OPCAT 'virtual' monitoring under COVID-19 Alert Level 4 Care and Protection residences



3 - 30 April 2020

The information below contains high level themes identified across the four visits

What's going well:



Most children and young people reported feeling safe at the residence



Most children and young people knew about COVID-19 and understood what lockdown meant



Children and young people were enjoying access to video calls. At many residences, this is a new initiative for connecting with whanau



Residence managers feel well supported by Oranga Tamariki national office, Health and Education



Staffing levels have been good despite staff managing extra pressures in their personal and professional lives

Areas for follow up:



Some children and young people were unhappy about delays to their transition as a result of the lockdown



Many children and young people were worried about the impact of COVID-19 on their whānau. Some were worried about long delays between whānau visits



Levels of activity programming varied across residences



Some children and young people reported they were bored due to the suspension of off-site activities



Video calling was not available to all children and young people in all residences



While most children and young people weren't concerned about getting sick or dying from COVID-19, some were very worried about older family members

We spoke to:
16 children and young people
5 residence staff
4 health staff