



## 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>	N/A
<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>I am providing this information as an individual. I work as a 9(2)(a)</p> <p>We have approximately 9(2)(a) who we employ to work with Children and Young People and their Whanau, through provision of Primary Health Care, Specialist Youth Services, Mild to Moderate Primary Mental Health services, Outreach Immunisations, School Based Health Services and Parenting programmes both for young dads, and young mums (Healthy Babies Healthy Futures) 9(2)(a)</p>
<b>Executive Summary:</b> (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>I support the concept of a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy which is mandatory for the government to report on, regardless of the party elected to office. This ensures Children and Youth will receive the attention to their Well-being that they so deserve.</p> <p>In order for the strategy to be a success, SIGNIFICANT workforce development planning is essential. The tsunami of mental health presentations in recent years make it difficult to meet the needs of patients, and this is only set to increase.</p> <p>Accessibility for all should also feature more prominently in the strategy.</p> <p>I and my colleagues envisage a future in NZ where Children and particularly Young People are seen as a resource to be developed, not a problem to be solved, where their contribution to their community is valued and appreciated. We would</p>

recommended that the DPMC closely involves the Ministry for Youth to ensure that Young People are equally represented in the strategy.

### Submission Content

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to this Child and Wellbeing Strategy. It was a privilege to attend the Auckland Hui on the 30th of November at Ko Awatea.

At the Hui, Maree Brown outlined the bill process, which will ensure that every future government in New Zealand is required to report and account for their actions in line with the strategy. This is a significant step in improving the lives of our tamariki and rangitahi in Aotearoa and I fully support this. For too long, New Zealand has had alarmingly high rates of child abuse and neglect, and it is my hope that future governments will have to account for their efforts to reduce child abuse to ensure a safe country for children and young people to grow in.

In order for the strategy to be a success, SIGNIFICANT workforce development planning is essential. The tsunami of mental health presentations in recent years make it difficult to meet the needs of patients, and this is only set to increase. We struggle in our daily work to connect our Rangitahi referred to our Primary Mental Health Programme with our providers- a workforce shortage of available counsellors contributes significantly to this. We cover mild to moderate referrals for young people aged 12-24 years. Secondary Mental Health Services cover moderate to severe referrals. There is a significant gap between our interpretation of moderate and theirs; a young person has to be in significant IMMEDIATE risk to themselves or others to meet their threshold for accepting and triaging due to limited staff available. Our staff are also limited and are therefore taking on more and more risk with young people as mental health referrals and acuity continue to rise. While our organisations try to work in partnership it is the young person that suffers as they are bounced between organisations who decline referrals based on not enough staff to cover the risk. Eventually, we end up taking most of these patients as we are conscious the longer they remain in the administrative state the longer they have to wait for the care they so badly need, and this will be further compromising their mental wellbeing. This means that our team often carry significant risk of young peoples mental state, which could all be solved with additional resource and staff availability. With an aging population of health workers, this needs to be a core focus of this government to address the next few decades of Youth Wellbeing.

Accesibility for all should also feature more prominently in the strategy. Our Youth Workers and Outreach workers support whanau with limited or no transport and accessibility of services needs to be available to all to ensure equitable services. We know that Maori and Pacific Island populations have significant health disparities when compared with european counterparts, and we need to work hard to improve equity, not further compromise it.

I envisage a future in NZ where Children and particularly Young People are seen as a resource to be developed, not a problem to be solved, where their contribution to their

community is valued and appreciated. I would refer you to Bob Blums PCAP model of Healthy Young development, where young people are supported by

-People who believe in them and support them, and grow up in families who love and care about them

-(opportunities to) Contribute to family, neighbourhoods and community,

-Activities in school and their community to develop a sense of belonging, worth, and contribution

And

-Places to recreate and build relationships with other young people supported by adults

We are pleased to see many of these aspects involved in the Child and Youth Strategy Outcome Framework so far. Additionally, I would suggest that you underpin your strategy by the Framework also laid out in the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa, which outlines necessary values to ensure young people are thriving in New Zealand.

Finally, I would recommend that the DPMC closely involves the Ministry for Youth to ensure that Young People and their value in Aotearoa are equally represented in the strategy. They are our future leaders, nurses, doctors, teachers, business leaders, politicians and parents of the next generation. Let's support them to be involved and heard and make meaningful contributions to their futures.

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.