



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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Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: Strategic Roundtable Discussion

Summary

15 November 2018

Background

The proposed Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS) currently under development by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is an exciting opportunity to create a framework for action to improve the lives of the next generation of New Zealanders.

The philanthropic sector is uniquely placed to help inform and shape the CYWS. It has traditionally played a critical role in funding programmes for children and young people. Many philanthropic funders have a long-term strategic focus on supporting child and youth wellbeing outcomes and are increasingly focused on supporting innovation and initiatives with more significant potential for social impact and positive systems change.

This roundtable discussion was co-convened by Foundation North and the Centre for Social Impact. It was designed to provide the philanthropic sector with insights into the New Zealand Government's emerging focus on wellbeing, to provide a space to share wisdom and offer feedback, and to identify where there may be potential for complementary or collaborative action as part of the CYWS's development and implementation.

Presentations

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

9(2)(a)

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

- The Child Poverty Reduction Bill was introduced to the House in January 2018 and is expected to complete its third reading in mid-December 2018. The Bill aims to legislate that the Government of the day:
 - Sets three- and ten-year child poverty targets, aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals.
 - Reports on how its Budget will contribute to these targets, and reports on progress towards these targets.
 - Develops and publishes a child wellbeing strategy to be refreshed every three years; and to be informed by engagement with children and young people, Māori and iwi.
- The CYWS commits the Government to set outcomes and actions that will improve the wellbeing of all children, with a priority focus on:
 - Children with greatest needs.
 - Poverty and socioeconomic disadvantage.
 - Children of interest to Oranga Tamariki.
- The Minister for Child Poverty Reduction must report annually on progress against the CYWS.
- It is the intention of DPMC that the CYWS is led by children and young people. Development of the CYWS to date has been informed by wide-ranging engagement where children and young people have

identified wellbeing issues that are important to them. These include education, being loved and cared for, housing, food, family/whānau and the environment.

- Further stakeholder engagement has been undertaken, including a survey, postcards to the Prime Minister, written submissions, hui across New Zealand in partnership with Te Puni Kōkiri. Results will be published in 2019.
- ‘Youth’ has been added to the CYWS to better reflect the inclusion of young people aged 0-18 years (and 0-24 years for young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki).
- The CYWS is different to other government strategies as it is mandated by legislation, which also ensures a commitment to successive strategies. Its development by DPMC is also intended to ensure stronger and more joined-up implementation across government agencies.
- The CYWS vision is that ‘New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people’. To deliver on this vision, the CYWS identifies five interconnected wellbeing domains; within which there are sixteen potential focus area for the CYWS to deliver against (as currently proposed):

Children and young people...

<p>...are loved, nurtured and safe</p>	<p>1. Children and young people are safe and nurtured in their families, whānau and homes</p>	<p>2. Children’s and young people’s physical safety is protected during everyday activities like travel and recreation</p>	<p>3. Children and young people have positive interactions with peers and others outside the home</p>
<p>...have what they need</p>	<p>4. Children and young people and their families and whānau live in affordable, quality housing</p>	<p>5. Child poverty is reduced, in line with the Government’s intermediate and 10-year targets</p>	<p>6. Children and young people experience improved equity of outcomes, with services helping address the impacts of poverty, low socioeconomic status and disadvantage</p>
<p>...belong, contribute and are valued</p>	<p>7. Children and young people are free from racism, discrimination and stigma</p>	<p>8. The cultures of children, young people and their families and whānau are recognised, enhanced and supported</p>	<p>9. Children and young people have improved opportunities for civic engagement and environmental awareness</p>
<p>...are happy and healthy</p>	<p>10. Children and young people and their families and whānau are empowered to make healthy lifestyle decisions for children and young people</p>	<p>11. Disabled children and young people have improved opportunities and outcomes</p>	<p>12. Children’s and young people’s mental wellbeing is supported 13. Children and young people are supported to make positive decisions</p>
<p>...are learning and developing</p>	<p>14. Children experience best development in their “first 1,000 days”, safe positive pregnancy, birth and responsive parenting (conception to around 2)</p>	<p>15. Children are thriving social, emotionally and developmentally in the early years (2 to 6)</p>	<p>16. All children and young people have an equal chance to gain the skills, knowledge and capabilities for success in life, learning and work</p>

Government Strategy for Youth

9(2)(a) Ministry of Youth Development and 9(2)(a) Ministry of Social Development

- The Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) supports young people aged 12-24 years. MYD's high level areas of focus are:
 - Building capability and resilience to improve youth wellbeing.
 - Developing equal opportunities for young people to thrive.
 - Ensuring young people's voices are heard.
 - Enabling youth development opportunities.
- The Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (YDSA) was developed by the (then) Ministry of Youth Affairs in 2002 to provide a policy platform for youth development. The YDSA was developed in collaboration with the youth sector and today informs youth sector qualifications, core competencies, youth worker ethics and principles of practice.
- In 2018, MYD identified an opportunity to review and strengthen the YDSA and began a review process in partnership with Ara Taiohi (the youth sector peak body) and Vodafone NZ Foundation, with support from the Centre for Social Impact and the J R McKenzie Trust. The review included [research with young people](#) and [research that mapped the youth development ecosystem](#). The review identified:
 - That the wellbeing issues that young people find important include mental health, economic security, body image, discrimination, the environment, education, community, role models and youth voice.
 - That young people exist in the context of their whānau, peers and community.
 - Youth development is an important practice or approach that can support youth wellbeing outcomes.
 - That there is opportunity to strengthen the YDSA, particularly in relation to the way in which it reflects the Aotearoa cultural context, the views of diverse young people, and contemporary evidence-based youth development practice.
- The next steps in the review of the YDSA will include an Aotearoa-based literature review and nine regional engagement hui with young people.
- Whilst the YDSA continues to hold value as a principles-based framework, there is no current government strategy for young people. Many other strategies – including the CYWS – have relevance to young people, but there is no specific strategy with a targeted focus on all young people aged 12-24 years.
- In response to the findings from the YDSA review, the Minister for Youth is driving the development of a Government Strategy for Youth. This Strategy will centre around five key outcome areas:
 - Safe spaces.
 - Identity and inclusion.

- Wellbeing.
- Community and environment.
- Achieving and thriving.
- The Government Strategy for Youth will aim to put the perspectives of young people at the centre of government policy development and ensure that government agencies consider how they actively and consistently incorporate and respond to youth voices.
- The development of a Government Strategy for Youth will also create a space for collaboration between Government and the philanthropic sector.

Roundtable Discussion

CYWS – a Government or whole-of-community strategy?

- It is important that the Government distinguishes whether the CYWS is a strategy for government agencies, or for all of community. There is real potential to leverage greater impact by ensuring that philanthropy and other stakeholders are visibly ‘in’ the strategy and can identify their roles in activating the strategy alongside the Government. To ensure this, and that philanthropy (and other stakeholders) have ownership of the CYWS, ongoing dialogue will be needed.
- It is vital that strategies like the CYWS are informed by the voices of children and young people in both design and implementation.
 - How courageous can government be in engaging and reaching communities?
 - How do we ensure that the voices of rangatahi are not just interpreted but that young people are instead directly involved in co-designing solutions?
 - How do we ensure that activation of the CYWS is completely child- and youth-centred?

The philanthropic sector may have an important role to play in addressing these questions – it is positioned to be a key enabler of child- and youth-centred approaches through its partnerships with community, as well as its flexibility to resource infrastructures that address gaps and enable youth voices e.g. VOYCE Whakarongo Mai.

- The importance of naming racism and discrimination in the CYWS must be underlined. It is a vital consideration – both in terms of the direct wellbeing of children and young people, and in relation to ongoing need for efforts to decolonise the systems in which children and young people exist.

Universality or a targeted approach?

- The proposed outcomes framework in the draft CYWS appears robust and evidence-based. Whilst the outcomes in the CYWS are demonstrably important, there were discussions about whether the overall framework offered anything ‘new’.
 - Is the inclusion of 16 focus areas too broad and ‘safe’?
 - Does systems change for child and youth wellbeing require a sharper focus on priorities associated with significant need? Where could we make the biggest difference?

- Could the CYWS demonstrate a bigger appetite for risk and innovation?

Being bold – roles and opportunities

- In order to achieve systemic change to the life outcomes of children and young people, we need revolution, not small-scale evolution. This means thinking radically about each sector's collective roles and responsibilities.
- Government and philanthropy have opportunity to work together to develop greater clarity around philanthropy's critical role(s) in supporting the CYWS, as well as other government reviews and strategies.
- The philanthropic sector has an assumed role as risk-taker and innovator, piloting new approaches and bringing evidence about what works to other investors, including government. In the context of the CYWS, philanthropy's potential role as the first risk-taker and community initiator could be more intentionally defined and co-designed with government. Philanthropic support may be critical where there are opportunities for innovation in spaces that are politically or logistically too challenging for government to lead.
- The innovation resourced by philanthropy is often developed in response to policies and systems that aren't working – such as the youth justice and foster care policies, structures and practices. Where philanthropy is piloting, trialling and testing initiatives that demonstrate potential, how can evidence be shared with government in more systematic ways that generate opportunities for government to build on this early potential? This may require better mechanisms for sharing insights, and for earlier-stage collaboration between philanthropy and government.
- The issues affecting child and youth wellbeing are interconnected and weave across multiple systems.
 - To achieve systems-level change will require whole-of-systems approaches. For government, this may mean e.g., greater flexibility in the commissioning and contracting of services. For philanthropy, this may mean e.g., pursuing cross-sector partnerships and investing in systems innovation.
 - Driving systems change also means considering the impacts of colonisation and thinking about how intergenerational trauma can be addressed. This requires new (or old) thinking about the way resources are understood, used, distributed and governed.
- Children and young people exist in the context of their whānau and community. It is important to consider and support the community's readiness to respond to and help deliver wellbeing outcomes for our children and young people, in order to fully deliver on the CYWS' intentions for impact. This means investing in and growing community capacity and capability.

Philanthropy-Government partnerships

- Continued engagement is needed to build stronger trust and partnership between the New Zealand philanthropic sector and the Government. Currently, the differences in mandate and approach can too often present barriers to effective collaboration; with government frequently not having the mechanisms or institutional behaviours required for effective partnership.
- The engagement between philanthropy and government is often focused on scaling specific initiatives that have proof-of-concept through philanthropic investment. If more impact is to be leveraged from government-philanthropic partnerships in the future, they need to:

- Be developed as high-trust, authentic partnerships.
 - Be more intentionally co-designed from earlier stages of development.
 - Pool and shape resources strategically according to each partner’s unique roles/positioning.
 - Consider how risks will be shared.
 - Be shaped with a focus or scale beyond individual initiatives.
 - Reshape existing contracting paradigms.
- Bay Brighter Futures in the Bay of Plenty is trailing a collaborative model involving four philanthropic organisations and eight government agencies; setting shared priorities and developing shared investment opportunities. Learning from this model has shown that:
 - Philanthropy is typically more agile and able to respond to investment opportunities, and government often slows down the process.
 - Government often identifies too much risk in emergent opportunities, which creates doubt amongst philanthropic partners about whether their early investments will subsequently be picked up.
 - Government contractual models can be a barrier when different ways of working are required to fully enable potential solutions.
 - The Ministry of Youth Development Partnership Fund is focused on generating new collaborative opportunities between government and philanthropy. Through this fund, MYD is able to be more nimble than other agencies and this has opened the door to more effective partnerships with philanthropy.
 - Responding to learning from these examples, it is important that the CYWS considers and includes fundamental principles of partnership with the philanthropic sector – and other investors/stakeholders.

Government reviews – whole-of-system opportunities

- There are multiple systems reviews currently being led by the Government – including justice, mental health, child and youth wellbeing and Whānau Ora. In the wake of these reviews, there needs to be opportunity for strategic conversations about how the philanthropic sector can support emergent government priorities – aligning our respective responses to generate greater impact.
- It is also important for the philanthropic sector to understand how the findings of these reviews are being woven together by and within government.
 - Where are the emergent opportunities for philanthropy to work responsively to insights, challenges or opportunities identified across these reviews?
 - What roles can philanthropy play in joining together the findings of these reviews, and exploring whole-of-system implications/responses?
- The Charities Act review may also have significant implications on philanthropy’s and community’s role as change agents within the child and youth wellbeing space. In particular, the review’s position on advocacy and its role within civic society could be a key barrier or enabler.

Summary messages:

- Government's focus on child and youth wellbeing presents strong opportunities for partnership with the philanthropic sector around a shared interest issue.
- There is significant need and opportunity for government-philanthropic partnerships to be more intentionally co-designed and systems-focused.
- It is important that the respective roles of government, philanthropy and community in delivering the outcome intentions of the CYWS are well defined.
- The philanthropic sector is strongly positioned to support the government's focus on child and youth wellbeing by:
 - Supporting innovation.
 - Working across government agencies to help connect and support whole-of-systems approaches.
 - Supporting young people, whānau and communities to participate in solution and systems design.
 - Sharing learning and insights about what is working and emerging.
 - Working in ways that are both universal i.e. across the 16 CYWS outcomes, and more targeted e.g., innovation to address priority needs.

Next steps:

The following actions were discussed by roundtable participants:

- A follow-up conversation may be arranged between DPMC and the philanthropic sector to feedback on developments following the completion of DPMC's engagement process (anticipated to be finished in early 2019).
- DPMC will follow up on suggestions to explore how the CYWS relates to and can support the Children's Covenant, which has been developed and led by the Henwood Trust.
- Individual trusts and foundations within the philanthropic sector have identifiable strategic intentions that relate to child and youth wellbeing. Mapping this across the sector may be a useful next step to support ongoing dialogue about philanthropy's role(s) in the context of the CYWS.
- There is opportunity for DPMC to further explore how the CYWS is activated as a strategy for all of community, as well as for Government. Designing and activating the CYWS as a shared strategy with the philanthropic sector may be achieved, for example, by:
 - Identifying/agreeing shared priorities, goals and wellbeing measures.
 - Identifying priority opportunities for collaboration and co-investment between government and philanthropy.
 - Identifying priority roles for the philanthropic sector within the CYWS outcomes framework.

- Building in mechanisms for regular strategic conversations between government and philanthropy to ensure shared engagement in and accountability to the CYWS.
- There is potential to explore a special interest conversation at the 2019 Philanthropy Summit. This would:
 - Provide opportunity for wider philanthropic sector engagement with the CYWS.
 - Inform/shape the philanthropic sector's big picture role(s) in activating the CYWS e.g. innovation for systems change.
 - Create space to explore cross-sector opportunities to activate this role(s).
- The philanthropic sector would like to see more visibility of how the various government reviews currently underway will inform the CYWS; as well as how these reviews will be woven together and the implications for the philanthropic sector. This may be achieved through further roundtable discussions between the philanthropic sector and cross-government representatives.

Appendix: Attendees

9(2)(a)

