

# My Rights My Voice

**What are rights?**

**Rights are things you should have to live a good life. Let's talk about what your rights are.**



# I have a right to know why I am in care

I can't  
live at  
home

Can we talk  
about it?

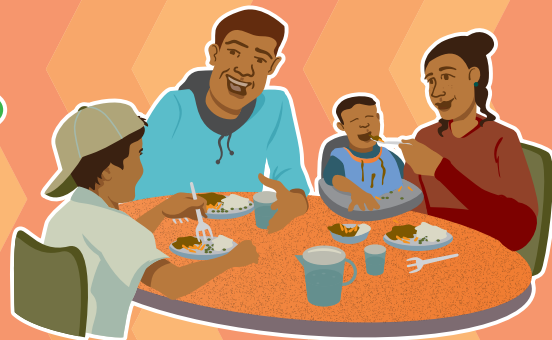
Yes we can.



I also have a **RIGHT** to be told how things should happen while I'm in care.

# I have a right to live somewhere safe

**Yes I can live there**



My social worker must tell me how I should be treated by my caregivers. They must also check to make sure that...

- I will be safe
- I will be cared for
- Good people
- Good place

I might be looked after by whānau, hapu, and by iwi or by caring adults who are not family.

# I have a right to get to know my caregivers

**Who will  
I be living  
with?**

**Where am I  
going to live?**

**Will they  
be kind  
to me?**

**What is the  
house like?**

**My social  
worker will  
tell me stuff  
about my  
caregivers.**

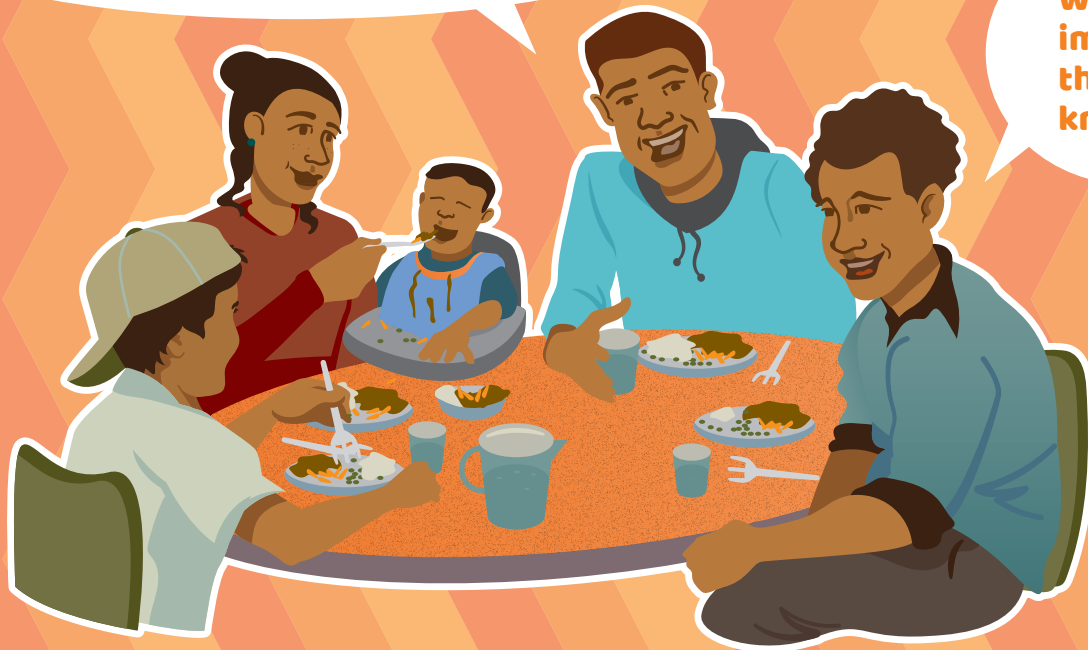
**My social worker  
will help me  
to meet my  
caregivers first  
if possible.**



# My caregivers have a right to get to know me

What can we do to make te tamaiti feel happy and safe living with us?

Well it's important that you know...



# I have a right to have a say in everything that is about me

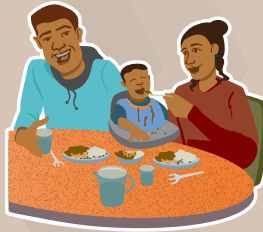
When decisions about me are made, my social worker will have to find out what others think too...



**Me**



**My  
whānau**



**My  
caregivers**



**My lawyer  
/youth  
advocate**



**My social  
worker**

**ALL** our ideas are talked through and my voice matters.  
My social worker will let me know what decisions have been made and why.

# I have a right to have contact with my whānau, hapū, iwi, family and friends

When will I see my whānau?

Who am I not allowed to see?

Who can I see?


Why?



I should know who I can see and when I can talk to people I care about.  
If there are people I care about that I can't see, I should know why.



# **I have a right to know who I am and where I come from**



**I want to be involved in my culture, my language, my religion.**

**It's my job to make sure you are. I will also help your caregiver learn about your culture, whakapapa, and whānau.**

**It's important that you feel proud of who you are and where you come from.**

# My whānau, hapū, and iwi have a right to have a say about what's best for me

Some of the things my whānau might have a say about:

- What school I go to
- When I get to visit them
- My plan

**I will tell you why and how  
your whānau will be involved  
in decisions about you.**



# My social worker will tell my whānau how I am doing



# I have a right to have visits from my social worker

- My social worker wants to know how I'm doing
- I can talk to my social worker on my own or with someone I trust
- I can tell my social worker what's going on
- My social worker wants to help me



My social worker will help me to:

- Understand information and important meetings I have to go to
- Take part in decisions about me
- Make sure that my stuff is looked after

# My social worker will make sure I'm ok

My social worker keeps checking that I'm:

- Living in a safe place
- Being looked after
- Having fun and spending time with people I already know

**My job is to make sure you are safe and doing well.**



My social worker might ask others if I'm ok like my whānau, caregivers, and teachers.

# I have a right to have a social worker who will...

**What do you think?**

**I think...**



- Help me to work out stuff
- Ask me how I want my life to be
- Ask me what I think
- Help me to tell people stuff
- Listen to my ideas and worries
- Check I understand what's going to happen and why
- Make sure I have what I need
- Make sure there is a record of things I've done well and important things that happen in my life

# I have a right to have a social worker who will make sure that I...



- Learn about my culture including my whakapapa
- Try new things like sport and drawing
- Do new things with my friends
- Am healthy
- Can go to school including pre-school
- Have help to get into training or find work

My social worker will write down some of the things we talk about. They will share what they write with me. A lot of the stuff we talk about will go into my plan.

# I have a right to have a plan to help me now and in the future



My plan will include things about...

- What I am good at
- My school
- My feelings
- Where I belong
- What I want help with
- My whānau, hapū, and iwi
- My whakapapa
- My health
- My hopes and dreams



**My social worker will make sure  
I get the help I need, checking if  
anything has changed for me.**

**I will have  
a say about  
my plan.**

**My plan will  
be updated.**

**My plan will  
be written  
down and my  
social worker  
will discuss it  
with me.**

**My plan will  
include the  
names of  
people who  
will do things  
to help me.**



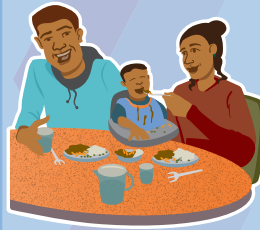
# If I have to move I have the right to have my social worker help me



**Why?**



**Where?**



**Who?**



**Settling in**



**What about  
my things?**

- My social worker will help me to have my own things like clothes and a backpack
- My social worker will help me to keep in contact with the caregivers I am leaving if that is best for me
- When I have to move or if I am leaving care soon, my social worker will:
  - Tell me what will happen and why
  - Make a plan and support me while things are changing
  - Make sure I can take my important things with me

# I have a right to privacy and confidentiality

Oranga Tamariki only uses information about me so they can:

- Keep me safe
- Make sure I get the right support
- Help me to have a better life

Oranga Tamariki will keep my information safe. Only people that need to see it will see it.

## **Information = stuff like**

- Name and address
- Things that are going well
- Things that are not going well
- My Plan – the plan that will help me have a better life



I can ask my social worker to see information.

# Keeping me safe and well

## Someone asks

I'm helping te tamaiti. What can you tell me about te tamaiti?

I am asking because:

- I want to help te tamaiti
- I want te tamaiti to be safe and well



## Someone says

I can tell you if you can tell me what you want to know and why, and if you have a good reason.

To help te tamaiti people need to have:

- The right information
- At the right time

They don't need to know everything - just the stuff they need to do their job right.

# Sharing my personal information

When a person or agency wants personal information about me  
or wants to tell someone personal information about me...

THEY HAVE TO DO THEIR BEST TO:

**Tell me or if they  
can't, tell my  
support person**



**Help me understand**

- What information they need
- What the information is for
- What might happen with my information



**Listen to my views**

Any questions?  
Any worries?



Think about everything  
we've talked about.



**Decide whether  
they should share  
my information**



Sometimes there is not enough  
time before they share to ask me  
what I think, **BUT** they will try their best.

**Share**



**Yes**



**Don't  
share**



**No**



# **I have a right to make a complaint, share a worry or give feedback**



**I want to tell someone about how things are going for me in care. This can be good stuff and bad stuff. I can tell my social worker or someone I trust who can speak for me. I can contact VOYCE-Whakarongo Mai. I can also google "Oranga Tamariki Feedback" for more help.**

**VOYCE is an advocacy service for children in care. You can talk to VOYCE by calling 0800 486 923 or chat to them online - [www.voyce.org.nz](http://www.voyce.org.nz)**



**If I want to make a complaint or give feedback Oranga Tamariki will:**

- **Help me**
- **Not tell others what I've said, unless they really need to know**
- **Keep me up to date**
- **Talk to me about what's going to happen**

**I can do this by:**

**Using the online form**

**[www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/  
contact-us/feedback](http://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/contact-us/feedback)**

**Ringling Oranga Tamariki for free on  
0508 326 459.**

# I have a right to an advocate who can help me with stuff



...  
I'm worried.  
I don't want to  
talk to Oranga  
Tamariki on  
my own.



I can ask  
someone  
to help me



...  
An advocate is a person  
who can work out what you  
want to say and can write  
it down. They can speak for  
you if you don't want to and  
come to meetings with you.

An advocate might be my whānau  
or an adult I trust. If I want an  
advocate and I don't have one  
it is my **RIGHT** to get help from  
VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai.

I can talk to VOYCE by calling  
0800 486 923 or chat to them  
online - [www.voyce.org.nz](http://www.voyce.org.nz)



# VOYCE - Whakarongo Mai



**What is ADVOCACY and how can VOYCE help me?**

**It is your RIGHT to have access to VOYCE. They ADVOCATE for you by:**

- **Listening to you about your care**
- **Helping you to get the information you need**
- **Supporting you to share your views**
- **Helping you to understand decisions**
- **You can call them on 0800 486 923 or chat to them online - [www.voyce.org.nz](http://www.voyce.org.nz)**

# My rights as tamariki Māori



Oranga Tamariki must:

- Involve my whānau hapū and iwi in decisions
- If I have to be in care, Oranga Tamariki must first try to find a place for me to live with my whānau, hapū or iwi
- If I am in care, Oranga Tamariki must connect me to my cultural identity and keep me connected with my whānau, hapū and iwi

# If I'm 15-25 years old I have a right to get help after I leave care or custody



Before I leave care or custody my social worker will make sure that I:

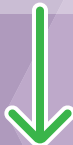
- Understand what help I can get and how to get it
- Get a copy of my records of important events and achievements
- Can manage money and get health care
- Get important documents like a photo ID and birth certificate



**After I leave care or custody**

I might be able to get help with:

- Finding somewhere to live
- Having someone to keep in touch with me
- Getting advice or assistance
- Financial help



**After I leave care or custody**

I can get advice and assistance by calling  
0800 55 89 89



**My social worker needs to make sure they have talked to me about**

## Have we spoken about everything?



- **I am in care. Why?**
- **My caregivers**
- **My whānau and identity**
- **Having a say on stuff about me**
- **Stuff my social worker does for me**
- **My plan for now and in the future**
- **Information about me**
- **Help me to stand up for myself**
- **When I leave care to live independently**
- **My rights as tamariki Māori**

[illegible]

# Important words to remember



**ORANGA  
TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children

## Oranga Tamariki

The service that looks after me when I am in care.



## My Lawyer/Youth advocate

A lawyer is a person who helps children in family court. A youth advocate is a trained lawyer who helps young people in youth court.

## My Advocate

An advocate might be my whānau or an adult I trust. An advocate could also be someone from VOYCE.



## My social worker

The person who makes sure I have what I need.

## Caregiver

Who I will live with.



## Family and whānau

Everyone in my whānau, hapū, iwi, family, and people who are like family to me.



# My Rights My Voice