



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.

An external party holds copyright on this material and therefore its re-use cannot be licensed by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

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:	9(2) (a)
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Organisation Name:	[Please include if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation]
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?)	
Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>Ensure it is easy for people to refer a child to Oranga Tamariki if they are concerned</p> <p><i>At the moment if I try to make a referral of concern to Oranga Tamariki by email, (email preferred as am not usually in an environment where I can share sensitive information verbally.) It takes a while to navigate how to make a referral then I learn that only professional registered practitioners can do this!</i></p> <p><i>So Just another barrier.... Avoid referral, another child slips through the cracks.</i></p> <p>Cross-Agency Communication</p> <p><i>I am also in a situation where i see and discuss some horrific youth incident records (current and historic) that include serious abusive behaviours where noone has reported or referred onwards or they have without any outcome and because I am not the org/agency that recorded these details (only reviewed) I am unable to share the information to make a referral or to escalate.</i></p>

There shouldn't be any barriers in fact a possible solution could be a database that accumulates these teachers reports and raises a "redflag" or alert system with Oranga Tamariki around keywords or grades of seriousness.

Immediate Action once referred

Teachers in schools know when students come from households that are violent and are aware that school is their safe haven but are reluctant to discipline or stand these children down because of the environment at home is dangerous. (this puts others at risk) They make reports and referrals of incidents but CYFS that do not act immediately make a paper "assessment" that deems their home as "safe" when the entire community are well aware that it is not! This has 2 roll on effects. 1. The teachers become desensitised, and stop reporting in fear of the outcome. 2. The other children are exposed to ongoing abusive behaviour

Exclusion from school

Exclusion from schools is the answer for the safety of everyone else other than the child in question but the followup is what? MOE follows up with education but what about their wellbeing? Every excluded child should have an assessment in regards to safety and wellbeing not just education and their home environment assessed. Exclusion from school to a vulnerable child is sometimes Rejection from the only safe space they have.

Submission Content

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.