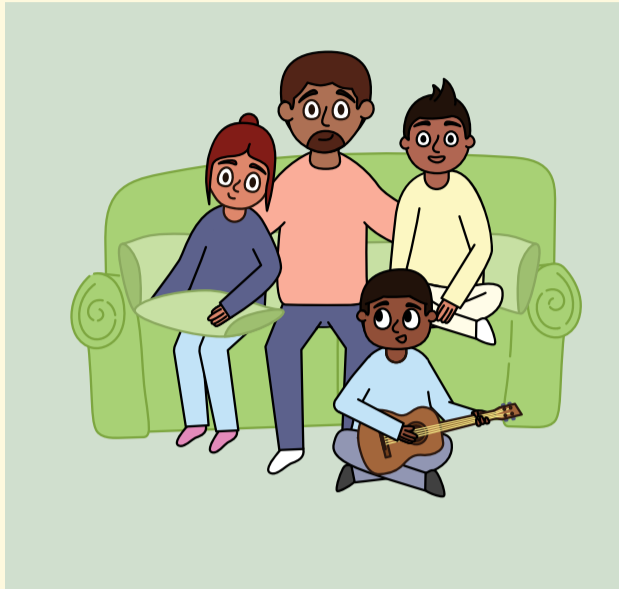
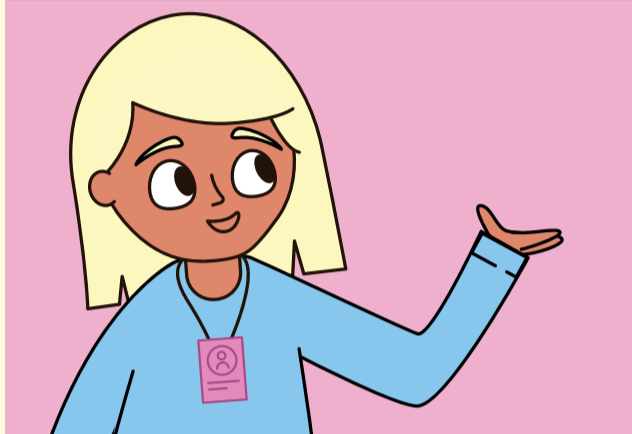




Experiences of Care in Aotearoa

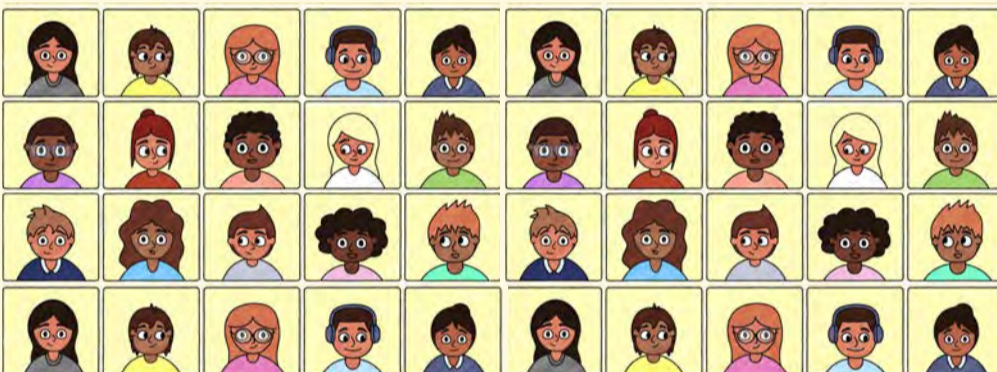
2021/2022

The National Care Standards Regulations are the rules that make sure tamariki (children) and rangatahi (young people) are cared for and have what they need. We check that organisations that look after tamariki and rangatahi in care are following the rules.



To find out what it's like to be in care, we spoke with tamariki and rangatahi, their whānau and caregivers.

We also talked with people that look after tamariki in care – Oranga Tamariki, Open Home Foundation and Barnardos and we met with people who support tamariki, such as teachers, school principals, police, doctors, nurses and youth workers.



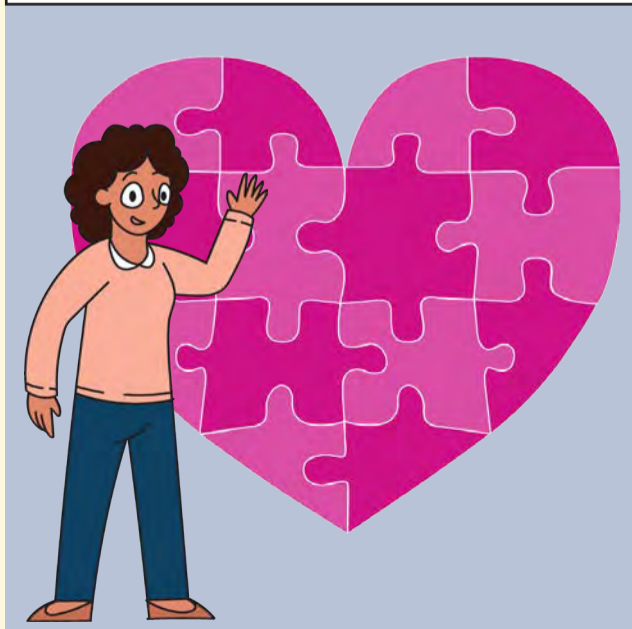
Almost 1500 people told us what they thought about how things are going in Aotearoa for tamariki and rangatahi in care. We heard from nearly 200 tamariki and rangatahi.



We also gathered data about how well the rules were being followed. Once we collected enough information, we wrote a report that went to the Government. We also put it on our website so that everyone can read it.

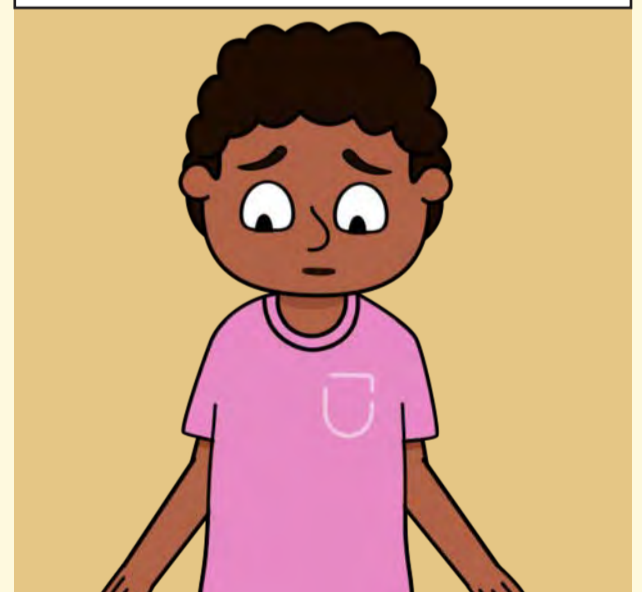
The main things we learnt about care are:

Lots of people we talked with told us that things need to get better for tamariki and rangatahi.



Social workers need to be able to spend more time with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau, caregivers and communities but things get in the way.

A lot of the time tamariki and rangatahi don't know what their rights are. They aren't always asked or told about things that are going to affect them.



Lots of people told us it can be hard to get tamariki and rangatahi mental health support when they need it.

It looks like not many tamariki and rangatahi are getting mental health checks when they are feeling really low.

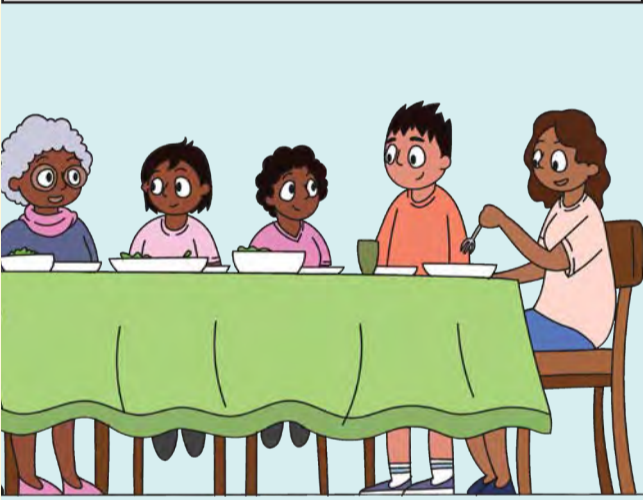


A lot of tamariki and rangatahi are not enrolled with a doctor. If they were enrolled, we weren't able to tell whether they visited the doctor or a dentist each year for a check-up. We also don't know whether they are attending school.

Different people such as social workers, school principals, teachers and doctors are not always talking to each other about how tamariki and rangatahi in care are doing and what would help them even more.



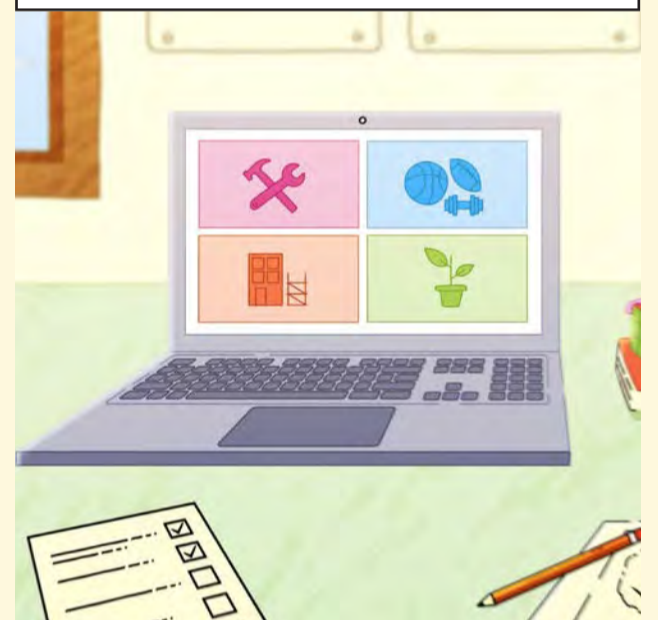
Caregivers need more support. They don't get enough visits from their social workers and don't have access to important information about tamariki and rangatahi in their care. Caregivers and their households are not always completely checked before tamariki and rangatahi start living in the home.



Some social workers can't meet the cultural needs of tamariki, rangatahi and their whanau. They also don't know how to build strong relationships with whanau.



Oranga Tamariki don't have all the information that we need. Oranga Tamariki need to get better at collecting information to make sure it is providing tamariki and rangatahi in care with the support they need.



We will continue to report on what it's like to be in care. Our report next year will look at whether things are getting better for tamariki and rangatahi.

