



## 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](mailto: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.**

<b>Contact Name:</b>	9(2) (a)
<b>Email Address:</b>	
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Organisation Name:</b>	BOPDHBP CH4K
<b>Organisation description:</b> (tell us about your organisation – i.e. who do you represent? How many members do you have? Are you a local or national organisation?)	I represent B4 School Public Health Nursing. There are 5 B4 School Nurses working in the Western BOP, and B4 School Checks is nationwide .

## Submission Content

### **Executive Summary:**

(Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)

I am a B4 School Public Health Nurse and have worked in this role for the last 4 years. I believe that a very important change that needs to be brought in for 4 year olds across New Zealand is for all preschools to provide compulsory basic teaching. Sadly at this stage, the Ministry of Education are encouraging preschools to NOT do any teaching but just let them learn through play. Play of course is important, but I have yet to meet a 4 year old who doesn't like learning the basic early facts required for school. Children at this age appear to be 'hungry' to learn. They have an incredible capacity to learn, and I love to see their eyes light up when I talk to them about numbers, shapes, colours etc, and do some simple writing with them at the B4 checks. I see a lot of children whose parents work full-time, and the children are at preschool or daycare, and they are not being taught any basic facts by anyone. I have talked to new-entrant teachers who say that the children who have not learnt anything before starting school are at a real disadvantage, compared to the children who have learnt the foundations of numbers and reading etc. Quite a lot of preschools that I work with do spend ½ an hour a day doing a learning session with the 4 year olds, and I have watched groups of these 4 year olds thoroughly enjoying learning lots of interesting things. I have also spoken to parents who come from other countries where there is some formal teaching done with 4 year olds in the preschools and these children have learnt an incredible amount of information, because I strongly believe that almost all 4 year old's brains are very ready to learn an amazing amount of things, and that they normally thoroughly enjoy learning. I have a real concern for many of our 4 year olds that their brains are not being fed with information that they are more than ready to learn, which can then be built on when they get to school. For some of these children they start school with no understanding of basic facts, that they could have easily learnt if they had been taught, which then puts them on the back-foot as they start school, and they have to be put in a group that has to be taught information they could have learnt a year earlier, while other children are able to build on the information they have learnt before school, and therefore move ahead academically, just because people have spent time with them teaching them the basic facts.

Our children's brains are hungry to learn and be expanded just as their growing bodies are hungry for good nutrition. Please review the lack of teaching for our 4 year olds, and consider changing the NZ education policy so that all preschools provide basic teaching for our amazing 4 year olds.

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.