



Response to “*Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau*”

New Zealand Police response to the Independent Children’s Monitor’s report, *Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau*

Submitted as required by section 30 of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022

June 2025

Purpose

1. This response outlines New Zealand Police's feedback and intended actions in response to the Independent Children's Monitor's (ICM's) report, *Outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau in the Oranga Tamariki system*. It is provided pursuant to section 30 of the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 (the Act).

Background

2. New Zealand Police acknowledges the significance of this first annual performance report by the ICM, which provides a comprehensive assessment of outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori involved in the Oranga Tamariki system. The report highlights the ICM's assessment of long-term disparities experienced by Māori, particularly those with deeper involvement in the system, and underscores the need for coordinated, systemic responses.
3. Police contributed to the report through engagement and by providing data, and we appreciate the collaborative approach taken by the Monitor. We recognise the importance of the outcome indicators developed in partnership with the Social Investment Agency and the insights drawn from the Integrated Data Infrastructure and *What About Me?* survey.
4. Police welcomes the ICM's report and the impetus it provides to ensure agencies across government collaborate at a greater pace to address the findings. We accept the report's findings and will continue to actively participate in cross-agency work to support implementation of solutions.
5. Pursuant to section 30 of the Act, this response outlines:
 - a) what Police intends to do in response to the ICM's findings;
 - b) the timeframe in which Police intends to make any necessary changes; and
 - c) how Police intends to monitor the impact of those changes.

Next steps

6. New Zealand Police remains committed to improving outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. We are focused on continuously improving practice and strengthening our contribution to the oranga tamariki system.
7. The table on the following pages outlines our point-by-point response to findings in the ICM's report, and the specific work Police has underway to address these findings.
8. This response has been published on Police's website as part of our commitment to openness and transparency.



Richard Chambers
Commissioner of Police

Subject Area	ICM Finding	Police Intentions in Response	Timeframes	Monitoring Change
Over-representation and System Performance	Tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau are over-represented in the oranga tamariki system and the system is letting them down.	<p>Police recognises that many barriers are systemic, stemming from inequities in health, housing, education, and wellbeing. Police is committed to working alongside other agencies to address these root causes.</p> <p>Police continues to implement <i>Te Huringa o Te Tai</i> (our strategic framework for improving outcomes for Māori and strengthening partnerships with iwi, hapū, whānau, and Māori communities).</p> <p>Cultural capability is also being strengthened through the Tuia programme at the Royal New Zealand Police College. Tuia connects recruits with diverse communities, includes a Wall Walk® history session, and fosters understanding of te ao Māori including through noho marae. Some Districts also run these sessions for current staff. [A Wall Walk® is an interactive, room-based workshop designed to raise awareness of New Zealand's bicultural history, particularly the relationship between Māori and the Crown.] While the report notes a desire for deeper cultural training, Tuia represents a foundational step in this area.</p> <p>Police also continues to collaborate with iwi and communities to ensure responses are locally tailored and culturally appropriate. This includes participation in joint initiatives such as Fast Track (discussed below) and support for community-led responses.</p> <p>Police is also expanding Te Pae Oranga Rangatahi (TPOR) to 13 sites across 10 Police Districts by December 2025. TPOR is an iwi-led, restorative justice initiative that provides a culturally grounded alternative to formal justice processes for rangatahi involved in low-level offending. It is referenced in the ICM's report as a promising model for early intervention and holistic support.</p>	Ongoing	Monitored via Youth Justice Indicators, the Quality Assurance and Improvement (QAIF) Framework, and official statistics.

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Early Intervention and Holistic Responses	Earlier intervention and more holistic youth justice initiatives are needed to reduce offending.	<p>As noted above, Police is expanding TPOR across the country. Currently operating TPOR sites are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Te Kōhao Health – Hamilton Police (Waikato District) 2. Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Te Rangi Iwi Trust – Tauranga Police (Bay of Plenty District) 3. Te Roopu ā Iwi o Te Arawa Trust – Rotorua Police (Bay of Plenty District) 4. Te Taiwhenua o Heretaunga – Hastings Police (Eastern District) 5. Te Rūnanganui o Te Āti Awa – Lower Hutt Police (Wellington District) 6. Te Rūnanga o Ngā Maata Waka Inc – Christchurch Police (Canterbury District) <p>The following sites are in the process of being established:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Te Mana o Ngāpuhi Kowhāo Rau – Mid/Far North Police (Northland District) 8. Tai Timu Tai Pari Ltd – Whangārei and Kaipara Police (Northland District) 9. Ruapotaka Marae – Auckland City Police (Auckland District) 10. Manukau Urban Māori Authority – Manukau Police (Counties-Manukau District) 11. Te Kōhao Health – Huntly/Ngāruawāhia Police (Waikato District) 12. Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira Inc – Porirua Police (Wellington District) 13. Te Piki Oranga – Nelson Police (Tasman District). <p>This expansion reflects Police's commitment to supporting iwi-led, community-based responses that reduce reoffending and strengthen whānau wellbeing.</p> <p>Police continues to support Fast Track initiatives, which operate in nine locations for tamariki aged 10–13 and have expanded to six locations for rangatahi aged 14–17. These multi-agency response tables, involving iwi and community</p>	TPOR expansion by December 2025; Fast Track ongoing	Evaluated through reoffending rates, ROC volumes, and interagency feedback.

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		<p>providers, aim to reduce escalation into the youth justice system.</p> <p>Police is improving frontline practice through training that supports early identification of risk factors, engagement with victims, and early intervention to prevent escalation. This includes preparation for and participation in Family Group Conferences (FGCs), where Police plays a key role as referrer and supporter of victims, while Oranga Tamariki leads coordination and facilitation.</p>		
Intergenerational Involvement	Despite efforts, disparities are not reducing and the cycle of intergenerational involvement in the system continues.	Police supports whānau-centred, culturally grounded responses like TPOR and Kotahi te Whakaaro. These initiatives aim to disrupt cycles of harm by engaging rangatahi and their whānau early and holistically. As noted, Police continues to contribute to FGCs as referrers and supporters of victims.	Ongoing	Monitored through longitudinal data, internal reviews, and community engagement outcomes.
FGC Implementation	Family group conferences are not always carried out as intended which can mean tamariki and rangatahi Māori don't always get the services they need.	While Oranga Tamariki is responsible for convening and facilitating FGCs, Police plays a key role as a referrer and in supporting victims to participate. Police continues to improve practice around early identification of risk, preparation for FGCs, and engagement with whānau and victims.	Ongoing	Practice improvements monitored through internal reviews and feedback from FGC participants.
System-wide Access to Support	Oranga Tamariki funding decisions and lack of prioritisation across government agencies prevent tamariki and rangatahi Māori accessing the things they need.	This finding relates primarily to Oranga Tamariki and other agencies. However, Police supports collaborative models such as Fast Track and TPOR, which aim to connect whānau with the right support early. Police continues to advocate for cross-agency coordination to ensure tamariki and rangatahi Māori receive timely and appropriate services.	Ongoing	Monitored through interagency forums and outcome tracking of joint initiatives.
Response to Reports of Concern	Oranga Tamariki is not always taking action to respond to reports of concern at the earliest opportunity.	This finding is directed at Oranga Tamariki. However, Police continues to submit Reports of Concern (ROCs) when appropriate and is working with Oranga Tamariki to improve feedback loops and digital submission processes. Police also supports early intervention pathways to reduce the need for escalation.	Ongoing	Monitored through ROC volumes, internal reporting, and feedback from frontline staff.