**Interview Transcript 1:**

**Interviewer**: Thank you for speaking with me today. To start, could you describe your experience accessing support for [child’s name] through Oranga Tamariki and the other services you've worked with?

**Caregiver**: It's been quite a journey. We've had different social workers over the years, and some were more helpful than others. I think what stands out is how long it takes to get the right kind of support. For example, it took months before [child’s name] got a therapist, and during that time, we were kind of left on our own. It was frustrating.

**Interviewer**: That sounds difficult. Were there any specific areas where you felt supported?

**Caregiver**: Well, I have to say that once we finally got [child’s name] into therapy, the therapist was great. They really understood what we were going through. I just wish it hadn’t taken so long. The other issue is housing. We’re still waiting to get a place that’s big enough for us. Right now, we’re in a small two-bedroom, and it’s just not enough space for the kids.

**Interviewer**: What about your connection with other caregivers or support networks? Have you felt part of any community?

**Caregiver**: I’ve tried to connect with other caregivers, but it’s hard. Everyone’s dealing with their own problems, and I don’t always feel like I can share what we’re going through. There’s one support group I go to, but it’s not very regular, so I don’t feel like we’re building strong relationships there. It’s kind of lonely sometimes.

**Interviewer**: I understand. You mentioned earlier that it’s been a journey. In terms of your relationship with [child’s name], how has your role as a caregiver evolved during this time?

**Caregiver**: I think I’ve had to become much more patient and understanding. [Child’s name] has been through a lot, and I’ve learned that it’s not just about providing food and a roof over their head. It’s about helping them feel safe and loved, even when things get tough. That’s the hardest part, I think—trying to make them feel secure when I’m not always sure we’ll have what we need.

**Interviewer**: That sounds like a lot to manage. What would make things easier for you in the future?

**Caregiver**: Better communication from Oranga Tamariki, for one. It would be great if they checked in more regularly instead of only when there’s an issue. Also, quicker access to services like counseling and housing would help a lot. We’ve been waiting on housing for over a year now, and it’s stressful for the kids.