

Establishing and Operating the Independent Children’s Monitor

As part of Budget 2020 we are committed to improving child wellbeing.

Budget 2020

We want to make sure that children and young people are heard and that they, their whānau, caregivers, and the public have confidence in the care system.

The Government is investing \$31.9 million over three years to strengthen independent and systemic monitoring of the Oranga Tamariki Act and associated regulations to address identified gaps and enhance the care experience and improve current and inter-generational wellbeing.

- The funding will help:
 - build resilience in the care system by supporting systems learning and continuous improvement
 - build the trust and confidence of children, young people, their whānau, caregivers and the public
 - support the voice of children, young people, whānau and caregivers to be heard in the delivery of services.
- Government has agreed that MSD will be the monitor to establish and operate the function in the short to medium-term with the in-principle intention that it will be transferred to the Office of the Children’s Commissioner once its operation is robust.
- Funding will secure an additional 20 operational full-time staff, and some establishment costs, such as motor vehicles, to support the development and operation of the Independent Children’s Monitor function, and contribute towards:
 - expanded monitoring, focused on compliance with all aspects of the National Care Standards Regulations by December 2020, and
 - continued development of the Monitor which would enable broader monitoring of the Oranga Tamariki Act and associated regulations from 2021.

Costs (operating) \$m				
2020/21	2021/22	2022/23	2023/24	TOTAL
	10.50	10.50	10.50	31.50
Costs (capital) \$m				
	0.40			0.40