The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
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This is an Easy Read translation of The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

Most children and young people in New Zealand are doing well.

Some children and young people in New Zealand are not doing well.

The Government has a goal to make New Zealand the best place in the world for children and young people.

We need everyone to work together to help us to reach our goal.
This is a long document.

Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- have someone to assist you to understand it.
We have made a plan to reach our goal.

This plan is called the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

**Wellbeing** means for somebody to be:

- comfortable
- healthy
- happy.

A **strategy** is a plan to follow so that a person or group can reach their goal.
We call the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy the Strategy in this document.

The Strategy will help:

- make the lives of all children and young people living in New Zealand better
- make the lives of Māori children better
- improve the lives of children and young people with greatest needs
The Strategy will also:

- be something that everybody can use to support them to make lives better for children and young people

- make the different parts of the Government work together to make the lives of children and young people better

- explain what the Government is doing to support children and young people.
Māori wellbeing

**Te Tiriti o Waitangi** (the Treaty of Waitangi) is an important part of the Strategy.

We need to make sure that:

- the things we do work for Māori
- we support Māori to find ways to make lives better for Māori children.
When we think about Māori children and young people we also need to think about their:

- whānau
- hapū
- iwi.
They told us we need to make things better for the children and young people who need it most.

To do this we need to cut down the number of children and young people living in poverty.

Poverty can mean that people do not have enough money to pay for things their family needs.

This can mean they may not be able to buy the things they need to have a good life.
We need to work with Oranga Tamariki to better support children and young people that they support.

We also need to support children and young people by stopping:

- family violence
- sexual violence.

The Strategy will also work to make sure children and young people with:

- learning needs get the right support
- mental health issues get the right support.
We will know the Strategy has worked when all children and young people in New Zealand have a good life.
The Strategy has 4 main parts.

Part 1 – Goal

Our goal is for New Zealand to be the best place in the world for children and young people to live.

Part 2 – Guides

A guide is like a set of rules that we will follow to reach our goal.

There are 9 guides that make up this part of the Strategy.
These guides tell us what New Zealanders think are the important in making the lives of children and young people better.

We tell you more about the guides on pages 18-20.

**Part 3 – Wellbeing Outcomes**

An **outcome** is the end result of work that has been done.
The Strategy has **6 wellbeing outcomes**.

These are the things that children and young people told us they need for their wellbeing.

We tell you more about these 6 wellbeing outcomes on pages 21 - 39.

**Part 4 – Current Programme of Action**

**Current** means something that is happening now.

A **programme** can be a list of actions that need to be done to reach a goal.
Actions are the things that we need to get done to make sure we reach the Strategy goal.

Our Current Programme of Action lists all the things the Government is doing to make the lives of children and young people better.
The 9 guides in the Strategy

The 9 guides in the Strategy tell us about the things that are important.

1: Children and young people are **taonga**.

**Taonga** means children and young people:

- are very important
- need to be cared for.

2: Māori are **tangata whenua**.

**Tangata whenua** means Māori are the first people of New Zealand.

The **relationship** between Government and Māori is very important
3: Children and young people’s rights need to be:

- respected
- looked after.

4: All children and young people have the right to live a good life.

5: We need to see each child or young person as a whole person.

This means we need to find out about their:

- home life
- culture.
We also need to ask them about their:

- ideas of how to make their lives better
- goals in life.

6: Children and young people’s **wellbeing** is part of the wellbeing of their family / whānau.

7: For change to happen we all need to do something.

8: The things we change must make things **better**.

9: Support needs to start early in children lives.
The 6 wellbeing outcomes

There are 6 wellbeing outcomes we all want for all children and young people in New Zealand.

1. Children and young people are:
   - loved
   - safe
   - looked after.

2. Children and young people have what they need to live a good life.
3. Children and young people are:

- happy
- healthy.

4. Children and young people are:

- learning
- growing.

5. Children and young people are:

- respected for who they are
- part of their whānau / family
- part of their community.
6. Children and young people are listened to.

They also help out with things.

We tell you about the 6 wellbeing outcomes more on the next pages.

We will look:

- at each outcome
- at what the Government is doing to make things better.
Wellbeing outcome 1: Children and young people are loved, safe and looked after

This wellbeing outcome means children and young people:

- feel loved
- feel cared for
- have family / whānau homes that are good to grow up in
- are safe from harm
- are able to spend time with their parents and family / whānau.
For this wellbeing outcome to happen the Government is:

- giving more support to families / whānau

- working to stop abuse.

The Government is also working to make government care for children and young people better.
Wellbeing outcome 2:
Children and young people have what they need

This wellbeing outcome means children and young people:

- the people who look after them have enough to give them a good life
- have good food to eat
- live in homes that are warm and dry
- have people looking after them who have the skills they need to get good jobs.
For this wellbeing outcome to happen the Government is working on:

- making new jobs

- paying more money for the jobs people do.

The Government is also helping families with:

- costs for looking after children and young people

- making the houses they live in better.
Wellbeing outcome 3:
Children and young people are happy and healthy

This wellbeing outcome means children and young people:

- have the best health care starting before they are born
- believe in themselves
- are able to get better if things go wrong
- have good mental health wellbeing
- are able to get better if they are hurt.
This wellbeing outcome also means
children and young people:

- have chances to:
  - play
  - be creative.

- spend their time in places that are:
  - clean
  - healthy.
For this wellbeing outcome to happen the Government is giving more support to people who:

- are having a baby
- have young children.

The Government is also doing more to help children and young people’s mental health.
This wellbeing outcome means children and young people:

- have learning places like schools give them the support they need to do well
- can learn what they need to know to live a good life
- can get where they want to go in:
  - education
  - volunteering work (unpaid work)
  - work.
This wellbeing outcome means that children and young people have what they need for each stage in their life.

For this wellbeing outcome to happen the Government is making big changes to the education system.

Changes include making things better in:

- early childhood education places like kindy
- primary schools
- secondary schools.

These changes will make sure that no child or young person will miss out on education.
Wellbeing outcome 5:
Children and young people are accepted, respected and connected

This wellbeing outcome means children and young people feel they are important:

- at home
- at school
- in their community
- when they are online like on a computer.
This wellbeing outcome means that children and young people feel **manaakitanga**.

**Manaakitanga** means showing:

- kindness
- respect
- care for others.

This wellbeing outcome means children and young people live free from **racism**.

**Racism** is when someone is treated badly by somebody because of:

- where they were born
- the colour of their skin.
This wellbeing outcome also means that children and young people live free from discrimination.

**Discrimination** is where somebody is treated unfairly by somebody because of something like their:

- age
- disability
- gender
- colour of their skin
- religion.
This wellbeing outcome also means that children and young people have:

- have good relationships

- are connected to their:
  - culture
  - language
  - beliefs.

For this outcome to happen the Government is helping children and young people feel they are:

- important

- connected to their culture.
The Government will also keep working on stopping:

- racism
- discrimination.
Wellbeing outcome 6: Children and young people are involved and empowered

This wellbeing outcome means children and young people help out with things at:

- home
- school
- in their communities.

This wellbeing outcome means that children and young people:

- are listened to
- have the support they need to grow into adults.
This wellbeing outcome means children and young people will use *kaitiakitanga*.

**Kaitiakitanga** means people:

- care for the land
- feel connected to the world around them.

For this wellbeing outcome to happen the Government is helping children and young people to:

- have their say
- make good decisions.
The Government has a plan for what it can do to help children and young people in each of the 6 wellbeing outcomes.

We call this the Current Programme of Action.

The goal of the Strategy is to make New Zealand the best place in the world to be a child or young person.

To reach this goal we need everyone’s help.
What you can do

Most New Zealanders already support children and young people in their day-to-day life.

People who work with children and young people can:

- use the Strategy to plan ways to make things better
- ask what children and young people think can make their lives better
- look for ways to work with others who work with children and young people.
We have a website that has a full copy of the **Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy**.

The website address is:

www.childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz

Our website also has stories about how people from all over New Zealand are helping us to reach our goal.

With your help we can make New Zealand the best place in the world for all children and young people.
This information has been translated into Easy Read with advice from the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.

The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.