government

## OUR VISION

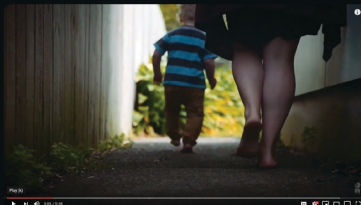
New Zealand values the wellbeing of tamariki above all else.

## OUR PURPOSE

To ensure that all tamariki are in loving whānau and communities where oranga tamariki can be realised.

### Video link:

[youtube.com/watch?v=sniv1kHnzjk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sniv1kHnzjk)





“Young people have told us that they want to live in stable family environments; to stay connected with their whānau and culture; to stay with their siblings; and to be with caregivers that they know and who make them feel they belong.”

Wai Ora



# WHAT WE DO







# Adoption teams

- Assess intending parents who are having a baby through domestic or international surrogacy
- Under New Zealand legislation, the surrogate is recognised as the legal parent; therefore any intending parent has to apply to the New Zealand Family Court to adopt te tamaiti
- An adoption in the Family Court is needed to establish a legal relationship between te tamaiti and their intending parents



## Notes

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# Which Acts do we work under?

## We have statutory obligations under the:

- Adoptions Act 1955
- Adoption (Inter-country) Act 1997
- Adult Adoption Information Act 1985
- Oranga Tamariki Act 1989
- Care of Children Act 2004
- Children's Act 2014
- National Care Standards 1 July 2019

### Notes

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### Video link:

[youtube.com/watch?v=fbA2Jg5nbQo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fbA2Jg5nbQo)



Oranga

# ADOPTION

includes, local, inter-country,  
and surrogacy adoption

# Local adoption

- Birth parent(s) choose to place their tamaiti for adoption and choose who will adopt their tamaiti
- In New Zealand, we practice open adoption
- You will most likely meet the birth parent(s)
- Adoptive parent(s) cover the birth parent(s)' legal fees
- Your legal relationship to an adoptive tamaiti is the same as if they were born to you

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# Inter-country adoption

ASSESS	MATCH	PLACE
<b>Oranga Tamariki</b> All countries: China, Hong Kong, Chile, India, Lithuania, Philippines, Thailand		
<b>Adoption First Steps</b> Chile India Lithuania Philippines Thailand	<b>Inter-Country Adoption New Zealand</b> India, Lithuania, Philippines and Thailand only	
	<b>Compassion for Orphans</b> Chile & Thailand only	

## Notes

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**Pae Ora**

# **TRANSITIONAL CARE**

**Also known as 'Foster Care' includes  
respite, emergency, and short term care**



# Emergency care

- Emergency Care is usually for a few days/nights following te tamaiti coming into care from their whānau or a placement disruption
- You could be asked to provide emergency care at any time of the day or night
- If you are interested in being an emergency caregiver it is important to consider if you can manage this
- It is likely to be a very emotional time for the tamariki and the whānau
- Sometimes, when you begin to care for te tamaiti in an emergency, there may be little information about te tamaiti

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# Respite care

- Respite care is for a few days or more so that te tamaiti and the caregiver(s) can have a break; this might be a weekend, once a month or part of a school holiday
- Usually this is a more planned placement
- Extended whānau are often interested in helping to provide respite care to tamariki
- Ideally, respite care is with the same tamaiti or rangatahi
- Using the natural connections (whānau and friends) of te tamaiti for respite care can work best

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# LORENA

\* Lorena is a fictional character  
based on real life scenarios



## Notes

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# Short term caregiving

- Short term caregiving can range from a few weeks to several months – Oranga Tamariki will be working with the whānau so te tamaiti/rangatahi can return home or a permanent placement is found
- To support the sense of belonging of te tamaiti, whānau and cultural connection is important
- Sometimes it can be hard to say goodbye when te tamaiti returns home or moves to a more permanent care arrangement – we will support you
- If you are caring for a baby who may be placed for adoption you will be asked to accommodate visits from birth parents and prospective adoptive parents

# Supporting you to care

- Caregivers are part of a Care Team for te tamaiti
- We will give you financial support, practical support, emotional support and information about te tamaiti
  - this will be appropriate to the type of care you are providing
- We will support you to provide quality care, love and a sense of belonging to te tamaiti or rangatahi who is living with you and your family

## Notes

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### Video link:

[youtube.com/watch?v=NjDf\\_QEPbsM](https://youtube.com/watch?v=NjDf_QEPbsM)

# Supporting you to care

- We will help you meet other caregivers to provide you with support and advice and for you to chat with
- Together we will develop a support plan that is aligned with the All About Me Plan for te tamaiti you are caring for
- We will help you create a “Welcome to Our Home” booklet
- We will visit you and you will know who to contact when you need us

## Notes

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### Video link:

[youtube.com/watch?v=gtQkcSI48fQ](https://youtube.com/watch?v=gtQkcSI48fQ)

Manaaki



# LONG TERM CARE

# WIREMU

\* Wiremu is a fictional character based on real life scenarios



## Notes

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# Long term care

- Once the Family Court has decided that you are the permanent Caregiver te tamaiti or rangatahi is no longer in the care of Oranga Tamariki
- In most cases, you will become their guardian in addition to the birth parent(s), so guardianship decisions will be made in consultation with the birth parent(s)
- The Permanent Caregiver Support Service (PCSS) are a non-government social services organisation and the meet the long term needs of te tamaiti
- A support plan will be developed and PCSS will coordinate delivery of agreed social work support, services, and financial assistance





# TAMARIKI/ CHILDREN

in care and who are adopted  
may have experienced trauma

## Notes

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# APPLICATION

## ASSESSMENT APPROVAL



# Application

- We ask you to provide police checks from any country you have lived in for more than 6 months
- We will ask you to nominate two referees. We will email or post forms or telephone your referees (1 whānau and 1 non-whānau member)
- If there are other adults living in your home, or regular visitors who will have unsupervised contact with te tamaiti in your care aged 18 or over, they will also need to undergo suitability checking

**“To feel like the house I have been sent to is mine as well... I should be able to feel like you care”**



# Prepare to care

- Once we've received your application and completed your background checks, you will be invited to attend our 'Prepare to Care' programme
- 'Prepare to Care' is designed to help you become ready to take on caregiving or adoption
- We have different ways to attend 'Prepare to Care' so one should suit you

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**"I have the right to have a connection to people who can help me know my whakapapa"**



# Assessment process

- As part of our assessment process for you to become a caregiver there will be two – occasionally more – interviews and we will cover the six core needs of tamariki and explore with you how you will meet them

**SAFETY**

**RESILIENCE**

**INTEGRITY**

**ATTACHMENT**

**IDENTITY**

**SUPPORT**

## Notes

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# Approval

## All care types:

- Your local Oranga Tamariki site will confirm that you are an approved caregiver
- We will write to confirm this with you
- We will help you to create a profile
- A support plan will be developed with you
- We will begin matching you with te tamaiti

**“Have a say in activities I like to do”**



# Approval

## Local adoption and permanent care

- We will help you to create a profile which will be included in the pool of current caregivers and adoptive applicants
- For permanent care a support plan will be developed

## Inter-country adoption

- Your social worker will work with you to complete a Home Study Report to send to the country you are approved for

**“I want someone to respect my culture and know about it”**





# On hold

**If your circumstances change at any time, before or after approval, you must let us know immediately. Your application/profile will be placed on hold if:**

- You begin caring for te tamaiti in another way
- Your health status or personal circumstances change
- You become pregnant (adoption only)
- You undertake fertility treatment (adoption only)
- You make arrangements with a surrogate (adoption only)

## Notes

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# Review

**There is a review of your approval every 2 years including application, suitability checks and references**

During this review te tamaiti stays with you. A review will also be completed if:

- You want to change your approval care type
- You have a change in circumstances
- There are allegations that te tamaiti in your care has been harmed

## Notes

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**“To be placed with my sisters and brothers”**





# WHERE TO FROM HERE?

# NEXT STEPS

1. Complete an Application and work through the suitability checking
2. Pick up Inter-country Adoption information
3. Attend 'Prepare to Care'
4. Work through the assessment process with a caregiver social worker



## Need to know more?

- Visit our website ([orangatamariki.govt.nz](http://orangatamariki.govt.nz))
- Visit our practice centre ([practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz](http://practice.orangatamariki.govt.nz))
- Call 0508 CARERS (227 377)
- Call our duty phone on 0508 326 459
- No appointment is needed to see the duty social worker









# Helpful advice

## **Brainwave Trust Aotearoa**

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Provide education programmes, conferences, resources, lobbying, and more on the impact that experiences in the early years have on the brain development of a child

[www.brainwave.org.nz](http://www.brainwave.org.nz)

## **Disability Connect**

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Provide support for families raising a child with a disability (formerly The Parent & Family Resource Centre Inc)

[www.disabilityconnect.org.nz](http://www.disabilityconnect.org.nz)

## **Employment New Zealand - Parental Leave Payments**

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Provide information on the financial support available for employees, and their spouses/partners, who begin permanently caring for a child under 6 years

[www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/parental-leave](http://www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/parental-leave)

## **Fostering Kids**

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Provide encouragement, support, and training to caregivers and adoptive parents

[www.fosteringkids.org.nz](http://www.fosteringkids.org.nz)

## **Grandparents Raising Grandchildren**

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Provide support services to full-time grandparent and whānau carers

[www.grg.org.nz](http://www.grg.org.nz)

## **Permanent Caregiver Support Service**

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Provide financial and other assistance to permanent caregivers/  
Home for Life parents

[www.pcass.org.nz](http://www.pcass.org.nz)

## **SKIP (Strategies with Kids, Information for Parents)**

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Provide parenting information and strategies for managing challenges

[www.skip.org.nz](http://www.skip.org.nz)

## **The Parenting Place**

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Provide parenting courses, family coaching, events, online support,  
and more for parents, caregivers, and children

[www.theparentingplace.com](http://www.theparentingplace.com)

## **VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai**

### **(Voice Of the Young and Care Experienced – Listen to me)**

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“We believe children and young people in care need to be heard and their voices kept at the centre of all the decisions made about them.”

[www.voyce.org.nz](http://www.voyce.org.nz)





[New Zealand Government](#)