



07 May 2024

Di Landy  
[fyi-request-26363-462e8015@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-26363-462e8015@requests.fyi.org.nz)

Tēnā koe Di

Thank you for your email, received on 8 April 2024 to Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting information on rates of transition in state care. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (The Act).

You are requested:

1. *How many children have been socially transitioned to the opposite sex while in care?*
2. *How many children in care were prescribed puberty blockers?*
3. *What are the ages of the children socially transitioned?*
4. *What are the ages of the children prescribed puberty blockers?*
5. *How many children in care were prescribed Cross Sex Hormones?*
6. *How many breast binders were supplied to children in care?*
7. *How many males were socially transitioned?*
8. *How many females were socially transitioned?*
9. *How many males were prescribed puberty blockers?*
10. *How many females were prescribed puberty blockers?*
11. *How many males were prescribed cross sex hormones?*
12. *How many females were prescribed cross sex hormones?*
13. *What are the ages of the children prescribed cross-sex hormones?*
14. *How many children in total in care have applied to change their birth certificate name and or sex to match their stated gender identity?*
15. *How many children in care currently identify as the opposite gender?*

A decision to seek custody of a child or young person is significant. It is only sought when other means to address serious safety and wellbeing concerns are exhausted or insufficient, and when we believe seeking custody is in the best interests of a child or young person.

In almost all occasions, parents and usual guardians retain guardianship when children or young people are in care. Sometimes, but not always, Oranga Tamariki obtains additional guardianship orders, enabling Oranga Tamariki to be part of guardianship decisions, and in extremely rare occasions, Oranga Tamariki may be appointed a sole

## IN-CONFIDENCE

guardian. This means that in almost all cases, while Oranga Tamariki is responsible for the day-to-day care of a child or young person in care, parents and usual guardians continue to make, or at least continue to be involved in, decisions about significant things in a child or young person's life.

All children or young people in care are entitled to be safe, secure and well cared for. Rights and entitlements in care are set out in the National Care Standards (Care Standards) regulations. The Care Standards place responsibilities on Oranga Tamariki to ensure support is provided to address cultural and identity needs, including needs around a child or young person's gender identity. In doing so, we account for the views of children and young people, the views of parents and guardians and, if relevant, the expertise and decisions of any involved health professionals. Support provided to children or young people to address cultural and identity needs can include encouraging supportive whānau members to assist, making use of school counsellors, or connecting young people and their guardians to health professionals if required.

We consider your questions 1-13 to largely concern health matters. Oranga Tamariki does not make health decisions, and will always follow the advice of health professionals for any health related matters. Question 14 concerns birth certificates, which are the responsibility of the Department of Internal Affairs. We have engaged with the Ministry of Health, Te Whatu Ora and the Department of Internal Affairs to identify whether they held the information you have requested. All three agencies refused transfer confirming they do not hold the information.

Oranga Tamariki records information about children and young people in care on individual case files. Whilst this may include information about children and young people's gender identity, retrieving the information to respond to your questions would require a manual process of reviewing individual files. For this reason, your request is refused under 18(f) of the Act as the information requested cannot be made without substantial collation or research.

I trust you find this information useful. Should you have any concerns with this response, I would encourage you to raise them with Oranga Tamariki. Alternatively, you are advised of your right to also raise any concerns with the Office of the Ombudsman. Information about this is available at [www.ombudsman.parliament.nz](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui



Rachel Leota  
**Deputy Chief Executive**  
**Service Delivery**