

28th January 2025

Minister Karen Chhour
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Parliament Buildings
Wellington 6160

By email: k.chhour@ministers.govt.nz

Tēnā koe Minister Chhour,

Barnardos welcomes the Annual Report of Aroturuki Tamariki – *Experiences in care in Aotearoa*, covering the period of 1 July 2023 – 30 June 2024, and the opportunity to provide comment on its findings.

We continue to be appreciative of the positive and constructive engagement we experience with Aroturuki Tamariki, and the insights gained from their oversight of agency compliance with the National Care Standards and Related Matters Regulations. We have had the opportunity to review drafts of the report that relate specifically to our organisation, and while we acknowledge the continued small number of rangatahi in our care, it is positive to see their experiences reflected in the report, and Barnardos compliance with the National Care Standards.

We would like to take the opportunity to acknowledge the report's key findings, and reiterate the role Barnardos plays as a leading children's charity in contributing to further improvements across the sector, alongside Oranga Tamariki and other government agencies. Further, we acknowledge that this report is in the same year in which the Royal Commission of Inquiry into Abuse in State and Faith-based Care released its final report, *Whanaketia- through pain and trauma, from darkness to light* was released.

Barnardos is committed to learning from survivor experiences and alongside Aroturuki Tamariki report findings. We recognise both the need and the opportunity to foster lasting change by strengthening the care networks surrounding our tamariki, rangatahi, and whānau.

Our commitment to working in partnership with tamariki and their whānau to provide the right care and support is absolute. We welcome future discussions and opportunities to strengthen our mahi working with all those across the children's sector to enhance lifelong outcomes and wellbeing.

Ngā mihi nui



Matt Reid
Chief Executive Officer