



Our Big Questions Explained

1. How, and how well, is equity for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau being achieved? How are iwi and Māori organisations being resourced to deliver services for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau?

Historically, the youth justice and care and protection systems have had a disproportionately harmful impact on tamariki Māori and whānau. The Oranga Tamariki Ministerial Advisory Board recommended that *"In order to lead prevention of harm to tamariki and their whānau, collective Māori and community responsibility and authority must be strengthened and restored"*. To strengthen insight on how well agencies are doing this, we monitor how iwi and Māori organisations are resourced to provide the right supports at the right time.

2. How, and how well, is equity being achieved for tamariki and rangatahi with disabilities?

Is there support for equal life outcomes and opportunities for disabled tamariki.

3. How are agencies working to put supports in place to prevent escalation to more state intervention?

This means how agency staff work to take the least intrusive pathway possible to prevent tamariki and rangatahi escalating to more serious interventions. This includes supports to prevent tamariki entering care, avoiding arrests, and pursuing alternative actions, school exclusions, and supplying resources for health concerns.

4. How, and how well, are agencies working to enhance the wellbeing, including safety, of tamariki and rangatahi?

Enhancing wellbeing and safety means that tamariki and rangatahi are kept physically and emotionally safe from harm, their health and happiness is prioritised, and they are nurtured and cared for.

5. How are tamariki and rangatahi being supported to be involved in decision-making at all levels?

Do they understand, and are they given opportunities to contribute to, decisions that affect them across all phases of intervention, and across all decision processes.

6. How are whānau supported so that they can exercise tino rangatiratanga?

In this context tino rangatiratanga means self-determination, independence, and autonomy. We need to understand how whānau are supported to have control over their own lives and be empowered to make decisions that are best for them.

7. How well do decisions reflect and affirm mana tamaiti (tamariki), whakapapa connections and whanaungatanga relationships?

These section 7AA principles (*Oranga Tamariki Act*) are interconnected and are the foundations for establishing whānau or family connections for tamariki. Decisions made by agencies must support tamariki Māori to set up connections and be seen within the context of their whānau, hapu and iwi.

8. How, and how well, are government agencies working together, and with other organisations, to achieve outcomes for tamariki, rangatahi and whānau?

This helps us understand if agencies collaborate and work together to improve outcomes for tamariki. This includes information sharing.

9. How are coercive powers being exercised?

Coercive powers mean powers under the Oranga Tamariki Act that can be exercised without the consent of the individual concerned, and how people are treated when there is statutory power to do certain things, for example investigate or assess suspected harm against tamariki. These powers include how whānau are initially engaged with, how tamariki are taken into care, arrests, excluding tamariki from school, or coercive practices in health care, such as mental health care. We want to know that staff are using these powers appropriately and consistently.

10. How, and how well, do agencies respond to tamariki and rangatahi who are alleged to have committed a criminal offence?

The youth justice system is meant to work with tamariki and rangatahi to provide opportunities to alternate pathways in life, as well as hold them to account and consider the victim.

11. How, and how well, are rangatahi supported to be successful when they leave care?

We want to know what helps rangatahi achieve successful life outcomes and function well daily. We also need to understand what helps tamariki return home or end their care journey successfully and remain safe and out of the system.