



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.

Contact Name:	9(2)□(a)
Email Address:	
Phone Number:	
Organisation Name:	TOAH-NNEST Taiwi Caucus
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>TOAH-NNEST is a national network of those providing specialist services for sexual violence (SV) prevention and intervention: Te Ohaakii a Hine-National Network Ending Sexual Violence Together. TOAH-NNEST’s vision is for Aotearoa New Zealand to be free of sexual violence.</p> <p>The TOAH-NNEST Taiwi Caucus has 44 members from the SV specialist non government organisations (NGO) and approximately 40 associate and individual members from a wide range of allied NGOs.</p> <p>The wide spectrum of specialist sexual violence services represented by TOAH-NNEST Taiwi Caucus includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Primary prevention: Promoting healthy and respectful social norms in whānau/families, hapū, iwi and communities; • Early intervention: Crisis support for victims/survivors, including support in the criminal justice system, forensic medical services for victims/survivors and support for children displaying inappropriate sexualised behaviours; • Recovery and support for victims/survivors; • Longer term treatment for victims/survivors with high and complex needs; • Harmful sexual behaviour services for people who have perpetrated sexual abuse or harm on others.; • Specialist advice and training for government agencies and for professionals working with sexual violence e.g.

	<p>psychologists, counsellors, GPs, nurses, health workers, teachers, social workers; and</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promotion of law reform to increase the accountability of offenders.
<p>Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)</p>	<p>Mokopuna, tamariki, rangatahi, children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand experience high rates of sexual abuse, assault and violence, in. Sexual violence causes significant social, health, and economic costs to individuals, families, and communities. The Treasury has estimated that it is our most expensive crime. Based on the Treasury's research into the 2003/04 costs of crime, the estimated equivalent annual cost of sexual violence in 2012 was \$1.8 billion. Most of this cost is from victims/survivors suffering very long-term problems, such as pain, suffering, and psychological effects, which affect their ability to function well in society.</p> <p>TOAH-NNEST Taiwi Caucus submits its feedback to this framework under 4 categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Te Tiriti o Waitangi; • Primary Prevention of sexual violence; • Intervention when sexual violence occurs; and • NGO funding and workforce.

Submission Content

- **Te Tiriti o Waitangi**

- The proposed framework fails to position the Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Māori text) as the core public health policy and incorporate Māori worldviews, mātauranga Māori, Māori control or leadership. For example, the framework promotes (individual-orientated) autonomy and independence for rangatahi as the desired outcome rather than (collective-orientated) interdependence. Through the historic (and contemporary) breaches of Te Tiriti and colonisation the infrastructure of Māori society was devastated and these prerequisites of health were destroyed. To improve the wellbeing of Māori tamariki and rangatahi this devastation needs to be repaired economically, culturally and spiritually.
- Māori are not one of many ethnic groups in New Zealand they are Tangata Whenua; the indigenous peoples. As such under the Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (DRIP) (UN, 2007) Māori have particular rights in relation to health. These rights apply to adults and children alike. DRIP should be explicitly incorporated into the outcome framework.
- The presented outcomes framework fails to incorporate Māori worldviews, mātauranga Māori, Māori control or leadership. For example, the framework promotes (individual-orientated) autonomy and independence for rangatahi as a desired outcome rather than (collective-orientated) interdependence.
- From the Ottawa Charter (WHO, 1986) we know that certain prerequisites of health need to be in place for any person or group of people to meet their wellbeing potential. These include peace, shelter, education, food, income, a stable eco-system, sustainable resources, social justice, and equity. Through the historic (and contemporary) breaches of te Tiriti and colonisation the infrastructure of Māori society was devastated and these prerequisites of health were destroyed. To improve the wellbeing of Māori tamariki and rangatahi this devastation needs to be repaired economically, culturally and spiritually.
- It is also important to remain cognizant of Te Ao Māori where the wellbeing of the individual is interdependent with the wellbeing of the whānau system.
- Rather than the current framing, we suggest you align the outcomes framework with Whānau Ora Outcomes framework, which is a culturally grounded, holistic approach to improving the wellbeing of whānau as a group as well as tamariki and rangatahi needs within the context of whānau. The characteristics of this framework include:
 - Building **whānau capability**;
 - Putting **whānau needs and aspirations** at the centre;
 - Building **trusting relationships** between whānau and service providers, and between government agencies, iwi, hapū and service providers;
 - Developing a **culturally competent and technically skilled workforce**; and
 - **Effective leadership** from government and iwi to support whānau.

- **Primary Prevention of sexual violence**
 - Adequate and sustainable resources need to be invested in Kaupapa Māori and systemic prevention strategies.
 - Safe, healthy, thriving whānau and families are at the core of the prevention of child sexual abuse.
 - Shifting cultural norms that reinforce sexism, racism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism and other forms of discrimination are also key to creating communities free of sexual violence.
 - All professionals, working in the community, need to have mandatory professional development to know how to role model healthy safe relationships with children, identify at risk behaviour of sexual offending in adults, and have the ability to respond to disclosures of child abuse and neglect.
 - There is a lack of universal sexual violence prevention education across New Zealand via a 'Healthy Relationships' approach. The Education Review Office recently found that just 20% of NZ schools cover the topic appropriately which would appear to evidence this. Strategic systemic solutions need to be found and resourced to ensure that all children and tamariki and their families and whānau have information that supports safety, healthy emotional and sexual development.
 - All schools need to have child protection policies and consent education needs to become compulsory.
- **Intervention when sexual violence occurs**
 - Attachment is a primary driver of wellbeing and so it needs to be at the centre of all decisions, even those where safety is an issue. If primary attachment figures aren't safe and can't be made safe then state money would be better spend on resourcing and training caregivers so that children in care do not experience multiple changes. If home life is safe and settled (even if this requires training and paying specialist carers), then this can reduce the need for other therapeutic inputs over time.
 - Specialist Kaupapa Māori interventions need to be resourced and available across the country to ensure Māori mokopuna, tamariki and rangatahi are not further impacted by colonisation and institutional racism.
 - All children and tamariki and their family and whānau should receive appropriate trauma informed psychosocial support while investigations are occurring.
 - Trauma is a neuro-developmental injury. This means that the impacts are cognitive, physical, emotional, educational, and social. This reinforces the need for flexible support that is able to be accessed as needed throughout the child's development. It also means that trauma is the normal result of something that happens 'to a person' and is not a sign of weakness or lack of resilience.
 - Support needs to be made available when required over the course of childhood through to adulthood in a manner that allows easy access. An episodic approach is developmentally appropriate for many children and young people, however some with chronic disabilities will need support to be on-going.
 - The ACC ISSC offers a sound model for support that can be used and re-engaged with numerous times if required. Children

and their family's needs change over time and so an episodic framework is appropriate.

- Kaupapa ACC ISSC pathways need to be developed as the process does not take into account the needs of Indigenous children of Aotearoa.
- Urgent Law reform is required and alternative pathways established
 - In 2012 a consultation document with possible Law reforms for the prosecution of sexual crimes was published by the Law Commission with key recommendations. Law reform is required to ensure more people who commit sexual offences can be held accountable and get the support they need.
 - Māori justice solutions and pathways need to be developed and resourced.
 - Investigation process often fails children, as they are expected to disclose during a Video Forensic Interview for it to be valid in court. This can be problematic and leave children in unsafe situations.
 - Family court reform is required.
 - All judges, lawyers and police, involved in CSA cases, need to have specialist training so children are kept safe and their rights upheld.
 - Counsellors working with children can be required to attend court, as a professional, due to being a 'non-party', they are not eligible for any funds from the Court. This can make some counsellors reluctant to working with children and tamariki who have experienced sexual abuse.
- Child Protection Services – Oranga Tamariki
 - Our member agencies across the country experience a diverse responses from Oranga Tamariki in regards to (CSA):
 - OT care and protection staff have inconsistent understanding of CSA and how to investigate and intervene safely.
 - Families and whānau often experience OT interventions as distressing and disempowering.
 - In some areas there are high staff turn overs creating negative impacts for children who have already experienced trauma.
- **NGO funding and workforce**
 - Historically, sexual violence services in Aotearoa New Zealand have been under-resourced with limited capacity to meet demand, and Kaupapa Māori routinely experience even more under resourcing than mainstream. These services have typically been funded at a community level, without formal nationwide infrastructure or permanent funding to support them.
 - The Social Service Committee inquiry 2 highlighted limited unstable funding, a large volunteer workforce, variable quality guidelines and a lack of training are all issues that have affected the sexual violence social services sector. The

overall inquiry finding that current specialist sexual violence social services do not provide adequate cover and current funding approaches are insufficient.

- Having stable and effective services would significantly reduce the harm and costs of sexual violence in Aotearoa New Zealand. In March 2016 the Government acknowledged in its report that the sexual violence social services sector is a specialist sector that has been operating on limited funding since its inception. These contractual and funding arrangements have led to difficulties for the sector to build capacity
- There is a lack of child specialist workers in New Zealand, especially in the area of Kaupapa Māori SV work and trauma therapy for children and families impacted by CSA. The government needs to strategically think about the workforce development needs to achieve this ambitious wellbeing framework.

Key recommendations:

1. Consultation with whānau, hapū and iwi is necessary to ensure that this framework does support the wellbeing of mokopuna, tamariki and rangatahi Māori.
2. Even though family and whānau is emphasised in the strategy, it needs to be more front and centre. Without a safe base, any work with children is unlikely to be effective.
3. Preventing sexual violence, as well as other forms of violence and bullying, needs to be a component of the wellbeing framework.
4. When implementing this Wellbeing Strategy the Government needs to recognise and place value on what is already being done. This is important from a workforce point of view, as when feeling valued, people remain engaged. It is also vital to ask people what already works, rather than 'reinvent the wheel' and create another new approach with a pocket of funding to meet a specific need.

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.