

Important Information: Becoming a s396 Oranga Tamariki Care Partner Process

This information sheet outlines the process applied for organisations wanting to become an Oranga Tamariki s396 care partner. A 'care partner' is an organisation that provides care for a child/tamaiti in Shared Care, under the custody or guardianship of the Chief Executive.

Before Oranga Tamariki approves new organisations to care for tamariki, it needs to be confident that the potential care partner (a) is capable and supported to provide high quality care to tamariki, their whānau, and carers, and (b) will be able to successfully meet all relevant regulations. This includes:

- The National Care Standards and Related Matters 2018 and section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 that outlines clear expectations about the quality of care and support required for children and young people in care, their whānau or family, and carers.

There are four steps involved:

Step one: Preparation

The first prerequisite for becoming a Care Partner is obtaining Level 1/Level 2 accreditation from Te Kāhui Kāhu. They must be Te Kāhui Kāhu accredited before progressing to the approval phase with Oranga Tamariki. The DCE (Deputy Chief Executive), Māori, Partnerships and Communities holds the delegation for approving all s396 providers. Approval cannot be granted by anyone else.

Our expectation is that organisations considering becoming a care partner will be in discussions at a local/regional level with Oranga Tamariki staff including, for example, regional advisors, local site managers, and/or specialist teams such as Whānau Care, High Needs Services or Youth Justice Services.

Step two and three: Care Partner readiness and approval

The MPC (Māori, Partnerships & Communities) Quality Hub will lead steps two through to four with potential care partners. During these phases, we begin building our partnership, welcoming the potential care partner, understanding their needs and aspirations, and developing a clear picture of the model of care and the capacity and capability needed to deliver it.

Step four: Quality Assurance cycle

Transition the newly approved partner into the Quality Assurance cycle.

Becoming a Care Partner – Roles and Responsibilities

MPC National Quality Hub

- Manage relationship with potential care partner on this process.
- Lead the Becoming a Care Partner Journey and quality face-to-face conversations.
- Support Whānau Care, High Needs Services, Youth Justice, and Regional Senior Management Teams as needed, to complete the readiness template (see link in Resources section).
- Review the readiness template and discuss findings with potential care partner.
- Prepare a recommendation for the MPC Quality Manager.
- MPC Quality Manager endorses recommendation to DCE, Māori, Partnerships and Communities for approval.
- Transition the newly approved partner into Quality Assurance cycle.
- Track scheduling and application progress for potential care partner.
- Work collectively and in partnership to improve the experiences of tamariki and rangatahi in care.

MPC advisor, Whānau Care engagement lead, High Needs and Youth Justice advisors

- Notify the MPC National Quality Hub and Te Kāhui Kāhu of any organisation that is being supported to become a care partner.
- Participate in the Becoming a Care Partner conversations.
- Support the potential care partner to collect readiness information.
- Budget managers can agree any funding or contracts once s396 approval is obtained from the DCE, Māori, Partnerships and Communities.
- Invite National Quality Lead to first Partnership Touchpoint conversation.

New care partners

- Engage in Becoming a Care Partner conversations and journey.
- Bring insights and information to the Becoming a Care Partner readiness template.

Te Kāhui Kāhu

- Notify MPC National Quality Hub of any organisation that is seeking to become a care partner.

Oranga Tamariki Quality Assurance Hub and Te Kāhui Kāhu will continue to work together to minimise duplication for partners where practicable.

Resources

Becoming a care partner guidance

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Working-with-children/Information-for-providers/Partnered-Care/Becoming-a-Care-Partner/Becoming-a-Care-Partner-Guidance.pdf>

Becoming a care partner readiness template

<https://www.orangatamariki.govt.nz/assets/Uploads/Working-with-children/Information-for-providers/Partnered-Care/Becoming-a-Care-Partner/Becoming-a-Care-Partner-Readiness-Template.docx>

Shared Care Service Specifications

[Service Specifications/Guidelines | Oranga Tamariki — Ministry for Children](#)

Contact

If you have any questions on the 'becoming a care partner process, contact:

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