



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).

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- 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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NZEI TE RIU ROA SUBMISSION

ON CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY PROPOSED OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

December 2018

To: The Child Wellbeing Unit of The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

NZEI Te Riu Roa Submission

CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY PROPOSED OUTCOMES FRAMEWORK

INTRODUCTION

1. NZEI Te Riu Roa (NZEI) is the professional organisation and union that represents the interests and issues of its 49,000 members. Our members are employed as teachers and leaders in the early childhood education and primary sectors (including Kura Kaupapa Māori and Wharekura), support staff in the early childhood, primary, intermediate and secondary education sectors, school advisers employed by Universities and Colleges of Education, and Special Education staff employed by the Ministry of Education.
2. The main objective of NZEI is to advance the cause of quality public education generally while upholding and maintaining the just claims of its members individually and collectively.
3. NZEI is one of the largest unions and professional bodies in Aotearoa and has a long history of playing a positive role in the education sector and on wider social issues affecting our members and the tamariki and whānau they serve.

NZEI TE RIU ROA POSITION

4. NZEI Te Riu Roa appreciates the opportunity to give feedback on the *Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Proposed Outcomes Framework (the framework)* and would welcome any occasion to speak further to the The Child Wellbeing Unit of The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet about this submission.
5. Overall, NZEI Te Riu Roa is supportive of *the framework* and the principles that underpin it.
6. It is good to see that consultation has been a key feature of this work. However, there are concerns about the length of time that has been taken to develop and consult on the framework and the apparent lack of detail on the plan to achieve the outcomes.
7. NZEI Te Riu Roa also has concerns about the lack of commitment shown to Te Tiriti o Waitangi through the document. For example, Te Ao Māori is only mentioned in a few of the potential focus areas and is not woven throughout the framework.

8. As it stands, the framework largely sees children as a homogenous group. There is no clear reference to Pasifika children, who make up a considerable proportion of children in Aotearoa New Zealand and who should be reflected in the framework.
9. It is also important to consider the impact of the framework on migrant and refugee children. Currently, they are largely absent from the framework.
10. We would recommend that the Child Impact Assessment Tool is used to support any revision of the proposed outcomes framework, and all further development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. This will help to ensure that the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are holistically considered and reflected throughout the framework.
11. Over recent years, educators have had increasing concerns about the provision of support and resources to promote inclusive education. The wording in focus area 11 is inadequate and does not reflect a strengths-based approach to child and young people with disabilities and learning needs. We recommend that the wording is changed to “Disabled children and young people are assured of equitable opportunities and outcomes.”
12. We call for the language and framing used in the proposed outcomes framework to be more empowering for children and more inclusive, rather than framed in a way that it talks about things that are ‘done to’ children (an example of this is the third bullet point under focus area 8). The language used in the current draft is mixed, so we recommend that the language is updated to be more empowering for children throughout, thereby recognising their rights.
13. The importance of quality public education, from Early Childhood to tertiary, is implied in the framework. However, the right of children to free, quality, inclusive, bi-cultural public education should be made explicit.
14. Early childhood services and schools are the place where much of the work underpinning the framework will occur (second only to the home and whānau). This should be included in the framework.
15. Regarding focus area 9, a further bullet point could be added “children and young people have opportunities and are supported to engage in environmental protection and promotion”. As this focus area is currently framed, it places a burden on children to be

protectors or guardians of the environment. A further bullet point could be “Children and young people live in a healthy and sustainable environment”.

16. Regarding focus area 13, the second bullet point needs to be reframed to be about children and young people understanding their rights and responsibilities and the rights and responsibilities of others. NZEI Te Riu Roa is suggesting that a bullet point should be added relating to children’s Article 12 right to participate and have their views heard in matters affecting them, and decision making processes and structures supporting this.
17. Regarding focus area 14, this should be reframed to be up to the age of three, given the wealth of evidence that exists documenting the crucial and significant development that occurs in the first 1000 days of a child’s life.



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Te Manukura

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