

**Engagement approach and overview:**

- From 1 July 2019, the Kāhui Group and Ministry of Social Development officials have undertaken a series of hui with a range of Māori and Iwi organisations and individuals.
- The Kāhui Group provides overall support and direction for the engagement process and the work programme for the independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki process. The members are Sir Mark Solomon, Druis Barrett, Katie Murray and Eugene Ryder.
- The engagement hui with Māori have been positive and informative. The participants expressed confidence in the Kāhui Group. They were also positive about enlisting Māori with expertise and skills to work on policy and legislative design, the monitoring assessment framework and the operating model. All participants indicated their interest in remaining involved as work progresses.
- This first phase of engagement has had a focus on high level issues for the oversight system and involve a range of individuals and groups who are active in and have knowledge of the Oranga Tamariki system.

**Key themes:**

- The safety of tamariki is absolute and quick action is imperative to secure their safety but there is also a need to work with their whānau to help them along a pathway to long-term recovery and wellbeing.
- Overall, there was support for the direction of Oranga Tamariki. Good strategic relationships were being built and national and regional relationships were good. Issues continued to exist at the local site level and with consistency of practice.
- Overall, there was support for an independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system that looks at the scope, reach and boundaries of that system.
- The Oranga Tamariki system is still institutionalising people and the cycle is intergenerational. Early intervention is an important part of the system and solution but there is not enough emphasis on it. There needs to be a more integrated and intersectoral approach to the issues faced by tamariki and their whānau.
- Need to build the trust and confidence of Māori in the independent monitoring and oversight system. Māori should be more closely involved in the design and implementation of the oversight system as they are vastly over represented in the system.
- The system needs to have a tikanga Māori approach and be whānau-centric with a hapū and Iwi lens looking from the inside out rather than the other way around.

