

20 July 2026

s9(2)(a)

Tēnā koe s9(2)(a)

Thank you for your email, received on 19 June 2026, to Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children (Oranga Tamariki) requesting adoption statistics in New Zealand. Your request has been considered under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

I have responded to each part of your request below.

1. Approved adoptive applicant pool

Please provide the number of currently approved adoptive applicants (individuals and/or households) in New Zealand.

If possible, please also provide:

- The number of approved adoptive applicants as at the end of each of the last two financial years (or most recent 24-month period available)*

The approved adoptive applicant pool consists of individuals and couples who have completed Oranga Tamariki's preparation and assessment process and have been approved as suitable to adopt. These applicants remain in the pool while awaiting the opportunity to be considered by birth parents or for a child to be placed with them.

In response to part 1, above, there were 42 approved adoptive applicants in New Zealand on 19 June 2026, the date of your request.

Table 1 below provides the number of approved adoptive applicants at the end of each of the last two financial years:

Table 1 - Approved Adoptive Applicants in New Zealand

Financial Year	Number of Approved Adoptive Applicants
FY2024/25	40
FY2025/26	43

2. Adoption placements

For the last two financial years, please provide:

- The number of domestic infant adoptions where a child was placed by birth parents for adoption*

Adoption orders are administered by the Family Court (the Court) therefore Oranga Tamariki does not hold data on adoption orders. However, Table 2, below, provides information on Adoption Court Reports completed by Oranga Tamariki. These reports are prepared to assist the Court in determining adoption applications. They also provide an

indication of the volume and type of adoption applications that are considered by the Court.

Table 2 - Categories of Adoption Court Reports completed in the last two financial years

Adoption Court Report Type	FY2024/25	FY2025/26
Non-relative (New Zealand)	9	11
Step-parent (New Zealand)	19	8
Other relative (New Zealand)	33	22
Intercountry relative application under the Hague Convention	2	4
Intercountry non-relative application outside the Hague Convention	2	2
Intercountry relative application outside the Hague Convention	3	9
Gestational surrogacy (New Zealand)	24	14
Traditional surrogacy (New Zealand)	4	7
Embryo donation surrogacy (New Zealand)	0	2
International gestational surrogacy	27	24
International traditional surrogacy	3	0
International embryo donation surrogacy	0	0
Total	126	103

Please note that these numbers reflect the number of applications made to the Court, and not the number of adoption orders that were approved.

- *The number of domestic adoption matches made between birth parents and approved adoptive applicants*

In domestic infant adoption, birth parents can select adoptive parents from assessed and approved adoptive applicants in Oranga Tamariki's 'applicant pool.' Table 3, below, provides figures representing the number of domestic adoptions that progressed through a match between birth parents and approved adoptive applicants during each financial year.

Table 3 - Number of Domestic Adoptions progressed in the last two financial years

Financial Year	Number of Domestic Adoptions Progressed
FY2024/25	1
FY2025/26	4

- *The number of domestic adoption applications received and approved*

Oranga Tamariki's data reporting does not distinguish domestic infant adoption applications from other types of non-relative adoption applications. As a result, Table 4, below, provides the total number of non-relative adoption applications received.

Table 4 - Number of Adoption Applications for the last two financial years

Financial Year	Number of Adoption Applications
FY2024/25	38
FY2025/26	20

- *The number of domestic adoption applications received and declined*

Oranga Tamariki is unable to provide the number of applications approved and declined. This information is not centrally recorded and could only be obtained through a substantial manual review of individual case files. As such, I am refusing your request under section 18(f) of the Act, in that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

3. Waiting times

- *Average waiting time from approval as an adoptive applicant to first placement/match*
- *Median waiting time (if available)*
- *Longest recorded waiting time (if available)*

In New Zealand, birth parents who choose adoption are able to select an adoptive family from the pool of approved applicants. Consequently, there is no standard or predictable timeframe between an applicant being approved and being selected by expectant parents. Some approved applicants may remain in the applicant pool for several years, while others may be selected shortly after approval. As a result, Oranga Tamariki is unable to provide a meaningful average waiting period. Therefore, I am refusing your request for waiting times under section 18(f) of the Act, in that the information requested cannot be made available without substantial collation or research.

Oranga Tamariki may make the information contained in this letter available to the public by publishing this on our website with your personal details removed.

I trust you find this information useful. If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@ot.govt.nz. 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 or by contacting them on 0800 802 602.

Nāku noa, nā



Sally Croy
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