

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.

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| Contact Name: | 9(2)(a) |
| Email Address: | Office@mentored.org.nz |
| Phone Number: | 0278009537 |
| Organisation Name: | [Please include if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation] |
| 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>Our community group aims to direct people, resources and opportunities to the most at risk children in our community. We provide 1:1 mentors in school aimed at lifting achievement through increased engagement and SUPPORT.</p> <p>We also take opportunities such as cooking, science, art , music and sport to the children as they would ordinarily not be able to access them.</p> |
| Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words) | <p>We are delighted to see reference to helping children recover from trauma. However, currently there is little option for referring children who have experienced trauma to any restorative organisation for therapeutic support.</p> <p>It is very important for these children to have more support directed to them. The schools know who they are and school is a great place to reach them at a young age but teachers are too busy.</p> <p>Children in the care of Oranga Tamariki or who have involvement with such agencies need more support than any other group.</p> |

Submission Content

[Please replace this text with your submission]

My husband and I have witnessed children as young as 6 and up to the age of 13/14 being excluded from school due to behaviour as a result of their Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs). We decided to do something about this in our community by placing a volunteer mentor with children identified by the school as needing more support. The school is a safe place for us to work with the child – we always get parental/caregiver permission and all our volunteers are police vetted and trained in Child Protection.

In order for vulnerable children to be well supported there must be a method of providing ongoing support to these children. Their needs cannot usually be met by one teacher in a large class. If they are referred to RTLB this is a short intervention. These children need consistent and enduring support and access to opportunities. We have created our group because we know that between MSD and MoE the funding is not there to provide the wellbeing support these children need.

My husband and I have been caregivers for Oranga Tamariki for 4 years and set up our Mentoring Group to meet the need (in the absence of any other support) for these tamariki and others who are living in adverse situations. We provide Trauma and Attachment training to our volunteers. If we are at all interested in wellbeing this training should be rolled out in some capacity to teachers and social workers as it is in the UK.

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.