



## **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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3 December 2018

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Parliament Office  
WELLINGTON

Email: [childandyouthwellbeing@dpmc.govt.nz](mailto:childandyouthwellbeing@dpmc.govt.nz)

Dear Sir/Madam

## **SUBMISSION ON THE CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY**

Hawke's Bay District Health Board (HBDHB) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy – proposed outcomes framework.

The focus of HBDHB is the health of the whole population of Hawke's Bay. By supporting health and wellbeing we aim to improve health, wellbeing and reduce inequalities in health outcomes for the people of Hawke's Bay, including providing feedback on documents that can influence health outcomes.

HBDHB has key responsibilities and commitments to the wellbeing of children and youth. These include providing a number of child and youth targeted services and showing leadership in improving wellbeing for children, youth and their whānau.

HBDHB supports the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, in particular the cross-sector and cross-party approach. The engagement and sustainability this approach provides has the potential to maximise the national contribution to the wellbeing of our children, young people and their families.

## **OVERALL FEEDBACK**

### **Child and Youth Wellbeing Outcomes Framework**

The title includes "Outcomes Framework" – however, the document reads more as a strategic summary. It is valuable to have a strategic direction including focus areas. To be an outcomes framework there must be clear outcome measures. We would be pleased to provide an example.

The desired outcome allows for wide cross-sector engagement including a range of government agencies, private and community sectors. The whole of society has a role in delivering wellbeing for children and youth.

This document's wellbeing focus is a strength. This includes the focus on building resilience and reducing

### **Cross-party approach**

It is very difficult for service delivers to achieve long-term change with whānau when a change in government leads to major changes in investment and disinvestment in services. We hope that cross-party support will provide consistency and allow delivery to be informed by evidence and community need.

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## **CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE**

Hawke's Bay District Health Board

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*Commend:*

*The cross-party approach.*

### **Life-course approach**

Research clearly illustrates that disadvantage and advantage accumulate from pre-conception, through pregnancy, birth, infancy, childhood and youth. There are many studies demonstrating that impacts from early investment (e.g., nurse home visiting) wane over time if not reinforced with further, age-appropriate investments through till adulthood (e.g., parenting programmes for school-age children, resilience-promotion in adolescence). A life-course approach to investment gives a clear structure for policy (e.g., age-appropriate investment with appropriate quality and outcome measures), ensures all developmental stages are included, and means the impact of early investment is not lost but compounds over time.

*Recommend:*

*A life-course approach to structure the outcomes, policy and investment framework for this strategy.*

### **Consistent definitions**

The Framework uses the term “youth” and this needs to be consistent with wider definitions including the World Health Organisation and government policies and for this reason, the age range covered should be 13 to 24 years. There should also be consistent use of youth – as this is not always interchangeable with the term “young people”.

*Recommend:*

*“Youth” be used consistently in the document.*

### **Tiriti O Waitangi**

Given the levels of inequity and our commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi, there needs to be specific outcomes for Māori and Pasifika, specifically the document needs to state it is Tiriti based.

*Recommend:*

*Specific outcomes for Māori and Pasifika.*

### **VISION**

The vision should express Parliament’s goal of equity of outcomes for children and young people. Also the need to for children and youth to identify what the “best” means, rather than the standard being set outside the New Zealand context. The Prime Minister expresses this clearly in her video.

*Recommend:*

*Aotearoa/New Zealand is the best place in the world for all to be a child or young person.*

### **WELLBEING DOMAINS**

*Commend:*

*The domains provide an effective overview of wellbeing.*

### **PRINCIPLES**

*Recommend:*

*Moving Principles 4 and 6 to an introduction or overarching statement to show that Te Tiriti o Waitangi and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child are informing the whole strategy, rather than the lesser status of guiding principles. These are also written into New Zealand legislation so have a different status in a government document.*

*Add a new principle, to ensure we are responsive to the developmental and individual needs of children and youth. See above re a life-course approach to policy and investment.*

## DESIRED OUTCOMES

*Commend:*

*We fully support the use of strength-based language.*

## PROPOSED FOCUS AREAS

*Recommend:*

These outcomes should be differentiated to reflect the unique developmental needs, particularly differentiating focus areas for children and youth.

### ***Are loved, nurtured and safe***

2 – include housing in this focus area as it is the space young children in particular spend most of their time. Homes contribute significantly to the safety of children and youth, for example most injuries and accidents happen in homes.

2 bullet point 3 – change the language “children and youth with a disability”.

### ***Have what they need***

6 bullet point 3 - change the end of the sentence to ensure clarity - this is on reducing costs to whānau, children and youth. Sentence could read “...minimise the cost and stresses of engagement for whānau, children and youth.”

6. – reword to “**Children and young people experience improved equity of outcomes, with services helping address the impacts of poverty, low socioeconomic status, disadvantage and disability**”.

*Add* – Children and Youth have home environments that support their developmental, social, physical, emotional and intellectual needs

- Home environments are safe from harmful toxins including tobacco, illicit drugs, alcohol
- Adults in the home environment behave in a manner that ensures the wellbeing of children and youth including being violence free
- Homes are safe places for children and youth

*Add* – Central and local government, community and private sectors provide supportive environments where children and youth can thrive in, i.e. reducing social toxins.

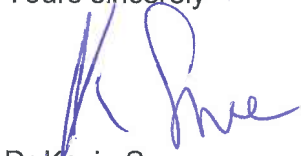
- Local government considers the impact of policy and by-laws on, and hears the voices of children and youth in particular access to and supply of alcohol, Smokefree environments, air quality, road safety and playgrounds in their planning
- Central government ensures advertising, online environments and technology support the healthy development of children and youth.

### ***Are happy and healthy***

11 - Change wording to “children and youth with a disability”. Add a bullet point – “Child and youth with a disability are supported with disability friendly environments to enable equity of access, including transport, built environments and services.”

Thank you for the opportunity to submit on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. We would like to speak to our submission.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Snee  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**