

Legislative Statement for the Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of Section 7AA) Amendment Bill: First Reading

Presented to the House in accordance with Standing Order 272

Introduction

1. The Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of Section 7AA) Amendment Bill repeals section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.

Background

2. It is considered that section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 has led to instances of social work practice that were not in the best interests of children in need of care. The Bill aims to sharpen the focus of social work practice more strongly on safety, stability, and well-being.

Proposals in the Bill

3. The Oranga Tamariki (Repeal of Section 7AA) Amendment Bill repeals section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. Section 7AA places duties on the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki to:
 - ensure that the policies and practices of Oranga Tamariki have the objective of reducing disparities by setting measurable outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori who come to the attention of Oranga Tamariki;
 - ensure that the policies, practices, and services of Oranga Tamariki have regard to mana tamaiti (tamariki), whakapapa, and the whanaungatanga responsibilities of their whānau, hapū, and iwi;
 - seek to develop strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations and to consider and respond to any invitation from one or more iwi or Māori organisations to enter a strategic partnership;
 - report to the public annually on the measures taken to carry out the above duties, including the impact of those measures on improving outcomes for Māori.
4. The Bill makes consequential amendments to the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989, Oversight of the Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022 and the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Regulations 2023 to remove references to section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989.