



# Family Home Caregivers

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We've pulled together some frequently asked questions about becoming a family home caregiver. If you want to know more, call

**Dyanne on 029 6500 119**



**ORANGA  
TAMARIKI**  
Ministry for Children

## Family Home Caregivers

### What financial support is provided to support family home caregivers?

Caregivers live in the home rent free, with power, phone and internet costs also met. All upkeep and maintenance costs are also covered.

An allowance is provided to maintain a basic level of funds for the running of the home. When a child / tamariki is living in the home with you a board payment is also paid to meet the costs of their day-to-day care. The clothing, health, education, cultural and recreation needs of each child are also met.

**It is important to understand that a family home caregiver is not a wage or salary paid position.**

### Can the caregivers work outside the home as well?

One caregiver does need to be fully available during the day so they can care for children/tamariki who are unwell or may not be in school for some reason and can attend meetings about the children in their care. A secondary caregiver could work outside the home and support the primary caregiver to meet the care related needs outside of their usual work hours.

### How do I apply to be a family home caregiver?

The process is basically the same as any other caregiver. To apply you must complete an application. We'll give you an application pack either in person or send it by email or post. You can call **Dyanne** on **029 6500 119** to get your application pack.

### Is this a permanent arrangement?

Family home caregivers generally enter a one-year contract with Oranga Tamariki.

### Do I need to be in a relationship to be a family home caregiver?

Most of our family home caregivers are couples but you do not have to be. There does need to be two caregivers who can live and work closely together to become family home caregivers. However, the nature of the relationship is flexible, e.g., you could be a mother and son/daughter, or two close friends.

### Can I have my own tamariki living with me in a family home?

You can, however we need to consider carefully how this will impact on them; family homes are often fast paced and ever-changing environments where you will be caring for children who have experienced trauma and may struggle to express their emotions in a healthy way.

### What are some of the skills people ideally need?

You need to have a passion and genuine liking for tamariki and young people/rangatahi. You need to be able to 'not sweat the small stuff' and be able to work as part of a team. Some background/life experience in working with and/or caring for children is also a must so you have knowledge of child development and parenting skills.

### What other support is provided to family home caregivers?

There is other support available when you are a family home caregiver. This includes help with housework, annual leave, and babysitting hours. We have a caregiver support line and counselling available if you need it.

You will have your own caregiver support plan that is developed with you to ensure your specific needs are met.