

7 March 2022

Mr Phil Pennington
Radio New Zealand
Phil.Pennington@rnz.co.nz

Tēnā koe Mr Pennington

Thank you for your email of 8 February 2022 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting the following information under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act):

Re all and every programme referred to in previous OIA responses by OT of Nov and Dec 2021 re its work under the joint venture on violence, pls provide in fully searchable format:

- *A list of any quality assessment or assurance – of the type referred to at <https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/working-with-children/information-for-providers/partnered-care/quality-assurance/> and of any other similar kind – done on each programme, per each programme so it is clear what has been done on what*
- *The most up to date and substantive such QA document related to each programme*

OT told RNZ it had put on hold engaging with the sexual violence sector so it could co-design crisis support services with Maori. Pls provide:

- *A list of any and all meetings held with any and all Maori providers or similar for the purpose of said co-design, since the decision to put on hold engaging with the sector*
- *Any document arising from any such meeting that is substantive as regards said co-design, including any substantive communications that is primarily aimed at advancing this co-design (but no administrative comms)*

You have asked for a list of any quality assurance or assessments similar to the one at the link you have provided. The partnered care quality assurance document you have referred to is the only document of its kind in relation to services provided to children and is not related to work under the Joint Venture on Family and Sexual Violence. I advise that this part of your request is refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist.

For your information, all service types funded by Oranga Tamariki have specifications and guidelines that define the service to be delivered and provide a standard against which delivery can be assessed through things like periodic monitoring. Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO) reputation and our investment in NGOs to employ professional staff with professional body membership are also part of the overall approach to quality assurance, as is whānau and tamariki feedback regarding the service provided.

Our key priority and focus for the work being undertaken by Oranga Tamariki is to build and strengthen relationships with iwi and Māori at a regional level, where iwi and Māori have indicated they are ready to do so.

An example of engagement occurring at the regional level is Temuka based Arowhenua Whānau Services (AWS) which is the health and social service arm of Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua. They hold a number of contracts through Te Pūtahitanga o Te Waipounamu, South Canterbury District Health Board, Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education. Their range of services support all members of whānau from babies to kaumatua.

AWS are piloting an Early Support approach for tamariki schools. This pilot is to support and train teachers to respond appropriately in identifying and managing incidents of sexualised behaviour in the classroom. The training is supported by Cultural Advisors representing Te Rūnanga o Arowhenua and Te Rūnanga o Waihao.

Further engagement has led to the identification of other opportunities to support the community. AWS has identified a cohort of high school rangatahi that are wanting to have a safe space after school that strengthens peer relationships, enables discussion about challenges and normalises conversations about family violence and sexual violence in the presence of skilled kaimahi. This has led to a further investment to increase their capability and capacity to respond to this work.

We are also in discussion with at least five other regions and anticipate that those regional conversations will develop further in the next six months.

At a national level we are focusing on developing our relationship with Te Ōhaakii ā Hine – National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together (TOAH-NNEST). This organisation represents specialist sexual violence service providers, both Māori and tauwi and it has been a key contributor to the work of the Joint

Venture. Oranga Tamariki also contributed to Te Aorerekura, the National Strategy to Eliminate Family Violence and Sexual Violence, which was publicly launched in December 2021.

Oranga Tamariki will continue regional engagement to support and build our relationships with our current NGO providers and to do the mahi needed to foster trust so that we can then begin to co-design, with Māori, our crisis support services.

While a significant amount of work is being undertaken to build these relationships to enable the design and delivery of services that work for communities, we do not have a collated list of these meetings, and to what extent they were for the purposes of co-design. For this reason, your requests for a list of meetings held for the purposes of co-design and any documents arising from such meetings is also refused under section 18(e) of the Act, as the document alleged to contain the information requested does not exist. No meetings have been held with iwi and Māori for this purpose.

Oranga Tamariki intends to make the information contained in this letter available to the wider public shortly. We will do this by publishing this letter on our website. Your personal details will be deleted and we will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response or how we can meet your future information needs about this priority work, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to ask an Ombudsman to review this decision. Information about this is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Steve Groom', written in a cursive style.

Steve Groom
General Manager Public, Ministerial and Executive Services