

Under the Inquiries Act 2013
In the matter of the Royal Commission into Historical Abuse in State Care and in
the Care of Faith-based Institutions

Oranga Tamariki: Brief of Evidence of Frana Ngauta Chase for Institutional Response Hearing

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Brief of evidence of Frana Ngauta Chase

I, **Frana Ngauta Chase** of Wellington, Public Servant, state:

Introduction

- 1 My name is Frana Ngauta Chase.
- 2 I am the Director Transformation, Te Oranga o te Whānau in Service Delivery. I was appointed to this role on 14 March 2022. Te Oranga o Te Whānau is an integrated programme of work for tamariki and rangatahi who are being cared for in the care and protection or youth justice systems. It is underpinned by tikanga and mātauranga Māori and brings together a range of initiatives across Service Delivery.
- 3 Prior to this, I was the Pou Mana Whakahaere — Ratonga Awhina, Oranga Tamariki between September 2017 and March 2022. My main role was leading the establishment of Whānau Care partnerships with iwi and kaupapa Maori organisations, and to engage, partner and support the capacity and capability building of our whānau care partners. In that role I was responsible for ensuring that Oranga Tamariki services within care are responsive to the needs of tamariki Māori.
- 4 When I first came to Oranga Tamariki in 2017 we had a large number of tamariki Māori in care and a system that was set up and focussed on supporting non-kin care for tamariki rather than supporting whanau, hapū and iwi to care for tamariki.
- 5 I also saw that tamariki Māori made up nearly 80 per cent of all children in care, which to me, highlighted the disparity for tamariki Māori. I also learnt that most tamariki Māori started off in a whānau placement but that they were very likely to be moved into a non-kin placement. This could be due to several factors, such as lack of support provided to whānau; poor frontline practice; or whānau not understanding their rights and entitlements. The solution needed was to shift the responsibility and accountability out of a Government structure, and back into the hands of whānau, hapū and iwi.
- 6 As the Pou Mana Whakahaere — Rātonga Āwhina, I worked up an approach to the problem that took into consideration the whakapapa of tamariki Māori in care.
- 7 My team and I reviewed the whakapapa of the tamariki Māori in care and saw that they had whakapapa to 88 iwi throughout Aotearoa. Through this review, it was also apparent that there were many tamariki Māori in care with “iwi not recorded”. I understood this to be attributed to a number of factors, including frontline practice and knowledge, and displacement and disconnection of whānau.
- 8 From this exercise I built up the Whānau Care kaupapa. We knew that if the Ministry was to partner with iwi and kaupapa Māori organisations, we needed to ensure that we did it right, and in a targeted manner that focused on mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga. Accordingly, the kaupapa is based on ensuring that the iwi and kaupapa Māori organisations that the Ministry partners share the same whakapapa as those tamariki Māori in care.

- 9 I also sought an opt out of the Government procurement rules to allow the Ministry to directly partner and commission with those iwi whose tamariki Māori were in care. This eliminated the competitive environment that the standard procurement method suggests and ensured a ‘by Māori, for Māori, to Māori’ approach.
- 10 We are shifting the experience for tamariki Māori in care, and ensuring consistency with the Ministry’s mana tamaiti objectives, we apply a tikanga Māori approach to solving the problem. This requires a shift away from mainstream providers, and for the Ministry to prioritise partnering with iwi and kaupapa Māori providers that share the same whakapapa of tamariki Māori in care. This would provide a safeguard to preventing a provider-focused structure and ensure that decision-making was being made at an iwi, hapū and whānau level.
- 11 The Whānau Care Kaupapa has supported the establishment of 15 Iwi/Kaupapa Māori partnerships – all with Section 396 Level 1 accreditation. The commitment is to reach 25 partnerships within Te Oranga o te Whānau by 2025.
- 12 Of the tamariki/rangatahi Māori in care with iwi affiliations recorded, 79 percent of tamariki/rangatahi, through whakapapa lines, affiliate to at least 1 Whānau Care partnership. This statistic highlights the significant reach these partnerships will have collectively to reach the majority of tamariki/rangatahi in care who whakapapa to them.
- 13 We have partnered with these 15 iwi and kaupapa Māori organisations to design and implement their own models of care for whānau, hapū and iwi caregivers, to ensure tamariki Māori in care are placed with whānau and are connected to their culture in a way that enhances their mana.
- 14 Before starting at Oranga Tamariki in 2017, I was the CEO of an iwi-led Health Authority to improve access and service delivery of health services to Māori in the Whanganui Region. I was also the Whānau Ora Manager for the Taumarunui, Whanganui and Waikato region. I led the strategic transformation in Whānau Ora and the integration of health and social services for whānau, hapū and iwi nationally and regionally.
- 15 Prior to working in those roles, I was a social worker, based primarily in Taumarunui. I was also a technical advisor to the Iwi Chairs Forum for Whānau Ora.
- 16 I have a broad range of experience over 30 years, developing and designing with whānau, hapū and iwi, building their capability and capacity to address the systemic change required to reach their aspirations.

Scope of evidence

- 17 I am aware the Commission is interested in the following matters:
- (a) Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the guarantee of tino rangatiratanga over kāinga (te Tiriti);
 - (b) Priority groups: tāngata whenua, Pacific peoples, disabled people (Priority Groups);

- (c) System and organisational monitoring, oversight and safeguarding (Monitoring, Oversight, Safeguarding);
- (d) The relationship between the state and faith in the care system (State and Faith);
- (e) Entry into care;
- (f) Staff and caregivers;
- (g) Provision of care;
- (h) Complaints, Referrals and Criminal Justice;
- (i) Funding and resources; and
- (j) Lessons learned.

18 I have read, and am familiar with, the brief of evidence filed by our Chief Executive, Chappie Te Kani. I am appearing in the Commission with Mr Te Kani to give evidence as needed to supplement his evidence.

19 In particular, I am able to answer questions in relation to the following aspects of Mr Te Kani's brief of evidence:

- (a) Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the guarantee of tino rangatiratanga over kāinga (te Tiriti); and
- (b) Lessons learned.

Signed:



Frana Ngauta Chase

Date: 8 August 2022