



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

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.

Contact Name:	Nicki Brady
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Phone Number:	9(2) (a)
Organisation Name:	Horowhenua District Council
Organisation description: (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 Horowhenua District is located on the lower west coast of the North Island bounded by the Tasman Sea to the west and the Tararua Ranges to the east.</p> <p>After a generation of population decline, Horowhenua is experiencing positive growth. In the last 12 months, the district's population grew by 1.7%, with 540 new residents. This brings our average annual growth to 300+ people year on year since 2013, which means that by 2038 about 41,128 people will call Horowhenua home.</p> <p>Horowhenua District Council (HDC) recognises that it is important for our residents to feel a sense of belonging and social inclusion in our communities. We want to create communities where people have opportunities to live, work, learn, socialise together and to feel confident and proud of their identity and heritage. Council plays a significant role in nurturing and supporting our communities to ensure we care for all, providing intergenerational wellbeing from our youngest to our oldest. We are a voice of our community and a leader on our local issues.</p>

Executive Summary:

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

HDC found it difficult to define wellbeing for children and young people during development of our Horowhenua 2040 (H2040) strategy, and struggled to identify a baseline to measure improvement against. For the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS) to be successful it must be underpinned by outcomes and focus areas, AND quality relationships, participation and good information.

CYWS includes wellbeing of children and young people - it must accurately reflect the approaches for different stages of children's and young people's lives (from in-utero to the transition to adulthood), focusing on attributes/strengths as well as difficulties/deficiencies.

To deliver the wellbeing outcomes sought over time, our children and young people need to contribute to their own solutions, drive innovation in products, services and social practices that suit them. The strategy and solutions relating to youth must be co-designed with them.

Horowhenua will be a place where children and young people are included and enabled with the opportunity to lead inspired ways for reimagining our social, cultural and economic spaces. A pilot opportunity exists alongside H2040 to support CYWS with a local baseline and framework for measuring and managing what matters to young people, children and their caregivers.

Submission Content

Why is the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy important to us?

Horowhenua District Council (HDC) undertook a twenty year Long Term Plan (LTP) 2018 – 2038 involving pre engagement and consultation with our communities. As part of the LTP process Council reviewed our community outcomes to ensure we were best positioned to meet the current and future needs of our communities. Six community outcome areas were adopted:

- Partnership with Tangata Whenua
- Thriving Communities
- Vibrant Cultures
- An Exuberant Economy
- Stunning Environment
- Enabling Infrastructure

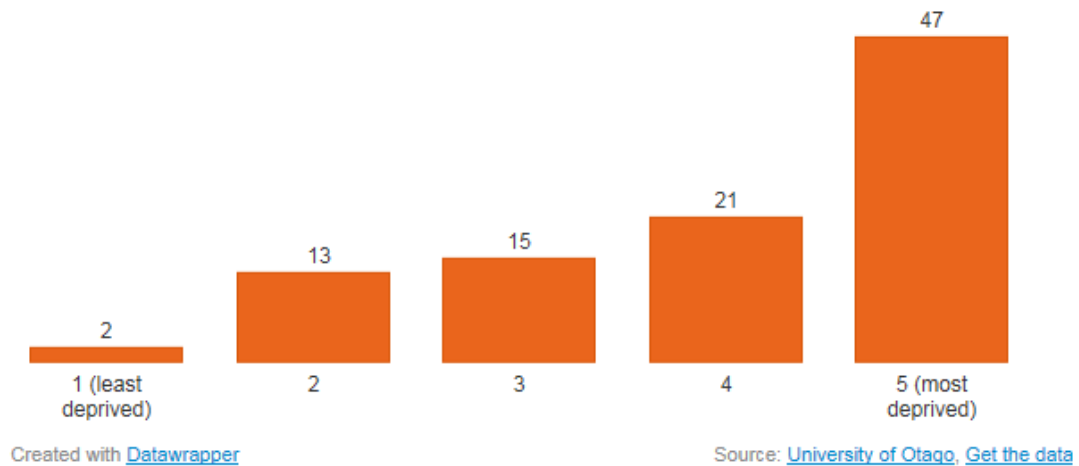
In June 2018 HDC developed a Green Paper to stimulate conversation in our communities on intergenerational wellbeing across Horowhenua, supported by our community outcome areas. The Green Paper was endorsed by our Community Wellbeing Committee (see *appendix one*) and Council.

At the heart of our vision and priorities we want our children and young people to have the best possible start in life, to go on to achieve their potential, and to be independent and resilient throughout their lives.

When looking to the future wellbeing of Horowhenua we considered the background of our recent past and our current community profile. In reviewing the aims of the CYWS a number of our current statistics show that there is significant opportunity in Horowhenua for positive change:

- The population of Horowhenua is disproportionately younger and older than the NZ average.
- Horowhenua has twice the number of dependents as NZ (0-14 and 65+).
- 22.8% of Horowhenua stated their ethnicity as Māori. The comparative for New Zealand is 14.9% which shows Horowhenua is above average.
- 16.7% of 0–14 years are living in crowded households.
- NEET rate, which is disengaged young people from education, training and employment, is 19.4%.
- The mean household income for Horowhenua was \$63,800. This is the lowest in New Zealand and only 66% of the national average.
- GDP per capita was \$27,683 for the year to March 2017. This was the third lowest in the New Zealand and only 49% of the national average.
- Twice as many children (0-5 years) have risk factors for negative social outcomes than national average.
- The rate of reported family violence offences is the second highest in NZ.
- 47% of the population of Horowhenua live in the highest quintile of socio-economic deprivation, based on the New Zealand Index of Deprivation 2013 (Figure 1).
- District population grew by a further 1.7% (540 new residents) in the year ended June 18. This brings our average annual growth to 300+ people year on year since 2013, which means that by 2038 about 41,128 people will call Horowhenua home.

Figure 1: Percentage of the Horowhenua population living in each socioeconomic deprivation quintile



The CYWS vision is for NZ to be the best place in the world for Children and Young people. For us to understand how this will be achieved in Horowhenua, we engaged the minds and hearts of our Youth Network (see *appendix two*) to help us out.

We asked our Youth Network to tell us their views...

We asked them as young people to share their views on support they need, and they said:

- Home – love, support, food, stability and boundaries
- Strong neighbourhoods
- Parents/Caregivers – good support, knowledge of services and advocacy
- Cultural support and connections
- Life skills and resilience
- Strength based approaches
- Learning support
- Counselling services
- Education – empower young people, be positive role models and ensure easy access to health
- Places to be young
- Awareness programmes
- Resources and funding

We asked them as young people to share their views on what issues impact them, and they said:

- Puberty development
- Cultural identity
- Family harm
- Peer pressure
- Bullying
- Gender and sexuality
- Sleep deprivation
- Society expectations

- Lack of parenting skills
- Finances
- Trauma
- Social media – pressure to “always be on”
- Neglect
- Nutrition
- Minimal connection with sport and recreation
- Housing
- Isolation
- Offending
- Family dynamics
- Mental wellbeing
- Absenteeism

We asked what is working well for young people in Horowhenua, and they said:

- Existing agencies
- HLC initiative for young people to achieve driving licences
- Dedicated Youth Space within Te Takeretanga o Kura-hau-pō
- Youth Network group
- Two fantastic Iwi
- Council with a hands on approach to youth needs
- Community willing to collaborate
- Pathways to tertiary education HLC & UCOL
- Job opportunities from work occurring around roads (NZTA)
- Horowhenua Family Violence Intervention programme
- Health shuttle
- After-school care

We asked what is not working so well for young people in Horowhenua, and they said:

- Lost funding for life skills education
- 4-6 weeks wait for counselling from PHO
- Long waiting list for referrals to health services
- No advocacy available
- Drugs – young people failing drug tests
- Lack of meaningful work
- Compounding problem due to long waiting times at A & E i.e. youth seated in shared waiting areas
- No safe space for kids in A & E
- No 24hr A & E for Horowhenua
- Lack of affordable, safe and dry housing
- More inclusive spaces needed
- More accessible spaces and programs for all
- Need parent run programs for things such as ASD
- Lack of affordable public transport (and education required around what is available)

We asked their views on what would enable positive change in Horowhenua, and they said:

- Student ID to access transport/buses 18+ cards (similar to Goldcard subsidy)
- Affordable healthy housing
- Food and Nutrition (fruit and vegetables no GST)
- Quality Healthcare without the waiting times
- Celebrating success – Yr 13 graduation incentive
- Funding for advocacy and pilots
- To be heard nationally
- Pathway transitions (based on life stages including living skills)
- Tighten laws on high sugar energy drinks
- Reduce accessibility of alcohol in vulnerable neighborhoods and communities i.e. buying beer and wine at local dairy

How do our aspirations in Horowhenua align to CYWS?

Our goal through Horowhenua 2040, across all ages and stages in life is to create conversation in our communities that helps people to think together. In an environment where our neighbourhoods are growing, it is important that conversation occurs across our communities with regards to the opportunities and challenges this brings for us as a district.

We want everyone in Horowhenua to live longer healthier lives and enjoy positive health and wellbeing. The best possible start to life will enable our children and young people to fulfil their potential, make a contribution and be more resilient to life's inevitable challenges.

We believe our health is shaped by the relationship between our individual characteristics, our lifestyle and our environment. We also know that poverty, education and employment have a significant influence on health and wellbeing and we are focused on addressing these broader determinants of health.

Social and economic factors affect our life chances, aspirations, health and wellbeing. Poor education, low skills and qualifications, insecure employment, low pay, welfare, high crime and a range of other things affect the resources available to an individual or family to live in a way that most of us take for granted.

How can NZ society work together?

We are caught in an inescapable network of mutuality, tied in a single garment of destiny. Whatever affects one directly, affects all directly.

~ Martin Luther King Jr.

How we imagine NZ society working together looks like this:

A group of people thinking together. One person has an idea, someone else builds on that idea, and another person adds to that idea. The thoughts flow within the group rather

than degenerating into people trying to convince one another of the rightness of their views. The original idea grows and so, too, do the possibilities.

Investing time in building a common understanding of the vision for CYWS across NZ, and at a local level will commit all of us to the outcomes and build a sense of joint ownerships for the work ahead of us.

We want Horowhenua to become a place of opportunity for all, where regardless of a person's background there are no barriers preventing them from achieving their full potential, and we want to focus our activity on reducing deprivation in the areas where we can have the most impact.

There are families and individuals in Horowhenua who struggle to cope with long-term and entrenched multiple complex needs. These can often include difficulties with low income, domestic abuse or violence, addiction and substance misuse, mental health problems, physical disability or long-term ill health and anti-social behaviour and crime.

We want to provide support to these families and individuals, coordinate the input from public agencies, and work with them to address the underlying causes of their vulnerabilities.

We have proven our ability to work collectively with our Iwi and community partners in Horowhenua neighbourhoods to make a difference. Together we want to reduce the impact on our communities and on public sector costs, but also help people "turn their lives around", develop resilience and raise aspirations together.

What challenges have we faced when trying to define childhood wellbeing in the context of Horowhenua 2040?

The focus areas which we are currently exploring in the context of our children and young people in H2040, are aligned to the proposed outcome and focus areas of CYWS.

The challenge we have faced with our focus areas is consideration as to where we are now and thereafter measurement of improvement over time in these areas.

The challenges in our thinking and research to date, which may also be relevant to the questions DPMC are asking of New Zealanders through this feedback process are summarised below:

- A large focus of our H2040 strategy kōrero has been around the value rangatahi bring to dialogue on our future, and the importance of ensuring continued development of our youth to make meaningful contributions. This has identified that wellbeing and child/youth wellbeing in particular, are widely used concepts but are hard to define in a way that is easily understood by everyone.

- There appears to be a lack of data which is disaggregated according to age, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexuality or by wider socio-economic or inclusion markers.
- Definitions differ of age stages in comparison to other strategies that include children and young people. Consistency needs to be achieved to ensure the work we do is not at cross purposes.
- In the past it appears to have been a common theme that younger children tend to be excluded from surveys, therefore their voice is not captured for comparison. This makes baselines and views of where we have come from difficult to define.
- Cultural implications of wellbeing are not well understood, yet our cultural heritage in NZ is such an important part of who we are.
- There are evident difficulties in making comparisons in child and youth wellbeing using indicators across widely variable contexts.
- We have found that there is limited data available in one place, or easily pulled together to paint the bigger picture on child and youth wellbeing in New Zealand and aggregated down to Horowhenua. To address this particular challenge, Horowhenua District Council has partnered with Figure.NZ (*see appendix three*) to pilot working within communities in the Horowhenua where together our aspiration is to bring a new perspective on data. One where data is a language in which everyone can be fluent. Through our work with Figure.NZ we will explore the many factors that go into making great decisions. This includes knowing how to ask good questions, how to listen to those who have important lessons to share with us, and listening to our instincts.

Horowhenua Social Sector Trial

In Horowhenua there is a strong history of collaboration. In 2011 central government funded a trial for which the Horowhenua District was one of six trial sites. The Social Sector Trial tested innovative ideas and service delivery models aimed at decreasing youth offending, truancy and levels of AoD use and increasing participation in education, training and employment. The trial was led by NGO Life to the Max Horowhenua and involved numerous social service agencies and key central government partners.

The successful five year Social Sector Trial in Horowhenua transitioned to a community led model in 2016, adapting and customising programmes and services to meet local needs. Sixteen trial areas were undertaken, Horowhenua was one of ten that was supported by the government to transition to a community led model.

Horowhenua was acknowledged through the Social Sector Trial for always being focused on the big picture and making positive changes long-term for the wellbeing and benefit of the district.

What are our ideas for leading your Vision?

Horowhenua can pilot taking a collaborative whole-of-community approach toward solutions to ensure the best possible start to life and childhood in Horowhenua. Our district size makes us ideal, a successful pilot in our location can be scaled up or down to help and inspire the rest of the country.

The pilot should start with community conversation that engages people in collaboration. If we bring the appropriate people together in constructive ways with good information, it is our belief that they can create authentic action plans beneath the CYWS for achieving the expected outcomes in Horowhenua, and New Zealand.

Locally a high rate of change in our sectors exists and therefore an important first step in the pilot would be to assess the readiness of the community to move from the vision CYWS outlines to planning how we get there. This stage cannot be rushed as this will enable a collaboration to realise who should be part of the conversation in order for the collaboration to have the credibility to effect change.

By doing this at the outset, we are also admitting that the solution is not necessarily ours alone to fix and that the solution may take some time to realise. We recognise that the conversation which has been started by the Prime Minister itself is a big part of the solution.

It is important to ensure our children and young people are at the centre of collaborative design to ensure any solutions developed work for the people they're intended to serve. A pilot in Horowhenua that draws on the talents, skills and perspectives of children and young people in our community and across the sectors who connect with them enables learning together and a shared understanding of the opportunities.

A multi-agency pilot approach to working together to create a baseline, as well as a framework for measuring and managing what really matters to young people, children and their caregivers will enable the successful delivery of our shared vision and priorities.

Focusing on the needs of our local places and communities together we could really make a difference in enabling our children and young people to achieve their full potential.

Closing Statement

The opportunity presented with CYWS is for DPMC to support Horowhenua through a local led pilot where children and young people are not only included but enabled with the opportunity to lead alongside the Crown and our community groups.

The big issue as we see it here is that data has often been collected as a by-product of other services, rather than collected by design to solve a specific problem. That has been because before the widespread use of the Internet it simply wasn't possible to do what we can do today. Now though, we need to put in a concerted effort to step back to ask ourselves 'what don't we know that we wish we knew, and what would we do differently if we did know' and using that framework to guide our data collection and analysis.

Furthermore, it is very important that people follow the 'nothing about you without you' principle with new data collection, where the people having data collected on them, in this case our children and youth are involved in the design of identifying what matters.

We feel strongly that our Horowhenua 2040 strategy and partnership with Figure.NZ positions Horowhenua favourably to work together with our Iwi and community partners to input to the CYWS development and deliver a practical application of a pilot locally.

Appendices

Appendix One - Community Wellbeing Committee

The Horowhenua Community Wellbeing Committee meet regularly with a membership as follows:

- Iwi Partners (representatives of Muaūpoko Tribal Authority and Ngāti Raukawa)
- Pasifika Partners
- MidCentral District Health Board
- Compassion Housing
- Housing NZ Corporation
- Ministry of Social Development
- Oranga Tamariki
- NZ Police
- Ministry Of Education
- Education Horowhenua (representatives of college, intermediate and primary schools)
- Horowhenua Learning Centre
- Disability Leadership Representative
- Youth Voice
- Department of Internal Affairs
- Life To The Max
- HALT (Family Violence)
- Department of Corrections
- Horowhenua/Otaki Childrens Team
- Horowhenua Interagency Collective
- Whaioro Trust

- Older Persons Network Representative
- Horowhenua District Council

Appendix Two – Youth Network

The Horowhenua Youth Network meet regularly with attendance by youth, volunteers, community groups and agencies who work with young people. Representation includes but is not limited to:

- Iwi Partners (representatives of Muaūpoko Tribal Authority and Ngāti Raukawa)
- Pasifika Partners
- MidCentral DHB
- Horowhenua Learning Centre
- Oranga Tamariki
- Life to the Max
- Mana Whaikaha
- Horowhenua Youth Health
- Ministry of Social Development
- Horowhenua District Council
- CAP Life Skills

Appendix Three – Figure NZ

Figure.NZ is a charity devoted to getting people to use data about New Zealand, so we can all better understand our country and care for our future.

You can find out more about Figure.NZ here <https://figure.nz/>

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.