



Strengthening Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Programme – monthly progress report – February 2021

Date: 17 March 2021

Report no.: REP/21/3/250

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE

Priority: Medium

Action Sought

Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development and Employment

For Noting

18 March 2021

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone	1st Contact
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Report prepared by: Arran Jones, Executive Director

Minister's office comments

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to (specify)

Comments

Date received from MSD

Date returned to MSD

22/03/21



Report

Date: 17 March 2021

Security Level: IN CONFIDENCE

To: Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

Strengthening Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Programme – Monthly Progress Update – February 2021

Purpose of the report

- 1 This report provides you with a progress update for the Strengthening Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Programme for the period ending 28 February 2021.
- 2 A summary of the key points of interest are included in this cover report with the full detail provided in the attached A3.

Recommended actions

- 3 It is recommended that you:
 - 3.1 **note** the contents of this Strengthening Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Programme Monthly Progress Update which covers February 2021.

YES / NO



Arran Jones
Executive Director, Independent Children's Monitor

17 March 2021

Date



Hon Carmel Sepuloni
Minister for Social Development and Employment

21/03/21

Date

Summary and key points of interest

Programme summary

- 4 Overall programme status is 'on track'.
- 5 The following three workstreams have now been completed:
 - Assessment framework development
 - Operating model development, establishment of Corporate, Strategy and Insights functions and overall deployment of staff
 - Establishment engagements and communications functions.
- 6 As noted in the January update, phase two of the monitoring programme is underway. Visits commenced in Porirua/Paraparaumu on 8 March and will run for two weeks with the Kaitaia and Blenheim/Kaikoura visits taking place in the week of 22 March. Three more communities will be selected to be visited before the end of May 2021.

Policy/Legislation workstream

- 7 The Children and Young People's Commission and Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Bill is entering its final drafting. A Privacy, Human Rights and Ethics assessment has been completed, and this will be reviewed once the introductory version of the Bill has been finalised.
- 8 Advice has been provided to you and your colleagues on the long-term home of the Monitor. We are now preparing a paper for you to take to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on 14 April. A separate paper on policy decisions needed for the Oversight Bill is also being prepared.

Independent Children's Monitor monitoring and establishment workstreams

Monitoring Operations

- 9 The Monitor's Operations teams have been developing detailed engagement strategies for community monitoring visits. This has included working with VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai as a connector to help us engage with tamariki and rangatahi. We have also been working with both iwi and Māori organisations, both to listen to their views on the Oranga Tamariki system as service providers as well as how they can help us connect with tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and carers.
- 10 We have worked with the national offices of the Ministry of Health, and Ministry of Education, as well as New Zealand Police National Headquarters to establish clear lines of communication and engagement with their regional and local staff. Similarly, we have worked with Oranga Tamariki to establish the best way to connect with key social services in local communities.
- 11 We have been planning the six specific community monitoring visits scheduled between March and May. The Monitor received helpful information from the monitored agencies about the offices/sites in the first three communities – Porirua/Paraparaumu, Blenheim/Kaikoura and Kaitaia
- 12 Workshops are being held with the Monitored Agencies to prepare them to provide the Monitor with self-monitoring data on their compliance with the National Care Standards. The aim of this discussion is to ensure that the request is clear and that there are no surprises for the agencies. The requests for self-monitoring data will be made on 22 March, and the responses will inform the Monitor's first report on agency compliance with all of the National Care Standard Regulations, due to the Minister for Children at the end of 2021.

Key engagements and communications

- 13 The first meeting of the year with Te Kāhui was held. We updated them on planning for the community visits, developments around the detailed monitoring approach and we asked for feedback on proposed information requests to agencies as well as options for the long-term home of the Monitor. A further workshop was held in March to discuss the latest draft of the Oversight Bill, and to receive feedback.

IT infrastructure and information management establishment requirements.

- 14 Qualitative analysis software has been deployed. This will enable the Monitor to organise and analyse the information it gathers from visiting communities.

Appendices

- Attached as Appendix One is the Monthly Progress Update A3 for the period ending February 2021.

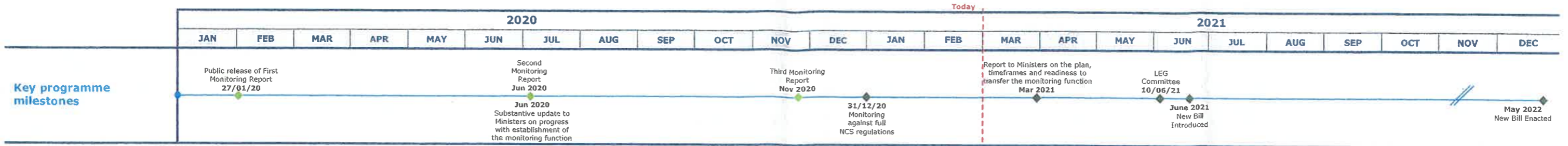
File ref: REP/21/3/250

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Responsible manager: (Stephen Crombie, Deputy Chief Executive, People and Capability)

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OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Strengthening Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Programme | Monthly Progress Report for the Minister for Social Development | February 2021



Programme summary:

	Previous	Current	Next
Overall status	G	G	G

- Programme status continues to track **GREEN** overall.
- Phase one of the programme is complete, as are three workstreams.

Programme Management:

- Phase two documentation is being developed.

Workstream summary:

Policy / Legislation	Independent Children's Monitor Monitoring / Operations	Independent Children's Monitor Assessment Framework and Operating Model
G	G	G

- Privacy, Human Rights and Ethics assessment has been completed for The Children and Young People's Commission and Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Bill.
- We anticipate a decision on the future home of the Monitor on the 7th April.
- Extensive planning is underway for six community monitoring visits scheduled between March and May. The first three are to Porirua and Paraparaumu, Blenheim and Kaikoura and Kaitaia.
- Community-level information from the monitored agencies has been received by the Monitor to support the first three visits. Moving forward this will be requested and provided earlier to allow more time to engage with community providers before visits.
- Three workstreams here are now closed, they were:
 - Assessment framework development
 - Operating model development, establishment of Corporate, Strategy and Insights functions and overall deployment of staff.
 - Establishment engagements and communications functions.
- Qualitative analysis software and electronic handwriting functions have been deployed to Monitoring staff.

Engagement, Communications and Change

Engagement:

- The first meeting of the year with the Monitor's Te Kahui group was held. They were updated on the planning for monitoring visits and their feedback was sought on the draft information requests to agencies to support monitoring (self-monitoring requests and "About community" requests).

Māori Engagement:

- Engagement with iwi has focused on supporting the community visits in Porirua/ Paraparaumu, Blenheim/Kaikoura and Kaitaia. In Porirua we have been working with Ngāti Toa to help us connect with rangatahi, caregivers and whānau.

Communications:

- The animation that explains the monitor to rangatahi has been delayed. We had hoped to have it ready to support the first community visits, but it is now expected to complete mid-April.

What's coming up:

Meetings with you:

- Meetings as required to discuss LEG paper at date (TBC).

Reports to you:

- Draft LEG papers (TBC).