
Independent Children's Monitor



Independent Children's Monitor April 2020 Newsletter

Hi <<First Name>>

Kia ora koutou and welcome to the April 2020 update from the Independent Children's Monitor.

As we noted in our last update, the world has changed significantly for us all recently, and our team continues to work remotely to ensure this important mahi continues. In this newsletter, you will hear more about what we've been doing and where we're heading.

Please look after yourself and your whānau; and if you need financial help or support during these tough times, you can find out more on the Government's **[Covid-19 website](#)**.

Farewell and welcome

Last month, we farewelled Executive Director Melissa Gill who will be on paternal leave until returning to the Ministry of Social Development in her new role as Deputy Chief Executive of the Organisational Assurance and Communication Group. We thank Melissa for her leadership over the past nine months and her commitment to making a real difference to the lives of tamariki and rangatahi.

Next week, we welcome Arran Jones as our new Executive Director. Arran has held a number of leadership roles at the Ministry of Social Development, including with Legal Services, the Office of the Chief Executive and Work and Income. He also helped establish Oranga Tamariki, having led a workstream within the Investing in Children programme, and returns to the Ministry of Social Development having been the Head of Privacy at ACC.

Our Chief Monitor Nova Banaghan has been Acting Executive Director.

Regional hui

These past few months have been busy, with 19 regional hui held around the country, providing participants a greater understanding of how the Independent Children's Monitor, Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Office of the Ombudsman are working to strengthen independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System.

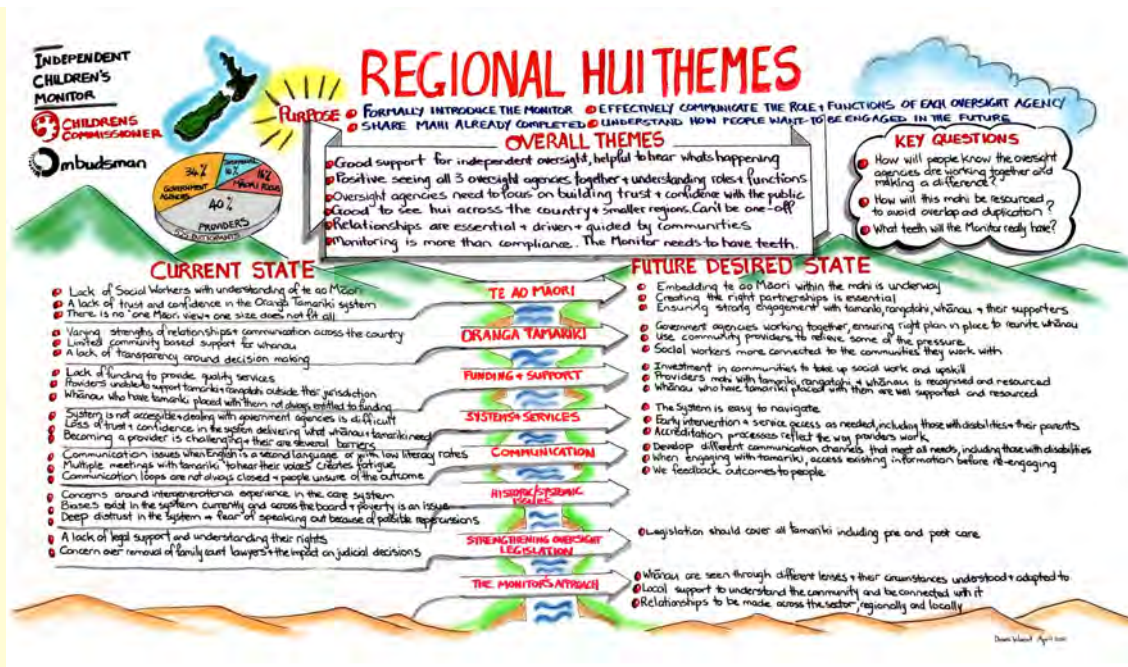
Thank you to everyone who took the time to come along to listen and contribute to these discussions. We hope you found the hui helpful; it has been invaluable for us to meet and connect with you.

In total, 525 participants attended the hui, with 190 completing a feedback form and 144 of those expressing interest in being involved in future workshops. Many noted how good it was to see all three oversight agencies together and to understand what each organisation's role and function is. They also commented on how helpful it was to further understand the Ombudsman's Office's role and function, including the complaints process, understanding what barriers exist and being able to provide people with a voice. For us, it was helpful to receive feedback on how we could improve future hui, including better timekeeping, more time for discussions, and more opportunities for networking and providing feedback.

We will take onboard all the feedback we received in shaping our future mahi.

An overview of the themes to come out from all regional hui has been published online, along with material from the hui. **[Read more here.](#)**

As mentioned at hui, this is the beginning of our engagement and we look forward to working with those of you who expressed interest in being involved in future mahi. If you haven't expressed interest and would like to be involved, please email **info@icm.org.nz**.



Our values

Last month, we published our values, which have been developed within the context of our work and reflect our principles of being child-centred with a te ao Māori lens across all that we do. Our values are how we behave every day, with each other and with those we are working with.

Read more about [our values here](#).

Recruitment – on hold

Following the initial establishment of the Monitor last year, there is a need to build our monitoring team to be able to meet our full reporting commitments. However, as can be expected in the current climate, all recruitment has been delayed.

We will be updating our [website](#) as more information about timing comes to light.

Once recruitment gets underway, our first cohort will include six roles, with up to 22 position available:

- Kaiwhakahaere Aroturuki – Manager Monitoring
- Kaiarataki Tikanga – Practice Lead
- Kai Aroturuki Aporei – Principal Advisor Monitoring
- Kai Tohutohu Aroturuki/Kai Tohutohu Matua Aroturuki – Senior/Advisor Monitoring

- Kaitātari Raraunga Matua – Senior Analyst Data and Insights
- Kairuruku Tira – Team Coordinator

For a brief overview of these the roles, please [visit our website](#).

Draft legislation

In December 2019, Cabinet made further decisions to support the development of the Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System and Children’s Commission Legislation Bill. The proactive release of the Cabinet paper and associated minutes show what these decisions are and help to shape the ongoing development of the Bill.

You can [read more here](#).

We will let you know, through this newsletter, when the draft legislation has been introduced and how you can be involved.

Ngā mihi nui

Nova Banaghan

Acting Executive Director

Independent Children’s Monitor

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