



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

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



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

Notes





Inter-country adoption

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

Notes



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

Notes

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

Notes



LORENA

* Lorena is a fictional character
based on real life scenarios



Notes

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



Video link:

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



Video link:

youtube.com/watch?v=gtQkcSI48fQ

Manaaki



LONG TERM CARE

WIREMU

* Wiremu is a fictional character based on real life scenarios



Notes

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



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

Notes

"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

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

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

“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)
- Visit our practice centre (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

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

Disability Connect

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

www.disabilityconnect.org.nz

Employment New Zealand - Parental Leave Payments

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

Fostering Kids

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

www.fosteringkids.org.nz

Grandparents Raising Grandchildren

Provide support services to full-time grandparent and whānau carers

www.grg.org.nz

Permanent Caregiver Support Service

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

www.pcass.org.nz

SKIP (Strategies with Kids, Information for Parents)

Provide parenting information and strategies for managing challenges

www.skip.org.nz

The Parenting Place

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

www.theparentingplace.com

VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai

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

“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





[New Zealand Government](#)