



## 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>	Feilding and Districts Youth Board
<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?)	<p>The Feilding and Districts Youth Board services clients in the Manawatu and wider area. We are an NGO receiving funding from Oranga Tamariki as well as a number of smaller charities. We have one paid Co-ordinator and rely on approximately 10 volunteers and police officers from the community to operate.</p> <p>Our agency receives referrals from the NZ Police as an alternative action outcome to provide programme delivery for restorative justice. As far as we know, we are the only agency that delivers this programme in New Zealand as a response to youth offending and have been operating for nearly 20 years.</p> <p>We work with youth from primary school age up to 17 years old with a holistic framework of addressing offending and the ethos that a local community is best suited to look after the wellbeing of our youth.</p> <p>We have seen the Youth offending rates in our region reduce and the numbers of youth appearing in youth court decline dramatically.</p>

**Executive Summary:**

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

- A response to the framing of wellbeing for the initial Strategy and how this connects with the young people our agency work with and our community.
- How the proposed outcomes will enhance the wellbeing of young people who offend or are at risk of offending in our community.
- What we believe is needed in our community that the potential focus areas address and how this will aid in the reduction of youth offending.
- Allowing community organisations to be responsive to the identified needs of our communities with the underpinning of the child wellbeing strategy.

## Submission Content

The framing of wellbeing in the initial strategy encompasses the needs of children extremely well. The outlined areas address what is needed in a clear and digestible manner that would allow for agencies and care professionals to deliver well. For an agency such as ours, having the strategy as a guideline that not only describes the needs and outcomes at a base level but promotes delivery that allows children to thrive in a holistic frame is exceptional. For our agency we meet varying needs of our young people, but are often unable to meet all areas of need as it is not an expectation. Having the strategy outline what outcomes are necessary for the wellbeing of young people gives permission for us to advocate for these outcomes for every child.

For young people in our community that offend, we could absolutely state they are not currently receiving support in all of the areas in the strategies outcomes. If we had the resources to deliver programmes and support to young people and their families/whanau we would see an extreme drop in offending as we can connect offending to at least one deficit in the strategies outlined outcomes.

Our agency has seen a notable correlation between youth offending and educational opportunities, whanau wellbeing, housing and poverty. Our goals are to meet the holistic needs of our clients however, in reality we cannot stretch our resources that far. Having the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy as the benchmark for responsive service delivery for young people in New Zealand and our community together with responsible funding and resources given would mean the relief our community has been waiting for.

Having the proposed Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy as the underpinning of wellbeing for our tamariki brings together what communities, agencies and service providers need to do, in most communities this is collectively quite well known. Most communities, including ours it is also well-known what restrictions we encounter when trying to deliver a high standard of care. I ask that our requests for resources and support realistically allow agencies and communities to hold up the values of the child wellbeing strategy.

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the upper two-thirds of the page. It is intended for the user to enter their submission text.

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.