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# Independent Children's Monitor



## Independent Children's Monitor May 2020 Newsletter

Hi <<First Name>>

Kia ora koutou and welcome to the May 2020 update from the Independent Children's Monitor.

Please continue to look after yourself and your whānau as we get used to our new way of "normal" in Level 2. If you need financial help or support during these tough times, you can find out more on the Government's [Covid-19 website](#).

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## Welcome

Tēnā koutou katoa

He mihi nui ki a koutou i roto i ngā ahuatanga o te wā.

I'm honoured to have been given the opportunity to lead the Independent Children's Monitor. This is possibly the most important mahi that I've had the opportunity to be involved with and I'm determined that we do the very best we can for tamariki and rangatahi. They deserve no less. It's also important we recognise the role whānau play in their lives.

I've spent the first three weeks in the seat getting to know the team, albeit remotely, and making connections with our partners. What I've quickly come to realise is how fortunate I am to have inherited such a great team. It already feels like home and the team's dedication, care and aroha towards the work is awesome.

For many of you, I appreciate this will be your first opportunity to get to know me. First, my immediate whānau. I'm the extremely proud father of four tamariki, ensuring that home is never a quiet place. The eldest two have recently left home (for now at least), leaving my wife and I with just the two younger boys (fourteen and six). Second, my work background. I've always

worked in social services and, for the most part, as a lawyer for the Ministry of Social Development. I've also led programmes for Work and Income, such as the Youth Service and, more recently, led one of the work streams in the Investing In Children Programme helping to set up a commissioning approach for Oranga Tamariki. My first 'real' job was as an Income Support case manager in Porirua, and that taught me the importance and value in serving New Zealanders. I've had plenty of people along the way to help show me the meaning of manaakitanga and it's certainly what helps get me out of bed in the morning.

For the Monitor, getting this right requires us to listen to many voices and I'm a firm believer that the benefits from a day out of the office often outweighs a week's worth time of spent behind the desk. So please don't hesitate to give me a shout if there's something that you think I need to see first-hand or if you just want to have a chat.

Nō reira, heoi anō tāku mō nāianeī. I look forward to working with you on this journey.

Ngā manaakitanga

Arran

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## Report – 2019 engagement with Māori

Engagement with Māori to talk about the overall strengthening of oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System took place in mid-2019 to help inform the Ministry of Social Development's (MSD's) policy and legislative proposals. Twenty-two engagement hui were held around the country, with individuals and groups who have a specific interest in this system or are active in it.

Feedback from the hui has been collated into a **single report**, focused on the main themes raised. MSD has incorporated analysis of this feedback into drafting the legislation and will continue to have oversight over this process. Here is a **summary of the main themes** from those hui.

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## Recruitment

As you will have seen in our update earlier this month, the first roles in cohort one of our recruitment were advertised on our website. We are pleased to inform you that the below roles are being advertised this week, with further information **available on our website**.

- Kai Tohutohu Matua Aroturuki/Kai Tohutohu Aroturuki – Advisor/Senior Advisor Monitoring (Auckland and Wellington, we will consider other locations)
- Kairuruku Tira – Team Coordinator (Auckland and Wellington)
- Kaitātari Raraunga Matua – Senior Analyst Data and Insights (Wellington)
- Kaiarataki Tikanga – Practice Lead (Auckland and Wellington)

The following role will be advertised shortly:

- Kaitātari Aporei, Rangahau me Aromātai – Principal Advisor Research and Evaluation (Wellington, fixed-term)
- Tumuaki Kaitohutohu ki te Tumu Whakarae – Principal Advisor to the Executive Director (Wellington, fixed-term)
- Kaitātari Aporei, Kaupapahere Rauemi – Principal Advisor Operational Policy (Wellington)

This first cohort will include nine roles, with up to 22 positions available. We will keep our website updated as new roles are advertised.

Please note that as the Ministry of Social Development has been given the job

of building the Monitor, all Monitor job applications will be processed through MSD's recruitment system. Please follow the links on our website to be redirected to the MSD careers page where you can view the position description and apply for the role you are interested in.

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**Ngā mihi nui**  
**Arran Jones**  
**Executive Director**  
**Independent Children's Monitor**



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