

23 January 2024

Minister Karen Chhour

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By email: k.chhour@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Chhour,

Barnardos Aotearoa welcomes the Annual Report of Aroturuki Tamariki – *Experiences in care in Aotearoa*, covering the period of 1 July 2022 – 30 June 2023, and the opportunity to provide comment on its findings.

We continue to be appreciative of the positive and constructive engagement we experience with Aroturuki Tamariki. We note that with this being the third report, Aroturuki Tamariki have now visited every region across the motu, ensuring a comprehensive picture of tamariki and rangatahi experiences in care. The multiple mechanisms used to monitor and gather input from kaimahi, caregivers and tamariki continues to ensure broad and thorough information gathering and assessment.

We have had the opportunity to review drafts of the report that relate specifically to our organisation, and while we acknowledge the small number of rangatahi in our care, it is positive to see their experiences reflected in the report.

We acknowledge the report's key findings, and the role Barnardos Aotearoa as a leading children charity plays in contributing to further improvements across the sector, alongside Oranga Tamariki and other government agencies. Our commitment to working in partnership with tamariki and their whānau to provide the right care and support is absolute, as is working with all those across the children's sector to enhance lifelong outcomes and wellbeing.

Barnardos Aotearoa, as a trusted s396 care provide, has the experience and capability to help prevent young people from entering care, and for those who do enter care, we support them through the transition out of care back to whānau, whilst providing effective support for those caring for them. While we acknowledge that care is sometimes the safest place for tamariki and rangatahi, we actively work to ensure this time is minimised and whānau connections are always maintained for the wellbeing of that tamaiti.

We would welcome an opportunity to talk to our experiences as a care provider, how else we can contribute to improving outcomes for tamariki in care and to learn more about your thoughts in this space.

Ngā mihi nui



Matt Reid
Chief Executive Officer



Jo Harrison
GM Child & Family Services