



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:	Hiraina Tarawa
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Phone Number:	07 895 8818
Organisation Name:	Ruapehu District Council (RDC) 
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?)	Ruapehu is one of New Zealand’s largest districts by land area yet has one of the smallest permanent population counts which is made up of many small, diverse and geographically spread out rural communities. It has an area of 6,730 square kilometers and, as at the last census, had a population of 11,844, of which 40% identify as Maori, and 25% are youth and tamariki.

Submission Content

1. Introduction

The Ruapehu District Council (RDC) would like to thank the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the opportunity to make a submission on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. RDC believes this will be a fundamental step in building the foundations for a cohesive, nationwide, and government wide approach, giving all children in Aotearoa the best possible start to life and ability flourish.

RDC commends the Government and supports the aspirations and intent of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

As part of the submission process, RDC worked with youth groups and advocates across the Ruapehu District. The views this generated are reflected in the submission alongside discussion on the rural and urban divide, the inclusion Te reo Maori and other key languages, and the development of a realisable plan to support the finalised strategy.

2. Comments

2.1 RDC strongly supports the development of a Government strategy to improve child wellbeing in Aotearoa.

2.2 RDC believes that the wellbeing domains, desired outcomes, principles and potential focus areas, contribute to strong foundations upon which to build a brighter future for all our children.

Ruapehu Youth Ambassadors

2.3 Of particular interest to Ruapehu youth ambassadors and the Council is principle seven; 'collective responsibility to nurture the children and young people in our communities, and to support and value the adults who are caring for them'.

2.4 In light of the landscape of challenges that young Ruapehu residents face, and the current climate across the country, the Ruapehu youth ambassadors believe that focus area four regarding "affordable, quality housing" is of particular value.

2.5 RDC would like to recognise the value of focus area four and the acknowledgement of the role of families/whanau in this area.

2.6 Youth ambassadors cited that they need help to feel that they belong, have opportunities to become valuable contributors and have access to tools to support their vocational aspirations which are vitally important. This coupled with RDC's desire to ensure young people in the region have the necessary skills, support and opportunities to keep them on positive pathways means that focus area four' is of additional value to the Ruapehu District.

General Comments

2.7 RDC recognises the significance of focus area eight "the cultures of children, young people and their families and whanau are recognised, enhanced and supported.

2.7.1 In line with this, the Council believes and recommends including a Te reo Maori title and headings in the strategy. Additionally, the Council believes the strategy should be made available in other key languages alongside a Te reo Maori version and an English edition.

2.7.2 The Council would also like to acknowledge four Tikanga based principles which are aligned to the values of the strategy and could be incorporated. These principles are;

- Kotahitanga, united and committed.
- Manaakitanga – sharing and caring.
- Whanaungatanga – whānau relationships, sharing and cooperation, honesty, respect, quality, openness.
- Mana – the capacity to enable equity, integrity and passion to exist and the determination to make a positive sustainable difference.

2.8 Given the low income rural setting of the Ruapehu District, the Council would like to highlight the particular challenges this brings for the districts youth, children and whanau. Healthcare, housing, education, support services and vocational support are often difficult to access.

2.9 The Council commends the government and the courageous step it has taken, in the form of a wellbeing strategy, to acknowledge the needs of the children in Aotearoa. RDC however would like to acknowledge that a strategy will need to be supported by a robust action plan to ensure the strategy and the aspirations it contains come to fruition.

3. Recommendations

3.1 Develop the strategy with a view of how it will translate in to a realisable action plan.

3.3 Develop Te reo Maori title and headings.

3.4 Ensure versions in English, Te reo Maori and other key languages are produced.

3.5 Clearly incorporate the four Tikanga based principles.

3.6 Acknowledge the urban rural divide.

3.7 Give consideration to how the strategy will translate and inform a realisable action plan.

4. Conclusion

RDC thanks you for opportunity to inform the initial Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. We look forward to future opportunities to work together on reducing child poverty and improve wellbeing outcomes for all our tamariki.

We hope the proposed strategy will help guide and reinforce the development of the Taumarunui Community Led youth wellbeing framework and future models being developed in the region.

For any further information please contact Hiraina Tarawa, Youth Liaison on ph. 07 895 8188

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.