



## 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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5 December 2018

Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet  
Office of the Chief Executive  
Level 8 Executive Wing  
Parliament Buildings  
Wellington

Tēnā koutou,

### **Submission: Proposed Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy**

Thank you for providing Masterton District Council with an opportunity to submit feedback on the proposed Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

### **Context**

Masterton District Council is the northernmost council in the greater Wellington region. We have eleven elected representatives, with two iwi representatives (Rangitāne o Wairarapa and Kahungunu ki Wairarapa) appointed to council committees.

Over a quarter of our population is under 19 years of age (26.6%).

Our Māori population is growing (17% between 2001 and 2013) and with a younger population, we expect a higher proportion of Māori youth.

The number of 15-24-year olds that are not in education, employment or training (NEET) is higher than the national average (21.9% in the Masterton district compared to 12.1%).

Some of the challenges that children and youth face in our district include:

- household incomes that are below the national average, with one third earning less than \$33,000 in 2013; and
- household poverty levels. The New Zealand Deprivation Index (NZDep) is a measure of relative deprivation in New Zealand. For Masterton's urban



area, NZDep13 ratings range from 7 to 10, meaning Masterton's urban area is within the third most deprived in New Zealand.

## Our Feedback

**Support for the Strategy:** We support the development of a Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, and the proposed outcomes framework. We see opportunities through this strategy for both central and local government to work together to make a genuine difference to the lives of children and youth in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

**Alignment with our Strategic Direction:** We see strong alignment between the proposed framework's desired outcomes and our own strategic priorities and community outcomes. In particular:

- Our Wellbeing Strategy, *He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua* which focuses on development across all four wellbeings (social, cultural, environmental, economic). The intent of *He Hiringa Tangata, He Hiringa Whenua* is to guide our contribution towards improving the wellbeing of our residents and communities.
- Our Education Strategy, *Te Hiringa i te Mahara* which sets out how we can support education within our district.
- Our Youth Rangatahi Strategy was developed to improve and integrate youth development work for the benefit of all youth and rangatahi across the Wairarapa region.

Our Wellbeing and Education strategies were adopted in February 2018. These strategies illustrate the synergies between central government aspirations at a national level, and our own aspirations at a local level. Having alignment between central and local government objectives will enable real progress to be made.

**Partnership Opportunities:** Realising the outcomes identified in the Strategy, and in our own strategies, will require a collective effort. We welcome opportunities to work in partnership with DPMC and other government agencies to support the implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.



**Role of Local Government:** As stewards of our community we see our role as providing a 'local lens' and creating local solutions that will contribute to the outcomes identified in the Child and Youth Wellbeing strategy.

**Support for focus areas:** Sixteen potential areas of focus have been identified in the Strategy, with six prioritised initially. We support these areas of focus, noting that reducing child poverty is listed first in cabinet papers. We strongly support the need to reduce poverty and meet basic needs, such as housing and food which are key determinants of health and wellbeing, as an immediate priority. We strongly encourage actions that address access to affordable, healthy food within the context of addressing hunger.

**Support for progressing international commitments:** We support progressing New Zealand's commitments to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child, along with other related commitments, via the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

## Conclusion

We look forward to the adoption of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy and opportunities to work in partnership with DPMC and other government agencies on its implementation.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to make a submission on the proposed Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

Nāku noa, nā

Lyn Patterson  
MAYOR