



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 Names:	9 (2) □ (a)
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Organisation Name:	IPA Aotearoa New Zealand
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>IPA Aotearoa New Zealand is the National branch of the International Play Association (IPA World).</p> <p>IPA Aotearoa NZ, as an NGO has a small committee supported by over 40 members who work as volunteers nationally campaigning to promote the value of play. We are an interdisciplinary organisation bringing together people with a wide range of expertise and passion who work for and with children to protect, preserve and promote every child's right to play (Article 31)¹ http://ipaworld.org/ http://ipaworld.org/ipa-declaration-on-the-importance-of-play/ http://ipaworld.org/ipa-position-statement-on-the-play-rights-of-disabled-children/ http://ipaworld.org/childrens-right-to-play-and-the-environment/</p> <p>¹ ~Article 31 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child</p> <p><i>“That every child has the right to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.</i></p> <p><i>That member governments shall respect and promote the right of the child to participate fully in cultural and artistic life and shall encourage the provision of appropriate and equal opportunities for cultural, artistic, recreational and leisure activity.”</i></p>

<p>Executive Summary:</p> <p>(Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)</p>	<p>Overall comment :</p> <p>We believe that it is vitally important to highlight in the introduction to this document, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as part of the obligations each nation has to the well being of their children, birth – 18 years.</p> <p>We understand that the Convention must be seen as a whole and that all the rights are linked; however, of significance for IPA Aotearoa NZ members concern Articles 3, 12, 13, 23 ,28,29,30 and in particular Article 31, the child’s right <i>“to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.”</i></p> <p>General response</p> <p>We wholeheartedly support the intent of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. IPA Aotearoa NZ joins with others in commending the government on this holistic approach which is a significant development for all children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for families, communities and our nation</p>
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Submission Content



[P] **International Play Association-IPA Aotearoa New Zealand**

IPA is an international non-governmental organization founded in 1961, with members in 50 countries. IPA's purpose is to protect, preserve and promote the child's right to play as a fundamental human right.

IPA Aotearoa New Zealand is the National branch of the International Play Association (IPA World).

IPA Aotearoa NZ, as an NGO has a small committee supported by members who work as volunteers nationally campaigning to promote the value of play. We are an interdisciplinary organisation bringing together people with a wide range of expertise and passion who work for and with children to protect, preserve and promote every child's right to play (Article 31)²

Submission to the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet on the Draft Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy 2018

Contact: 9(2)(a)

IPA Aotearoa NZ members thank the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy 2018

Overall comment :

We believe that it is vitally important to highlight in the introduction to this document, the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child as part of the obligations each nation has to the well being of their children, birth – 18 years.

We understand that the Convention must be seen as a whole and that all the rights are linked; however, of significance for IPA Aotearoa NZ members concern Articles 3, 12, 13, 23, 28, 29, 30 and in particular Article 31, the child's right "*to rest and leisure, to engage in play and recreational activities appropriate to the age of the child and to participate freely in cultural life and the arts.*"

General response

- We wholeheartedly support the intent of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. IPA Aotearoa NZ joins with others in commending the government on this holistic approach which is a significant development for all children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for families, communities and our nation.

We recognise the value of the seven principles but suggest a further principle:

- **Principle 8 No child can be discriminated against on the grounds of the current or prior status of their parent/s**
- - We suggest that term '*Treaty of Waitangi*' be replaced with '*Te Tiriti o Waitangi*' as first affirming the Māori language versions, and second tying the principle into UNDRIP.
 - We particularly congratulate the government on its foregrounding of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
 - We join with others in the Tick for Kids coalition in suggesting that the *Child Impact Assessment Tool* be used to support any revision of the proposed outcome framework, and all further development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.
 - We commend the Government maintaining the rights of children at centre of the Strategy; the focus on the voices of children and the child's right to participate in matters affecting them following the promise of Article 12 is paramount and will uphold the respect and mana of each and every child.
 - We endorse the Tick for Kids recommendation that the policies be audited regularly to avoid any implications of things that are 'done to' children, rather than with them.
 - We ask that further explanation be reflected in the Strategy documents to make clearer how the proposed outcomes framework will be operationalised, to drive substantial change in policy and practice, so that children's wellbeing is improved and their rights are promoted and protected.
 - Maintaining centrality of addressing the Te Tiriti o Waitangi rights, we also suggest that the *Child Impact Assessment Tool* utilise other international instruments such as the UN Convention for People with Disabilities and the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
 - We are pleased to see the breadth of the focus areas which include for example affordable housing and reduction of child poverty. Equity of outcomes is of the essence. If we are to fulfil the Coalition Government's goal for Aotearoa to be the best place in the world to be a child, then all parents, whānau and caregivers must have a liveable income'.
 - We considered that it is every child's right to acquire and use their home language for learning and living
- **Toi te reo
(protect the language)**
- Toi te tangata
(protect the people)**
- Toi te mana
(protect the mana)**

IPA Aotearoa NZ follows others in endorsing the addition of a new layer to the proposed outcomes framework, between the 'principles' layer and the 'desired outcomes' layer, "enabling settings and processes", and should include aspects such as:

- a. Government Budget and investment
- b. Government and community resources
- c. Community-based capability and capacity
- d. Partnership between Government and communities and community-based organisations especially between iwi and hapū
- e. Legislation, policies and practices that promote and protect children's rights
- f. Cross cutting policies (e.g. including data protection policies, privacy settings, etc)
- g. Child rights and wellbeing training (to support and enable implementation of the Strategy)
- h. Mechanisms to enable children to participate in matters affecting them

We applaud the Government's intent that each and every child's wellbeing will include access to quality public education spaces that provide equity of access and time for play, for learning, for development, and for learning to care for each other and our environment..

We presume that the Strategy will dovetail with the consultation with the Ministerial Advisory Group on the Early Learning Ten Year Strategic Plan and the Tomorrows' Schools review.

We believe that when each child can access locally responsive and linguistically and culturally sustaining educational settings that the Government led commitment to the mana of each child as a member of a family and community can become a reality.

We support the Tick For Kids recommendations as follows:

- roles of different stakeholders and child rights duty bearers to be made more explicit in the proposed outcomes framework and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy work, importantly the various roles of government, NGOs and community-based organisations, families and whānau, parents and caregivers, iwi, hapū, and the business community/private sector.
- partnership between government and those organisations and people who are directly caring for, supporting and servicing children and young people every day will be essential in achieving the vision and outcomes of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy in practice. It is essential that the sense of ownership for the implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is fostered and held more widely than just by government.
- that funding to support evidenced based initiatives provides continuity and consistency for children and young people.

More specific recommendations:

Wellbeing Domain 1 Are loved, nurtured, safe and playful

Desired Outcomes

2. Children, young people and their parents, caregivers, families and whānau are able to spend quality time together and have access to spaces for play and recreation

3. Children and young people are kept safe from accidental injury at home, in the community, on the road and when taking part in sport and recreational activities but have opportunities to play and to assess and grow skills for engaging with risks in natural environments.

Wellbeing Domain 5

Are playing, communicating, learning, and developing.

Desired outcomes:

2. Children and young people have access to time and spaces for play, develop resilience, develop emotional, behavioural and communication skills at home and in education, and are equipped to make successful transitions, including to primary school, secondary school, and into adulthood

4. Children and young people have time and space for developmentally and ability appropriate opportunities and challenges within and outside the 'classroom' that build confidence and important life skills

Potential focus areas-We suggest the following underlined amendments and consider it important that opportunities for calculated risk taking in play are considered as a significant part of every child's wellbeing.

Focus 2.

Bullet pt. 3 The particular vulnerability of children with diverse abilities and young people to accidental injury is addressed

Focus 4.

Bullet point 4. Housing is supported by quality infrastructure and community facilities to enable good quality of life, positive social connection, and access to spaces to play, cultural activities, expressive arts, and recreation.

Focus 5.

Bullet pt. 1. Children, young people and families and whānau have the resources they need to meet children's basic needs, including good air and water quality, and opportunities and experiences that enable them to participate fully in society.

Focus 6.

Bullet pt 2. Parents, children and young people have the ability to influence the way they get support so it works best for them including access to use of home languages.

Bullet pt 3. Core services and systems like health, education, justice and social support with access to qualified interpreters and are designed and delivered in ways that meet diverse needs and that minimise the costs and stresses of engaging with them.

Focus 7.

Bullet pt. 2 No child or young person, or group of children and young people, faces discrimination or stigma on the grounds of ethnicity, language, abilities, gender, or prior experiences (such as prior refugee status), or for any other reason

Focus 8.

The cultures and languages of children, young people and their families and whānau are recognised, enhanced and supported

Bullet pt. 3 Children and young people see their cultures, languages, values and context portrayed in a positive way

Focus 9.

Bullet pt 1. Additional

• **Children and young people are supported to access knowledge and understandings of their rights.**

Focus 10.

Bullet pt 1 Children and young people and those caring for them have the knowledge and resources to make healthy decisions about food, play, exercise and sleep

Bullet pt. 2 Communities offer access to affordable, nutritious food and indoor and outdoor environments that enable children to be physically active, play, and take risks.

Focus 12.

Bullet pt. 3. Children and young people with emerging mental health needs are identified and they and their families and whānau receive quality, linguistically and culturally appropriate support

Focus 13.

Bullet pt. 2 . Children and young people consider the impact of their behaviour on others through early familiarization with their rights and responsibilities

Focus 14.

Bullet pt 3. Services for parents and babies are accessible, linguistically and culturally appropriate, meet a range of needs and support parents to build the lives they want for their babies including support and access to the heritage/ home language/s such as NZSL.

Focus 15. Children are thriving socially, emotionally and developmentally in the early years from birth -6

Bullet pt 1. Parents, families, whānau and communities are supported to provide loving, stimulating environments for children to play, learn and develop.

Bullet pt 3. Children develop effective communication skills to support learning and social success in home languages and English with access to te reo Māori

Bullet 4. Children benefit from high quality play and early learning and including daily access outdoor environments and nature.

Bullet 5. Children's learning needs are identified quickly, and responded to in a timely way, including through additional qualified learning support and support for family and whānau

Focus 16.

Bullet pt 1. High quality education for all children and young people is assured, given the intrinsic value of education, and its role in enabling children and young people to meet their academic and social potential and in ensuring they have opportunities and options for meaningful work and contributions to family whanau and community once they leave school

Bullet pt 2 Children, young people, their families and whānau have a voice and can help shape their learning, skills and cultural /artistic opportunities

Bullet pt.3. There is equity in access to quality learning and achievement among children and young people of different experiential backgrounds such as refugee backgrounds, languages, socio-economic groups and ethnicities

Bullet pt. 4. All children and young people can take part in a full range of opportunities to play with and develop expressive talents through creative arts, modes and media.

Play is the highest expression of human development in childhood for it alone is the free expression of what is in the child's soul. Fredrich Froebel

Compiled by 9(2)(a) on behalf of the executive committee

IPA Aotearoa New Zealand.

December 4th 2018

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.