

6 March 2023

9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe 9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email of 16 January 2023 to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki), requesting information on Oranga Tamariki’s involvement with Jigsaw. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

You have requested:

- *Please provide information on when the Ministry took over the services previously provided through Jigsaw*
- *Please provide the terms and agreement the Ministry made with Jigsaw at the time of acquisition.*

We are not aware of any specific point at which Oranga Tamariki took over the services previously provided by Jigsaw. Although the current webpage for Jigsaw NZ <https://jigsaw.org.au/how-do-i-begin/new-zealand/> directs people to Oranga Tamariki; Jigsaw Western Australia maintains the website and they have not indicated that there was any specific point that Oranga Tamariki took over the services previously provided through Jigsaw. Oranga Tamariki’s role is to support families wishing to adopt and birth parents who wish to place a child up for adoption; as well as assisting adopted people who wish to find out information about their birth parents, and birth parents seeking information about their child.

As such, your request for this specific information is being refused under 18(e) of the Act, as this information does not exist or, despite reasonable efforts to locate it, cannot be found.

However, we have additional information we are able to provide you around Jigsaw and its role in adoptions:

There were a range of support groups that were set up in the 1970s by people affected by adoption. These groups provided individual support and advice, and also became the

base for political action. One group formed Jigsaw in 1976. They set up a contact register and helped birth parents locate children placed for adoption, and adopted people to locate their birth parents. Joss Shawyer was a foundation member of Jigsaw and published her book *Death by Adoption* in 1979. In 1975, adopted people set up an organisation called 'Jigsaw International' at a meeting in New South Wales.

The Jigsaw groups around New Zealand and Australia were set up by volunteers, who were not legally affiliated with the group, but networked at conferences. These groups subsequently closed in following years except for the groups in Western Australia and Queensland.

The passage of the Adult Adoption Information Act (1985) gave specific entitlements to adopted adults to receive their original birth certificate, and to apply for a current name and address of a birth parent named on that original birth certificate via the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages. This statutory entitlement gave adopted adults an avenue for advice and support to locate and approach their birth parent – and the specialised Adult Adoption Information staff delivered these services. Please refer to Anne Aburn's article for further information: <https://anzswjournal.nz/anzsw/article/view/28>

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.

I trust the information provided is useful. I encourage you to raise any concerns about this response with us directly by contacting [OIA\\_Requests@ot.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz). Alternatively you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Julie Miller', with a stylized, scribbled end.

Julie Miller  
**General Manager, Monitoring and External Relationships**