

# State care for children and young people – improving outcomes through independent monitoring

**As part of the Wellbeing Budget we are strengthening independent monitoring of the state care system for children and young people, addressing gaps that have been identified in a review commissioned by Cabinet.**

## Budget 2019

- **The initiative will help ensure the wellbeing and interests of children are at the centre of how the state delivers care and support.**

As part of a series of changes to strengthen independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki-related system, the Government has appointed the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to establish a more robust independent monitoring function.

- Ministers have agreed that MSD will establish and operate the monitor function in the short to medium term, with the intention that it will be transferred to the Office of the Children's Commissioner once its operation is robust.
- Funding for 2019/20 will be \$7.66m operating and \$2.44m capital. For 2020/21 it will be \$11.34m operating and \$6.32m capital.
- The funding for 2019/2020 will purchase five operational and 17

establishment people and cover other establishment costs for the independent monitor.

**The benefits of this funding include:**

- **Providing assurance that Oranga Tamariki (and other agencies that have obligations under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989) are meeting the requirements of the Act**
- **Building resilience in the care system by supporting systems learning and continuous improvement.**
- **Building the trust and confidence of children, young people, their whānau, caregivers and the public.**
- **Ultimately enhancing the care experience and improve current and intergenerational wellbeing.**