



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:	9(2) (a)
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Organisation Name:	Koha Kai
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?)	Koha Kai is a Whanau Ora style organisation supported through the Te Putahitanga o te Waipounamu commissioning agency. Initially established to support people with disabilities to improve their own health and wellbeing by improving their ability to support their nutritional needs, through a series of progressive steps we began delivering this service in a local, low decile primary school. Our structure is Charitable Trust, governed by a Board of Trustees. We are currently servicing 5 schools and one Kohunga Reo for three days per week in Invercargill. We have a catchment of approx 1100 children in Invercargill, and we are supporting one school in regional Southland (Tuatapere) with a further 103 children in that school. We grow our own vegetables to be used in the meals we cook, through school gardens we have established in some of those schools. We currently have nine FTE's supporting 31 people through our Vocational Training Programmes. We are also supported by eight community volunteers throughout both streams. Together we are growing food for and cooking approximately 900 school meals per week. This programme is sustainable in that the cost of producing and selling the food is currently running slightly better than cost neutral. We believe Koha Kai is scaleable as has been proven by the fact that we now have a successfully operating satellite school in Tuatapere. We further believe that we can and should be a nationwide initiative and our long term strategic plan supports this belief.

Executive Summary:

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

- Koha Kai has been operating since March 2013
- Became a Not For Profit Charitable Trust May 2015
- Offers two vocational education programmes, Hospitality and Horticulture for marginalised and isolated people
- Provides meals to children in six primary schools and one Kohanga Reo for three days each week
- Has an MOU with each school participating in the programme
- Eliminates stigma of poverty for children by the way the service is delivered
- Is supported by the wider community through donations of time and of money
- Currently funded by Local and to a lesser extent Crown Funders
- Programme is a self sustaining Social Enterprise Business (NFP)
- Contributes to the local economy by sourcing locally wherever possible (\$127,956 plus wages in the 17/18 financial year)
- Narrative from schools indicates our programme is supporting increased functionality and connectivity for children through the schools we participate in
- Meets or exceeds nutritional guidelines established through NZ Nutrition Foundation and NZ Heart Foundation
- In 2015 one of our schools received their Heart Smart School because of our contribution and connection
- Recognised both locally and nationally with Business Excellence, Community Participation, Environmental and People and Capacity Awards
- Working with local Iwi to diversify and extend our range of influence

Submission Content

Koha Kai has now been operating successfully in low decile primary schools in Invercargill since 2014. We have a Whanau Ora approach to our service, that takes into account the intellectual, physical, emotional, mental health and cultural needs of everybody who participates in the programme. We consider ourselves primarily to be a vocational education programme supporting people who have been marginalised and isolated by the fact that they live with the challenges of disability. Where and how we deliver that programme is within primary schools and kohanga, supporting the needs of the children within those environments. We are able to address issues of poverty among children, because sponsors in the community provide some meals through their financial contributions, and those meals are ordered using the same voucher system as those children whose parents choose to purchase meals in advance. No more waiting until a teacher is able to deliver the dreaded “School lunch” which many children would prefer to NOT have – rather than be faced with the stigma of having to receive food from the office. Narrative (and written) reports from schools indicate children who have been subscribing to the meals we cook are able to demonstrate greater functionality in the classroom and are generally more receptive to learning, than they were prior to Koha Kai Lunches in Schools programme began.

Parents have, and do continue to demonstrate and speak of their gratitude for the work being done by disabled people, providing good quality, wholesome and nourishing meals for their children, and it is not only those children at the lower end of the socio-economic scale who are benefitting from our programme. Many people who are time poor also subscribe to our programme to ensure their childrens nutritional needs are met.

Since the people who are delivering the service are disabled, it is giving our children the opportunity to see strong role models from the sector, and it gives them the chance to formulate positive and inclusive validation as they are growing up.

Koha Kai seeks to “Encourage a Life of Purpose” for people with disabilities. It does this by offering a valued service to the wider community through providing healthy, nourishing, wholesome meals at a very affordable cost through Primary and Pre-primary schools. So it addresses both Child Poverty and Child Hunger issues – as well as Vocational Education for people with Disabilities. But in addition, participants in the programme have seen and demonstrated better long term health outcomes (reduced reliance on medical interventions) social outcomes (reduced reliance on social support). Employment outcomes have increased with just fewer than 50% of our participants having achieved employment as a direct result of their association with Koha Kai, and we are now able to deliver educational outcomes NZQA Foundation Studies Level 1 and Level 2 Horticulture.

Koha Kai is changing the culture and the outcomes in schools for children, the health, social and employment outcomes for disabled people and we are also supporting our elderly and infirm in the community through the sales of surplus food from the Lunches in Schools programme, eliminating waste, and we are doing it all by applying the te ao Maori principles as outlined through the Whanau Ora Commissioning Mandate – in a sustainable and replicable format.

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.