



## 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.

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- 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.

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# Submission on the Child & Youth Wellbeing Strategy



December 2018



**Kia eke ai te hunga taitamariki  
ki ngā rangi tūhāhā**

## A. Introduction

1. This submission to the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) outlines Barnardos' feedback on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.<sup>1</sup>
2. Barnardos strongly welcomes the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. The development of this Strategy as a requirement under the Child Poverty Reduction Bill is a landmark moment for children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for society as a whole. We know that urgent change is needed to ensure that children and young people, as our youngest citizens and rights holders, are protected and respected, and celebrated as precious taonga in our families, whānau, communities and society. The Strategy, if supported by policies that will effect and support significant cultural, social and economic change, has the potential to make a real and lasting difference for all children and young people in our country.
3. Barnardos has appreciated being involved to-date in the development of the Aotearoa New Zealand's first draft Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, to champion the rights, needs, hopes and aspirations of children and young people. Barnardos welcomes this opportunity to further contribute to the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, through the public consultation process.
4. This submission outlines Barnardos' feedback on:
  - The framing of wellbeing for the initial Strategy;
  - The proposed vision statement for the initial Strategy;
  - The proposed set of outcome sought for all children and young people; and
  - The 16 potential focus areas proposed for the initial Strategy.<sup>2</sup>
5. At the end of our submission, we also provide links to some of Barnardos' recent systemic advocacy work. We believe this provides further helpful background concerning the current state of child and youth wellbeing, and ideas relating to some of the most significant systemic shifts that need to take place in our country, to promote and support child and youth wellbeing.

## B. Background to Barnardos

6. Barnardos is one of Aotearoa New Zealand's oldest and leading children's charities, working towards the vision of 'An Aotearoa New Zealand Where Every Child Shines Bright'.<sup>3</sup> We hold fast to this vision because we believe in the potential of every child to develop and flourish. This is also reflected in our poutama: Kia eke ai te hunga taitamariki ki ngā rangi tūhāhā - realisation and development for all children.

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<sup>1</sup> See: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy>

<sup>2</sup> See: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2018-11/appendix-b-proposed-outcomes-framework.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> See: <https://www.barnardos.org.nz/who-we-are/our-beliefs-and-values/> Also see Barnardos Annual Report 2018: <https://app.redpepperdigital.net/app/redpepper/view/annual-review--financial-statements-2018>

7. Barnardos has been delivering services to children, young people and their families and whānau in Aotearoa New Zealand for over 60 years. Today, we are implementing three key strategies, working in the following ways:
  - Delivering direct social services to children and their families and whānau;<sup>4</sup>
  - Providing excellence in early learning;<sup>5</sup> and
  - Advocating for the needs, rights and wellbeing of children in Aotearoa New Zealand.<sup>6</sup>

One of Barnardos' greatest strengths as an organisation is the fact we work across these three areas, through our Child and Family Services, Barnardos Early Learning, and our systemic Advocacy.

8. In all our work, we focus on the whole-child, and the fact that all children exist within the context of their family and whānau. We are based in the community around the country, and support a community-led approach to development. Our work contributes to positive, tangible change and development. This helps to create long-term sustainable outcomes in the lives of children, young people and their families and whānau, as well as their wider communities.
9. Barnardos is here for all children and young people for the provision of universal services, such as Barnardos Early learning services (both centre and home-based), and 0800 What's Up children's helpline which provides trained counsellors who are available to talk with children and young people aged 5-18 years about anything, via both phone and webchat.
10. Every day, Barnardos is also working with children and young people who are among the most disadvantaged and marginalised in Aotearoa New Zealand, including children and young people who are victims of family violence, and children who are in Oranga Tamariki care. For many of the children and young people who we work with, the impacts of trauma are present, as is the intergenerational effects of trauma which has been left unaddressed.
11. Barnardos employs or contracts approximately 740 people around the country – from Whangarei to Invercargill, across Barnardos Child and Family

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<sup>4</sup> We provide our Child and Family Services across the full continuum of support and care – from preventative and early intervention support, to intensive and targeted support, to universal services. See for more detail on the range of Child and Family Services we offer: <https://www.barnardos.org.nz/what-we-do/child-and-family-services/>

<sup>5</sup> See: <https://www.barnardos.org.nz/what-we-do/early-learning-and-childcare/>

<sup>6</sup> We advocate on the biggest issues facing children and young people in Aotearoa, to drive systemic change in legislation, policy, practice and institutions, for the benefit of children and young people. Our Advocacy is informed by the knowledge and expertise we have from working every day with children and young people and their families and whānau, and grounded in what children and young people themselves say matters to them and their hopes and aspirations. Our Advocacy is also grounded in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and other relevant human rights standards and norms. See for more: <https://www.barnardos.org.nz/what-we-do/advocacy/>

Services, Barnardos Early learning and Advocacy. The majority of Barnardos' people are working every day directly with children and young people.

### **C. Barnardos' involvement to date in the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy**

12. As New Zealand's national children's charity working with children and young people every day and advocating for their rights, needs and wellbeing, Barnardos is well-placed to make a meaningful and substantive contribution to the development of Aotearoa New Zealand's first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy).
13. Barnardos has supported the development of the Child Poverty Reduction Bill from the legislative development stage in 2017. We have throughout maintained our support for the inclusion within the Bill of the requirement for a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy to be developed.
14. Earlier this year, as well as supporting a joint children's sector submission,<sup>7</sup> Barnardos made a comprehensive submission to the Social Services and Community Select Committee on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill.<sup>8</sup> Our submission included a number of recommendations regarding the Strategy.<sup>9</sup> Barnardos is pleased to see that a number of our recommendations in this respect have been taken up, and are reflected in the proposed Strategy outcomes framework (the framework).
15. Barnardos has appreciated the opportunities it has had to date to contribute to the development of the Strategy in other more direct ways, including involvement at workshops on child and youth engagement to support the shaping of the Strategy; involvement at roundtable sessions on specific focus areas; and direct meetings with officials from the DPMC Child Wellbeing Unit.
16. Barnardos remains available and ready to continue contributing to the further development of the Strategy. We are keen to ensure that our experience, expertise and insights from working with children and young people from all walks of life are brought to bear, to help build a Strategy that is as strong as possible for children and young people, and to champion their rights and best interests. We believe the development of this Strategy is a crucial step for all children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and we want to contribute to help it succeed in practice, so that children and young people experience childhoods in which they can develop and flourish to their full potential.

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<sup>7</sup> See:

<https://www.cpag.org.nz/assets/180404%20Joint%20Children%27s%20sector%20submission%20FINAL.pdf>

<sup>8</sup> See: <https://www.barnardos.org.nz/assets/Uploads/FINAL-Barnardos-Submission-on-the-Child-Poverty-Reduction-Bill-V2.pdf>

<sup>9</sup> See page 3 of Barnardos' Submission on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill, <https://www.barnardos.org.nz/assets/Uploads/FINAL-Barnardos-Submission-on-the-Child-Poverty-Reduction-Bill-V2.pdf>

## D. Barnardos' feedback on the framing of wellbeing for the initial Strategy

17. Barnardos supports the inclusion of the seven 'principles' underpinning the Strategy, and acknowledges that earlier recommendations made by Barnardos and others regarding the importance of linkages to Te Tiriti and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child have been reflected in this respect. Barnardos also strongly supports the other principles articulated as underpinning the Strategy, many of which emphasise the fact that children and young people exist within families and whānau, and that their wellbeing thrives when the wellbeing of their family and whānau is supported.
18. Barnardos supports the focus of the five 'wellbeing domains' outlined in the proposed outcomes framework. We believe they cover the areas that are essential for children and young people to experience wellbeing, and are holistic in coverage. We do urge that further thinking is given to how the wellbeing domains will connect to the cluster headings under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (the CRC).<sup>10</sup> This will be important to give effect to clause 6AA of the Child Poverty Reduction Bill as reported back to the House,<sup>11</sup> and also to enable effective alignment for periodic reporting purposes under the CRC.
19. Barnardos queries how the Strategy will link to and/or be interdependent with the Living Standards Framework, the 2019 'Wellbeing' Budget, and Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand. It would be helpful if these connections are made clearer in future Strategy work, including at the public-facing level, to understand how the Strategy interconnects with or is nested within the other features of the broader public policy framework.
20. With regard to the wider framing of wellbeing for the initial Strategy, Barnardos wishes to make the following key points from an overarching perspective, with the intent of strengthening the Strategy for children and young people. To this end, Barnardos calls for:
  - a) **the Child Impact Assessment Tool<sup>12</sup> to be used to support all further development of the Strategy and supporting policies, including any revision of the proposed outcomes framework.** Barnardos believes that this will help to ensure that the guiding principles of the CRC are holistically considered and reflected throughout the Strategy (including the proposed outcomes framework). These are the principles of non-discrimination;<sup>13</sup> the best interests of the child;<sup>14</sup> the child's right to life,

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<sup>10</sup> UN General Assembly, *Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 20 November 1989, United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 1577, p.3.

<sup>11</sup> This clause reads: "The strategy is intended to help New Zealand meet its international obligations relating to children. Clause 6AA (2) reads "Those obligations include New Zealand's obligations relation to children under the UNCRC and the UNCRPD."

<sup>12</sup> Available at: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/resources/child-impact-assessment.html>

<sup>13</sup> Art. 2 CRC.

<sup>14</sup> Art. 3 CRC.

survival and development;<sup>15</sup> and the child's right to participate in matters affecting them;<sup>16</sup>

- b) the language and framing used in the proposed outcomes framework to be more inclusive and empowering for children and young people throughout, recognising their status as rights holders. The language used in the proposed outcomes framework is currently mixed, in some areas framed in a way that talks about things that are 'done to' children (an example of this is the third bullet point under focus area 8).
- c) further explanation to be reflected in Strategy documents to make clearer, for example, how the proposed outcomes framework will be operationalised to drive substantial change in policy and practice, so that children and young people's wellbeing is improved and their rights are promoted and protected. (i.e. what are the policies underpinning an outcome to give effect to the outcome, and who has responsibility for these? Responsibility might sit with a government agency, NGOs, families and whānau, etc, or a combination of these);
- d) a revised outcomes framework that makes clearer the linkages between the desired outcomes and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. (i.e. how will principle 4 of the proposed outcomes framework be implemented?);
- e) a revised outcomes framework that makes clearer the linkages between the desired outcomes and human rights under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and other key international human rights conventions that the outcomes will give effect to in practice, as well as linkages to other international obligations and standards, such as under the Sustainable Development Goals and UN declarations that New Zealand has signed up to, such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. It would be helpful if a version of the next iteration of the outcomes framework cross-references to specific rights provisions under international treaties and standards;
- f) in addition to (e), for all future development of the Strategy and outcomes framework to make clearer the linkages between the proposed outcomes and the Government's UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Work Programme.<sup>17</sup> With respect to the CRC, Barnardos believes that the development of the Strategy is the best opportunity we have ever had in Aotearoa New Zealand to embed in New Zealand legislation, policy and practice the guiding principles and rights

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<sup>15</sup> Art. 6 CRC.

<sup>16</sup> Art. 12 CRC.

<sup>17</sup> As approved by Cabinet. See: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/uncroc/what-is-nz-doing-to-meet-obligations.html>

that all children are entitled to under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Promoting and protecting children's rights is essential to achieving the wellbeing sought under the Strategy. Rights are a tool for real change, in practice. Barnardos therefore believes that this Strategy should be the vehicle through which it is clearly established how children's rights will be given effect to in practice in Aotearoa New Zealand. As stated in our submission on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill, "the Strategy [should be] an action-oriented Strategy for making all Aotearoa New Zealand's children's rights real in practice." Such a strategy has been called for by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child in its most recent recommendations to New Zealand;<sup>18</sup>

g) **roles of different stakeholders and child rights duty bearers to be made more explicit in a revised proposed outcomes framework and all future Strategy development.** Achieving the Strategy's vision will require everyone in Aotearoa New Zealand to play their part. This should be reflected by making reference to the various roles of government agencies and crown entities, children and young people, NGOs and community-based organisations, iwi and hapū, families and whānau, parents and caregivers, the business community/private sector. Partnership between government and those organisations and people who are directly caring for, supporting and serving children and young people every day will be essential in achieving the vision and outcomes of the Strategy in practice. It is essential that the sense of ownership for the implementation of the Strategy (and domestic ownership of the implementation of the CRC in Aotearoa New Zealand) is fostered and held more widely than by government alone. All of the above actors must, to some extent, be able to see themselves in the Strategy.

21. In addition to the above calls, from a framing perspective, Barnardos calls for a new layer to be added to the proposed outcomes framework, between the 'principles' layer and the 'desired outcomes' layer. We recommend this should be a layer entitled 'enabling settings and processes' or 'enabling environment', and should include aspects such as:

a) Government Budget and investment;<sup>19</sup>

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<sup>18</sup> Barnardos, Submission on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill, 2018, recommendation 20, at p.3; Also see CRC Committee recommendation 7(a) (Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of New Zealand, 21 October 2016, CRC/C/NZL/CO/5), at p.2: "Adopt a comprehensive policy and strategy for the implementation of the Convention and its first two Optional Protocols. They should be developed in cooperation with the public and private sectors involved in the promotion and protection of children's rights, in consultation with children, and based on a child-rights approach. Such a policy should encompass all children in the State party and all areas covered by the Convention; be supported by sufficient human, technical and financial resources; include clear and adequate budgetary allocations and a time frame; and incorporate follow-up and monitoring mechanisms;"

<sup>19</sup> Taking a child rights budgeting approach is an important enabling setting at the systems level. See: UN Committee on the Rights of the Child, *General comment no. 19 (2016) on public budgeting for the realisation of children's rights (art. 4)*, available at:



- b) Government and community resources;
- c) Community-based capability and capacity;
- d) Family and whānau capability and capacity;
- e) Partnership between Government and communities and community-based organisations;
- f) Legislation, policies, practices and institutions that promote and protect children's rights;
- g) Cross cutting policies (e.g. including data protection policies, privacy settings, etc);
- h) Child rights and wellbeing training (to support and enable implementation of the Strategy); and
- i) Mechanisms and systems that enable children to participate in matters affecting them.

Barnardos believes that the inclusion of a new layer in the outcomes framework that addresses these factors is essential in making the link clearer between the principles and the desired outcomes; currently, this aspect which connects to the 'how' of the Strategy is missing from the proposed outcomes framework.

22. Re-emphasising the focus of Barnardos' recommendation number 29 in our Submission on the Child Poverty Reduction Bill,<sup>20</sup> Barnardos calls for a monitoring framework to be developed alongside the proposed outcomes framework, so that progress towards achieving the desired outcomes and vision of the Strategy are able to be tracked and monitored over time. It is important to develop this early and in a transparent manner, and Barnardos emphasises that this must include tracking and monitoring by children and young people themselves, and by their families and whānau, based on their own lived experience. If resourced appropriately, community based partners such as Barnardos and other organisations working directly with a range of children and young people throughout Aotearoa New Zealand, on the basis of established relationships built on trust, are likely to be well-placed to support this tracking and monitoring by children, young people and their families and whānau.

## **E. Barnardos' feedback on the proposed vision statement for the initial Strategy**

23. In the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Aotearoa New Zealand has lost sight of the importance of fairness and equity among people, no matter what their social or economic background or circumstances. New Zealand now has one of the largest

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<sup>20</sup> See recommendation 29, at p.3.

income and wealth inequality gaps in the OECD.<sup>21</sup> Children, families and whānau are experiencing the impact of our unequal society in significant, negative ways, across socio-economic outcomes. Low distribution of wealth across our society, and the lack of even distribution of our country's economic prosperity, is playing out in practice in social realities such as our high rates of child poverty,<sup>22</sup> child and youth negative mental health outcomes,<sup>23</sup> and homelessness.<sup>24</sup>

24. While the majority of children and young people in our country are doing well, a negative culture around children has also developed in Aotearoa New Zealand. This is reflected in our high rates of child abuse and neglect and our high numbers of child deaths at the hands of family members or in the community. For too many children, family violence is an ever-present experience, and home is not the loving and place that it should be. Too often, children and young people are 'seen but not heard'. Too many children and young people feel anxious, isolated and lonely, are being bullied or engaging in bullying behaviour, or are living with the ongoing impacts of trauma, without the support of someone that they trust and can ask for help. We have a long way to go before children and young people's right to participate in matters affecting them is fully realised in practice in our laws, policies, practices and systems, and in our families, whānau and communities.
25. Change is urgently needed to address the inequalities that have become entrenched in Aotearoa New Zealand and to turn the tide on our negative culture when it comes to children and young people, so that every child and has the opportunity to positively develop from their early years of life and to flourish in childhood, through adolescence and beyond.
26. In order to flourish, it is essential that children grow up with family and whānau that are safe and loving; have enough of what matters when it comes to clothing, education, food, housing, healthcare and any other particular support to meet their specific needs; are connected to family, whānau and community and can participate in society; are able to explore and express their own unique identity, culture and language in ways that matter to them; and live in families and households that have a level of income that enables

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<sup>21</sup> See: <https://data.oecd.org/inequality/income-inequality.htm> (accessed 26 November 2018). See for further discussion: OECD Statistics and Data Directorate, *Inequalities in household wealth across OECD countries: Evidence from the OECD Wealth Distribution Database*, Working Paper no.88, SDD/DOC (2018)1, 20 June 2018, available at:

[https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=SDD/DOC\(2018\)1&docLanguage=En](https://www.oecd.org/officialdocuments/publicdisplaydocumentpdf/?cote=SDD/DOC(2018)1&docLanguage=En) (accessed 26 November 2018).

<sup>22</sup> See: Office of the Children's Commissioner and Otago University, *Child Poverty Technical Monitor 2017 Technical Report*, available at: <http://www.nzchildren.co.nz/> (accessed 26 November 2018).

<sup>23</sup> E.g. New Zealand has the highest rate of youth suicide in the OECD, eight times higher than the lowest rate (Portugal).

<sup>24</sup> See: Kate Amore, *Severe housing deprivation in Aotearoa/New Zealand 2001-2013*, He Kainga Ora Housing and Health Research Programme, Department of Public Health, University of Otago, Wellington, 2016, available at: <http://www.healthyhousing.org.nz/wp-content/uploads/2016/08/Severe-housing-deprivation-in-Aotearoa-2001-2013-1.pdf> (accessed 26 November 2018).

a level of resilience in the face of unexpected social and economic shocks, if and when they happen.

27. Barnardos appreciates and supports the intent of the proposed vision statement for the initial Strategy. It is an ambitious and bold vision, and one that Barnardos believes is important to strive for and achieve in practice: our tamariki and rangatahi deserve nothing less.
28. We note that the vision statement for the Strategy shares an underlying intent with Barnardos own vision statement that we are working towards every day in practice ('An Aotearoa New Zealand where every child shines bright').
29. We suggest that the vision statement for the Strategy is slightly amended by adding 'Aotearoa' at the start of the statement, so it reads: 'Aotearoa New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people'.

## **F. Barnardos feedback on the proposed set of outcomes sought for all children and young people**

30. Barnardos supports the proposed set of outcomes sought for all children and young people.
31. However, we urge that further consideration is given in a revised outcomes framework to how these outcomes connect to and address the priority recommendations made by the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in response to New Zealand's most recent periodic review under the CRC, namely violence abuse and neglect; children deprived of a family environment, standard of living, children belonging to a minority or indigenous groups, child labour, and juvenile justice.<sup>25</sup> While some of these are covered in the proposed set of outcomes, some, such as child labour, juvenile justice, and children deprived of a family environment, are not covered to the extent that they should be.
32. We also note that it remains unclear to Barnardos how the outcomes included on the front of the proposed outcomes framework which are not transferred across to the back page (priority outcomes) are going to be advanced and achieved in practice. It would be good to understand further how this will happen, as it will be important to advance progress on these things, despite them not being categorised as priorities for the first Strategy.
33. At a specific level, we would like to make the following recommendations regarding the desired outcomes on the front page of the Strategy:
  - a) We reiterate our call about language at paragraph 19(b) in this submission, to apply this to the language used throughout the proposed outcomes framework, including the desired outcomes;

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<sup>25</sup> See [4], Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of New Zealand, 21 October 2016, CRC/C/NZL/CO/5.

- b) Under wellbeing domain 'Are loved, nurtured and safe', outcome 3, we suggest children and young people should also be kept safe from accidental injury at work;
- c) Under wellbeing domain 'Have what they need', outcome 1, 'good standard of material wellbeing' should be amended to be 'adequate standard of material wellbeing, including household income, nutritious food, affordable, safe and healthy housing'; also suggest adding an additional desired outcome: 'young people transitioning from care have the additional support they need to re-engage with family and whānau, community, education and employment, and to develop and maintain positive mental and physical health'
- d) Under wellbeing domain 'Belong, contribute and are valued', outcome 1, beyond 'knowing who they are', we emphasise that children and young people need to be able to express and engage with this; outcome area 3, suggest amending to read 'children and young people are valued and respected for who they are, exploration of their identity is respected, and are supported to have their voices heard'; outcome area 5, suggest amending to read 'children and young people are supported to understand their rights and responsibilities in relation to others, at home, school and in their communities'; outcome area 6, suggest amend to 'children and young people are empowered as active citizens, supported to have a meaningful say in matters affecting them and participating in matters of civic importance'; and suggest adding a seventh outcome, namely 'children and young people live in a healthy and sustainable environment' - this connects with climate change prevention, public health (clean air, water, environment) and environmental sustainability.
- e) Under wellbeing domain 'Are happy and healthy', outcome 5, suggest amend to read 'children and young people are supported to take a positive approach to relationships, sexual health and reproductive choices'.

## **G. Barnardos' feedback on the 16 potential focus areas proposed for the initial Strategy**

- 34. At a general level, Barnardos supports the 16 potential focus areas for the first Strategy. These are areas that change is needed for children, to advance and protect their rights and wellbeing. In many of these areas, such as area 1, 4, 5, 6, 7, 11, 12 and 14, significant and urgent change is needed to address entrenched inequities, social problems and adverse outcomes.
- 35. At a specific level, Barnardos makes the following recommendations for amendments to the proposed 16 potential focus areas for the first Strategy:
  - a) Focus area 1: amend the first bullet point to read 'live in *safe* and loving homes'.

- b) Focus area 2: focus area should include children and young people being safe in work; under second bullet point, include injury and death of children at home as well.
- c) Focus area 3: second bullet point should be amended to read 'children and young people are supported through evidence-based educational programmes to learn about bullying behavior and how to act to prevent it at school and in the community, based on respect and understanding of others' (e.g. an example of an evidence-based education programme that is proven to be effective, including in New Zealand schools is KiVa<sup>26</sup>).
- d) Focus area 7: there needs to be a stronger focus on refugee children and young people, and LGBTQI+ children and young people, and also a focus on bullying prevention included in this focus area.
- e) Focus area 8: there needs to be a specific focus on Pacific children too.
- f) Focus area 9: make clearer that civic participation needs to be supported by civics education. As per our suggestion above that the environment should be addressed as a separate desired outcome ('children and young people live in a healthy and sustainable environment'), suggest adding an associated bullet point under focus area 9: 'children and young people are empowered and supported to play an active role in environmental promotion, protection and climate action'.
- g) Focus area 10: linkage should also be made to children and young people's mental and emotional wellbeing.
- h) Focus area 11: the focus should not merely be on disabled children and young people having 'improved opportunities and outcomes', but to be able to be fully included to enjoy a full and decent life. Suggest rewording this to 'Disabled children and young people are assured of equitable opportunities and outcomes.'
- i) Focus area 13: the second bullet point needs to be reframed to be about children and young people understanding their rights and responsibilities and the rights and responsibilities of others. Also suggest that a bullet point should be added relating to children's Article 12 right to participate and have their views heard in matters affecting them, and decision making processes and structures are in place support this.
- j) Focus area 14: suggest reframing to be up to the age of three, given the wealth of evidence that exists documenting the crucial and significant development that occurs up until children are aged three.

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<sup>26</sup> See: <http://www.kivaprogram.net/nz>

Also suggest adding a further bullet point: ‘children have opportunities to learn in high quality early learning environments that support their needs and those of their family and whānau’.

## **H. Other Barnardos resources that can help shape the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and its associated supporting policies**

36. Making connections to the policy development that will underpin the ‘how’ of achieving the vision of the Strategy, and noting proposed priority areas such as area 1, 6 and 12 among others, Barnardos draws officials’ attention to relevant recent submissions made to Government working groups and independent panels. Each of the following documents makes recommendations at the systems and policy levels from a child, young person and whānau centred perspective:

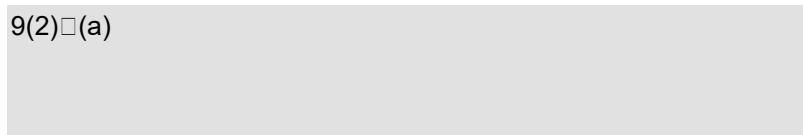
- [Submission to Inquiry into Mental Health and Addiction](#)
- [Submission to the Independent Panel on the Family Justice System](#)
- [Submission to the Welfare Expert Working Group](#)<sup>27</sup>

37. We believe that the above documents will provide helpful resources to shape further development of the Strategy.

38. Barnardos remains ready to collaborate with DPMC and other government officials and other civil society organisations, children and young people to support the further development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. We look forward to seeing significant and sustained progress for children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand in the coming years through implementation of the eventual final Strategy.

### **Contact details for anything relating to this submission**

9(2)(a)



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<sup>27</sup> This submission includes a focus on the introduction of a Universal Child Payment paid for all children up to the age of 4, at a level that will provide adequate support for children to develop and thrive in their early years, with impact throughout childhood and later life. Barnardos advocates for the extension of the Best Start payment policy on this basis, and we believe this policy should be central to achieving progress under potential priority focus areas 4, 5 and 6 of the Strategy among others, alongside other targeted support when children and families have particular additional needs.