



2 July 2026

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your email of 5 May 2026, requesting information on the implementation of recommendations from Dame Karen Poutasi's review.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

#### *1. Implementation Status and Decision-Making*

##### *a. Recommendation-by-Recommendation Status Table*

- Please provide a summary table listing each of Dame Karen Poutasi's 14 recommendations, indicating for each:
- Whether it has been accepted, supported in principle, declined, deferred, or is under further consideration.
- The current implementation status (e.g. complete, underway, pending Cabinet decision, awaiting legislative change, not started).
- The agency or agencies responsible for implementation or oversight.

##### *b. Timelines and Next Steps*

- For each recommendation that has been accepted or is in progress, please provide:
- The current timeline for implementation.
- The next planned decision points or milestones (including any scheduled Cabinet or Ministerial consideration).

##### *c. Decision Rationale*

- Where recommendations have been declined or deferred, please provide the rationale for these decisions.

I can confirm that the government has accepted all the recommendations in the Dame Poutasi report as confirmed in the following press release from the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, here: [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/strengthened-system-protects-children-harm](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/strengthened-system-protects-children-harm).

Please refer to the following document which provides an update on the progress of the recommendations:

- *DKP Monitoring Dashboard – April 2026*

Please note that some information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Act to maintain the constitutional conventions for the time being which protect the confidentiality of advice tendered by Ministers of the Crown and officials. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

Some information is also withheld under section 18(d) of the Act as this information will soon be made publicly available.

You can also find information on both the status of each recommendation and the next steps online through the following links:

- [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2025/update-on-government-response-to-the-dame-karen-poutasi-review.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2025/update-on-government-response-to-the-dame-karen-poutasi-review.html)
- [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2026/next-steps-on-government-response-to-the-dame-karen-poutasi-review.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2026/next-steps-on-government-response-to-the-dame-karen-poutasi-review.html)
- [www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/child-wellbeing-and-poverty-reduction/integrated-government-response-to-the-poutasi-review.html](http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/child-wellbeing-and-poverty-reduction/integrated-government-response-to-the-poutasi-review.html)

You may also find the following press releases helpful which all refer to the Dame Poutasi review here:

- [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/inter-agency-hub-mandatory-training-keep-kids-safe](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/inter-agency-hub-mandatory-training-keep-kids-safe)
- [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/progress-improvements-children's-system](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/progress-improvements-children's-system)
- [www.beehive.govt.nz/release/training-boost-20000-children's-workers-keep-kids-safe](http://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/training-boost-20000-children's-workers-keep-kids-safe)

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact [OIA\\_Requests@msd.govt.nz](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with my decision on your request, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Anna Graham  
**General Manager**  
**Ministerial and Executive Services**

Government response to Dame Karen Poutasi Review: Monitoring Dashboard

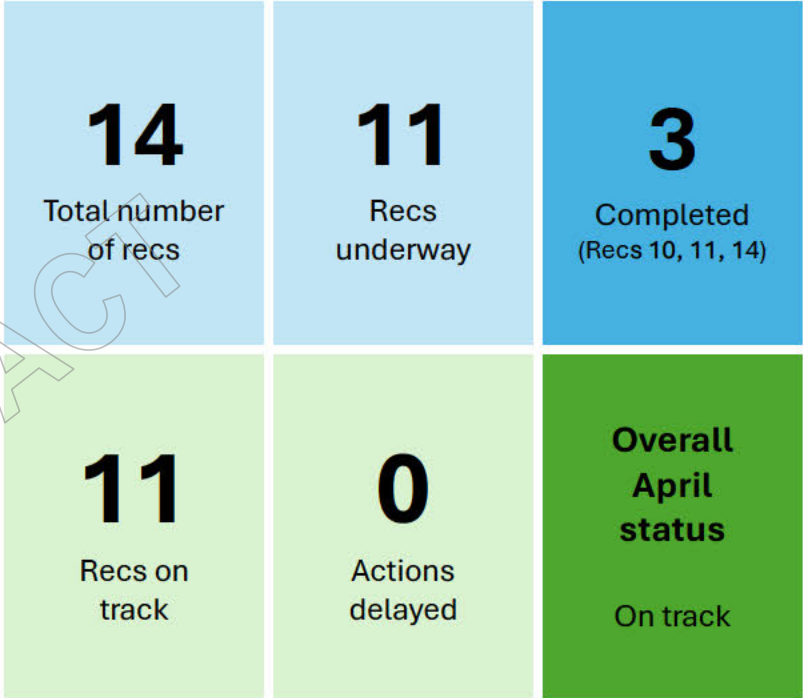
April 2026

Key Updates for April 2026

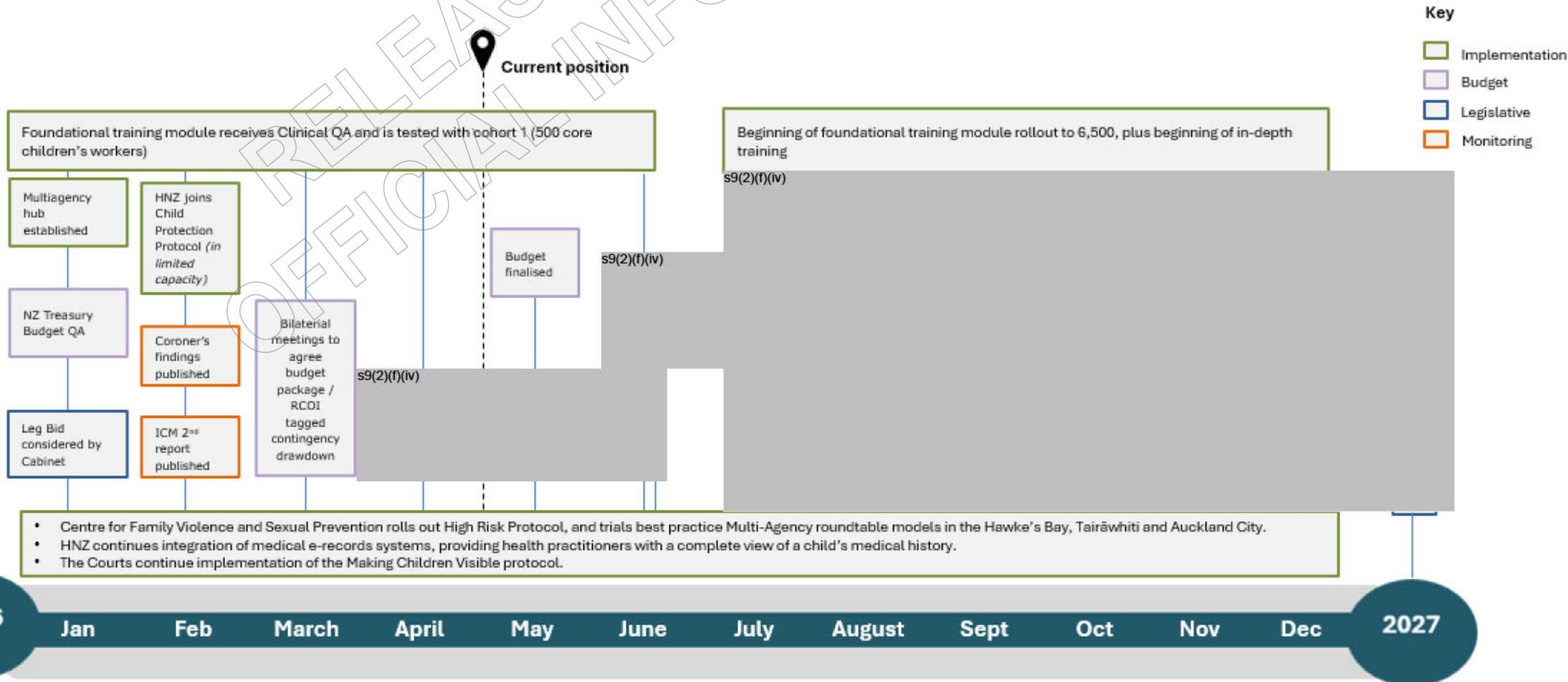
- Three recommendations are now completed; since February 2026 the Ministry of Education has confirmed that Recommendation 10 is now complete.
- The Multiagency Hub prototype was established in January 2026 and began operating in February 2026. As of 31 March 2025 the Hub has received 154 referrals, resulting in 107 Reports of Concern being made about 187 distinct children.
- In February, agencies provided a narrative summary of the DKP Monitoring and Evaluation approach to the SIA, <sup>18(d)</sup>
- To date the foundational mandatory training module has been tested with 402 Core Children’s Workers from agencies. The Ministry of Education reserved spaces for training with the education sector and NGOs, which will be undertaken during Term 2 2026, to have the 500 completed by end-June.
- This iteration of the dashboard now includes reference to the recommendations made by Coroner Anderson in February 2026. A list of overlaps between the Poutasi Recommendations and Coroner’s recommendations is included at slide 8.

Focus Areas for April – June 2026

- s9(2)(f)(iv)
- Pending Budget 2026 decisions, the Ministry of Education will begin rollout of in-depth training as well as sequenced delivery of the foundational training module to 6,500 children’s workers.
- Agencies are looking at transition pathways to BAU which will include any follow-on steps, for example legislative changes that may be required.
- Agencies will also develop and finalise a monitoring and evaluation framework for the programme.



Critical path



| BUDGET 2026 (All agencies)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | DKP RECS | CORONER'S FINDINGS | STATUS   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|--------------------|----------|
| Budget Process                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | All      |                    |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Dame Karen Poutasi implementation bid continues to progress through to the final stages of the Budget process. Agencies are working together to draft the financial recommendations for the Budget Cabinet paper for Ministers to agree to the final funding to be allocated to each Vote.</li></ul> <b>RCOI Tagged Contingency (Workforce Development) Drawdown</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Joint Ministers have agreed to draw down funding from the RCOI workforce development tagged contingency to support the design and delivery of mandatory training. Remaining training costs to support the workforce to attend training is sought through new Budget 26 funding.</li><li>Agencies will input into the Budget 26 Cabinet paper to support finalisation of this drawdown.</li></ul> |          |                    | On track |

s9(2)(f)(iv)

s9(2)(f)(iv)

| MULTIAGENCY HUB (Oranga Tamariki-led)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | DKP RECS                                                  | CORONER'S FINDINGS | STATUS   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Multi-agency hub establishment</b><br>(Recs 1, 2 and 6: Identifying and responding to the needs of dependent children whose sole parents/carers are remanded in custody and/or incarcerated)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 1, 2, 6: visibility of children<br>7: information-sharing | A, B and H         |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Hub was established by Chief Executives in January 2026, with temporary resources allocated within baselines to June 2026.</li> <li>Following an induction period for agency staff, the Hub commenced receipt of Reports of Concern on 9 February 2026.</li> <li>Between 9 February 2026 - 31 March 2026, the Hub has received 154 referrals, resulting in 107 Reports of Concern being made about 187 distinct children.</li> <li>s9(2)(f)(iv)</li> <li>A Steering Committee has been established to deliver hub governance, with composition including senior leaders from OT, MSD, MoE, NZ Police, Health New Zealand and Corrections.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |                                                           |                    | On track |
| <b>Test and learn, and evaluation</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | 1, 2, 6: visibility of children<br>7: information-sharing | A, B and H         |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As the hub is a prototype, staff continue to test and refine ways of working, including the development of an information sharing guide to support staff working within the hub, as well as implementing a pre-Report of Concern triage process aimed to strengthen the accuracy of the cases the hub receives and increase the likelihood that the hub responds to the right group of children.</li> <li>Early learnings from the hub have led to development of an information sharing guide to support staff working within the hub, as well as implementing a pre-Report of Concern triage process aimed to strengthen the accuracy of the cases the hub receives and increase the likelihood that the hub responds to the right group of children.</li> <li>Oranga Tamariki has engaged Allen and Clarke to deliver an independent evaluation of hub operations and effectiveness during this phase, which includes interviews with participating staff and, pending ethics approval and permission from whānau, caregivers and tamariki who have received hub support.</li> </ul> |                                                           |                    | On track |
| <b>Making Children Visible in the Courts (Judiciary-Led)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 1, 2, 6: visibility of children                           | B                  |          |
| <p>The Ministry of Justice are consulting with the judiciary about how they want to ensure the 'Making Children Visible in the Courts' process is embedded and are currently exploring additional education for the court related workforce to ensure this is an effective approach. Alongside this, the Ministry are working with Oranga Tamariki to explore establishing a clearer pathway from the Court to the multiagency hub where a judicial officer raises a report of concern under section 15.</p> <p>The Ministry of Justice will be monitoring whether additional capacity is needed in the Family Court to respond to any increase in reports of concern as a result of the introduction of the multiagency hub, or the implementation of mandatory training and reporting.</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                                           |                    | N/A      |

## MULTIAGENCY HUB MILESTONES AND KEY STATS

### January



Hub established at OT National Contact Centre in Auckland

### February



New Report of Concern process activated for dependent children of sole parents remanded into custody/sentenced to a term of imprisonment.

When a Report of Concern is received, the Hub requests and coordinates information about the child's situation from participating agencies.

### February – April



- 154 referrals made to the hub
- 107 Reports of Concern established
- The hub supported the visibility and safety of 187 distinct tamariki.

### Hub triage



48 Reports of Concern were in scope of the hub.

60 Reports of Concern were out of scope of the hub.

*\*one Report of Concern includes tamariki who fall into both categories above. Total Report of Concern numbers are 107, with 108 outcomes.*

### Supports Provided – In Scope



Of the 48 Reports of Concern in scope of the hub:

- 14 were referred to site for assessment
- 12 were already known to Oranga Tamariki and the hub contributed with further assessment
- 2 were referred for services
- 20 were assessed as needing no further action.

### Overall



Of the 60 Reports of Concern out of scope of the hub:

- 14 were referred to site for assessment
- 4 were already known to Oranga Tamariki and the hub contributed with further assessment
- 3 were referred to a community decision making forum for determination
- 39 were assessed as needing no further action.

| MANDATORY TRAINING ROLLOUT 2026-2027 (Ministry of Education-led)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | DKP RECS                                        | CORONER'S FINDINGS | STATUS   |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Module testing with 500 core children's workers</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 9: mandatory training<br>7: information-sharing | D, E, F and G      |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In January, e-module content was tested with agencies and the National Child Protection Clinical Governance Group at Health NZ. Feedback from these reviews was positive, with module changes and test participants both finalised in February 2026.</li> <li>Rollout of the foundational e-module began in the week commencing 9 March, with tranches sequenced across 3 weeks to enable phased analysis of detailed feedback.</li> <li>The test cohort's final composition from agencies was 402. The Ministry of Education reserved spaces for training with the education sector and NGOs (via Social Service Providers Aotearoa) who will make up the remainder of the 500 cohort.</li> </ul>                  |                                                 |                    | On track |
| <b>Planning delivery to 6,500 core children's workers (Budget 26 dependent)</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | 9: mandatory training<br>7: information-sharing | D, E, F and G      |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Detailed planning is now underway for the sequenced delivery of the e-module to 6,500 Core Children's Workers, as well as planning for the rollout of in-depth training.</li> <li>The delivery approach for the in-depth training will be determined once funding has been confirmed. We may need to pivot planned face-to-face training to a hybrid model in response to the developing fuel situation.</li> <li>The Ministry of Education is developing an evaluation approach which will be finalised once funding has been confirmed.</li> <li>Health NZ has developed an online CAN (Child Abuse and Neglect) training module, and existing Violence Intervention Programme is available for staff.</li> </ul> |                                                 |                    | On track |
| <b>Mandatory training for Lawyer for Child</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 9: mandatory training                           | G                  |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Education and training requirements for the lawyer for child are set by the New Zealand Law Society and the Principal Family Court Judge. We understand the New Zealand Law Society has agreed to review education and training requirements based on this recommendation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                                                 |                    | N/A      |

## MANDATORY TRAINING MILESTONES

January

February

March

April - June

FY 26/27

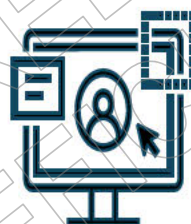


E-module content developed, peer reviewed by agencies and quality-assured by a National Child Protection Clinical Governance Group at Health New Zealand.

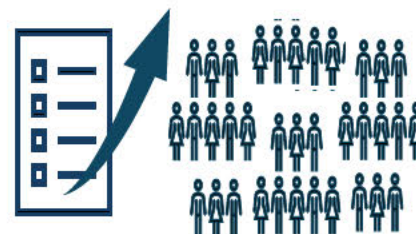


Agencies confirmed 500 children's worker participants for e-module testing.

E-module refined by MoE in readiness for March rollout.



E-module delivered in tranches to agencies, enabling MoE to undertake detailed analysis of participant feedback.



- E-module refined in response to participant feedback. Further testing with NGO's and schools scheduled in April.
- Detailed planning commences for rollout of module and in-depth training to 6,500 participants (pending Budget 26 decisions).
- Planning includes supporting Chief Executives to identify, communicate with and nominate their participating workforces. It also includes s9(2)(f)(iv) as well as sequencing of training delivery, in order to maintain OT capacity to respond to an increased volume of Reports of Concern.
- The Ministry of Education are also identifying those that have completed training in the last two years that would be equivalent of the foundation module.



- Rollout of e-module to 6,500 and in-depth training to core children's workers from 1 July 2026. In this rollout, training will be delivered in tranches to ensure Oranga Tamariki can monitor any increase in Reports of Concern. This will support modelling of future impacts and advice to Ministers on system needs via Budget 2027.
- During FY 26/27 policy analysis and Cabinet decisions on mandatory training and reporting regimes will inform planning for outyears, with s9(2)(f)(iv)

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|
| The South Island already has                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                              |
|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |                                              |
| (CPP)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | 5: HNZ to join CPP<br>7: information-sharing |
| <p>Protocol with NZ Police and Oranga Tamariki in February 2026 in a governance and training capacity.</p> <p>Options around full participation/implementation of the Protocol.</p> <p>Resources are pending, a NZ Police representative has joined the Health NZ Child Protection Clinical Governance Group.</p> |                                              |

| WIDER WORK ON SYSTEM SAFETY NETS                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | DKP RECS                                                 | CORONER'S FINDINGS | STATUS   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| <b>Strengthened resource for multiagency teams working in partnership with iwi and NGOs to prevent and respond to harm</b><br>(Recommendation 3: Development of an implementation plan to strengthen child safety within existing multi-agency responses)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 3: resourcing MAR partnerships<br>7: information-sharing |                    |          |
| An implementation plan is being refined to strengthen child safety within existing Family Violence Multi-Agency Responses (FV MAR), with initial focus in 2026 on four localities. Early activity is already underway, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>testing a high-risk family violence protocol with templates that explicitly capture information about children and young people exposed to violence—making them more visible within risk assessment and triage processes.</li><li>Work is in progress to build a clearer picture of what information agencies routinely hold about children and young people and what is shared through FV MAR.</li><li>Programme monitoring across the four localities includes assessment of whether FV MAR practice improvements are resulting in children’s needs being better met and intended outcomes being achieved.</li><li>s9(2)(f)(iv)</li></ul> |                                                          |                    | On track |
| <b>Information-sharing initiatives</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 7: information sharing                                   |                    |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Office of the Privacy Commissioner has published guidance about multi-agency meetings, which supports the information sharing work.</li><li>The Office of the Privacy Commissioner continues to provide workshops to cross-agency groups and Regional Public Service Leadership groups to support staff to practically and safely share information.</li><li>To build on the guidance published in 2025, the Privacy Commissioner will be writing to Chief Executives to reinforce that good-faith information-sharing to enable the safety of children is compliant with existing legislative levers.</li><li>Additionally, Health NZ has commissioned the development of an online information sharing module to support the health sector.</li></ul>                                                                                                                   |                                                          |                    | On track |
| <b>ECE Child Protection Policies</b><br><i>There should be active monitoring of the implementation by early childhood education services of their required child protection policies to ensure they are providing effective protection for children. Therefore, the Ministry of Education and the Education Review Office should jointly design and administer a monitoring and review cycle for the implementation of Child Protection Policies in Early Learning Services</i>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | 10: effective ECE child protection policies              |                    |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Recommendation 10 is now complete.</li><li>The relevant ECE licencing changes are taking place this month, and the Ministry of Education has developed guidance to support the implementation of these changes.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |                                                          |                    | Complete |
| <b>Public Awareness Campaigns</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | 13: regular public awareness campaigns                   | C                  |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>The Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 requires the Oranga Tamariki Chief Executive to administer ongoing public awareness campaigns, including within relevant workforces, to promote child safety and prevent abuse. s9(2)(f)(iv). The campaign is intended to achieve more than general awareness-raising and is focused on driving specific behavioural change over time.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                          |                    | On track |
| <b>Independent Monitoring – ICM and Coroner’s reports</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | 14: ICM to monitor implementation progress               |                    |          |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>In February 2026, the Independent Children’s Monitor (ICM) published their second report into the Government’s response to the recommendations of Dame Karen Poutasi – ‘Towards a Stronger Safety Net to Prevent Abuse of Children’. While it found indications of positive progress ahead, it noted delivery remained slow. Agency Chief Executives accepted the finding and provided a formal response noting the programme is shifting into a focused delivery phase.</li><li>In February 2026, Coroner Anderson issued Inquest findings, noting similarly that implementation to date had been difficult to achieve but noting the forward momentum ahead.</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                          |                    | On track |

| Dame Karen Poutasi identified system gaps in...                                                                       | We are responding with...                                                                                                                                                                                                    | In the medium-term, outcomes to be realised are:                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Long-term outcomes to be achieved                                                                                   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| ...a lack of <b>reporting of risk of abuse</b> by some professionals and services                                     | ...the introduction of a mandatory child protection training and reporting regime reporting for defined workforces and strengthened regulation of ECE services' Child Protection Policies (recommendations 8, 9 , 10 and 13) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Signs of abuse are identified earlier and more consistently and reported</li><li>• Higher proportion of substantiated reports</li><li>• More children experiencing abuse are provided with appropriate support</li><li>• ECE services more consistently report suspected abuse when identified and the system responds</li><li>• Appropriate monitoring of CPPs is embedded in ERO/MOE compliance activities</li></ul> | Children are safer, with a focus on supporting children whose sole parent is incarcerated                           |
| ... <b>identifying needs</b> of a dependent child when charging and prosecuting sole parents through the court system | ...enhancing to the system to ensure that children whose sole parent is incarcerated are identified and their needs met (recommendations 1, 2 and 6)                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children whose sole parent has been incarcerated are identified early and are visible through the system</li><li>• Children's wellbeing needs supported by agencies and providers</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |                                                                                                                     |
| ...the process for <b>assessing risk of harm</b> to a child, which is too narrow and one dimensional                  | ...ensuring adequate information is available to assess safety and wellbeing concerns for a child (recommendations 3, 4 & 5)                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Children at risk are better identified and more visible across the system and access support earlier</li><li>• Enhanced detection and intervention in child protection cases</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | The children's system has a mature and consistent approach to sharing information and responding to suspected abuse |
| ...agencies and their services not proactively <b>sharing information</b> , despite enabling provisions               | ...reinforcing a clear expectation that children's agencies share information where there are safety and wellbeing concerns for a child (recommendation 7)                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wellbeing and safety needs of children more regularly and routinely identified and responded to</li><li>• The Children's system has a more mature and consistent approach to sharing information</li><li>• More children protected from ongoing harm</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                         |                                                                                                                     |
| ...allowing a child to be <b>invisible</b> .                                                                          | ...strengthening collective accountability for child safety (recommendation 12)                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There is greater collective accountability across the children's system for safety</li><li>• Children with safety and wellbeing concerns are safer</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                                                                                                                     |

Assumptions

- Adequate frontline resourcing for relevant agencies and providers
  - Effectiveness of psychosocial supports
  - s9(2)(f)(iv)
  - Judiciary progressing the Making Children Visible in the Court process
- Approval for Health NZ to join Child Protection Protocol by the Health NZ Board (rec 5) pending future funding options.
  - s9(2)(f)(iv)
  - Monitoring and evaluation across programme to measure progress

Dame Karen Poutasi Review Recommendations

Identifying the needs of dependent children when sole parents enter custody

- 1. **Require Oranga Tamariki to vet proposed carers** when a sole parent is arrested or remanded, with Police and Courts allowing time for this process.
  - 2. **Ensure Oranga Tamariki provides regular follow-up checks** and support for approved carers while the parent remains in custody, with adequate resourcing.
- (All actions to comply with s 7AA duties and Te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations.)

Improving risk assessment, which is currently too narrow

- 3. **Expand well-resourced multi-agency community teams**, in partnership with iwi and NGOs, nationwide to assess risk and respond early.
- 4. **Link medical records across the health system** so clinicians can access a child’s complete health history.
- 5. **Add the health sector as a formal partner to the Police–Oranga Tamariki Child Protection Protocol**, including joint training and access to clinical expertise.

Addressing poor information sharing despite enabling laws

- 6. **Require MSD to notify Oranga Tamariki** when a non-guardian caregiver of a child with an imprisoned parent seeks benefits or emergency housing.
- 7. **Strengthen sector-wide understanding and use of information-sharing provisions** in the Oranga Tamariki Act to support proactive child protection.

Strengthening reporting of suspected abuse

- 8. **Legislate mandatory reporting of suspected child abuse** by clearly defined professionals and services.
- 9. **Support mandatory reporting** with a comprehensive package, including clear high-risk thresholds, defined reporter roles, and regular compulsory training from undergraduate level onward.
- 10. **Actively monitor ECE services’ implementation of child protection policies**, led jointly by the Ministry of Education and ERO.

Preventing children from becoming invisible in the system

- 11. **Clearly define in legislation which agencies make up the Government’s children’s system.**
- 12. **Embed a shared statutory responsibility** across these agencies for checking and safeguarding children’s safety.
- 13. **Run regular public awareness campaigns** so the public recognises abuse indicators and knows how to report concerns — reinforcing a clear “don’t look away” message.
- 14. **Require the Independent Children’s Monitor to review progress** on these recommendations after one year as part of its system-wide role.

Coroner Anderson Recommendations

- A. **Urgently identify dependent children when sole caregivers are incarcerated**, with independent oversight to confirm care arrangements are safe and protective of children’s rights.
- B. **Fully implement and resource “Making Children Visible in the Courts,”** supported by training so courts consistently identify and consider children affected by proceedings.
- C. **Prioritise a national public awareness campaign** to improve recognition and reporting of child abuse, fulfilling a long-standing statutory and expert recommendation.
- D. **Introduce mandatory safeguarding training** across relevant sectors, drawing on UK legislative models and expert child protection advice.
- E. **Require standardised child protection policies and mandatory training for ECE centres**, including clear guidance on responding to injuries and recognising non-accidental harm.
- F. **Establish regular, mandatory child protection education for GPs**, covering risk factors, indicators of abuse, and non-accidental injuries.
- G. **Strengthen training requirements for lawyers for the child**, focusing on child safety risk identification, information gathering, and reporting thresholds.
- H. **Ensure the Family Court is adequately resourced** to respond urgently where children may be at risk, with timely access to relevant safety information.
- I. **Prioritise long-term funding and full implementation of the Child Protection Programme within Health New Zealand**, ensuring clinical expertise is accessible.
- J. **Embed child-centred approaches** by meaningfully engaging children and young people in the design and implementation of child protection reforms.