



The Excellence in Foster & Whānau Care Awards recognise the extraordinary efforts of caregivers

We have rebranded the Awards (formerly the Excellence in Foster Care Awards) for 2027, to better acknowledge the wider community of caregivers supported through our work and that of our corporate sponsors: Barnardos, Grandparents Raising Grandchildren, Kia Puawai and Open Home Foundation.

Each year, awards are given to a caregiver or a caregiving couple. They are recognised for their extraordinary commitment, not only to the children in their care but also to their community.

Recipients of the awards travel to attend the awards ceremony in person and enjoy the luxury of being celebrated for a day. If not a couple, they are able to bring a support person with them.

The awards were established in 2007 by Caring Families Aotearoa (then known as NZ Family and Foster Care Association). They are now joint awards, hosted by Caring Families Aotearoa and our corporate sponsors to celebrate excellence in caregiving.

Eligibility

It's easy to be eligible – your nominee can be anyone providing a home to a child not born to them (excluding step-parents). This includes whānau and kin caregivers, grandparents raising grandchildren, and people with permanent care of a child or young person. The nominee does not need to have a supporting agency, e.g. Open Home Foundation / Oranga Tamariki.

Your nomination is an opportunity to introduce your chosen caregiver or caregiving couple and explain who they are, what their caregiving journey has been about, and what makes them outstanding.

To Enter

To enter, please complete all sections of this nomination form and email the PDF document to:

events@caringfamilies.org.nz

by **Friday 23 October 2026**



The selection panel

A panel made up of representatives from our corporate sponsors and Caring Families Aotearoa meet to consider each application.

Guidelines for writing your nomination:

- Describe the strengths of the nominee.
- Describe how they go above and beyond for the children in their care and the care community.
- Describe their commitment to learning and better understanding their caregiver journey.

Completing and submitting your nomination:

- Download the PDF nomination form from the website and save this onto your computer.
- Open the PDF form and start filling out the details. You can complete the form in stages, remembering to save the changes as you go. When you re-open the form check you are working from your latest version. Once you have completed the form check that every question has been answered.

- If you want to include supporting evidence, please ensure this is saved as a separate PDF document.
- You can upload a single video file with your entry of no longer than five minutes, to YouTube, Canva or the video-sharing site Vimeo. Or take a video on your phone and share it with us via WeTransfer.
- Email your completed PDF nomination form along with your PDF document of supporting evidence (if you are providing it) as attachments in an email to events@caringfamilies.org.nz
- Or, post your completed form and supporting information to Samantha Lenik, Caring Families Aotearoa, PO Box 30188, Lower Hutt 5040.

Confidentiality

Please note, the information you provide in the nomination form and any supporting information you submit is confidential. However, if your nomination is successful our Marketing Team will condense the information in the application to tell a story of the successful applicant for promotion and publication. This story will be shared with the caregiver and the nominator for review first.



NOMINEE'S DETAILS

Please provide the details for the caregiver or caregiver couple being nominated for an award.

First name:		Surname:	
Preferred name:		Date of birth:	
Gender:		Ethnicity:	
Mobile no:		Iwi:	
Email address:			

First name:		Surname:	
Preferred name:		Date of birth:	
Gender:		Ethnicity:	
Mobile no:		Iwi:	
Email address:			

Street Address:			
Suburb:		City/Town:	
Post code:			



NOMINATOR'S DETAILS

Please provide the details of the person nominating the caregiver or caregiver couple for the award.

First name:		Surname:	
Email address:		Contact no:	
Organisation (if relevant)			
Street address:			
Suburb:		City/Town:	
Postcode:			
What is your relationship to the caregiver(s)?			
How many years have you known the caregiver(s)?			



ABOUT THE NOMINEE(S)

Please tell us about the nominated caregiver(s) current caregiver status.

Are they currently caregiver(s)?	
How many years have they been caregiving for?	
What type of care do, or did, they provide?	
Do they provide care for Oranga Tamariki, Ministry for Children? (If so, please confirm the Oranga Tamariki site)	Yes/No Site:
Do they provide care for a non-government agency? If so, please confirm the name.	Yes/No Agency Name:
They do not provide care through an organisation.	Yes/No
If known and applicable, when was the last: • OT check • Police Check • Approval	



ABOUT THE CAREGIVER(S)

Introduce your nominee

1. **Let us get to know your nominated caregiver and why you think the selection panel should choose this caregiver (or couple) to receive an Excellence in Foster & Whānau Care Award.** (Why did they start caregiving, how are they extraordinary, give as much history as possible.)

2. Tell us about their current environment

Please write a paragraph to describe their current care whānau (family) which may include:

- How many children are in their care and how long they have been with them?
- How many children they have cared for over the years?
- Do they have biological children?



3. Supporting the needs of the children in their care

Please write about how the caregiver(s) meets the needs of the children and young people while they are in their care. This may include:

- How children are welcomed into the family.
- How the caregiver advocates for the children in their care.
- How the caregiver supports the child to establish, maintain and improve their whānau (family) connections.
- How the caregiver supports the child's sports, recreation, and community activities?

4. Write a brief statement about the strengths and achievements of this caregiver (couple)

Please write a paragraph to describe their strengths and how they have used these in their whānau and community. What recognition/achievements they may have within their community?



7. Supporting evidence

Please supply up to a maximum of three relevant pieces of information that further support their nomination and will help the selection panel understand how extraordinary these caregivers are. Please present the evidence in a way the panel will find interesting; this may include letters of support, references, photographs or a short video. If you include letters or references, please make sure they highlight the caregiver's strengths and achievements.

SUBMITTING YOUR NOMINATION

Checklist, approval and submission

Confirm the content of your entry and that all information is complete.

☐	Are the contact details for the nominee and nominator complete and accurate?
☐	Have you completed questions 1 – 6 of this nomination form?
☐	Have you included your supporting evidence (if you are providing it)?
☐	Video file. Are you submitting a video file with your entry? If you're submitting a video entry via video-sharing site Vimeo,(or another video-sharing platform), please provide the URL (link) and password below.
URL (link):	
Password:	



Confirmation Statement (to be signed by the caregiver)

☐	I/We confirm this information is a true and accurate record to the best of my knowledge.
☐	I/We agree to be nominated for this award.
☐	If I/we have an agency (OT or NGO) I/we give approval for the panel to get an endorsement from my/our agency for my nomination, if the nominator is not from my/our agency.
☐	I/We agree to our Agency advising the Excellence in Foster Care Awards panel whether we have a current Police Check.
☐	I/We agree to a CYRUS check being done on us.
☐	If successful, I/we wish to be celebrated in news stories. This may include national news, regional news and social media sites.
Signature	A typed name is acceptable.
Date:	

Submit your nomination

The final date for nominations to be received is **Friday 23 October 2026**.

To send us your entry please email this completed document with your supporting evidence (if you are providing this) to events@caringfamilies.org.nz or post your nomination (must arrive by **Friday 23 October 2026**) to Samantha Lenik, Caring Families Aotearoa, PO Box 30188, Lower Hutt 5040.

Thank you for nominating an outstanding caregiver!

