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| Have your say - Response template  |

**Strengthening independent oversight of children’s issues and the Oranga Tamariki system.**

You are welcome to share your views in any format you want. This is an optional template to guide you in answering the questions in the consultation document.

Please send your feedback to:

 Childrens\_independent\_oversight\_review@msd.govt.nz or

Children’s-Independent-Oversight-Review

Ministry of Social Development

PO Box 1556

Wellington 6140

The closing date for feedback is on **Monday 2 July 2018**.

You can also use the email above to contact us if you have any questions.

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| **Please tell us your name** |
| **If you would like us to contact you to discuss further the points raised in your feedback, please provide your details below** |
| **Are you responding as an individual or on behalf of a group or organisation?** *(Please tick)* |
|  | Individual  |
|  | Organisation or group | *What is the name of your organisation or group?* |

**Is any part of your response confidential?** *(Please tick)*

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|  | Yes (If yes, please note the information below) |
|  | No |

Responses meet the definition of official information and are subject to the Official Information Act. We may publish your response and we will publish a summary of all responses.

If any part of your response is confidential, please clearly indicate what is to be kept confidential and the reasons why this is important to you. It is important that you tell us why your answers should be confidential.

Please tell us how you would like the confidential parts to be treated, including if you don’t want your name included in a consultation report if one is produced.

**You can answer some or all of the following questions, that is up to you. You can write as much as you like.**

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| **Are there any issues or things you want to provide a view on that are not covered in the questions below? Please tell us about them.** |
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| 1. What are the benefits of independent oversight for all children and young people, and those in the Oranga Tamariki system?

Which of these are the most critical / important? |
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| 1. So far four independent oversight functions have been identified - monitoring, complaints and investigations, and systemic advocacy. Have we identified the right ones? Are all oversight functions equally important?
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| 1. An oversight body could operate at a number of levels – at system and strategy level, at policy level, or operational. It might also act for individuals. For each of the four functions, where can an oversight body add greatest value?
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| For advocacy: |
| For monitoring: |
| For complaints review:  |
| For investigation: |

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| 1. Taking each of the four oversight functions in turn, what is important in terms of how each function is carried out (ie what principles or ways of working are important) for:
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| * being child-centric and child-facing
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| * providing a practical commitment to the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi (te Tiriti o Waitangi)
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| * recognising mana tamaiti (tamariki), whakapapa, and the practice of whanaungatanga for children and young people
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| * driving and supporting system or policy improvements
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| * building public trust and confidence?
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| 1. What are the key skills, knowledge and capabilities required for each function?
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| 1. How could the oversight system balance the focus on children and young people in the Oranga Tamariki system, and on all children?
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| 1. How regular and systematic should monitoring of Oranga Tamariki be? And children’s wellbeing and poverty?
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| 1. Do you think systemic advocacy sits well with a broad monitoring/regulatory mandate? What are the challenges and opportunities of having these together?
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| 1. What is your view of which of the functions fit best together?
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| 1. When separating functions is there a risk of silos that needs to be managed? If the functions were to be separated what would need to be the connectors?
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| 1. So far we’ve thought about some options for how independent oversight functions could be organised:
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| * What do you think of those proposals? Is there any option you prefer over another?
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| * How can these or other options be developed to be relevant and responsive to the needs of children and young people who are Māori and their parents, whānau, families and caregivers?
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| * Do you see other options for strengthening oversight arrangements?
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| 1. We will be asking children and young people about their views on what child-centric, child facing, and timely complaints, monitoring and investigations system would work best for them (primarily with a view to Oranga Tamariki).

Do you have knowledge or experience of this? What help and stops children and young people from saying what is not working for them, and what does that mean for design and principles?  |
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| 1. Beyond being child-centric and child-facing, what else is important, eg procedural fairness, cost effectiveness, prioritisation?
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| 1. If we consider Oranga Tamariki as a system, should the complaints review mechanism sit across the system, or have common features across all agencies? What would be the challenges and opportunities?
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| 1. An independent complaints mechanism could potentially operate at many levels. Is there a need for a complaints triage function, for independent review of individual complaints, or for oversight of how effective agency complaints mechanisms are? What would have greatest value in the next few years?
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| 1. How well do the current oversight arrangements - the different independent bodies as well as internal arrangements - work as a collective? What are the priority improvements to make?
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| 1. It is more likely than not that legislative change will be required to strengthen independent oversight. Legislative changes that are associated with each of the options we would like you to consider are listed (see ‘Possible options in detail’ on pages 16 to 22). Are there other changes that should be considered?
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**Before you finish, please indicate which of the following best represents you.**

**This is optional, but having this information will help us better understand where you get your insights from.** *(Indicate as many as appropriate)*

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|  | Child or young person |
|  | Child or young person with experience in the Oranga Tamariki system |
|  | Family, friend or whānau of child or young person with experience in the Oranga Tamariki system |
|  | NGO involved in delivering services to children and young people in the Oranga Tamariki system or who advocates for children’s rights and wellbeing |
|  | Group or association representing children, social workers, caregivers and others involved in the Oranga Tamariki system |
|  | Government agency |
|  | Individual or group in the youth justice sector |
|  | Researcher, Academic, Commentator |
|  | Other (please specify)  |
|  | Prefer not to say |

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