

Canterbury

District Health Board

Te Poari Hauora o Waitaha

Gateway Assessment Programme contributing to a brighter future for children and young people

'Gateway' has been up and running in the Canterbury DHB for seven years and is making a big difference to the health and education of children and young people who have come into the care of Oranga Tamariki or who are involved in a Family Group Conference.

Many Gateway children and their families have a combination of health and education problems that have been unidentified or untreated prior to them coming into Oranga Tamariki care. Often the complexity of the problems means that no single agency is able to provide the full package of care and services required.

The Gateway process is a collaboration between Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Health and Ministry of Education and involves:

- the gathering of existing information from all three ministries
- an education profile completed by the child/young person's teacher used to inform the health assessment
- a holistic medical and psycho social health assessment of the child/young person and their family with a report which is completed by a Paediatrician or Youth Health Assessor and Psychologist if required.
- a multi-disciplinary meeting and inter service agreement (ISA)/plan.

The health assessment report aims to identify interventions to improve the overall health, education and wellbeing of children with their families. The health assessment report recommendations are presented by the Paediatrician and discussed at a multidisciplinary meeting with the Oranga Tamariki Social Worker, Mental Health Psychologist, Gateway Psychologist, Gateway Primary Mental Health provider, Māori Health service, Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour Cluster Managers (RTLBCM) and Ministry of Education.

The interventions or ISA plan is mutually agreed upon by all the stakeholders at a multidisciplinary meeting. The ISA is followed up three months after the assessment to check interventions have been completed.

Gateway has its own primary mental health provider which in Christchurch is the Methodist Mission. The Mission provides or facilitates a number of programmes for our Gateway children/young people and families such as Watch, Wait and Wonder (attachment programme), trauma therapy and home-based family behaviour support.

The child or young person and their family are involved as partners throughout the process and must give consent to the release and sharing of information and the ISA/plan before the Gateway process or interventions can progress. At the completion of the Gateway Assessment a report is sent to the family's Oranga Tamariki Social Worker, General Practitioner and the recommendations or ISA/plan are shared with the child's school via the school's RTLBCM.

A mother whose children went through Gateway assessments says, "I want to say thank you for all the help and support you gave me and my children when I could no longer cope with the family struggles ... Learnt a lot from you guys who have been involved... feeling ashamed is not useful, talking to someone and asking for help to get back on track is."

How you can support Gateway's success

The Oranga Tamariki Social Worker refers to the pertinent RTLBCM to facilitate the completion of an Education Profile by the child/young person's teacher.

Please could you:-

- **complete the Educational Profile as soon as possible** and return it to your RTLBCM. This profile is valuable and enables the health assessor to be fully informed when completing the Gateway assessment
- **consider putting into place the recommendations or ISA/plan for your pupil.** The ISA will include information that is pertinent to the educational and pastoral care needs of the child/young person such as any diagnosis or concern that may affect the child/young person's presence, participation or achievement in education. It can also be used to support educational planning.
- **keep Gateway in mind** and advise an Oranga Tamariki Social Worker if you think a pupil would benefit from a Gateway Assessment so a referral can be made.

For more information on the Gateway process or for a copy of the recommendations or ISA/plan for a pupil who is involved with Oranga Tamariki, contact your area RTLBCM or Linda Stokes, Gateway Assessment Coordinator, on 03 364 0905.