

Transition Worker

Mā te huruhuru, ka rere te manu.

Prepare our rangatahi well, so that they can realise their potential.

The journey from care into adulthood is different for each rangatahi and it's important they have help to get started with their adult lives.

Rangatahi can choose to have a transition worker to support them in a way that works for them; including supporting their identity, cultural and disability needs.

Transition workers are not Oranga Tamariki staff. They work for Iwi-Māori or community organisations that have partnered with Oranga Tamariki to provide ongoing support to rangatahi.

A transition worker helps rangatahi...



Take the lead

- have their voice heard and identity seen
- decide what they want to do and how they can reach their goals
- try new things, overcome challenges, build their confidence.



Build independence

- understand their rights and entitlements
- access adult services
- get practical and financial support
- by teaching skills needed as an adult.



By being there

- as a mentor and a role model
- in contact with rangatahi often, in a way that works for them
- as someone to call if they need help
- as someone who will listen, support and respect them.



With relationships

- build strong, positive relationships with those important to them
- maintain connections with their whānau and family, whakapapa and culture
- work through challenges with people in their lives.

As part of transition planning, the social worker can refer rangatahi to a transition worker when they turn 16 or at least 6 months prior to being discharged from care or custody (with rangatahi consent). This gives the transition worker and rangatahi time to get to know each other.

The transition worker will continue working with the rangatahi until they turn 21, or when they no longer need or want ongoing support.

To find out if rangatahi are eligible, call the transition assistance helpline on 0800 55 89 89.

If rangatahi do not want to have a transition worker, the transition advisors at the helpline will continue to keep in touch with them to offer assistance after the custody order is discharged.



Transition assistance helpline
0800 55 89 89



Preparing
15-18 years

The social worker has lead responsibility for supporting rangatahi in their daily life and helping them prepare for their journey into adulthood, while they are in care or custody.



Transitioning
18-21 years

The transition worker has lead responsibility for keeping in contact with and supporting rangatahi, after they have been discharged from care or youth justice.



Responding
21-25 years

Rangatahi can get advice and assistance any time they need it, by calling the transition assistance helpline on 0800 55 89 89

“ It's been very different with [my transition worker] though. And I haven't always engaged very often with him but he's always kept an eye on me.... He's helped me with my CV, he helped me get my learner's licence and then helped me get a fork hoist licence. He's helped me with OT and WINZ appointments, he's even taken me to probation and picked me up again afterwards. When I've been working he's even met me downtown during my lunch hour, just so he could support me.

Mostly though he has just always been there. Sometimes I have had to ask for help and he has always responded – he's never let me down.

Shared from a rangatahi, aged 21

