



Proactive Release

Submissions on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

August 2019

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet has released the following submission received during its public consultation on the child and youth wellbeing strategy.

Some of the information contained within this release is considered to not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act).

- Where this is the case, the information has been withheld, and the relevant section of the Act that would apply, has been identified.
- Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes and their reference to sections of the Act:

- **9(2)a** – Section 9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons, including deceased people.

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Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – Submission Template

This document is intended for individuals or groups who wish to make a formal submission on the child and youth wellbeing strategy.

Please complete this template and email it to: childandyouthwellbeing@dpmc.govt.nz

A guide to making a submission is available on the DPMC website <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy>

Submissions will close on **Wednesday 5 December**.

Please provide details for a contact person in case we have some follow up questions.

Contact Name:	Jane Zintl
Email Address:	9(2) (a)
Phone Number:	04 8025000
Organisation Name:	Ara Taiohi
Organisation description: (tell us about your organisation – i.e. who do you represent? How many members do you have? Are you a local or national organisation?)	<p>Ara Taiohi is the peak body for youth development in Aotearoa. We have over 800 members across the motu, and work to connect the sector, raise standards, champion youth development and promote sustainability for the youth development sector.</p> <p>Te Puawaitanga Taiohi o Aotearoa: Our vision is that young people flourish in Aotearoa; we work alongside our members to support this aspiration.</p>
Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>A vision for the wellbeing of child and young people is a admirable.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Young people feel like an ‘add in’ to the strategy. • Any strategy on the wellbeing of <i>all young people</i> (12-24) must be based on positive youth development principles. • This requires resourcing to ensure a focus on young people is maintained.

Submission Content

1. The late inclusion of 'youth' into the framing of the Child (and Youth) Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS):

- a. This has created a perception that young people were a last minute 'add in' to the strategy.
- b. The language used in the strategy adds to this perception. For example, it is still headed '**New Zealand is the best place in the world for children**'. We further note that the use of 'children' as opposed to children and young people' is inconsistent in the proposed outcomes framework.

(note some links to the proposed outcomes framework are not working. We have therefore assumed the version we are able to access is the current one -

<https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2018-11/appendix-b-proposed-outcomes-framework.pdf>).

- c. The definition of 'Child' and 'children' includes children and young people up to age 18, and, for those transitioning from State care, up to age 25', is problematic with the intention of the strategy that New Zealand will be the best country in the world for 'children'. It states this vision will be achieved when all children and young people meet the outcomes outlined in the 5 domains. Young people between the ages of 18 and 25 that are not transitioning from State care are expressly excluded from this Strategy.

While the use of age as the sole criteria creates challenges, it is a good start point. Ara Taiohi defines young people as being from 12 to 24 (in alignment with the definition from the Ministry of Youth Development).

- d. UNCROC defines children to the age of 18. This is strongly reflected in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.
- e. When a policy is clearly relating to youth (and not just children), and it relates to ALL young people, we believe the broader range of ages should be included.
- f. The CYWS is clearly children focused, in its orientation, language and approach. As a result, the CYWS has a child centric, welfare approach as opposed to a youth empowerment approach. The language is protectionist, rather than from a strengths basis focusing on thriving. It reflects a normative developmental approach with a high emphasis on early intervention.

Recommendation:

If the strategy is to include the wellbeing of all young people, we believe

- i. it needs to include all young people up to the age of 24; and
- ii. the strategy should be reviewed, as a child centred approach cannot be directly translated to young people. This would either require a separate youth wellbeing strategy, or clear delineation in the existing CYWS.
- iii. In as far as the CYWS relates to young people the language and approach shifts to a mana enhancing, strengths based approach, focusing on the thriving of young people.

2. Any strategy relating to young people should be informed by the principles of positive youth development and by youth voice.

- a. Youth Wellbeing needs to be informed by Positive Youth Development theory and understanding. In Aotearoa this is best reflected in the Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa (the YDSA). This Strategy (developed in 2002) promotes 6 principles of youth development. In summary **youth development** is shaped by the big picture and recognises the importance of connectedness of young people. Within that context, positive youth development promotes strengths-based principles, quality relationships, participation and good information.
- b. The YDSA is currently being reviewed in a partnership between Ara Taiohi, the Ministry of Youth Development and the Vodafone Foundation.
- c. The principles of the YDSA have been found through existing consultation with young people, the profession of youth work and the broader youth development sector to be sound. The next stages of the review are looking to update these principles to better reflect our rich cultural heritage, and the reality of young people and youth development in 2018. This includes an Aotearoa based literature review to capture the whakapapa of our story in youth development, as well as the comprehensive amounts of Aotearoa based grey literature.
- d. These principles are not strongly reflected in the CYWS.
- e. Action Station, supported by Ara Taiohi, completed Ngā Kōrero Hauora O Ngā Taiohi (<http://www.arataiohi.org.nz/resource-centre/community-development/ngaa-krero-hauora-o-ngaa-taiohi-a-community-powered-report-on->

[conversations](#)). This gathers the voice of over 1000 young people's perspectives on what wellbeing looks like for them.

- f. We encourage a youth participatory co-design approach for any strategy relating to young people.

Recommendation:

- i. That the youth component of the CYWS be informed by the principles of youth development currently under review, and expressed in the YDSA.
- ii. That any strategy relating to young people be co-designed with young people.

3. Cross- government participation:

- a. For the CYWS to achieve its purpose it needs to influence all government departments.
- b. It is difficult for the focus on young people not to be absorbed with the emphasis on children.
- c. The role of the Minister for Youth, and the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) to advocate for young people is essential. Resources of the MYD have been consistently reduced, reflecting previous government's lack of commitment to focusing on young people.

Recommendation:

- i. For any youth strategy to be implemented across government, MYD needs to be resourced to ensure a focus on young people is maintained.

4. Youth Development Sector resourcing:

- a. For the CYWS to achieve its desired outcomes youth work and the wider youth development sector needs to be part of the solution.
- b. This requires resourcing and acknowledgement of the mana of the youth development sector, and in particular the relational approach that supports a young person's positive youth development.

Recommendation:

- i.* That the resourcing of the youth development sector be strengthened to support the implementation of the CYWS for the wellbeing of young people.

Please note that your submission will become official information. This means that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet may be required to release all or part of the information contained in your submission in response to a request under the Official Information Act 1982.

The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet may withhold all or parts of your submission if it is necessary to protect your privacy or if it has been supplied subject to an obligation of confidence.

Please tell us if you don't want all or specific parts of your submission released, and the reasons why. Your views will be taken into account in deciding whether to withhold or release any information requested under the Official Information Act and in deciding if, and how, to refer to your submission in any possible subsequent paper prepared by the Department.