

18pt



In Confidence

Oranga Tamariki— Social work practices and policies

Feedback about supporting oranga for tangata whaikaha
(disabled people).

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Oranga Tamariki—Social work practices and policies

Feedback about supporting oranga for tangata whaikaha (disabled people).

Tangata whaikaha (disabled people) and other people working with children have shared their thoughts on the care and youth justice systems.

We've collected research, reports and feedback published over the last 10 years. Here is a summary of what was said about **strengthening professional, well-informed, and rights-based social work.**

Feedback from tangata whaikaha

Sometimes, the way you work with me and my whānau is disempowering and harmful.

I still need help, even if I don't qualify for some services.

My family, caregiving whānau, social worker, school or job didn't get the information they needed to support me.

Please treat me with kindness, listen to me and tell me the truth.

I need to trust the people that support me, so I feel safe to talk about important things.

Please don't tell me things last-minute. I want time to process what's happening.

Ideas for change

Here is a summary of suggestions for change made by tangata whaikaha and other people working with children:

- Everyone working with tamariki needs training on how to work with tangata whaikaha—including how to support tangata whaikaha Māori and disabled Pacific people.
- Advice and guidelines for social workers should include information about supporting tamariki whaikaha (disabled children).
- Experts should be available when social workers need extra support for whānau.
- Give social workers more time to work in meaningful ways with young people.
- Create ways to support tamariki whaikaha who might not have medical diagnosis.
- Help support networks to receive the right information at the right time.