



## 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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**From:** JGD GD  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 December 2018 4:43 PM  
**To:** Child Youth Wellbeing [DPMC]  
**Subject:** Gore District Council Child Wellbeing Strategy Submission  
**Attachments:** Child-youth-wellbeing-strategy submission.docx

**Categories:** Green category, Yellow category

Kia ora

Please find attached a submission from Gore District Mayor Tracy Hicks to the Child Wellbeing Strategy consultation. A hard copy of the Hokonui Highway business case was previously provided in person JGD GD and contains more detail than this submission. I am happy to provide a soft copy of that if required.

Nga mihi

JGD GD

Gore District Council, 29 Bowler Avenue, PO Box 8, Gore 9740



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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>	Tracy Hicks, Mayor
<b>Email Address:</b>	JGD GD
<b>Phone Number:</b>	
<b>Organisation Name:</b>	Gore District Council
<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?)	The Gore District Council is one of three local authorities in Southland. We look after the Gore District, which covers an area of 1250km <sup>2</sup> and at the 2013 census had a population of 12,033. The two main towns in the district are Gore and Mataura, with the smaller settlements of Pukerau, Waikaka and Mandeville.
<b>Executive Summary:</b> (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>The work of the Hokonui Highway project, of which the Gore District Council is a lead partner, is well aligned with the direction of the Child Wellbeing Strategy. As such it strongly supports the intent of the Strategy.</p> <p>The Hokonui Highway project has identified/supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The need for an integrated approach to support the wellbeing and enable the success of children and young people;</li> <li>• The need for support from birth to early adulthood;</li> <li>• The goal of equality of outcomes for all children, through matching service delivery to need.</li> </ul> <p>This submission supports five of the six initial focus areas identified, but recommends that 'Children and whanau have equitable access to timely, good quality services' be promoted ahead of one of the other focus areas.</p>

## Submission Content

As a District, a significant amount of work has been done in this space through the Hokonui Highway project. The development of a Child Wellbeing Strategy closely aligns with and supports the direction of the Hokonui Highway Project.

The business case for the Hokonui Highway Project project has been provided to the DPMC for its information, and will provide insight into the approach taken and the proposed initiatives to address the local need.

This submission draws attention to some of the key considerations identified locally as essential to the success of an approach to support the wellbeing of young people, as well as comment on the proposed initial focus areas.

### **Key considerations**

#### *Need for an integrated approach*

We know many of the young people who do not manage to travel seamlessly towards adulthood display:

- poor academic achievement;
- disengage from education, training and employment;
- suffer from mental health, addiction, and/or general health issues;
- feature in youth offending, school stand-down and job seeker statistics.

Those displaying these 'symptoms' often come from a background of poverty (financial and/or spirit and mind).

Addressing any of those issues in isolation may provide a short term positive response, but long term, the range of issues that result in an overall lack of resilience, soon result in the original behaviours or challenges reappearing.

For long term outcomes there must be a coordinated and localised approach from individual case level to system level. This would need to provide improved access to universal services, enable early identification and intervention for those in need of additional support, better integration of services for those requiring multiple interventions, and ongoing pastoral care to ensure improved long term outcomes.

Current policy does not support an integrated or a localised approach. An integrated approach requires careful coordination, however, funding for coordination is problematic. Ministries, Government Departments and even philanthropic organisations are often willing to fund specific initiatives, but a successful integrated approach must be driven in a coordinated way, so coordination and navigation funding is a key requirement for success.

Government funding at a regional level is prescribed and limits investment in innovation. Often innovation is effected at a central level through national providers, which can make it hard to capitalise on the funding stream at a local level for locally led innovation.

#### *Need for support from birth through to early adulthood*

Many current programmes and initiatives operate around a specific age-group. This often results in individuals in need, and who could benefit, either having to wait (while their need remains and even grows), or being ineligible to access beneficial services.

For example, there is significant focus on 'NEETs', which is necessary and important. But it is essential there is a parallel approach working on the wellbeing of tamariki, to help reduce the number who enter their adolescent years already on a trajectory toward poor long term outcomes.

Further, it is essential work with tamariki and rangatahi also considers the needs of the immediate whanau. Factors in the home are fundamentally important to the development of resiliency and engagement, which will remain from childhood through adolescence, and into adulthood.

#### *Promote proportionate universalism*

We strongly support the delivery of services proportionate to the individual child's level of need to achieve equality of outcomes for all children, as outlined in the Scope and Public Engagement Process Cabinet Paper. This aligns with the vision of the Hokonui Highway Project: Success for all – no one left behind. To achieve this, we see availability of navigators (both whanau and youth navigators) as key. These will help to ensure the right service(s) can be delivered at the right time to those in need of support, and that ongoing pastoral care remains in place over an extended period to provide support through periods of challenge and adversity.

It has been observed locally the presence of 'poverty' and disadvantage (financial and nurturing) is the common factor in those requiring additional support. This is irrespective of ethnicity. It is acknowledged Maori and Pacific Island families are over-represented in lower socio-economic statistics. However, it has been anecdotally noted locally that an increasing prevalence in NZ European children growing up in sole-parent homes, without local family support, is leading towards larger numbers of these children requiring support.

#### **Proposed initial focus areas**

It is acknowledged that the 16 areas identified are all important for the overall outcomes of children and young people. However, we strongly encourage the inclusion of the outcome 'Children and whanau have equitable access to timely, good quality services' as one of the initial six focus areas. It is our belief that ensuring 'right service, right time' access to services at the earliest possible stage is essential to avoid poor long-term outcomes. Currently there are many reasons why access to timely, good quality service is not a reality for the majority. We see it as essential this is addressed rapidly.

If choice is required as to what focus area is picked up in a second tranche of the strategy: we support either 'Children are free from racism, discrimination and stigma' or 'Children are thriving socially, emotionally and developmentally in the early years'. Aspects of these can be initially addressd by the focus 'Children's mental wellbeing is supported'.

We would also propose that 'All children have an equal chance to gain the skills, knowledge and capabilities for success in life, learning and work' be progressed in a second tranche.

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.