



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:	Bridget Roche
Email Address:	9(2)□(a)
Phone Number:	
Organisation Name:	Vibe (Hutt Valley Youth Health Trust)
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>Vibe is a Youth One Stop Shop (YOSS) providing a range of primary health and support services to young people aged 10-24 years. We are based in the Hutt Valley, Wellington region, and our mission is to 'enable Hutt Valley young people to access services to promote their wellbeing'.</p> <p>Our kaupapa is to provide a range of youth friendly services under one roof to ANY young person. Vibe works with over 7000 young people across all our services.</p> <p>Vibe delivers primary health care services from eleven sites across the Hutt Valley (Lower Hutt, Upper Hutt, and Wainuiomata). This includes community based clinics, school-based services, mental health, counselling, and AOD support as well as clinics at the Epuni Oranga Tamariki care and protection residence.</p> <p>Vibe also provides a range of support services for young people, including group programmes, health promotion, educational workshops, youth work and social work support, community outreach, housing support, support for young parents and youth coaches who work alongside young people who are NEET or who need support to engage in and maintain employment or educational pathway Young people can come and chat with our staff, attend programmes and activities, or they can access more formal support through our youth work and social work staff</p> <p>We are part of a network of 11 independent YOSS across Aotearoa – from Whangarei to Invercargill.</p>

Executive Summary:

(Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)

I would like to acknowledge the courage and leadership shown by the government in recognising the need for Aotearoa to address issues of child and youth wellbeing.

The overall vision for the strategy is aspirational and definitely a worthy vision.

- There is an imbalance in regard 'children' and 'young people' within the draft strategy, and this will impact how the strategy and future policy are shaped if this is not rebalanced.
- Clarify definition of children and young people
- Align the CYWS with the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa.

Submission Content

1. Inclusion of 'Youth' separately in this framework is to be commended. However the late inclusion means that the draft strategy is still very weighted towards children and early intervention. Whilst this is understandable (and important), if this is not rebalanced we may miss a significant opportunity to acknowledge at a high level the importance of the transitions that take place during childhood/adolescence/young adulthood, and the different measures of wellbeing that are appropriate.

Child and Adult services often struggle to meet the particular needs of young people, and there is an opportunity for this strategy to provide leadership and guidance from an aspirational vision level ultimately flowing through to policy development and service design.

2. As a nation we are aware of the particular vulnerability of young people here in Aotearoa, it is critical that this strategy seeks to include specific focus areas relevant to young people, which will help us and hold us accountable to considering Aotearoa's youth as a population in need of particular care and attention.

Suggestion: That in the next draft, particular attention is given to creating visibility for young people. This could be done through ensuring there is robust youth and youth sector input into the design of the next stage.

3. CYWS page 3, point 16.
The definition of children and young people is confusing.
IF the governments vision is for the wellbeing of ALL children in Aotearoa, the strategy needs to consider ALL young people rather than targeting particular groups.

ALL young people can be considered to be inherently vulnerable due to age and developmental stage. If such a high level strategy starts to narrow this focus, my concern is that this will lead to confusion and potential limitation to access of support. This is specifically a risk as these high level ideas become policy, and then contracts.

The vision for ALL children and young people is aspirational and appropriate!

***Suggestion: To take the broader view of children/young people, and not create a range of exclusions within the strategy itself.
Definition could be simply an age range from in utero to 18 or 21 or 25.
Guided by other legislation and international obligations. Bearing in mind that current YDSA is up to age 25.***

4. The development of this CYWS should take into account the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa (YDSA), and ensure that there is alignment between these two strategies. The YDSA is currently being reviewed and therefore it would be timely for these two pieces of work to weave together.
5. I am not sure about the fit of the domain 'Children are supported to behave in pro-social ways'. I am not sure whether it is the tone of this that doesn't sit right, or whether it is the level of detail for such a high level strategy.

Should such a high level document should be focusing more on the context we are providing for young people eg: when I think about drug taking, alcohol etc I think more about the social context we live in that creates environments of risk.

Is this strategy aimed at adults and other decision-makers in Aotearoa, who have responsibility to consider the impact of their decisions on children and young people in Aotearoa eg: selling of legal highs, liquor stores in community neighbourhoods etc.

I do think that this domain links with the other one about 'children's physical safety' in regard to 'the community, physical, policy and regulatory environments working together to promote children's physical safety. But the safety aspect could be broadened to overall wellbeing.

Suggestion: Rview the fit of this domain in context of the overall focus of the strategy.

Consider broadeneing the domain about 'children's physical safety' .

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, occupying the upper two-thirds of the page. It is intended for a user to enter their submission text.

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.