

Oranga Tamariki [649 words]

English	Māori
<p>Today I stand here as the Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki, on behalf of numerous others that have held this seat before me and led Ministries for Children known by many other names.</p>	<p>Tēnei au te Tumu Whakarae o Oranga Tamariki e tū nei ki te whakakanohi i te huhua i noho mai ki tēnei tūranga me te whakahaere i ngā Manatū Tamariki i ngā tau maha kua hori.</p>
<p>I stand here on their behalf, to take responsibility and to unreservedly apologise to the survivors of those who were abused in the care of the state.</p>	<p>Ko au tēnei e tū nei ki te mau i ngā hara katoa e tika ai, e pono ai te tuku whakapahā atu ki ngā mōrehu o te hunga i tūkinohia kinotia i a rātou e noho ana ki ngā ringaringa o te Kāwana.</p>
<p>You were children who came into our care. You needed us to protect you. To look after you.</p>	<p>He tamariki koutou i hau mai ki a mātou kia manaakitia, kia raupīhia e mātou. Kia matainaina koutou ki te aroha, ki te atawhai.</p>
<p>Instead our people and our places harmed you.</p>	<p>Heoi anō ko tā ā mātou tāngata me ā mātou ratonga he tūkinohi, he takahi kē i a koutou.</p>

You were subjected to physical, sexual and verbal abuse, neglect, assault, violence and humiliation. And what is worse is we would often turn around and place the blame back on you.

We are sorry for our failure to do right by you. For not protecting you, and for failing to keep you safe. Nothing that happened to you was your fault – it was ours.

You were children, just kids. You had a right to a childhood filled with smiles and love, connected to your culture, at home at your marae. A childhood where you looked forward to ice creams in the summer, bike rides around your neighbourhood with your friends, birthdays and Christmas.

This is not the childhood we provided for you. We took that from you and gave you a childhood full of fear.

Fear to be alone, to go to bed at night. Fear of authority because they were the ones that hurt you the most. Fear that no one would believe you, fear that no one was coming to help you. Fear for what could happen today, tomorrow, next week.

You were frightened, scared. And that was our fault.

We are sorry for failing to provide you with a childhood that you deserved, that every child in Aotearoa is entitled too.

You wanted a family, a whānau, a place to belong. I could not imagine a world where I would not do everything humanly possible to protect my kids from harm.

The state care system should have cared for you in the same way.

I tūkinotia koutou ā-tinana, ā-wairua, ā-hinengaro anō hoki. I pāwherangia te tapu o te tangata, i takahia te mana, ka noho ko riri, ko whakamā, ko rukupō hei kai mā koutou ao noa, pō noa. Nā wai i hē, ka hē kē atu i tā mātou tuku i te hara ki a koutou.

E whakapāha ana mātou i te korenga o mātou i whakatutuki i ā mātou haepapa ki a koutou. Mō te korenga o mātou i manaaki i a koutou, ka tuku noa i a koutou hei papa. Nō mātou tonu te hē.

He tamariki noa koutou. Kāore i whāngaihia ki te hari, ki te aroha. Kāore te tuakiri i popoia e mātou, kāore i tukuna ki ō koutou marae. Kāore koutou i rongo i ngā reka o Hineraumati, kāore i kai aihikirīmi, i eke pahikara ki ō hoa, kāore hoki i whakanui i ō huringa tau, i te Kirihimete rānei.

Ehara tēnei i ō koutou wheako. I kāwhakina kētia e mātou ērā āheinga i a koutou. Kāore i tau ki a mahara. Ka tau kē ko pōuri, ko hopo, ko matakū.

He matakū ki te ao. He matakū ki te noho takitahi. He matakū ki te mana whakahaere, he kaha nō tana tūkinō i a koutou. He māharahara nui e kore ai pea te tangata e whakapono atu ki a koutou, kīhai rānei mō te āwhina i a koutou. He māharahara nui ki tēnei rā, ki te āpōpō, ki ā tērā wiki anō hoki.

I matakū rawa atu koutou, nā mātou.

E whakapāha ana mātou mō te korenga o mātou i whakaae kia wheakohia e koutou te momo oranga ko tōna tikanga i wheakohia ai e ngā tamariki puta noa i Aotearoa.

I te pīrangī koutou ki te whai whānau. I te pīrangī koutou ki te whai tūranga waewae. Kāore he mahi tē mahia e au kia haumarū ai aku tamariki.

Tōna tikanga i pērā hoki tā te pūnaha manaaki tamariki tiaki i a koutou.

<p>It didn't.</p> <p>We put in you places and called them homes – but they were the furthest thing from what a home should be.</p> <p>When you asked for help – we did not listen.</p> <p>When you showed us the bruises – we looked away.</p> <p>When you wanted a place to belong – we left you all alone.</p> <p>We are sorry for failing to give you a safe place to grow up, for not treating you like you were one of our own kids. We are sorry for not listening, for looking away and leaving you all alone.</p> <p>I will not stand here today and be dishonest by saying that harm no longer occurs in our system, we know we have work to do to make sure every child is safe and has the care they deserve.</p> <p>But I will stand here and say this.</p> <p>The care system today has changed. Most will argue that it has not changed enough. And we agree.</p> <p>Moving forward, it is this report that will keep us relentlessly focused on the change you have called for. It will be your words that will remind us of the need to demand more, to demand better and not to settle for a system that silences the voices of children and young people who need us to listen.</p> <p>Today, I want to talk about the change I think matters most.</p> <p>The reason why survivors shared their stories.</p>	<p>Auare ake.</p> <p>Nā mātou koutou i tuku ki ētahi wāhi me te whakataruna anō he kāinga, engari kē ia ko te mutunga kē mai o te tauaro o te kāinga.</p> <p>Ka tono āwhina ana koutou. Nōhea mātou i whakarongo.</p> <p>Ka whakaatu mai ana koutou i ngā mamae. Nōhea mātou i aro.</p> <p>Ka tono kāinga ana koutou. Nōhea mātou i rapu.</p> <p>E whakapāha ana mātou mō te korenga o mātou i whakarite wāhi haumarū mō koutou. Mō te korenga o mātou i manaaki i a koutou me he tamariki koutou nā mātou. Mō te korenga o mātou i whakarongo, i aro, i noho tahi rānei ki a koutou.</p> <p>Tino kore nei au mō te tū ki mua i a koutou me te kī kua mutu ngā mahi tūkinō a te punaha. He nui tonu ngā mahi kei mua i a mātou e haumarū ai ngā tamariki katoa, e tika ai anō hoki te manaakitia o rātou.</p> <p>Engari, ka tū tonu au ki mua i a koutou me te kī pēnei.</p> <p>Kua panoni haere te pūnaha manaaki tamariki. Kāore e kore ka tohea te nui rānei o ērā panonitanga, me te tika hoki o tērā whakaaro.</p> <p>Haere nei te wā, mā tēnei pūrongo mātou e mātua aro ai ki ngā panonitanga kua roa nei koutou e pakanga ana. Ko ā koutou kupu tonu hei whakamaumahara i a mātou ki te tohe tonu i te tohe, ki te pakanga tonu i te pakanga me te kore i noho taurekareka, i tūpou rānei ki tētahi pūnaha e whakawahangū ana i ngā reo o te hunga e matainaina ana ki te taringa.</p> <p>I tēnei rā, kei te pīrangī au ki te kōrero mō ngā panonitanga matua ki a au.</p> <p>Koia tonu te take i tuarīhia mai e ngā mōrehu ā rātou kōrero.</p>
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<p>To make the future safer for children.</p> <p>If any child, or young person, tells us they are not safe. If they share with us stories of harm, of hurt, or fear –we will stand by their side, we will listen to them, like we should have listened you.</p>	<p>Hei whakahaumarū i te anamata mō ngā tamariki.</p> <p>Ki te whāki mai tētahi tamaiti, taiohi rānei i ōna māharahara, i ōna kōrero tūkinō, mamae, whakamataku rānei, ka tautokona ia e mātou. Ka whakarongo mātou ki a ia. Ka kore a muri e hokia.</p>
<p>To every survivor, and every person who did not survive.</p>	<p>Ki ngā mōrehu, me te hunga i riro.</p>
<p>To the children who we failed,</p>	<p>Ki ngā tamariki i noho hei papa i ā mātou mahi,</p>
<p>To the adults those children have now become.</p>	<p>Ki tērā hunga tamariki kua pakeke ināianei.</p>
<p>We are sorry.</p>	<p>Tēnei te ngākau ka takapau ki a koutou.</p>