



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: childand youthwellbeing@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:	Tipu Ora, a division of Manaaki Ora Trust
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>Ki te rangatira, tēnā koe,</p> <p>Tipu Ora provides a wide range of primary health, social and education services and is accessible to all people living in the Rotorua district area. Tipu Ora’s education services operate nationally from Rotorua up to Whangarei and down to Christchurch. We focus on the health and wellbeing needs of children, their whānau and their extended whānau. Tipu Ora encompasses a holistic kaupapa Māori approach ensuring our clients receive a continuum of care, according to their needs over time and across a range of services.</p>
Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>As an organisation, we support the development of the Tamariki Tū, Tamariki Ora Strategy – the New Zealand Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. We share the same desired outcomes for the young people of New Zealand and will work in collaboration with other providers to ensure the Strategy is implemented effectively. We recommend the following themes surrounding universal support, affordability, safety and cultural identity to be included within the Focus Areas.</p>

Submission Content

On 31 January 2018, the Government introduced the Child Poverty Reduction Bill. The purpose of this Bill is to encourage a government focus on child poverty reduction specifically and child wellbeing generally.¹ Following this bill is the development of the Tamariki Tū, Tamariki Ora Strategy – the New Zealand Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. This Strategy is expected to align efforts by government and others to enable whānau to best support tamariki and rangatahi to achieve wellness.²

This is a fundamental strategy which will initiate ripple effects across layers within our community, directly effecting the whānau we work with. As well as the grossly disproportionate number of tamariki nationwide experiencing child poverty.³ In turn, failing to experience adequate wellness. Furthermore, our workforce reflects the whānau we serve. This strategy will not only impact those we work with but also those who provide the service. It will have a significantly affect upon the way we provide our model of care to whānau, and our abilities to empower our clients to make effective changes to best support their tamariki.

We are writing to express our insights and recommendations regarding the proposed Strategy. This submission is intended to represent the views of our staff who work on the front-line supporting those with high needs. As a kaupapa Māori health, social and education provider, we also uphold the voice of tangata whenua. A group that has been historically marginalised and voice-less during government decision making.

The Framing of Wellbeing for the Initial Strategy

We commend the wide range of sectors that have been considered while developing this framework. Wellbeing is a complex concept that is difficult to capture using traditional measures of wellness.⁴ To enhance the Wellbeing Domains, we advocate that Māori measures of wellbeing are utilised during this developmental process. As opposed to traditional Western measures, the application of Māori

¹ Office of Minister of Child Poverty Reduction and Officer of the Minister for Children, (2017). *Process for Developing the First Child Wellbeing Strategy*. Retrieved from URL <https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/cabinet-paper-process-developing-first-child-wellbeing-strategy-jan-2018>

² Office of Minister of Child Poverty Reduction and Officer of the Minister for Children, (2017). *Process for Developing the First Child Wellbeing Strategy*. Retrieved from URL <https://dpmc.govt.nz/publications/cabinet-paper-process-developing-first-child-wellbeing-strategy-jan-2018>

³ Duncanson, M., et al (2017) *Child Poverty Monitor Technical Report*, Available at URL <http://www.nzchildren.co.nz/>

⁴ Health Promotion Agency (2018) *Wellbeing and Mental Health Distress in Aotearoa New Zealand*, Retrieved from URL file:///C:/Users/npiesse/Downloads/Wellbeing-And-Mental-Distress-Snapshot-2016-Final-FEB2018%20(2).PDF

concepts of wellness develops a clearer concept of wellbeing as holistic.⁵ Māori and Pacifica continue to be overrepresented within all social, health and justice sectors.⁶ This strategy is an opportunity to recognise that Western models of care have not worked for Māori and Pacifica. A fundamental shift must occur to recognise the importance of delivering Māori frameworks for the benefit of all. Now is an opportunity to develop a strategy that truly reflects those they're trying to serve.

The Strategy's focus is improving the wellbeing of all children. Particularly, the wellbeing of children with greater needs and those overrepresented within Oranga Tamariki such as Maori and Pacifica children.⁷ Research shows that community led programmes, as opposed to external leadership, are overall more effective and sustainable.⁸ Greater representation and leadership from relevant groups during the developmental period of the Strategy will enhance the overall effectiveness and ensure we "do it with" not "do it at" key groups. Consultation and leadership opportunities for rangatahi, tamariki and Māori and Pacific people throughout the developmental phase is essential. This includes substantial involvement in future reviews of the Strategy.

Desired Outcomes

The Desired Outcomes of the Proposed Outcomes Framework highlight key focus areas to achieve maximum wellbeing. As an organisation, we agree that each of these areas require special attention from government if New Zealand is to be the "best place in the world for children".⁹ Following discussions with staff, the resulting themes have emerged as areas which require emphasis if the Government intends to implement meaningful change.

Support for All New Zealanders

Staff members have reported many of their clients do not qualify for additional support because they are not categorised as 'extremely low socio-economic'. However, as income disparities continue to

⁵ McNeill, H, (2009) *Maori Models of Mental Wellness*. Te Kaharoa, Volume Two, Retrieved from URL <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/56362893.pdf>

⁶ Marriot, L., Sim, D (2014) Indicators of Inequality for Maori and Pacific People. Victoria School of Business. Retrieved from URL https://www.victoria.ac.nz/sacl/centres-and-chairs/cpf/publications/working-papers/WP09_2014_Indicators-of-Inequality.pdf

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⁸ Superu (2015) *Effective Community-level change: What makes community-level initiatives effective and how can central government best support them?* Retrieved from URL http://www.superu.govt.nz/publication/effective_community_level_change_report

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increase,¹⁰ these whānau struggle to provide adequate emotional and physical support for their tamariki. A mounting body of evidence concludes preventative and early intervention programmes are associated with positive outcomes.¹¹ Loosening criteria restrictions and providing universal support for all whānau will be immensely beneficial for New Zealand society at large. By targeting only those with the highest and most complex needs, the Government will fail to achieve its vision of “New Zealand [as] the best place in the world for [all] children”.¹²

New Zealand is an Affordable Place to Live for All

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy has identified sixteen potential focus areas to counteract child poverty and support wellbeing.¹³ These focus areas are broad and capture a wide range of issues effecting New Zealand children.

Tipu Ora staff have emphasised the need to prioritise the following issues within these focus areas to achieve wellness:

- *New Zealand whānau have access to affordable, nutritious foods such as fruits and vegetables*
- *Diabetic and obesity inducing foods to be less accessible to all New Zealanders and affordable alternatives are provided*
- *Regular engagement in sporting activities are available to rangatahi and tamariki at minimal cost to the whānau*
- *Regular engagement in arts and music are available to rangatahi and tamariki at minimal cost to the whānau*
- *Nappies and milk formula are available to all New Zealanders at minimal cost to the whānau*
- *Sanitary items are available to all New Zealanders at minimal cost*
- *Birth control options is available to all New Zealanders at no additional cost*

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¹⁰ Ministry of Social Development (2018) *Household Incomes in New Zealand: Trends in Indicators of Inequality and Hardship 1982 to 2017* Available at URL <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/monitoring/household-incomes/>

¹¹ SUPERU (2016) *Youth Mental Health Project* Available at URL

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Children are Safe at Home, Schools and Online

Bullying is a prominent experience for New Zealand youth in verbal, physical and cyber forms.¹⁴ This is commonly experienced in school settings.¹⁵ Research has shown that bullied students have lower self-esteem, suffer more from depression, stress and hopelessness, and are more likely to think about and attempt self-harm and suicide than others.¹⁶ For New Zealand children to achieve wellness, bullying prevention strategies in schools and better whānau support around bullying must be incorporated within this framework.

Alcohol Outlets are Inaccessible to Low Socio-Economic Areas

As an organisation, we witness first-hand the negative affects drug and alcohol dependency have upon whānau. Higher rates of alcohol and drug dependency exist in low socio-economic areas.¹⁷ A cluster of liquor stores in impoverished areas harm local communities by contributing to crime, damage, death, disease, disorderly behaviour, illness, injury or violence.¹⁸ Safer communities serve as a protective

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¹⁸ Westland District Council (2013) *The Health Impacts of Alcohol in the Westland District and the West Coast* Available at URL <https://www.cph.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/westlanddraftlapsubmission.pdf>

factor for youth wellbeing.¹⁹ We urge the Government to limit liquor store outlets in impoverished areas to enhance child safety and increase wellbeing.

New Zealand Tamariki and Rangatahi have a Strong Sense of Identity

A strong sense of cultural identity serves as a protective factor against stressors during adolescence. Engagement in Māori culture and practices lead to a stronger ethnic identity among Māori youth, which in turn leads to higher wellbeing levels over time.²⁰ We advocate that Māori history, tikanga, kawa and Te Reo is taught to all New Zealand children within the mainstream education system. We encourage school-wide Marae visits and opportunities to reconnect with the whenua. In turn, this will promote a sense of community, purpose, self-respect and increased wellbeing.

The Strategy in Action

To enhance effectiveness, Strategy targets must be developed. The development of targets must be done in consultation with all affected groups. Accountability to these targets must be held at government and community levels. The Strategy also must be reviewed regularly to ensure relevancy to New Zealand youth. To implement this Strategy, local communities must have adequate resources to carry proposed actions. This includes greater availability of social workers, nurses, midwives, therapists, mentors, psychologists and Māori/cultural advocates.

Summary

As an organisation, we support the development of the Tamariki Tū, Tamariki Ora Strategy – the New Zealand Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. We share the same desired outcomes for the young people of New Zealand and will work in collaboration with other providers to ensure the Strategy is implemented effectively. We recommend the following themes surrounding universal support, affordability, safety and cultural identity to be included within the Focus Areas.

We commend the challenge to embrace this issue but recognise that it must be done right, we stress to Government to not shy away from making sure this strategy is truly aspirational for all. We will be closely monitoring the development of the Strategy and anticipate the positive effects this will have upon the wellbeing of the young people and their whānau within New Zealand.

Nāku noa, nā,

Research and Evaluation Unit

Tipu Ora

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¹⁹ Wilkinson, A., Lantos, H., (2018) *How School, Family, and Community Protective Factors Can Help Youth Who Have Experienced Maltreatment* Available at URL https://www.childtrends.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/SchoolFamilyCommunityYouthMaltreatment_ChildTrends_July2018.pdf
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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



Manaaki Ora Trust



Submission by

Tipu Ora, a division of Manaaki Ora Trust

05 December 2018

Re: Tamariki Tū, Tamariki Ora Strategy – the New Zealand Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

Ki te rangatira, tēnā koe,

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Summary

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Nāku noa, nā,

Research and Evaluation Unit

Tipu Ora

Manaaki Ora Trust