



## 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?)	N/A
<b>Executive Summary:</b> (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>My thoughts on the:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vision Statement: “New Zealand is the best place in the world for children”. This is brilliant, no improvement possible. When I read this, I was really encouraged.</li> <li>2. Wellbeing Domains: These are great, no changes</li> <li>3. Desired Outcomes: These are great, no changes</li> <li>4. Seven Principles: These are great, no changes</li> <li>5. Sixteen Focus Areas: I am overall happy with these but please consider adding an element of ‘timeliness’ and ‘equitable access’ to these focus areas. Each area may be achieved to a high quality but if, for instance, landlords are enabled to be unnecessarily sluggish, or if health or other services are under-resourced and there are unacceptable waiting times, then delays may undermine what are otherwise excellent goals. Sometimes good services are available but pricey. See below.</li> </ol>

## Submission Content

I offer a heartfelt thank you to the DPMC for offering up the proposed Child Wellbeing Strategy. Reading this document was very encouraging for me. I am a General and Developmental Paediatrician in training, and the often stated goal for my field paediatrics is 'to enable every child to fulfill their highest health and developmental potential'. When I read the document, I was so heartened and it is wonderful to have a government that cares about children.

I am very pleased with the holistic framework, the lack of deficit-framing, and the positive vision for children and whānau.

My only suggestion relates to the wording of the 16 proposed focus areas. I am overall happy with these but please consider adding an element of 'timeliness' and 'equitable access/low or zero cost' to these focus areas. High quality services need to be combined with timely delivery and equitable access.

Each area may be achieved to a high quality but if, for instance, landlords are enabled to be unnecessarily sluggish, or if health or other services are under-resourced and there are unacceptable waiting times, then delays may undermine what are otherwise excellent goals.

For instance, the strategy states "neurodisability and neurodiversity are recognised, with children and young people receiving quality services and support" – this is great but for many children with developmental and behavioural issues that I see in paediatric clinic, it's not the quality of the service that's the problem, it's the waiting list that's challenging. Access to behavioural support for parents in Auckland can take 9 months or more of sitting on a waiting list. These delays can be very detrimental to whānau wellbeing. Also, access can sometimes be prohibitively expensive. For instance, there is access to educational psychologists for children with neurocognitive disabilities but requires parents paying privately for assessments at my DHB.

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.