

OPCAT 'virtual' monitoring under COVID-19 Alert Level 4

Youth Justice residences

3 - 30 April 2020

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

What's going well:



Most young people reported feeling safe at the residence



Most young people knew about COVID-19 and the need for increased hygiene practices.



Most young people understood what would happen if they became unwell



Young people said if they were worried they had a staff member they trusted and could talk to



Young people were enjoying access to video calls. At many residences, this is a new initiative for connecting with whānau



Residence managers feel well supported by Oranga Tamariki national office, and health providers



Staffing levels have remained stable

Areas for follow up:



Young people were worried about the impact of COVID-19 on their whānau. Some were concerned about the availability of face-to-face visits



While most young people weren't concerned about getting sick themselves, some were worried about older people in their lives dying



Many young people were worried about whether they would be able to leave the residence once they were bailed or their sentence completed



Some residences had difficulties finding a space for young people to isolate and initial problems setting up a pandemic plan



In some residences, availability of video calling was inconsistent

We spoke to:
47 young people
5 residence staff
4 health staff