

20 December 2024

S9(2)(a)

Our ref: OIA 117943

Tēnā koe S9(2)(a)

### **Official Information Act request: Adoption Law reform**

Thank you for your email of 28 November 2024 requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), information regarding the Adoption Law reform. Specifically, you requested:

*Please provide a demographic breakdown of responses to the two adoption law reform discussion documents.*

#### *First discussion document submissions*

On 18 June 2021, the Government asked the public about their views on our adoption laws.

A discussion document was released covering six key issue areas, including what adoption is and who is involved, cultural aspects of adoption (including whāngai), how the adoption process works in Aotearoa - New Zealand, the impacts of adoption, and the adoption process where a child is born by surrogacy. That public consultation closed on 31 August. More than 270 submissions were received.

The Ministry of Justice (the Ministry) conducted an online survey as part of the engagement, using the Citizen Space platform. This survey asked submitters to self-identify by age and ethnicity. Tables 1 and 2, appended, provide the demographic breakdown of survey submitters by age and ethnicity.

The Ministry did not record demographics for people who submitted via email or post, or those who we meet with in person, such as through focus groups, wānanga, and workshops.

## *Second discussion document submissions*

During the second round of engagement, the Ministry received over 140 written submissions, including through an online survey, and met with more than 200 people. The Ministry partnered with National Iwi Chairs Forum Pou Tikanga, other government agencies, and third-party providers to hold targeted engagement with:

- adopted young people,
- people impacted by adoption, including adopted people, birth parents, adoptive parents, and family and whānau,
- Māori, and,
- Samoan, Tongan, Tuvaluan, and Kiritbati communities in New Zealand.

The Ministry again conducted an online survey as part of the engagement, using the Citizen Space platform. This survey asked submitters to self-identify by age and ethnicity. Tables 3 and 4, appended, provide the demographic breakdown of survey submitters by age and ethnicity.

The Ministry did not record demographics for people who submitted via email or post, or those who we meet with in person, such as through focus groups, wānanga, and workshops.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website at: [Official Information Act responses | New Zealand Ministry of Justice](#)

If you are not satisfied with this response, you have the right to make a complaint to the Ombudsman under section 28 of the Act. The Office of the Ombudsman may be contacted by phone on: 0800 802 602, by email at: [info@ombudsman.parliament.nz](mailto:info@ombudsman.parliament.nz), or via the webform: [Make a complaint \(for members of the public\) | Ombudsman New Zealand](#)

Nāku noa, nā



Sam Kunowski  
**General Manager, Courts and Justice Services Policy**

Table 1: Age of submitters – First discussion document survey (2021)

Age	Number of submitters
Under 20	<5
20-25	22
36-50	40
51-65	70
66+	31
Chose not to answer	98

Table 2: Ethnicity of submitters – First discussion document survey (2021)

Ethnicity	Number of submitters
NZ European	128
Māori	34
Pacific Peoples	<5
Chose not to answer	118

Notes for tables 1 and 2:

- Responses fewer than 5 are shown as ">5" to maintain participant confidentiality.
- Submitters were able to select more than one ethnicity so the number of responses may not reflect the total number of submitters.

Table 3: Age of submitters – Second discussion document survey (2022)

Age	Number of submitters
20-25	10
36-50	26
51-65	41
66+	26
Chose not to answer	40

Table 4: Ethnicity of submitters – Second discussion document survey (2022)

Ethnicity	Number of submitters
NZ European	76
Māori	13
Pacific Peoples	<5
Asian	<5
MELAA (Middle Eastern/Latin America/African)	<5
Other	12
Chose not to answer	32

Notes for tables 3 and 4:

- Responses fewer than 5 are shown as ">5" to maintain participant confidentiality.
- Submitters were able to select more than one ethnicity so the number of responses may not reflect the total number of submitters.