

The Treasury

Budget 2026 Information Release

September 2026

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Information Withheld

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

Where this is the case, the relevant sections of the Act that would apply have been identified.

Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to sections of the Act under which information has been withheld:

- [1] 6(a) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the government
- [2] 6(b)(i) - to avoid prejudice the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government
- [4] 6(c) - to avoid prejudice to the maintenance of the law, including the prevention, investigation, and detection of offences, and the right to a fair trial
- [7] 6(e)(ii) - to prevent serious damage to the economy of New Zealand by disclosing prematurely decisions to change or continue government economic or financial policies relating to the regulation of banking or credit
- [12] 7(a)(i) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of the Cook Islands
- [13] 7(a)(ii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the self-governing State of Niue
- [14] 7(a)(iii) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of Tokelau
- [15] 7(a)(iv) - to avoid prejudice to the security or defence of the Ross Dependency
- [23] 9(2)(a) - to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people
- [25] 9(2)(b)(ii) - to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information or who is the subject of the information
- [26] 9(2)(ba)(i) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely to prejudice the supply of similar information, or information from the same source, and it is in the public interest that such information should continue to be supplied
- [27] 9(2)(ba)(ii) - to protect information which is subject to an obligation of confidence or which any person has been or could be compelled to provide under the authority of any enactment, where the making available of the information would be likely otherwise to damage the public interest

- [31] 9(2)(f)(ii) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting collective and individual ministerial responsibility
- [33] 9(2)(f)(iv) - to maintain the current constitutional conventions protecting the confidentiality of advice tendered by ministers and officials
- [34] 9(2)(g)(i) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinions
- [35] 9(2)(g)(ii) - to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through protecting ministers, members of government organisations, officers and employees from improper pressure or harassment;
- [36] 9(2)(h) - to maintain legal professional privilege
- [37] 9(2)(i) - to enable the Crown to carry out commercial activities without disadvantage or prejudice
- [38] 9(2)(j) - to enable the Crown to negotiate without disadvantage or prejudice
- [39] 9(2)(k) - to prevent the disclosure of official information for improper gain or improper advantage
- [40] 18(c)(i) - that the making available of the information requested would be contrary to the provisions of a specified enactment
- [41] 18(d) - information requested is or will soon be publicly available

Where information has been withheld, a numbered reference to the applicable section of the Act has been made, as listed above. For example, a [23] appearing where information has been withheld in a release document refers to section 9(2)(a).

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Cabinet

Minute of Decision

This document contains information for the New Zealand Cabinet. It must be treated in confidence and handled in accordance with any security classification, or other endorsement. The information can only be released, including under the Official Information Act 1982, by persons with the appropriate authority.

Budget 2026 Package: Vote Oranga Tamariki

On 7 May 2026, Cabinet:

Appropriation Administrator: Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children

- 1 **approved** the Budget initiatives for the above Vote for inclusion in the 2026 Budget package, as listed in the summary tables below and detailed in the attached initiative documents:

Summary of initiatives:

Operating Initiatives (Impact on Operating Balance)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17253	Stafford v Attorney-General - Implications for Oranga Tamariki	0.140	0.200	0.300	0.200	0.200
17585	Dame Karen Poutasi Response - Strengthening the Safety Nets to Identify and Respond to Children at Risk of Harm	-	9.176	18.504	-	-
17127	Reports of Concern - Meeting Service Demand and Improving Service Efficiency	-	19.783	25.835	22.449	22.449
17183	Specialist Care Responses - Meeting the Needs of Increasing Numbers of Children with Complex Needs	-	20.475	24.320	23.745	24.983
Total Operating		0.140	49.634	68.959	46.394	47.632

Capital Initiative (Impact on Debt)

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30
17183	Specialist Care Responses - Meeting the Needs of Increasing Numbers of Children with Complex Needs	-	0.500	0.100	0.100	0.100
Total Capital		-	0.500	0.100	0.100	0.100

Summary of contingency initiative:**Operating Contingency**

Initiative ID	Initiative Name	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
		2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
17586	Dame Karen Poutasi Response - Strengthening the Safety Nets to Identify and Respond to Children at Risk of Harm - Tagged Contingency	-	-	-	18.504	18.504
Total Operating		-	-	-	18.504	18.504

Diana Hawker
Acting Secretary of the Cabinet

Vote: Oranga Tamariki

Appropriation Administrator: Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children

Title: Stafford v Attorney-General - Implications for Oranga Tamariki

Description: This initiative provides funding to address implementation costs for Oranga Tamariki arising from the resolution agreement for the Stafford v Attorney-General High Court case. This funding will meet costs arising from the transfer of land and assets under the resolution agreement and the lease back to Oranga Tamariki.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	0.140	0.200	0.300	0.200	0.200
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	0.140	0.200	0.300	0.200	0.200

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Statutory Intervention and Transition (funded by revenue Crown)	0.140	0.200	0.300	0.200	0.200
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)	0.140	0.200	0.300	0.200	0.200
Total Operating	0.140	0.200	0.300	0.200	0.200

Vote: Oranga Tamariki

Appropriation Administrator: Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children

Title: Dame Karen Poutasi Response - Strengthening the Safety Nets to Identify and Respond to Children at Risk of Harm

Description: This initiative provides funding for Oranga Tamariki to progress the implementation of recommendations made in the Dame Karen Poutasi review. Funding will enable Oranga Tamariki to respond to increased demand for services, including increased Reports of Concern and Family Court applications.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	9.176	18.504	-	-
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	9.176	18.504	-	-

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Prevention and Early Support (funded by revenue Crown)	-	0.518	0.782	-	-
Statutory Intervention and Transition (funded by revenue Crown)	-	8.658	17.722	-	-
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)	-	9.176	18.504	-	-
Total Operating	-	9.176	18.504	-	-

Additional Recommendations

- directed** Oranga Tamariki to work with the Social Investment Agency, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, and the Ministry of Health, as appropriate, to develop an evidence-based, programme-level theory of change, and monitoring and evaluation plan;
- noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17202 in Vote Social Development, Initiative 17583 in Vote Health, Initiative 17584 in Vote Education, and Initiative 17586 in Vote Oranga Tamariki;

Vote: Oranga Tamariki

Appropriation Administrator: Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children

Title: Dame Karen Poutasi Response - Strengthening the Safety Nets to Identify and Respond to Children at Risk of Harm - Tagged Contingency

Description: This initiative establishes a tagged operating contingency to meet future resourcing requirements arising from the implementation of recommendations made in the Dame Karen Poutasi review. Funding will enable Oranga Tamariki to respond to increased future demand for services, including increased Reports of Concern and Family Court applications.

Tagged Contingency

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Contingency	-	-	-	18.504	18.504
Total	-	-	-	18.504	18.504

Additional Recommendations

- 4 **authorised** the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Social Investment, the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and the Minister for Children to jointly draw down from the tagged contingency above, subject to Oranga Tamariki providing Ministers a sufficient programme-level theory of change and monitoring and evaluation plan, as well as satisfactory evidence of ongoing resourcing requirements to respond to the Dame Karen Poutasi review;
- 5 **agreed** that the expiry date for the above tagged contingency be 30 June 2028;
- 6 **noted** that this initiative relates to Initiative 17202 in Vote Social Development, Initiative 17583 in Vote Health, Initiative 17584 in Vote Education, and Initiative 17585 in Vote Oranga Tamariki;

Vote: Oranga Tamariki

Appropriation Administrator: Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children

Title: Reports of Concern - Meeting Service Demand and Improving Service Efficiency

Description: This initiative provides funding to respond to an increased number of Reports of Concern and to implement efficiency measures that improve delivery timeliness.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	19.783	25.835	22.449	22.449
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only	-	-	-	-	-
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	19.783	25.835	22.449	22.449

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Prevention and Early Support (funded by revenue Crown)	-	2.755	2.001	0.425	0.425
Statutory Intervention and Transition (funded by revenue Crown)	-	17.028	23.834	22.024	22.024
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)	-	19.783	25.835	22.449	22.449
Total Operating	-	19.783	25.835	22.449	22.449

Additional Recommendation

- directed** Oranga Tamariki to work with the Social Investment Agency to develop an evidence-based, programme-level theory of change and monitoring and evaluation plan for the 'enabling and accelerating partnering at intake' component of this initiative, for approval by the Minister of Finance, the Minister for Social Investment, and the Minister for Children by 31 March 2027;

Vote: Oranga Tamariki

Appropriation Administrator: Oranga Tamariki - Ministry for Children

Title: Specialist Care Responses - Meeting the Needs of Increasing Numbers of Children with Complex Needs

Description: This initiative provides funding for additional staffed care placements for increasing numbers of children with high and complex needs. It will also enhance the range of care responses and intensive clinical services to prevent escalation of needs and placement breakdowns, providing better outcomes for children and their families.

Appropriation Changes

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Operating Balance Impact*	-	20.475	24.320	23.745	24.983
Net Core Crown Debt Impact Only**	-	0.500	0.100	0.100	0.100
No Impact	-	-	-	-	-
Total	-	20.975	24.420	23.845	25.083

* Unless non-cash, will also impact net core Crown debt.

** The net core Crown debt impact only does not continue into outyears.

	\$m - increase/(decrease)				
	2025/26	2026/27	2027/28	2028/29	2029/30 & Outyears
Capital Injections:					
Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children - Capital Injection***	-	0.500	0.100	0.100	0.100
Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure:					
Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)					
<i>Departmental Output Expenses:</i>					
Statutory Intervention and Transition (funded by revenue Crown)	-	20.475	24.320	23.745	24.983
Total Multi-Category Expenses and Capital Expenditure: Investing in Children and Young People (MCA)	-	20.475	24.320	23.745	24.983
Total Operating	-	20.475	24.320	23.745	24.983
Total Capital	-	0.500	0.100	0.100	0.100

*** Capital injections do not continue into outyears.

Additional Recommendation

- directed** Oranga Tamariki to work with the Social Investment Agency to develop an evidence-based, programme-level theory of change and monitoring and evaluation plan for this initiative.