

## **Proactive Release**

The following document is proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction:

**Title:** Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: Monitoring of Strategy Implementation 1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

**Date:** 20 August 2020

Some parts of the document would 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 relevant section of the Act that would apply is identified. Where information has been withheld in accordance with section 9 of the Act, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

### **Key to redaction codes:**

- Section 9(2)(f)(iv): to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials
- Section 9(2)(g)(i): to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
- Section 9(2)(j): to protect the Crown's negotiations



**Child and Youth  
Wellbeing**

# Monitoring of Strategy Implementation

1 July 2019 – 30 June 2020

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children



**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

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# Initial implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

## Background

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) sets out a shared understanding of what's important for child and youth wellbeing, what government is doing, and how others can help. It includes an aspirational vision, nine principles to guide the way we work, and six wellbeing outcomes that describe what children and young people want and need for a good life. This framework was developed to be robust, and applicable to diverse groups and changing circumstances, while guiding collective work towards common goals.

The Strategy was launched alongside a Current Programme of Action on 29 August 2019, well before the extensive disruption experienced worldwide as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, its vision, principles, outcomes, and indicators for measuring progress are more relevant than ever. While its work programme will continue to evolve in response to new and emerging needs, the Strategy already has a strong focus on reducing child poverty and mitigating the impacts of socio-economic disadvantage, improving the wellbeing of all children and young people with greater needs, and reducing inequity of outcomes. The Strategy will continue to drive government policy to achieve the long-term objectives of reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing.

The Current Programme of Action sets out the policies, initiatives, programmes and plans underway across government toward achieving the Strategy's vision and outcomes. When launched, the programme brought together actions from across more than twenty government agencies, with Chief Executives being accountable for their agency's actions. The Current Programme of Action is intended to be a living document that is updated when existing actions are completed, and to include new actions developed to address gaps and new areas of focus for child and youth wellbeing.

## Reporting on the Strategy

The Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC), agreed that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) would provide it with six-monthly updates on progress in implementing the Strategy and its actions. This report is the first of these.

The material for this report was compiled from information supplied by the agencies involved. They were asked to complete a template that requested information on:

### a) Agency alignment to the Strategy

Central government agencies are expected to progressively align their activities to the outcomes in the Strategy, as reflected in their Statements of Intent, business planning documents, and funding decisions.

## **b) Reaching beyond central government – growing collective action**

Agencies were asked to provide an overview of any efforts undertaken to engage and build relationships with non-government sectors in the context of the Strategy, as well as to highlight any emerging impact the Strategy is having beyond central government.

## **c) Updates to the Current Programme of Action**

Each agency was asked to provide an update for each action they lead, and to signal any new actions that could be included in the programme.

This implementation report is set out according to these three sections. The third section, Updates to the Current Programme of Action, makes up the main body of the report. This is due to its listing out the large number of actions included in the programme, along with details of progress made and any new actions and investments.

The report was originally intended to cover the period from 31 July 2019 to 31 December 2019, and be published in April 2020. It was delayed due to the nationwide lockdown in response to the outbreak of COVID-19. The report was subsequently updated to cover the year to the end of June 2020, and to include Budget 2020 and COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund investments, and new actions underway to support children and young people through this pandemic.

This report and subsequent reports to SWC will also help inform annual reports to Parliament on the Strategy. The Children's Act 2014 requires the responsible Minister, following consultation with children's Ministers, to prepare an annual report on achievement of the Strategy outcomes for children. This includes a focus on the population groups identified in the Strategy. The report must be presented to the House of Representatives and published online. The first annual report is due by April 2021.

An initial evaluation of the Strategy will be presented to Ministers by the end of 2021 ahead of the first review of the Strategy by the responsible Minister, due in 2022.

## **Early signs of central agency alignment**

*To better support the conditions needed for wellbeing to flourish, and to address the issues that are undermining the wellbeing of New Zealand's tamariki and rangatahi, there is a need for government agencies to change the way they plan, prioritise and carry out their day to day work.*

In late July 2019, Cabinet endorsed the Strategy as an overarching framework for central government policy development and services for children and young people. This set the expectation that the Strategy would drive decision-making and alignment for child and youth wellbeing across all agencies working in this area.

Under this mandate, the Strategy framework is informing work in a number of areas to ensure a coherent, cross-government response. For example, the Oranga Tamariki Action

Plan, currently being developed, is required to set out how Children's agencies<sup>1</sup> will work together to achieve the Strategy's outcomes for children and young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki. Similarly the Youth Plan, developed by the Ministry for Youth Development, adopts the principles and outcomes of the Strategy, and explicitly looks to drive the Strategy's outcomes for young people.

At the time of its public launch in August 2019, there were already signs of alignment to the Strategy being demonstrated by individual agencies. Some have incorporated elements of the Strategy's framework into their business and strategic planning; the Ministry of Health, for example, has a focus on improving child wellbeing in its new five-year organisational strategy, Tā Tātou Rautaki, and its 2019/20 Business Plan. The Strategy is informing development of the Oranga Tamariki outcomes framework, and is being used by Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections to shape the framework it is designing to support young adults in its care.

The Strategy's framework is also being used by agencies to shape upcoming work programmes. The Ministry of Education's quarterly reporting now includes reporting against the Strategy's cross-sector initiatives, as well as those being led by Education. The Strategy is also being used by Stats NZ to identify data gaps which will then be incorporated into its Data Investment Plan. The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) is looking to connect the immediate and long-term organisational outcomes it is developing to the Strategy, and to ensure it contributes to the Strategy's outcomes. To do this, ACC has now recruited a permanent full-time Partnered Delivery Manager, charged with looking after the Child and Youth Wellbeing work under Injury Prevention. ACC's Child and Youth Wellbeing work programme commenced in February 2020 and sits within the Strategic Investment team.

## Reaching beyond central government – growing collective action

*To move toward a society in which the wellbeing of all children and young people can flourish, individuals, organisations, businesses, iwi and hapū, communities and government need to work together.*

Despite the Strategy being in a very early phase, there are some initial indications that the Strategy's impact is reaching beyond central government agencies. A key factor driving this reach is the incorporation of the Strategy framework into the sector expectations, codes and guidance put out by agencies.

The Ministry of Health is embedding the Strategy in key strategic planning documents across the wider health sector. District Health Board (DHB) annual planning guidance issued by the Ministry of Health sets out an expectation that DHB annual plans will consider the Strategy and its principles in all their activities. It also includes a requirement that achieving equity in health and wellness is a focus for all DHBs. DHBs are expected to apply an evidenced based

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<sup>1</sup> The children's agencies are Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the NZ Police.

equity lens as their plans are developed, and to actively prioritise resources to achieving equity across their population groups, with a focus on achieving health equity and wellbeing for Māori through the Māori Health Action Plan. The Strategy is also referenced as a priority work programme for DHBs in the DHB Crown Funding Agreement.

The interim Code of Pastoral Care, issued by the Ministry of Education, describes a duty of pastoral care that tertiary education providers have for domestic tertiary students. The six outcomes of the interim code implemented from 1 January 2020 were developed to align directly with the outcomes of the Strategy.

The Independent Children's Monitor, which monitors the system of State care, is currently developing an assessment framework for monitoring the Oranga Tamariki system and it has based this framework on the Strategy.

The Child Wellbeing Unit is working closely with Local Government NZ, SOLGM and a number of councils wanting to explore how the Strategy can be used to inform their strategic and long term planning, and help prioritise work programmes and spending. This included a recent webinar about the ways local government can support child and youth wellbeing as a sector.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

# Updating the Current Programme of Action

The following section itemises the actions in the Current Programme of Action. In the programme, the actions are grouped by the Strategy's outcomes; with an understanding that individual initiatives driven by the holistic principles of the Strategy will promote wellbeing in more than one outcome area. This report reflects those groupings.

Actions are listed with updates on progress and indications of next steps, along with new investment made through Budget 2020 and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund. Actions being newly added to the Current Programme of Action are also included under their outcome grouping, and have been differentiated from the existing actions by colour scheme.

Overall, agencies are making good progress on implementing the actions in the Current Programme of Action. Most actions were proceeding as planned prior to COVID-19, including many large initiatives requiring the input of multiple agencies and non-government organisations. Progress over the first six months for many was focused on engagement and on developing and designing programmes of work. Future reports will allow greater assessment of the implementation of these actions, particularly in the context of COVID-19.



## Children and young people are loved, safe and nurtured



are LOVED, SAFE  
and NURTURED

This means:

- they feel loved and supported
- they have family, whānau and homes that are loving, safe and nurturing
- they are safe from unintentional harm
- they are safe from intentional harm (including neglect, and emotional, physical and sexual abuse)
- they are able to spend quality time with their parents, family and whānau.

### Support parents, caregivers, families and whānau

#### Extend paid parental leave to 26 weeks

The Parental Leave and Employment Protection Amendment Act 2017 increased paid parental leave to 22 weeks from 1 July 2018, with a further increase to 26 weeks on 1 July 2020.

→ Since July 2019

Completed.

Legislation passed and budget approved in 2018. There are around 28,000 recipients of paid parental leave each year. As of 1 July 2020, the parental leave extension to 26 weeks came into effect (primary carers of babies due after 1 July 2020, but born earlier are still eligible for 26 weeks). The maximum weekly payment will also increase by \$20 per week.

Lead agency

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

Timeframe

From 1 July 2020

#### Enhanced WCTO pilots update (nurse-led family partnership model)

These pilots, funded through Budget 2019, are testing and evaluating a model of enhanced support for parents and whānau with mental wellbeing support needs, up until a child is two years old (including after a stillbirth).

The model of service delivery will include: early engagement in the antenatal period; a trusted relationship with one nurse supported by a social worker; focus on the whole whānau; and a low case load allowing enough time for the practitioners to develop a meaningful relationship.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry has sought proposals from Lakes, Counties Manukau, and Tairāwhiti DHB regions. The due date for proposals was extended to 30 June 2020 due to work on the COVID-19 pandemic.

→ Next steps

9(2)(j)



9(2)(j)

Lead agency

Ministry of Health

Timeframe

2019–2023

**Expand coverage of Whānau Ora to support more whānau to thrive and achieve wellbeing outcomes**

Budget 2019 provided funding to expand the coverage and impact of Whānau Ora. This initiative aims to increase support for whānau to achieve their aspirations and lift overall wellbeing. Increased funding expands existing support delivered through the Commissioning Agencies and supports more whānau and improved local decision-making and accountability processes.

Further funding will also enable:

- Whānau Ora navigators to improve their skills, knowledge and networks
- Te Puni Kōkiri to facilitate engagement and foster greater support for Whānau Ora across government agencies.

→ Since July 2019

The procurement approach and documentation for localised commissioning was progressed, including the development of a strategic blueprint, Te Kāhui Anamata, to underpin Whānau Ora and whānau-centred approaches. Outcome Agreements were agreed with the three Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies. Work on the design and delivery of localised commissioning is underway.

The Whānau Ora Independence Reference Group was established to inform the continued growth and implementation of Whānau Ora.

The final report on Whānau Ora health research findings was received.

Navigator workforce development was rolled out in the areas of early intervention and financial capability.

Work is currently underway with Commissioning Agencies to refine and achieve the vision and enhance Whānau Ora data.

→ New investment

An extra \$15 million was allocated to Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies as the country moved into Alert level 4, to enable Whānau Ora to deliver over 122,000 care packages, and support close to 160,000 whānau in response to the effects of COVID-19.

Funding has also been made available over 2 years for Whānau Ora through Budget 2020 – \$53 million to Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies to continue supporting existing whānau to manage the direct impacts of COVID-19, and \$78 million for commissioning activities to support additional whānau who have engaged with Whānau Ora because of COVID-19.

→ Next steps

Finalise Commissioning Agencies' mini Annual Investment Plans in response to COVID-19 response and recovery.



The following key programmes are being accelerated to position Whānau Ora into the future:

- Whānau Ora Vision and Strategy (Te Kāhui Anamata) – sets the strategic direction for Whānau Ora and investment decisions out to 2040.
- Annual Investment Plan – exploring new ways to better reflect whānau voice and feedback.
- Data and Analytics – focuses on empowering whānau, monitoring performance, and telling whānau success stories.

The localised commissioning approach was funded through Budget 2019 and responds to the 2018 Ministerial Whānau Ora Review that recommends extending the reach of Whānau Ora across Te Ika ā Māui. It will bring a new approach that complements the existing Whānau Ora support available. Four organisations will receive a total of \$500,000 each to trial a localised approach that will seek to move investment decision-making a step closer to whānau in their region. These are:

- Te Tihi o Ruahine Whānau Ora Alliance exploring a rangatahi enterprise
- Te Whare Maire o Tapuwae Charitable Trust working collectively with the Wairoa Community Partnership
- Huria Trust exploring a marae-based model: a unique approach in that it is supporting whānau connected to five marae in the one region, bringing an even stronger Māori kaupapa to Whānau Ora by having marae as central to the outreach
- Raukawa Settlement Trust focusing on strengthening the suite of services in a post-treaty settlement entity

Lead agency	Timeframe
Te Puni Kōkiri	From July 2019

**Increased funding to support iwi and NGO partners that provide early support (newly added)**

In light of the particular challenges with recruitment and retention of qualified and experienced staff being faced by these services, \$57.7 million in funding over four years has been provided to further support the work that iwi, Māori and NGO partners do to help children, families and communities achieve their goals and improve their wellbeing. Helping families get support earlier so that Oranga Tamariki does not need to be formally involved is a key goal.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From May 2020

**Early intervention support for families and whānau**

Oranga Tamariki and the Child Wellbeing Unit (DPMC) are working together to support iwi and community to develop sustainable local approaches to early intervention to offer families and whānau the support they need to prevent children and young people from entering the care, protection or youth justice systems.

→ Since July 2019

Initial engagement has been undertaken with three iwi or iwi collectives in Rotorua, Whakatāne and Whanganui, as well as with strategic partners of Oranga Tamariki, to discuss shared local priorities for child and youth wellbeing through prevention and early intervention. Co-design of a prototype is underway with the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency.



→ Next steps

Continued engagement with whānau, hapū, iwi and community over local planning and co-design of service delivery.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 1 July 2019

**Intensive Intervention – new model of intensive intervention for those at risk of entering care**

Budget 2019 funding is supporting the collaborative design of new models of intensive support for families and whānau so that tamariki can remain (wherever possible) safely at home with their whānau, within their culture, and connected to their communities.

→ Since July 2019

The work on intensive intervention is split broadly into two areas: (i) Small ‘start-ups’ which are now supporting around 340 families around New Zealand, which we can learn from and expand. (ii) Major collaborative design projects that involve the design and implementation of large scale intensive whānau support services.

There are four collaborative design sites: Tokoroa, Christchurch East, Ōtāhuhu and Horowhenua. Tokoroa and Christchurch East ‘go live’ in August/September 2020, and Horowhenua and Ōtāhuhu are likely to ‘go live’ in early 2021.

→ Next steps

Indicative results from the small ‘start-ups’ are positive. More detailed evaluation is required to ensure that positive outcomes are being sustained.

Oranga Tamariki is looking to progress collaborative design discussions with partners in other areas, including Hastings and Napier, the Far North, and Upper South, where there is already strong collaborative, local relationships.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 1 July 2019

**Family Justice reforms in response to the Final Report of the Independent Panel**

An independent panel was instructed to look at a wide range of factors at play in family justice, including the effectiveness of out-of-court and in-court processes, the timeliness of cases, and the extent to which decisions are consistent with the welfare and best interests of the child. The panel was asked to take a human rights approach when considering improvements to ensure that the welfare and best interests of children are paramount when settling disputes about their care.

→ Since July 2019

Policy work to support the first phase of government response to the review was completed.

The first phase of changes aim to strengthen the Family Court by ensuring that families and whānau are well supported with early legal advice and information, and by enhancing children’s participation and the duties of lawyers. They also aim to reduce the level of delay in the Family Court.



→ **New investment**

A \$62 million investment from the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund was made to start the reform of the Family Court and enable it to respond effectively to the increased backlog caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 15 May, the Minister of Justice introduced the Family Court (Supporting Families in Court) Legislation Bill. The Bill forms part of the \$62 million package designed to:

- Restore the right to legal representation at the start of a case in the Family Court.
- Allow parties to those proceedings, where eligible, to access legal aid.
- Establish Family Justice Liaison Officers and produce better information resources to help parents and whānau navigate the system.
- Increase remuneration for lawyers for children to incentivise the recruitment and retention of skilled practitioners.

→ **Next steps**

It is expected that a second Bill focused on strengthening the Family Court will follow later this year. It is intended to:

- Enhance children’s participation in proceedings that affect them.
- Ensure that children feel supported and informed as they move through the Family Court process.
- Expand lawyers’ duties in care of children proceedings.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Justice	From May 2020

**High Impact Innovation Programme initiatives that will support parent-child relationships (newly added)**

The High Impact Innovation Programme is piloting the Kea Project (Whānau Visits Experience) at Hawkes Bay and Manawatu prisons. The Kea Project is designed to support meaningful relationships between tamariki and their whānau members in prison by making prison visits more tamariki-friendly, and providing tools that enable whānau to prepare and support tamariki for their visit.

The programme is also establishing the Pre-Trial Service under the Hōkai Rangi strategy with Budget 2020 funding (\$47.5 million over 4 years) to provide early support to reduce the number of people entering or remaining in custody. Where these people are parents, it will have positive flow on effects for parent-child relationships.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections	From May 2020

**Supporting actions**

**Extension of You Matter to Us:**

You Matter to Us is a collective impact project in East Christchurch. Kaitiaki work in early learning services to link whānau to essential services and support them to build positive lives for tamariki. Budget 2019 provided funding for an extension to the You Matter to Us pilot in Linwood to more communities in Christchurch. Co-designed with the community, it focuses on empowering



whānau, increasing protective factors for tamariki, and strengthening community cohesion and trust in government services.

→ Since July 2019

Professional learning for ECE teachers to support this initiative is being purchased and kaitiaki are being recruited. Community engagement is underway.

→ Next steps

Kaitiaki to be deployed to ECE services and neighbourhoods across East Christchurch. Child Matters training is to be rolled out and broader education workshops undertaken.

**Financial assistance for caregivers (review):**

Oranga Tamariki undertook a review of financial assistance for caregivers of children who cannot be cared for by their parents due to care and protection issues, the death or incapacitation of their parents, or family breakdown. The review covered the Foster Care Allowance, the Orphan’s Benefit, the Unsupported Child’s Benefit, and their associated payments.

→ Since July 2019

The review was completed. Due to the significance of the initiatives, the Government response to the review has been added as a new action to the Current Programme of Action (below).

**Financial assistance for caregivers (response) (newly added)**

In light of the findings of the review of financial assistance for caregivers, an additional \$210 million will be provided to help alleviate the significant pressure on caregiving households caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The four new funding initiatives for caregivers are:

- An increase to the base rate of the Orphan’s Benefit, Unsupported Child’s Benefit and Foster Care Allowance by \$25 per week per child.
- Enabling Foster Care Allowance caregivers to continue to receive financial assistance for 20 days while the child they care for is in respite care.
- Enabling short-term caregivers to access the Orphan’s Benefit or Unsupported Child’s Benefit, provided they meet the other eligibility criteria.
- Extending Birthday and Christmas Allowances to those receiving the Orphan’s Benefit and Unsupported Child’s Benefit.

A programme of work to simplify and unify the payment system for all caregiver payments is now underway.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Oranga Tamariki

From July 2020



## Prevent harm and abuse

### National strategy and action plan to prevent and eliminate family violence and sexual violence

The national strategy and action plan will galvanise efforts to eliminate family violence and sexual violence (FVSV). This will set a clear direction for a collective commitment to reduce violence, clarify the most critical strategic objectives, and identify the actions required across the system.

To ensure the national strategy and action plan reflects the aspirations of all New Zealanders, they will be developed through open and engaging processes, including with people harmed by violence, people who have used violence, and a wide range of communities. They will also be developed in partnership with Māori and other stakeholders.

A national strategy will guide priorities for the FVSV Joint Venture (which brings together representatives of 10 government agencies) and for government agencies, and guide practical decisions at the front line in communities. A rolling action plan will help each government agency to see the part it plays alongside others in achieving these objectives, and allowing the public to track progress.

9(2)(f)(iv)

9(2)(f)(iv)

Lead agency	Timeframe
Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture	From 2019

### Early years violence prevention sites

Please see 'Extension of You Matter to Us' update above.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture	From 2019

### Family violence prevention: increased investment

In Budget 2019 investment in broader family violence prevention activities increased, including:

- *E Tū Whānau* – which uses a strengths-based approach to help reduce family violence and other forms of violence in Māori communities, and also works with refugee and migrant communities in culturally appropriate ways to increase their wellbeing and diminish harm.
- *Pasefika Proud* – which harnesses the transformative power of Pacific core cultural values and frameworks to address violence in Pacific communities.



- *The Campaign for Action on Family Violence (It's not OK)* – which addresses changing the behaviour of men who are violent or at risk of using violence, with a new focus on young people and safe relationships.

The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) continue to support the work of *Atu-Mai* – a family-focused and community-led violence prevention programme delivered by Le Va.

→ Since July 2019

All three initiatives have released new five-year strategies. A literature review and formative research for the new youth campaign are underway. Partnerships are being established around the country with ethnic and migrant communities, supported by the Multicultural Council.

Specific milestones include:

- *The Campaign for Action on Family Violence (It's not OK)* – funding a pilot of Safe Man Safe Family, a community-led model to support change in men using violence; a seed fund for community prevention projects; partnerships with community leaders and organisations (such as My Father's Barber); and new research to inform the youth campaign (a literature review and baseline audience research).
- *E Tū Whānau* – development of Kaupapa Māori evaluation tools is underway.
- *Pasefika Proud* – establishment of work with additional communities (e.g. Kiribati).

→ Investment

Budget 2019 funding was drawn down from contingency to substantially expand these three programmes.

In addition, the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund allocated \$3.5m to support engagement with hard to reach communities through *E Tū Whānau* and *Pasefika Proud*.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture	From 2019

### Violence prevention needs of diverse communities

Budget 2019 provided funding for work to understand the needs of diverse communities in order to develop future violence prevention programmes. This includes youth, the LGBTQIA+ (rainbow) community, people with disabilities, new migrants, and older people.

→ Since July 2019

The process for working with diverse communities to identify what is needed for community-led violence prevention has been approved. This involves co-design and draws on the expertise of Joint Venture agencies and engagement with the communities themselves

→ Next steps

The Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture will work with communities to understand and work from their needs and preferences for how best to use this funding, starting with the disabled community.

This is likely to include more in-depth co-design with diverse communities to identify and address their violence prevention needs, for example by supporting innovative community action underway, and/or developing proposals for future Budget processes.

Lead agency	Timeframe



Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture

From 2019

**Work to prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse**

The Department of Internal Affairs (DIA), New Zealand Police, and the New Zealand Customs Service undertake a number of joint prevention initiatives in this area, working with wider stakeholders.

→ Since July 2019

**Joint initiatives**

Budget 2019 provided funding for the New Zealand Customs Service to enhance services to combat child sexual exploitation across the cyber border. This initiative aims to reduce the creation and distribution of abuse imagery, reduce the number of children who are sexually abused, and prevent further abuse of previously abused children.

A dedicated Victim Identification team from across DIA, Police and NZ Customs – Taskforce Ruru - met to share training, tools and the processing of victim identification work throughout the year. The Taskforce successfully identified 8 New Zealand child victims in a Customs led investigation, resulting in those children being safeguarded from further offending. The Taskforce also supported identification of victims for international law enforcement agencies.

The three agencies launched the Combating Child Sexual Exploitation Group in December 2019. This group includes NGOs, and is developing and running collaborative initiatives, projects and campaigns for the purpose of combating child sexual exploitation.

A programme of trials was re-launched to prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse in May 2020. This has expanded to include a wider set of government agencies (e.g. the Accident Compensation Corporation, and the Ministries of Social Development and Education) and NGOs.

**Five Country Ministerial Group**

DIA is a member of the Five Country Ministerial Group on Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (FCM-CSA).

In late 2019 the FCM, in collaboration with representatives from the tech industry, 11 Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse were developed for the tech industry to adhere to prevent and protect children being exploited on their platforms.

**Other**

DIA has signed a memorandum of understanding in December with the UK National Crime Agency and the Child Rescue Coalition to allow information sharing, collaborative working, and enhance capability within New Zealand to address child sexual exploitation.

The Films, Videos, and Publications Classification (Urgent Interim Classification of Publications and Prevention of Online Harm) Amendment Bill was introduced to Parliament on 26 May 2020. This bill updates the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 to allow for urgent prevention and mitigation of harms caused by objectionable publications.

→ Next steps



Taskforce Ruru is increasing its operational ability so that it can increase its victim identification capacity.

The agency working groups will develop initiatives, projects and trials in the coming twelve months to further prevent child sexual exploitation.

The Government’s online safety awareness campaign Keep it Real Online will be delivering phase two over the next 12 months, which will incorporate further messaging to keep children safe online from sexual predators.

Passage of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification (Urgent Interim Classification of Publications and Prevention of Online Harm) Amendment Bill through the House.

Lead agencies	Timeframe
Department of Internal Affairs New Zealand Customs Service New Zealand Police	From 2019

**Reduce speed limits around schools (newly added)**

The Tackling Unsafe Speeds programme is a key action under the initial Road to Zero action plan. It includes an initiative to reduce speed limits to a maximum of 40 km/h around urban schools and 60 km/h around rural schools, to make streets safer for kids to walk and cycle to school.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Transport	From 2019

**Creating a safe online and digital environment for children and young people (newly added)**

\$3.6 million has been provided to run a public awareness campaign to help keep children and young people safe while online. This includes promoting awareness of risks and potential harms like online grooming, online bullying, and viewing inappropriate content like pornography. The first phase, currently underway, was developed by the Department of Internal Affairs with NetSafe, the Office of Film and Literature Classification, and the Ministry of Education.

It focusses on practical tips and messages targeting parents and caregivers to help them create a safer online environment for children and young people. The Keep It Real Online campaign was launched in June 2020 with advertisements over multiple channels (e.g. online, social media, television, physical media and radio).

Phase two of the campaign will include messages targeting different groups of children and young people. Campaign messages and approach will be designed to consider New Zealanders’ varying degrees of access to technology, learning support needs, cultures, and those who speak languages other than English.

Lead agencies	Timeframe
Department of Internal Affairs	To July 2021



## Support victims and their families and whānau

### Build safe, consistent and effective responses to family violence in every community

This initiative, funded through Budget 2019, supports continued development and testing of current programmes for victims, families and whānau affected by family violence, and safe, consistent responses where and when families and whānau need them.

→ Since July 2019

*Integrated Safety Response (ISR):*

Sites received funding through Budget 2019 for the provision of services for victims and perpetrators. Since 1 July 2019, there have been 28,207 family violence episodes processed through ISR. These episodes have involved 47,137 distinct people. 16,157 new safety plans have been created with 48,254 new tasks. Tasks are given to agencies (including NGO organisations) to ensure the safety of victims, and assist perpetrators to change their behaviour. 39 people entered ISR through being a high-risk prison release, the rest were from 111 calls to Police. 48% of all episodes involved a child under the age of 18.

*Proximity Alarms:*

Police completed a second round of User Acceptance Testing. 9(2)(g)(i)

*Project Whetū – Case Management system:*

NZ Police has further developed functional and non-functional requirements for this system. The system needs to be aligned with the Integrated Community Response (ICR) design being undertaken by the Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture. 9(2)(j)

→ New investment

*Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke:*

Funding for the Counties Manukau site is being increased, with \$3.03 million being made available to support the triaging of cases, and enable the purchase of family violence services provided.

→ Next steps

Further funding options to be considered for a range of these activities.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture

From 2019

### Improve regional capability to respond to family violence

This initiative, funded through Budget 2019, aims to provide victims, families and whānau affected by family violence with safe and consistent responses, where and when they need them.

This will be achieved through building the foundations for an effective response in every part of New Zealand. The initiative will enhance regional capability across the country to respond to family violence, and begin consistent implementation of a national response by:

- Enabling specialist frontline service providers to participate in family violence risk assessment and triage processes.
- Providing practice leaders to build practice standards and support professional development and training at a regional level.



- Supporting representation of non-government organisation and iwi in family violence regional governance.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Social Development is leading a cross-agency project to implement these three components, as part of wider Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture work on Integrated Community Responses.

These initiatives will replace the current Family Violence Regional Coordination roles. Funding for these roles was provided for 2019/20 through Budget 2019, and funding for the first six months of 2020/21 will be provided to smooth the transition.

→ Next steps

Specialist frontline service providers will be funded to participate in family violence risk assessment and triage processes.

Non-government organisations and iwi will be funded for their representation in family violence regional governance.

Further engagement on the implementation of regional practice leaders and how these roles can be adapted to local needs, building on existing coordination and activity.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture	From 2019

**Expansion of Whānau Protect (newly added)**

Budget 2020 provided \$5.98 million over the next four years to expand Whānau Protect. This initiative assists children and whānau who are at high-risk of serious assault or death due to repeat family violence by making practical security improvements to their homes. It aims to help victims remain in their homes while removing the cost and burden of relocating themselves and their children, deter perpetrators, and reduce the likelihood of further violence.

These additional safety measures prevent victims from needing to access emergency accommodation/refuge services. These services are currently experiencing unprecedented demand.

Whānau Protect is effective at preventing family violence and directly impacts on children through improved life trajectories. An evaluation showed victims who received the service experienced an 80% reduction in re-victimisation.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Justice	From May 2020

**Services for children experiencing family violence (newly added)**

Funding of \$13.3 million was received in Budget 2020 that will be split between Oranga Tamariki and Police. It will enable direct purchase of services for children and young people who are experiencing family violence and are being identified through multi-agency community response sites (e.g. Whāngaia Ngā Pā Harakeke and Integrated Safety Response sites).



The funding will purchase services either through:

- Topping up funding to existing children’s services providers who are not currently funded to respond to children as a result of their identification through family violence response sites (Oranga Tamariki portion of funding); and
- Funding bespoke services such as psychologists through a flexi-fund arrangement. These services are not currently funded as part of the service provision in family violence response sites.

**Lead agency**

Oranga Tamariki  
New Zealand Police

**Timeframe**

From 2019

**Sexual violence crisis support services for children and young people**

This initiative, funded through Budget 2019, provides access to sexual harm crisis support services designed specifically for children and young people.

Crisis services include immediate support to reduce the severity and longevity of the negative impact of sexual harm, and promote the safety and wellbeing of the child or young person in their family, whānau and community.

→ Since July 2019

Oranga Tamariki has extended funding to existing providers to meet known demand for children and young people who are victims of sexual violence. Work is underway to inform the co-design of improvements and/or changes to services. Design is likely to focus on improvements to current service provision and the design of services by Māori, for Māori.

**Lead agency**

Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture

**Timeframe**

From 2019

**Develop kaupapa Māori services for victims/survivors, perpetrators and their whānau**

Budget 2019 provided funding to develop whānau-centred kaupapa Māori specialist sexual violence services. Services will be developed by Māori, for Māori, and include comprehensive responses to sexual violence; from prevention and early intervention through to long-term support. The funding will also address the current geographical gaps in service delivery by supporting more kaupapa Māori providers to develop specialist sexual violence service capability.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Social Development has engaged with kaupapa Māori providers on the work programme and research streams, and has received positive endorsement from the providers as they can see themselves in the plan. Activities included:

- 4-year work programme, including research streams, designed and endorsed
- 1 x FTE recruited for the work programme
- continuation of face-to-face relationship building with kaupapa Māori providers to strengthen relationships and trust.

→ Next steps

Good practice guidelines to be produced.

**Lead agency**

Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture

**Timeframe**

From 2019



**Improve Justice response to victims of sexual violence**

A set of initiatives is being progressed to reduce the risk of sexual violence victims experiencing further trauma when participating in the court process. These initiatives include legislative changes to better protect complainants from inappropriate and unduly invasive questioning and to entitle complainants to give evidence in alternative ways (including by pre-recorded video where appropriate), ensuring quality, specialist assistance is available where needed for witnesses to understand and respond to questions in court, and providing specialist training to equip lawyers with best practice techniques when questioning vulnerable witnesses in sexual violence cases.

→ Since July 2019

On 14 November 2019 the Sexual Violence Legislation Bill passed its first reading in Parliament. The Bill aims to reduce the trauma sexual violence complainants experience in court, while maintaining defendants’ fundamental rights, and making sure the trial process remains fair.

The Justice Select Committee reported back on 9 June 2020, and the Bill is awaiting its Second Reading.

Other progress includes:

- Judicial education – this work continues to be rolled out for all District Court Judges, with further seminars being delivered and judicial benchbooks updated.
- Training for defence lawyers – planning, design, and delivery of best practice training for defence lawyers.
- Communication assistance – the judiciary has asked the Ministry of Justice to assist in the development of the Code of Practice handbook and service specifications around the use of communication assistance.

→ Next Steps

Develop supporting IT capability and regulations for the legislative changes, and finalise and implement the changes (once Bill is enacted).

Review initial iteration of defence lawyer training and plan for the next tranches of training.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Justice	From 2019

**Supporting actions**

**Increase access to crisis support services for victims/survivors:**

This initiative, funded through Budget 2019, aims to reduce the severity and duration of trauma-related symptoms experienced by victims/survivors of sexual violence. There will be more funding for crisis support services for victims/survivors of sexual violence and their families and whānau. This will ensure services are available 24/7 at a level that meets current demand. Services will include specialist callout support, crisis counselling, and crisis social work support.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Social Development has met with all funded crisis support service providers in New Zealand to understand what’s working well and what are the challenges with existing crisis support services. Planning for procurement of services for 2020/21 onwards is underway.



→ Next steps

Continue service development work (e.g. funding allocation model updated, service guidelines are being reviewed) and planning for procurement of services.

**Improve the wellbeing of male victims/survivors of sexual violence through peer support services:**

Budget 2019 provided funding to reduce the severity and duration of trauma-related symptoms experienced by male victims/survivors of sexual violence. Current access to peer support and group-peer support services for male victims/survivors will be expanded.

→ Since July 2019

Workshops have been held with existing providers to define service guidelines. A funding allocation model has been developed and the Ministry of Social Development is working with providers on accreditation.

→ Next steps

Planning for procurement of services for 2020/21 onwards.

**Health sector screening for early intervention and prevention of family violence:**

Violence Intervention Programme training for health practitioners in DHBs to routinely enquire for family violence is continuing. A scoping project for the design, development and implementation of a training programme for primary health care providers (including Māori Health providers, Pacific Health care, Primary Health Organisations, Well Child Tamariki Ora, Plunket nurses and Midwives) is underway.

→ Since July 2019

All uplift funding for the Violence Intervention Programme has been transferred to DHBs. Scoping activity has included the establishment of a Māori Expert Advisory Group to inform and guide the project, a literature review, and the formation of a communication plan to socialise the project with key stakeholders and across the primary sector.

→ Next steps

Begin external engagement.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children



## Improve the quality of State care

Oranga Tamariki Action Plan	
<p>As required by the Children's Act 2014, Children's Agencies<sup>2</sup> will develop an Oranga Tamariki Action Plan. The purpose of the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan is to indicate how the chief executives of the Children's Agencies will work together to improve the wellbeing of the core populations of interest to the department in line with the outcomes of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.</p> <p>The plan Minister, the Minister for Children, has recently agreed that the first plan should have a COVID-19 recovery focus.</p> <p>→ Next steps</p> <p>A draft recovery focused plan will be considered by the Minister in the later part of 2020.</p>	
Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 2019

Implementation of National Care Standards
<p>The National Care Standards are intended to significantly improve the quality of care and support for children and young people in State care, and their families, whānau and caregivers. Budget 2019 provided funding to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build frontline capacity and capability to provide quality care and support for children and young people in State care, and their families, whānau and caregivers.</li> <li>• Deliver high-quality services and support that address children's and young people's individual needs.</li> <li>• Find and retain high-quality caregivers, and train and support them to provide safe, stable, loving homes for children and young people in their care.</li> <li>• Build placement capacity for children and young people with very high needs, whose therapeutic needs may not be able to be met in whānau care or traditional foster care.</li> </ul> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>Care Standards practice policies, guidance and resources for tamariki, caregivers and staff have been developed and made available. Staff briefings and relevant training has been rolled out. Implementation support has been provided to sites since September 2019 together with reporting on progress with the completion of assessments and plans for tamariki in care, support plans for caregivers and tamariki receiving the resources they are entitled to.</p> <p>The Independent Children's Monitor was established within the Ministry of Social Development from 1 July 2019 under its initial mandate to independently provide assurance on compliance with the National Care Standards (currently two of the NCS Regulations only). It completed its first report to the Minister for Children in December 2019.</p> <p>→ Next steps</p> <p>Continued implementation support, including reporting, communications, and development of new and existing resources.</p>

<sup>2</sup> The children's agencies are Oranga Tamariki, the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Justice and the NZ Police.



The Independent Children’s Monitor has commenced work on its monitoring assessment framework for monitoring all the National Care Standards Regulations and wider Oranga Tamariki System by December 2020.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 1 July 2019

**Improve outcomes for Māori children and young people within the Oranga Tamariki system**

Oranga Tamariki is responsible for delivering better outcomes and reducing disparities for Māori across its services. For example, this will be achieved by working alongside iwi and Māori organisations to support whānau to stay safely together at home through intensive intervention services, the delivery of responsive transition support services for young Māori, and new whānau care partnerships to increase the number of Māori caregivers.

→ Since July 2019

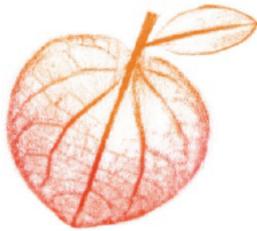
Oranga Tamariki is continuing to work with iwi to co-design and implement models of ‘Whānau Care’ that will ensure mokopuna are connected through their whakapapa to well-supported whānau, hapū or iwi caregivers.

Oranga Tamariki will conduct surveys of young people receiving transition support services in 2020 to understand how those services are contributing to their successful transition to adulthood. Improving outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori within the Oranga Tamariki system over the long term requires sustained collaboration with and support from iwi and Māori organisations, particularly strategic partners.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 2019

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Children and young people have what they need



have WHAT  
they NEED

This means:

- they and their parents/caregivers have a good standard of material wellbeing
- they have regular access to nutritious food
- they live in stable housing that is affordable, warm and dry
- their parents/caregivers have the skills and support they need to access quality employment

## Improve earnings and employment

### Increase the minimum wage to \$20 per hour by 2021

The adult minimum wage is being progressively increased to \$20 by April 2021. The minimum wage increased from \$15.75 to \$16.50 per hour in April 2018, to \$17.70 from April 2019, and to \$18.90 from April 2020.

→ Since July 2019

The adult minimum wage increased from \$17.70 to \$18.90 per hour, in line with the indicative rates agreed by Cabinet in December 2018. The starting-out and training minimum wage rates increased 96 cents from \$14.16 to \$15.12, and remain at 80% of the adult rate.

These minimum wage increases came into effect on 1 April 2020. Overall, the increase is estimated to boost wages paid in the New Zealand economy by \$306 million a year, with more than 240,000 workers experiencing a lift of approximately an extra \$48 per week before tax for employees on a 40-hour working week.

→ Next steps

An indicative minimum wage of \$20 per hour has been set for 2021. This will be confirmed through the annual minimum wage review process.

#### Lead agency

Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment

#### Timeframe

April 2021

### Increase employment support through the Ministry of Social Development (MSD)

Budget 2019 provided funding for MSD to increase case management at the frontline, enabling staff to work more intensively to help more people into meaningful and sustainable work.

→ Since July 2019

Funding was received for an additional 170 FTEs in 2019/20 to support an increased focus on employment, increasing to 263 in the 2020/21 financial year.

Recruitment of the new FTEs started July 2019 and completed 11 November 2019.

Work exits (i.e. clients exiting benefit into employment) for July to December 2019 were 13% higher than work exits achieved in the same period of the previous year. Work exits for the 12 months to June 2020 are also higher than prior year results. An increase in working age clients usually results in an increase in demand for income support services and reduces MSD's capacity

for employment focused case management. The 15,000 client increase to December 2019 created income support demand equivalent to 75 case managers with the predicted 9,400 increase to December 2020 requiring a further 47 case managers.

→ Next steps

Recruitment of the 2020/21 financial year FTEs.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From 2019

#### COVID-19 Income Relief Payment (newly added)

In response to COVID-19, the Government introduced the COVID-19 Income Relief Payment which provides financial support to people who have lost their job or business due to the impacts of COVID-19. The payment was designed to help cushion the blow and minimise disruption for people and their families as they look for other work or retrain. The payment is made weekly, for up to 12 weeks, and is paid at a rate of \$490 per week for a person who was a full-time worker or \$250 per week for a person who was a part time worker.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	The temporary payment was introduced on 8 June 2020

#### COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme (newly added)

The Wage Subsidy Scheme was developed to help businesses and affected workers in the short-term as they adjust to the initial impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. It supports employers and their staff to maintain an employment connection and ensure an income for affected employees, even if the employee is unable to actually work any hours. The scheme provides up to \$585.80 per week for full-time workers and \$350.00 per week for part-time workers.

The Wage Subsidy Scheme is available to all businesses (including the self-employed, contractors and sole traders), registered charities, incorporated societies and post settlement governance entities, that are adversely affected by COVID-19. It is also available to employers who recently let employees go because of COVID-19, provided they re-hire those employees.

An extension to the scheme was announced 14 May 2020: a Wage Subsidy Extension payment will be available to support employers who are still significantly impacted by COVID-19 after the Wage Subsidy ends. The Wage Subsidy Extension will be available from 10 June 2020 until 1 September 2020.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	March 2020 – 1 September 2020

#### COVID-19 Leave Scheme Payment (newly added)

To support essential workers, the scheme subsidises eligible businesses, and allows them to pay those workers who need to take leave owing to the COVID-19 Public Health guidance. The scheme offers the same rates as the Wage Subsidy Scheme of \$585.80 per week for full-time workers and \$350.00 per week for part-time workers.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From April 2020

### More funding for Out of School Care and Recreation Services (OSCAR) (newly added)

Funding for OSCAR services is being improved and increased by \$9.6 million over 4 years to allow parents to gain and maintain meaningful employment or undertake further education and training, while supporting children’s wellbeing and development.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Social Development

From May 2020

### Support for disabled people and people with health conditions

This initiative, funded through Budget 2019, supports people with disabilities and health conditions to find and stay in meaningful employment, increase their knowledge and skills, and improve their health and wider wellbeing. This includes funding to continue and build on the Oranga Mahi programme, which integrates employment and health supports and services. The rate of disabled young people not in employment, education, or training is 42.3%, over four times that of non-disabled young people (10%).

→ Since July 2019

The Oranga Mahi programme is delivered as a set of cross-agency trials in partnership with the health sector to support people with disabilities and people with health conditions while also supporting them with their wider wellbeing needs. Examples from the Oranga Mahi programme include:

- Work with ProCare Network Limited (Auckland), Pegasus Health (Canterbury) and National Hauora Coalition (Auckland, Waikato and Taranaki) to integrate three existing trials into one scaled service, Here Toitū.
- The IPS Waitematā service won the “Health Outcomes” award at the 2019 Waitematā DHB Health Excellence Awards. This is awarded to teams or individuals who have improved care, patient safety or health outcomes for the Waitematā DHB population.
- Take Charge, an IPS service model that supports youth (18-24 years) to improve their health and wellbeing and find sustainable employment as part of their health plan, delivered in partnership with Odyssey House in Canterbury.
- For the Mid-Central service response, co-design workshops were held with whānau who have experience of exiting employment and going onto a Job seeker Health Condition and Disability (JS-HCD) benefit, and a draft service design developed.

→ Next steps

Implementation of the Here Toitū service in the Auckland and Canterbury regions.

Implementation of the Mid-Central service response.

A small-scale pilot is currently in development with Youth Services for Pūawaitanga. The findings from this will inform the design of a service specifically catered to youth and their needs.

Evaluation of Oranga Mahi will include Te Ao Māori perspectives of client and stakeholder outcomes and experience in the programme.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Social Development

From 2019

**Expand and strengthen employment services to support more disabled New Zealanders (newly added)**

This initiative, which received \$12.5 million in funding over two years through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, aims to enhance the employment outcomes of disabled individuals by expanding successful employment services. This will be achieved by increasing the capacity of services, making services available to young people in their final two years of school, and further upskilling currently enrolled jobseekers who face additional barriers to employment.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Social Development

**Timeframe**

From April 2020

**Supporting actions**

**Government response to Fair Pay Agreement Working Group report:**

Detailed policy work and consultation is underway to prepare Government's response to the report.

→ Since July 2019

Between October and November of 2019, public input was sought on a discussion document on the design of the Fair Pay Agreement system. 648 submissions were received and 22 meetings were held between MBIE and a range of stakeholders.

→ Next steps

Receive Cabinet decisions on a Fair Pay Agreement system and approval to draft legislation.

**Government response to Joint Working Group on Pay Equity Principles:**

In 2018 Government introduced the Equal Pay Amendment Bill. The Bill will improve the process for raising and progressing pay equity claims and eliminate and prevent discrimination in the remuneration for work done within female-dominated jobs. The Bill will describe what a pay equity claim is and introduce a new process for working through them.

→ Since July 2019

Changes to the Equal Pay Amendment Bill were worked through to address feedback received from stakeholders. Policy decisions on changes to the Bill were agreed in February 2020. The Bill received its third in the House reading on 22 July and is now awaiting Royal assent.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Create a fairer and more equitable welfare system

### Continue to implement the Families Package to boost incomes of families with children

**Increase to Working for Families:** Family Tax Credit payment rates have increased, particularly for children under 15 years. The Working for Families income threshold has also been raised. This increased the level of financial assistance available for low-income families with children.

**Accommodation Supplement changes:** The maximum amount paid for the Accommodation Supplement has been increased over its four different areas to better reflect housing costs. In addition, places where housing costs have increased the most were moved up into different Accommodation Supplement areas with higher maximum payments.

**Best Start payment:** This is a new tax credit to help families during a child's early years. A payment of \$60 per week was made available for each child born on or after 1 July 2018, for the first year of a child's life. For the second and third years of a child's life, support continues for low- and middle-income families, abated at 21% for families with an annual income above \$79,000.

**Implement the Winter Energy Payment:** This helps older New Zealanders and many of the poorest families to heat their homes over winter. The payment provides beneficiary couples or those with dependent children an additional \$31.82 a week. The Winter Energy Payment was paid from July to September in 2018 and from May to October from 2019 onwards.

→ Since July 2019

The Families Package Monitoring Report tracks the receipt and expenditure of the various components of the Families Package and was published in November 2019. It is available here: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/evaluation/families-package-reports/families-package.html>

The report allows us to track what happened with the introduction of the Families Package. It does not allow us to say what difference the package itself made to payments received, family incomes, child poverty, children's outcomes, people's employment, or other measures of wellbeing. Going forward, other studies within our work programme will be estimating these impacts.

→ New investment

The In-Work Tax Credit (part of the Working for Families package) was a payment for families where the parents have paid work for a required number of hours. As part of the COVID-19 response, the need to satisfy the hours test was removed as of 1 July 2020. Working families with children who are not receiving a main benefit and have some level of employment income each week will receive the payment even if their hours are highly variable or have significantly reduced.

A proposed change to the In-Work Tax Credit was also announced as part of the COVID-19 Response Recovery Fund. The proposal is to allow a family currently receiving the in-work tax credit to continue receiving the payments for up to two weeks when taking an unpaid break from work. Payments will stop if they go on a benefit. Draft legislation containing the proposal is expected to be introduced soon and intended to take effect from 1 April 2021.

The Winter Energy Payment was doubled for the 2020 winter period. This gives beneficiaries and superannuitants \$900 for singles and \$1,400 for couples or people with dependants across the winter period which runs from 1 May to 1 October.

The estimated total cost for these changes is \$2.8 billion over the next four years.

→ Next steps

The Families Package Monitoring Report will be updated annually over the coming three years. Further work will examine in more detail how the Families Package changed the payments families received, including families in different ethnic groups, and will be estimating the impacts parts of the package had on outcomes for families and children.

Also, the first report was based off front-end payment data, but subsequent reports over the next three years will be able to draw on households' end-of-year finalised entitlements to provide better information.

Some of the first pieces of work looking at impacts of the package are getting underway. These include studies in the Stats NZ Integrated Data Infrastructure to look at:

- How much did people newly receive in total as a result of the Families Package, looking across all the Families Package components, and how did the average income gain vary across different groups in the population?
- What was the impact of the changes affecting families with infants, including impacts on children's outcomes in their first year of life?

Lead agencies	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development Inland Revenue Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	Measures implemented from April 2018

**Overhaul the welfare system**

The Government's vision is for a welfare system that ensures people have an adequate income and standard of living, are treated with respect and can live in dignity, and are able to participate meaningfully in their communities. There is a multi-year work programme to overhaul the system in line with this vision, which will take into account the recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group.

→ Since July 2019

The Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee in November 2019 endorsed the proposed key features of the future state of the welfare system, and each of the proposed short, medium and long-term work programmes. The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) proactively released the Cabinet paper 'Welfare Overhaul: Update on Progress and Long-term Plan' on the Minister's behalf in mid-December 2019.

Over the last two quarters, welfare overhaul work has included a focus on reviewing the foundations of the welfare system, increasing accessibility, improving support for targeted groups, and enhancing the community sector.

MSD has also provided initial advice on youth related recommendations under Whakamana Tāngata. Work has begun, through targeted public engagement with Youth Service providers and clients around compulsory abolishing money management in the Youth Service. This was recommended by the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (Recommendation 38).

→ Next steps

Progress the work programmes proposed in the Cabinet paper. Given the scope of the work and the complexity of aspects of it, some areas may require more time to consider. Cabinet decisions on these will be sought in due course as required.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From 2019

#### Index main benefits to wages

Benefit levels have declined as a proportion of average wages over time, meaning the gap between the living standards of beneficiaries and other New Zealanders has grown. As wage growth is generally higher than inflation, indexing benefits to wages provides additional financial support for beneficiaries. This change ensures the rates of main benefits are maintained relative to wages in society.

→ Since July 2019

Completed. Changes have been made to the Social Security Act 2018 to require that main benefits be adjusted from 1 April each year by upwards movement in the average wage. New rates and abatement thresholds are to be delivered as part of the Annual General Adjustment (AGA) process each year, which is when a range of rates and thresholds are increased.

From 1 April 2020, new rates and thresholds took effect and main benefit rates were increased in line with wage growth rather than inflation (Consumer Price Index). Around 15% of main benefit recipients are aged under 25. Main benefits include Sole Parent Support; this is for single parents who can look for or prepare for part-time work and whose youngest dependent child is under 14 years old.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	Implemented April 2020

#### Increasing main benefits (newly added)

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, main benefits were increased by \$25 per week from 1 April 2020. These increases were in addition to those already agreed as part of the 2020 Annual General Adjustment process in which main benefits were indexed to the average wage for the first time. The combined increases meant that most rates increased by around \$30 – \$35 per week.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From 1 April 2020

#### Repeal section 192 of the Social Security Act 2018

The sanction under section 192 of the Social Security Act 2018 (previously S70A) was removed. Previously, if a sole parent did not identify the other parent of the child and applied for Child Support, they were subject to a benefit reduction. By removing this sanction, around 12,000 sole parents have had their incomes increased by an average of \$34 a week, benefiting around 24,000 children.

→ Since July 2019

Completed. As part of the legislation associated with Budget 2019, section 192 was repealed (along with consequential repeals to relevant sections of the Social Security Act 2018 and Child Support Act 1991) with effect from 1 April 2020. This removed deductions for sole parent beneficiaries who do not apply for child support. This change took effect from 1 April 2020.

Lead agency	Timeframe

Ministry of Social Development

Implemented April 2020

### Supporting actions

#### Changes to abatement settings:

The amount that people on a main benefit can earn through employment before their benefit is reduced (known as abatement) has been increased, in line with planned increases in the minimum wage. This will enable part-time working beneficiaries, including sole parents, to keep a greater proportion of their private earnings. It will also benefit some low-income working families (who become eligible for more support through the Accommodation Supplement or the Minimum Family Tax Credit).

→ Since July 2019

Completed. Cabinet agreed to increases in the income abatement thresholds for each of the four years until 2023, which are to be enacted by Order in Council each year. The new abatement thresholds are to be delivered as part of the Annual General Adjustment process each year, which is when a range of rates and thresholds are increased. New thresholds took effect from 1 April 2020.

#### Complete the review of the treatment of child support for beneficiaries:

A review is currently underway with regards to the treatment of child support for beneficiaries, and in particular whether the Crown should 'pass on' payments to sole parents on State-provided benefits, rather than withholding them to offset the cost of the benefit.

→ Next steps

This issue is being considered as part of the wider welfare overhaul.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Improve housing affordability, quality and security

### Strengthening Housing First

Housing First is a highly successful, internationally proven way to house and support chronically homeless people or homeless people with multiple, complex needs. Housing First finds housing for a person irrespective of their condition (such as mental illness or sobriety). It also provides wraparound support and services, for as long as needed, to help them stay housed and improve their lives.

Over the 2018 and 2019 Budgets, significant funding was provided to increase the number of places and expand to new locations, and to strengthen the programme in high-need cities and regions: Whangarei, the mid-far North, Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga, Hawke's Bay, Wellington and the Hutt, Nelson, Blenheim, and Christchurch.

→ Since July 2019

Between 1 July 2019 and 31 December 2019, the Housing First programme has been expanded to the following areas of high need:

- Hawke's Bay, 100 places over two years
- Nelson, 50 places over two years
- Whangarei, 80 places over two years

The number of new individuals and whānau accepted to the Housing First programme from 1 July 2019 to 31 May 2020 is 805. The number of those in the Housing First programme that are currently housed increased by 256 in the same period.

→ Next steps

Housing First will be expanded in the mid-far North over the coming months and will continue to be strengthened in Whangarei, Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Tauranga, Hawke's Bay, Wellington and the Hutt, Nelson, Blenheim, and Christchurch.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	Contracts with providers under way and currently being implemented

### Homelessness Action Plan (newly added)

Government released the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan (2020-2023) in February 2020 to prevent and reduce homelessness. It provides a multi-year cross-government roadmap towards the Government's vision that 'homelessness is prevented where possible, or is rare, brief and non-recurring'.

The Plan sets out an overarching framework with actions to improve the wellbeing and housing outcomes of individuals and whānau who are at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness. The plan has 18 immediate actions to be put in place in 2020, and a further 18 longer-term actions to be developed for implementation over 2020-2023.

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, several immediate actions were adapted or accelerated to meet urgent needs or expected demand, while some other immediate actions will take longer to deliver than initially planned.

Agencies worked together to urgently accommodate people sleeping rough or living in vulnerable accommodation. Over 1,000 individuals and whānau have been housed in motels across the country as a response to the COVID-19 lockdown.

To respond to opportunities and emerging needs from the COVID-19 pandemic, agencies will bring forward the development of longer-term actions in the action plan. This includes an increased focus on at-risk groups, including rangatahi/young people and children.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

From February 2020

**Tailored housing outcomes for Māori (newly added)**

Funding of \$24 million is being invested over two years (July 2019 to July 2021) to engage kaupapa Māori approaches to reduce homelessness for whānau Māori. An additional \$40 million is available over four years to support the implementation of 'Te Maihi O Te Whare Māori and Iwi Housing Innovation Framework for Action' (MAIHI) and to achieve better housing outcomes for Māori.

As part of this funding, He Taupua is expected to go live in late July. It is a new fund comprising \$3 million and has a focus on building the capability of Māori providers to deliver bespoke services that attend to homelessness.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

From July 2020

**Funding for continued provision of transitional housing**

Transitional housing provides short-term housing for up to 12 weeks for people with immediate housing needs (and a further 12 weeks of services in most cases), along with support to help them find long-term homes. Transitional housing places are managed by specialist providers who are skilled in providing social support services, tenancy-related support, and managing properties and tenancies.

→ Since July 2019

Increases in funding from the 2018/19 Budgets has increased the number of places available. Between 1 July 2019 and 31 May 2020, the total number of transitional housing places secured for tenancing increased by a net of 327 to 3,116.

→ New investment

An additional 1,000 transitional homes were announced in February 2020 as part of the Homelessness Action Plan (added above as a new action), and a further 2,000 transitional homes were funded through Budget 2020.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Housing and Urban Development

From Budget 2018

**New public housing places**

The Government committed to bringing on 6,400 additional public housing places by 2022. This includes an indicative 3,550 places in Auckland and 2,850 in other regions of New Zealand.

→ Since July 2019

Between 1 July 2019 and May 2020, the total number of public houses increased by a net of 1,705 to 71,022.

→ New investment

A further 6,000 public homes will be funded through Budget 2020.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	From 1 July 2019

#### 6-month freeze on residential rent increases (newly added)

In response to Covid-19 a freeze on residential rent increases, and increased protection for tenants from having tenancies terminated, were put in place on 25 March. These measures were introduced for public health reasons, and to assist tenants to sustain their tenancies to the greatest extent possible. The rent increase freeze started on 26 March and remains in place up until and including 25 September 2020.

The protections against having tenancies terminated expired on 25 June, as the immediate and significant public health risks had passed.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	From 26 March 2020

#### Implement Healthy Homes Standards

The Healthy Homes Guarantee Act 2017 enables minimum quality standards to be set for rental homes to make them warmer and drier. These minimum standards are set out in the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019 and set requirements for heating, insulation and ventilation, moisture ingress and drainage, and draught stopping. The Government committed funding in Budget 2018 to implement and monitor the Healthy Homes Guarantees Act 2017 and to collect data on housing quality.

→ Since July 2019

\$15.1 million over four years was allocated to support the implementation of the healthy homes standards including enforcement and compliance activity. The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) Tenancy Services is leading a programme of Information and Education (I&E) work to both raise awareness of the new standards and help landlords comply with the new standards from 1 July 2021. The I&E work incorporates campaign activity targeting both landlord and tenant audiences. Two campaign phases have been completed (brand awareness activity in August 2019 and landlord focussed activity around the ventilation standard in December 2019).

→ Next steps

MBIE is planning the third campaign phase, with tenant-focused activity around the heating standard.

The Ministry for Housing and Urban Development is currently progressing minor and technical changes to the Residential Tenancies (Healthy Homes Standards) Regulations 2019. This amendment is to correct errors in the Regulations and to make amendments to clarify the policy intent.

Lead agency	Timeframe
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Ministry of Housing and Urban Development	Compliance will be phased in between July 2021 and July 2024. Timing of compliance depends on the type of tenancy.
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### Warmer Kiwi Homes programme

Warmer Kiwi Homes, which commenced in July 2018, is a four-year programme that offers grants to contribute to the cost of ceiling and underfloor insulation. The programme also provides capped grants for heat pumps, wood burners and pellet burners from July 2019. Government funded grants are topped up wherever possible by funding from community organisations. Homeowners with a Community Services or SuperGold Combo Card, families referred by the Ministry of Health's Healthy Homes Initiative, and those living in a lower-income area may qualify for a grant under this programme. The Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority is the agency responsible for implementing Warmer Kiwi Homes.

→ Since July 2019

Between 1 July 2019 and 30 June 2020, 15,809 insulation installations and 6,027 heating device installations have been delivered under the Warmer Kiwi Homes programme. EECA had a target of delivering 16,000 retrofits (including both insulation and heating device installations) in the 2019/20 financial year.

→ New investment

The funding for the Warmer Kiwi Homes grants scheme increased by \$56 million over 2 years (2020/21 and 2021/22) to increase the targeted number of retrofits for low-income owner-occupiers from 18,000 to 25,000 per year. The additional funding also increases the government contribution rate from 67% to 90%.

Lead agencies	Timeframe
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Energy Efficiency and Conservation Authority	Insulation grants from 1 July 2018 Heating grants from 1 July 2019

### Supporting actions

#### Housing Support Products:

More funding for Housing Support Products was made available through Budget 2019, including increasing the number of existing grants that can be issued and adding a recoverable rent arrears payment.

→ Since July 2019

Budget 2019 provided an additional \$18.9 million funding over four years for Housing Support Products (HSPs). This funding increase took effect from 1 July 2019. The Rent Arrears Assistance HSP was established.

→ New Investment

In response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cabinet agreed to temporarily increase the Rent Arrears Assistance payment limit from \$2,000 to \$4,000, and expand access by enabling it to no longer be a payment of last recourse. This enables those on lower income and beneficiaries to receive it. Time-limited funding of \$30.9 million was agreed to by Cabinet to fund the temporary policy changes.

### **Residential Tenancies Act 1986 reform:**

This targeted reform to the Residential Tenancies Act 1986 has the primary objective of increasing tenants' security of tenure, while maintaining adequate protection of landlords' interests.

→ Since July 2019

Cabinet made policy decisions in September and October 2019, which were announced on 17 November 2019. The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill was drafted to implement the proposals agreed by Cabinet. The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2020 was introduced on 17 February 2020 and had its first reading on 20 February. It was then considered by the Social Services and Community Select Committee, which reported back to Parliament on 7 July 2020.

→ Next steps

The Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2020 progresses through the House.

### **Papakāinga development:**

This Budget 2019 initiative provides funding for the Māori Housing Network to invest in additional papakāinga (Māori collectively owned homes), housing repairs, and capability building programmes. It will raise Māori intergenerational wellbeing by taking a whānau-led approach to addressing housing and wider community needs.

→ Since July 2019

Nearly 50 projects are underway, with a mix of papakāinga developments, housing repairs and Sorted Kāinga Ora programmes. Support for Te Tumu Paeroa investment in Māori housing repair programmes has been established in Te Tai Tokerau and Te Tairāwhiti to address urgent needs. The Māori Housing Network investment programme has also worked to put in place a Hastings Place-Based programme to address repairs and support papakāinga developments.

→ Next steps

Complete the 2019/20 programmes and work to address continued increases in demand for new projects to be undertaken. An evaluation of the initiative is on track.

### **Supporting Pacific households into homeownership:**

This Budget 2019 initiative aims to improve the home ownership rate of Pacific people. It is intended to provide Pacific households with financial capability services to help them achieve their home ownership aspirations.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministries of Business Innovation and Employment, and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), worked with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP) to determine the best form and resourcing requirements for the delivery of financial capability services to support Pacific households.

→ Next steps

MPP will receive the transfer of this funding from HUD as part of the operating contingency allocated through Budget 2020 under the new initiative, *Improving Housing for Pacific Families and Communities*. This initiative includes the delivery of financial capability services, which will provide Pacific families and communities with the financial tools they need to help them manage their finances during and after economic shocks such as COVID-19, and to support savings towards home ownership. Design requirements for any external providers to deliver this new initiative are being developed and contracting is expected to commence in the near future.

## Help families with the costs of essentials

Free and healthy school lunch programme	
<p>A free and healthy school lunch programme was implemented from Term 1 2020, with a small number of schools. The prototype was intended to test and evaluate different models of delivery and provide information to support decision-making.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>The first 61 schools were invited to participate in the programme across three identified regions: Bay of Plenty/Wairariki, Hawke's Bay/Tairāwhiti and Otago/Southland. 59 indicated that they would like to participate in the programme, representing 12,838 learners.</p> <p>→ New investment</p> <p>A major expansion of the free and healthy school lunch programme, funded through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, will see around 190,000 more New Zealand children get a free lunch every school day, and create an estimated 2,000 more jobs. The programme will expand to feeding around 200,000 students by Terms 2-3 in 2021. It will target students in schools with the highest disadvantage. \$216.7 million in operating and \$3.9 million in capital expenditure has been allocated. This will build on the current phased roll out, which is on track to deliver free healthy school lunches for up to 21,000 students in Years 1-8 by the end of this year.</p>	
Lead agencies	Timeframe
Ministry of Education Child Poverty Unit – Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet	Prototype implemented from Term 1, 2020
Additional funding for schools to replace donations from parents/caregivers	
<p>Decile 1-7 State and State-integrated schools (attended by about 63% of all students, including 83% of Māori and Pacific students), are now eligible to receive \$150 per student per year if the school agrees to stop requesting donations from parents and caregivers. This Budget 2019 initiative aims to alleviate financial pressure on families who struggle to pay school donations, as well as benefitting eligible schools by providing them greater certainty of revenue or increased revenue.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>Completed. Decile 1-7 schools had until 20 November 2019 to opt into the donations scheme. In total, 1,764 schools were eligible to join the school donations scheme and 1,586 have opted in to date (90%). Revised guidelines were published on what parents and whānau can be asked to pay and what their obligations are for paying. Schools that opted in before 20 November 2019 received their funding in January 2020. Schools could continue to opt in to the scheme until 6 March 2020. Schools that opted in before this date received their funding in April 2020.</p>	
Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From the 2020 school year
Removal of NCEA (National Certificate of Educational Achievement) fees	
<p>Budget 2019 provided funding to cover the cost of NCEA assessment fees for all students. This supports equity of access to NCEA qualifications and increases residual incomes for low-income families.</p>	

→ Since July 2019

Completed. Fees were removed for NCEA and New Zealand Scholarship in May 2019. Cost pressures resulting from this were funded by Budget 19.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2019

#### Implement lower-cost primary health care, including free GP visits for under-14 year olds

Funding in Budget 2018 reduced barriers to health care by extending:

- Free GP visits and prescriptions to children under the age of 14 so that cost is not a consideration for parents and caregivers.
- Access to very low-cost GP visits to all Community Services Card holders, making doctor visits approximately \$20 to \$30 cheaper for an estimated 540,000 people.
- Eligibility for Community Services Cards to all those receiving the accommodation supplement or income-related rent subsidy.

→ Since July 2019

Completed. Since 1 December 2018 people with a Community Services Card (CSC) and their dependants aged 14 to 17 years who are enrolled with a general practice pay less (no more than \$20 for a standard visit) for their visits to see a doctor or nurse.

As of June 2020, 96% of enrolled CSC holders, and their dependents aged 14 years and over, are enrolled with a practice offering low cost visits. 99% of enrolled Māori CSC holders, 99% of enrolled Pacific CSC holders and 99% of enrolled high needs CSC holders now benefit from low cost visits to their general practices.

Over 99% of all enrolled children aged less than 14 years are enrolled with a practice offering them zero-fee visits. Over 99% of enrolled Maori children, over 99% of enrolled Pacific children and over 99% of enrolled high needs children benefit from zero-fee visits to their general practices.

→ Next steps

Scoping work is underway to look at how accessibility to the CSC could be improved for those who are eligible but are not automatically issued a CSC. Two hui have been held with government agencies and non-government organisations to hear, share and discuss ways and means to improve visibility of and access to the CSC. This cross-agency scoping work is ongoing.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health	From 2018

#### Funding for NGOs and community groups (newly added)

A \$27 million dollar package was provided to social sector services and community groups to ensure they could continue to provide essential support to communities during the COVID-19 response.

It funded services that:

- Ensure people have access to the food and other goods they need to survive.
- Provide a place for people to live.

- Support disabled people to maintain critical wellbeing.
- Keep families safe from harm and offer crisis support.

\$36 million in grants was also provided through Budget 2020 for community groups to enhance the wellbeing of their local communities in the COVID-19 recovery response. A specific focus will be made to enable Māori, Pacific, refugee and migrant communities to access this fund. The investment will allow groups to contribute to the ongoing response and recovery of the communities they are connected to and support.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From 26 March 2020

#### Support to meet immediate welfare and food security needs (newly added)

A \$30 million support package was approved to bolster the delivery of food and welfare assistance by local authorities and Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups to those who need it as part of the immediate COVID-19 response. The additional funding ensured local authorities and CDEM Groups were well placed to increase immediate COVID-19 related welfare support needs through multiple channels by:

- Bolstering the organisation of food parcels, and other household goods and services to people who contacted the CDEM Group and met the relevant criteria.
- Providing upfront funding to, or reimbursement of, local foodbanks, community food organisations and other welfare providers, to enable them to provide food and other essential household items to people who contact them directly.
- Helping to fund emergency accommodation, until temporary accommodation could be arranged through MBIE's Temporary Accommodation Service or other arrangements.

In addition, about \$32 million of additional funding announced on 14 May 2020 included a response to the increase in demand for food through food banks and other community food service providers as a result of COVID-19. This included funding for a new bulk food distribution network – 'New Zealand Food Network' and support for food banks, food rescue organisations, and other providers.

Lead agency	Timeframe
National Emergency Management Agency Ministry of Social Development	From April 2020

#### Hardship Fund for Tertiary Students (newly added)

A \$20 million hardship fund was established to support domestic tertiary students. This fund provides temporary financial assistance for currently enrolled full-time and part-time students who are facing hardship from the impacts of COVID-19. Assistance is made available to pay for necessary expenses like food, utilities and rent, or to access resources purchased on their behalf.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From May 2020

#### Building Financial Capability Services (newly added)

This initiative provides support to key groups experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, hardship by strengthening Building Financial Capability (BFC) services. The BFC model is effective at improving

the financial capability and resilience of vulnerable people, including Māori and Pacific people, as well as sole parents with children. A \$35 million boost to financial capability service providers will help New Zealanders manage their money better both day to day and through periods of financial difficulty. \$9.7 million of this will go towards a general funding top up of around 20% so BFC providers can continue to support the 35,000 clients they see each year.

A significant increase in demand for budgeting services is expected in the economic downturn from the COVID-19 pandemic. Therefore, an extra \$25 million in funding will be rolled out to 131 existing services. The extra funding will go towards:

- Financial Mentoring – one-to-one support empowering people to achieve their goals, including reducing debt and connecting to support they may need.
- MoneyMates – peer-led support for people to learn and share together as a group.
- Building Financial Capability Plus (Kahukura) service – intensive support for people who are hard to reach or with complex needs.
- Micro-finance services – affordable credit to people at risk of unsustainable debt and hardship.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Social Development

**Timeframe**

From May 2020

**Supporting actions**

**Improved Whānau Ora navigator support for whānau to build their financial capability:**

Budget 2019 provided funding for training to Whānau Ora navigators to expand their financial capability skills, understanding and networks, so they can provide improved support to whānau wanting to build their financial capability.

→ Since July 2019

The Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies have completed Building Financial Capability workforce development plans across their respective partner networks. The key aim is to further support the Whānau Ora workforce to access the relevant information and skills, and therefore, extend financial support and service to whānau towards sustained economic aims and aspirations. The Capability Plans have been reviewed and agreed by Te Puni Kōkiri for implementation.

→ Next steps

Embed the Workforce development programme into business-as-usual activity with commissioning agencies. Progress updates to be provided by Commissioning Agencies in Quarterly reports.

**Continued Government funding for KickStart Breakfast and KidsCan:**

Through Budget 2019, two more years of funding was provided to these providers to support the provision of raincoats, shoes, hygiene and sanitary products, and food to children in need.

→ Since July 2019

New contracts were signed with Fonterra and Sanitarium to continue the KickStart Breakfast programme through to 30 June 2021. A new contract was signed with the KidsCan Charitable Trust to continue contributory funding to the organisation through to 30 June 2021.

### **Review consumer credit law:**

In 2018 the law was changed to better protect Kiwis from debt spirals and predatory lending.

→ Since July 2019

Following MBIE's review into New Zealand's consumer credit regulation, and public consultation on suggested law changes, the Credit Contracts Legislation Amendment Act was passed in December 2019.

The Amendment Act introduces a number of important changes to better protect vulnerable consumers from getting into problem debt. This includes prescriptive requirements to make it clearer what lenders must do to comply with their obligations, and to better protect vulnerable consumers from getting into problem debt. These changes include:

- Introducing an interest rate and cost of credit cap on high-cost loans.
- New prescriptive requirements when lenders assess the affordability and suitability of loans.
- Increased enforcement and tougher penalties for breaking the law
- Responsible lending laws for mobile traders.
- Responsible advertising standards.
- Greater transparency and access to redress during debt collection.

→ Next steps

The Amendment Act 2019 provides for the creation of regulations to support a range of new legislative requirements. MBIE will also develop updates to the Responsible Lending Code, to support implementation of the new Act and regulations.

### **Review the treatment of debt to government:**

The current regulations and practices around benefit debt will be reviewed, following recommendations of the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, and the Tax Working Group on debt to government agencies.

→ Since July 2019

Joint Ministers agreed in September 2019 to priority areas of focus for cross-agency work on debt to government departments over the shorter term. These focus areas are to seek alignment across agencies (where appropriate) of approaches to relief where a person is facing (or may face) hardship, and to improve information exchange between agencies to support better management of debt.

In November 2019, Cabinet endorsed the medium-term work programme for the welfare overhaul, which includes addressing debt - both through the cross-agency work and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) continuing to improve its operational approach to preventing debt.

Another briefing to joint Ministers in December 2019 provided an update on these shorter-term focus areas, recommending three areas for immediate action:

- MSD completing a review of recoverable versus non-recoverable assistance in 2020.
- The Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and MSD working together to improve decision-making relating to attachment order repayment levels for beneficiaries.

- MOJ, MSD and Inland Revenue identifying and progressing operational changes to improve debtor experiences, including improving agencies' communications, and minimising unnecessary administrative burdens.

→ Next steps

The Social Wellbeing Agency is aiming to provide initial analysis on common debtors across MSD and IR. The cross-agency working group will report to the Social Wellbeing Deputy Chief Executives Group in 2020.

**Commerce Commission changes:**

The Commerce Act 1986 has been amended to allow the Commerce Commission to undertake market studies to determine whether there are any factors that may be impeding competition in a market. The Government is also reviewing section 36 of the Commerce Act 1986 to better enable the Commerce Commission to study markets that are not functioning effectively and may be suppressing competition.

→ Since July 2019

The first market study looked at retail fuel markets (petrol prices). The final report found that an active wholesale market for fuel does not exist in New Zealand, and this is weakening price competition in the retail market. The report also found that fuel dealers and distributors have limited ability to switch suppliers due to restrictive terms in their contracts.

The Commerce Commission made a number of recommendations aimed at improving competition in the New Zealand retail fuel sector and the Government accepted the findings of the report.

A Fuel Industry Bill (the Bill) was introduced to Parliament on 30 June 2020 as a first step to implementing these recommendations. The Bill introduces changes to wholesale market arrangements in the fuel sector to improve transparency of pricing and ensure that wholesale contracts are transparent and fair. The Bill is currently before the Finance and Expenditure Committee.

The Government announced on 8 June that it will strengthen section 36 of the Commerce Act to prohibit firms with market power from engaging in conduct that substantially lessens competition, regardless of whether they would have done so if they did not have market power.

Other changes to the Commerce Act will include:

- allowing anti-competitive intellectual property arrangements to be assessed under competition law
- increasing penalties for businesses engaging in anti-competitive mergers
- making it easier for the Commerce Commission to cooperate with other domestic agencies by sharing information it holds, subject to appropriate safeguards.

These changes are expected to be introduced by early 2021, depending on the Parliamentary schedule.

**Response to the Electricity Price Review 2018-2019 (including work on Energy Hardship):**

Government commissioned an expert advisory panel, the Electricity Price Review (EPR), to investigate whether the electricity prices paid by households are fair, efficient and equitable. Following public consultation, the panel provided its final recommendations to Government in mid-2019.

→ Since July 2019

The Review's final report was released on 3 October, alongside the Cabinet paper setting out the Government's response. The Review made 32 recommendations to strengthen the consumer voice, reduce energy hardship, improve retail and wholesale competition, improve transmission and distribution, improve the regulatory sector, and prepare for a low carbon future. In December 2019, Cabinet approved more detailed proposals for a number of key initiatives.

Of particular relevance is the decision to establish a cross-sector Energy Hardship Group of key government agencies and NGOs, to co-ordinate and provide advice on cohesive, cost-effective energy hardship initiatives, and a Consumer Advocacy Council as an independent advocate for small electricity consumers.

### Energy Hardship

A cross-sector Energy Hardship Group of key government agencies and NGOs will be established to co-ordinate and provide advice on cohesive, cost-effective energy hardship initiatives. A Consumer Advocacy Council will also be set up as an independent advocate for small electricity consumers.

Statistical indicators are being developed to track energy hardship over time, and to assess the effectiveness of measures to reduce energy hardship. Progress in this work includes:

- two workshops with nine key agencies and organisations
- meeting with Community Energy Network and associates and updating them on the progress to date, which has been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic
- receiving approval to use the Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI). This work was delayed by the COVID-19 pandemic but is now progressing.

→ Next steps

Subject to COVID-19 priorities and resourcing, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will continue to progress initiatives in response to the EPR findings and recommendations including (of particular relevance):

- establishing the cross-sector Energy Hardship Group and the Consumer Advocacy Council
- defining energy hardship and statistical measures
- determining how best to address the EPR findings and recommendation on PPDs in light of Retailers' responses to the Minister's letter and further monitoring and analysis
- working closely with the Electricity Authority to develop revised arrangements for vulnerable and medically dependent consumers, targeting draft arrangements for consultation in 2020
- determining the approach to building a network of community-level support services to assist consumers in energy hardship
- designing a fund to help households in energy hardship become more energy efficient
- using the IDI for micro data analysis
- engaging with energy retailers on including household consumption data in the IDI
- continuing to engage with the key agencies, and the Community Energy Network and associates.

## Children and young people are happy and healthy



are HAPPY  
and HEALTHY

This means:

- they have the best possible health, starting before birth
- they build self-esteem and resilience
- they have good mental wellbeing and recover from trauma
- they have spaces and opportunities to play and express themselves creatively
- they live in healthy and sustainable environments.

## Redesign maternity and early years support

### Maternity Action Plan

Maternity services are being redesigned through a five-year, end-to-end maternity programme to ensure New Zealand's maternity system is effective and sustainable. The Plan will:

- Develop an alternative, flexible commissioning model for primary community maternity services care.
- Strengthen leadership and develop an annual, national agenda for quality, safety and equity in the maternity system.
- Improve continuity of care, and develop and implement a new approach to consumer engagement.
- Address availability gaps and access issues to meet the needs of all who are pregnant, and their families and whānau.
- Partner with Māori to deliver whole-of-system improvements.
- Stabilise the system-wide maternity workforce and ensure it reflects the demand, beliefs and needs of the population, and stabilise the midwifery workforce through retention and recruitment.
- Develop a specific work programme supporting improved maternal and infant mental health outcomes.
- Review and revise the model for pregnancy and parenting resources, education and support so that it allows flexibility for different types of education (such as kaupapa Māori, Pacific models of care, Whānau Ora), ensuring it works for those with complex needs.
- Engage in cross-sector and community wellbeing projects at local, regional and national levels.
- Refresh the National Strategic Plan of Action for Breastfeeding 2008-2012.

→ Since July 2019

Between 1 July and 31 December 2019, the Ministry of Health (MoH) produced an updated Maternity Action Plan (MAP). The updated MAP keeps the overall themes from the 2019 version but develops these further, and now includes outputs, outcomes and measures for each project of work within the five work streams. It also takes a kaupapa Māori approach to ensure projects and deliverables honour the commitment to Te Tiriti o Waitangi. 9(2)(f)(iv)

- [Redacted]

MoH has drawn this information into health policy work and the Well Child/Tamariki Ora Review work. The refresh of the National Strategic Plan for Action for Breastfeeding has been developed by an Expert Advisory Group and is due for publication by September 2020. Review of the Pregnancy and Parenting Education and Information service specification has been deferred until 2020/21 due to competing priorities.

→ New investment

A funding package of \$242 million over four years has been allocated to primary maternity services; this includes \$35 million for implementing the Maternity Action Plan.

→ Next steps

Publication of the updated MAP and the refreshed National Strategic Plan of Action for Breastfeeding.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health	From 2019 - 2023

**Review of the Well Child Tamariki Ora programme**

The Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) programme provides health and development checks to all children from birth to five years of age. It also includes the B4 School Check and key touchpoints with whānau. If needs are identified, additional support can be provided through referrals to primary or secondary health care or broader social services.

→ Since July 2019

A review of WCTO has been completed. This looked at the extent to which the programme meets the needs of children and their whānau, particularly Māori, Pacific, those who live with

disabilities, are in State care, or those living with higher needs, and to ensure the programme is financially sustainable and delivering the best possible outcomes.

→ **New investment**

Funding was provided through Budget 2020 to meet price and volume pressures facing providers of WCTO. This will support providers to deliver more sustainable services to improve child wellbeing.

→ **Next steps**

A summary report of key findings from the WCTO review is being prepared for release.

In 2020/21, the Ministry will begin work on critical issues identified by the WCTO review, and further highlighted by the Covid-19 experience.

This work contributes to the development of a universal health and development contact framework across Health and Education – an integrated measurement and assessment schedule from conception to 24 years of age to support maternal, child and youth wellbeing.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health	From 2019

**Intensive parenting support: expanding the Pregnancy and Parenting Service**

Budget 2019 provided funding to expand this intensive outreach service for parents and parents-to-be, and caregivers who are experiencing problems with alcohol and other drugs, and who are poorly connected to health and social support services

→ **Since July 2019**

Budget 2019 funding will expand services for pregnant women and parents with children under three years of age from four to six sites. Service design and initial negotiations with two new sites has been completed. Each site will be able to support about 100 women and their family and whānau every year.

→ **Next steps**

Provider contracts signed and project coordination begins, with services to become fully operational in 2020/21.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health	From 2019

**Supporting actions**

**Update of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Plan:**

The Ministry of Health (MoH) met partner agencies and other key stakeholders to discuss how to take the FASD Action Plan forward, and how to make current systems more responsive to the needs of children and young people living with FASD and their families and whānau. Proposed actions focused on prevention and early identification, increasing the awareness and understanding of FASD across agencies, and building an evidence base of FASD prevalence.

→ **Since July 2019**

Next steps for the FASD Action Plan are being developed. Work with key stakeholders, family, whānau and caregivers of those living with FASD will soon be underway to revise priorities and

activities going forward. This includes Proceeds of Crime funding secured over three years for initiatives to improve early identification and support for children and young people with FASD and their families, along with research on an effective system-wide response to FASD and neurodevelopmental issues across the life course.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Inspire active, healthy and creative children and young people

### Healthy Active Learning

Healthy Active Learning is a new initiative funded through Budget 2019 that will support schools, kura and early learning settings to improve child and youth wellbeing through healthy eating and quality physical activity. Early learning settings will be supported with new resources, ranging from health promotion advisors, school physical activity advisors, and curriculum resources and guidelines. Implementation will focus on expanding healthy food and water-only or plain milk policies, enhancing delivery of the health and physical education curriculum, and fostering active school environments.

→ Since July 2019

Cross-agency governance and operational management arrangements have been established. There is a partnership with six Regional Sports Trusts (RSTs) to deliver the active component of the initiative in the first phase 2020 – 2022, and employment of Regional Leads for these six regions. RST's are actively engaging with schools. Recruitment of Healthy Active Learning Regional Leads in RSTs has been completed and recruitment of Physical Activity Advisors in RSTs has begun. The Tapuwaekura Leadership Group has been established to ensure equitable outcomes for Māori. Contracting with Public Health Units for a health promotion workforce has been completed.

→ Next steps

- Aim for 300 targeted schools and kura to be signed up, and actively engaged and supported in Healthy Active Learning in its first phase (2020 – 2022).
- Integrated Hauora Initiatives available.
- Water Safety NZ resources available.
- Te Koronga resources available.
- Recruitment of Physical Activity Advisors.
- Healthy food and drink guidance published.
- HPE Curriculum 101 resource available.
- External provider guidance available.
- Toolkits to support schools and early learning services published. Massey University has been contracted as provider of Evaluation.
- A monitoring and Evaluation Plan developed and implemented.

#### Lead agencies

Ministry of Health  
Ministry of Education  
Sport New Zealand

#### Timeframe

From Budget 2019

### Extend nurses in schools (School-Based Health Services)

School-Based Health Services (SBHS) provide free access to primary health care, including mental health, for students from Year 9 in low decile secondary schools. Students can either go to a health professional in their school, or be referred to youth health services, child youth mental health services, or their own doctor. Budget 2018 funding extended SBHS to all decile 4 secondary schools.

→ Since July 2019

Budget 2019 provided a further \$19.6 million over four years to enhance SBHS in decile 1 to 4 secondary schools and expand SBHS to decile 5 schools. Around 77,000 students at decile 1 to 4 secondary schools and 5,600 additional students at decile 5 secondary schools can now access SBHS. The initiative includes early intervention, electronic wellbeing assessments, and funding to upskill the nursing workforce to meet the needs of young people.

→ Next steps

Establishment of a National Youth Health Leadership Group to support SBHS enhancement work streams. Commence electronic psychological assessment tool development. Review of the SBHS service specification services and corresponding quality and reporting framework.

Lead agencies	Timeframe
Ministry of Health Ministry of Education	From Budget 2018

**Delivery of Strategy for Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation**

The strategy, launched in October 2018, has a strong focus on girls and young women across its three priority areas: leadership, participation, and value and visibility. Sport New Zealand will deliver initiatives in partnership with the community. In April 2019 Sport New Zealand launched two new funds under the strategy: the Young Women's Activation Fund, and the Innovations for Young Women Fund. Organisations can apply for support for new opportunities to encourage young women aged 12-18 to stay active and develop their leadership skills.

→ Since July 2019

Completion of the Women and Girls outcomes framework. Planning for 'Diversity Health Check' data collection. Delivery of initiatives to improve experiences for woman and girls in coaching. Inaugural 'Sport NZ Women and Girls Summit' held in October 2019. Approval of increased investment, and activation of new funds targeting women and girls.

→ Next steps

Develop framework measures.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Sport New Zealand	2018–2021

**Creatives in Schools**

Budget 2019 provided funding for a Creatives in Schools programme to be delivered to schools and kura. Professional artists and creative practitioners will partner with schools to share specialist artistic knowledge and creative practice with students. Students and ākonga will receive 100 contact hours with a creative(s).

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Education has been working with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Creative New Zealand in project planning, promotion, selection, implementation, and evaluation. Applications for the first round of Creatives in Schools were open in September and October 2019. There was a good response with 157 applications being submitted. From these, 34 projects were chosen to take place in Terms 1 and 2, 2020. The projects include schools and kura from all

around the country, and include a good mix of primary and secondary schools and kura, as well as a range of art forms.

Round 1 projects, consisting of 34 schools and kura, and started their delivery in Term 1, 2020. They received the first of two payments in Feb 2020 and will receive the second payment in terms 3 or 4. Applications for the second round of Creatives in Schools are open from June to August 2020, for projects to take place in 2021.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, schools and kura delayed the end of their projects to term 3 or 4.

→ *New Investment*

Budget 2020 provided additional funding, increasing the total number of projects from 304 to 510 over the first four years of the programme.

→ *Next steps*

Manage the selection process for Round 2 projects. Continue evaluation of the programme.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	2020–2024

### Supporting actions

#### Local Government (Community Well-being) Amendment Bill:

In May 2019 the Government passed new legislation to restore the four ‘wellbeings’ (social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing of communities) to the statutory purpose of local government. This acknowledges local government’s valuable role in promoting wellbeing, including child and youth wellbeing.

→ *Since July 2019*

Completed. The Local Government (Community Wellbeing) Amendment Bill has been enacted with the following relevant changes to the Local Government Act:

- Restores community wellbeing (social, economic, environmental and cultural wellbeing) to the purpose of local government in the Local Government Act 2002; and
- Restores the broad range of community infrastructure for which local authorities may collect development contributions.

The Act sets the legislative framework for local authorities, which is empowering, not directive. The changes mandate local authorities to promote community wellbeing. They will be given effect through local authorities’ statutory planning and decision-making processes, based on community consultation.

#### Toi Rangatahi arts funds:

Three new funds were launched in 2019 to support arts projects to help young New Zealanders (aged 10 to 25) to participate in, to lead, or to engage in high-quality arts projects and activities in their own communities. The funds target three specific areas of interest – Participation (10-12 years), Engagement (15-25 years) and Leadership (15-25 years) – with a focus on under-represented communities.

→ *Since July 2019*

The total level of investment across the three funds in this round was \$737,681 for 20 applications. These applications covered all art forms and included workshops, performance,

exhibitions, street art and mentoring, with activity across regional centres including Waikato, Northland and Hawke's Bay. Under-represented communities targeted by these funds include young people in youth justice residencies, those with complex mental health needs, and those in low decile schools. Twenty assessors were engaged across the three Funds and, for the first time, youth assessors participated in the assessment process.

The Leadership Fund (supporting ages 15-25) was repeated in 2019. Five projects were supported to a total of \$48, 877.

→ Next steps

The second round of all three funds closed on 14 February 2020.

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, these funds were suspended to enable Creative New Zealand to focus its resources on its emergency response programmes. Creative New Zealand is currently considering what programmes it will bring back on stream in 2020/21.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Increase support for mental wellbeing

### Expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction support

Budget 2019 provided funding to enhance primary mental health and addiction responses across New Zealand to expand access and choice of mental health and addiction support, in particular for New Zealanders with mild to moderate needs. The Ministry of Health will carry out an extensive process to co-design services that meet the specific needs of people in different regions. Māori, people with lived experience of mental health and addiction, Pacific peoples, young people, the rainbow community and people living in rural areas will be represented in the co-design process. Greater access to services and more choice about the kinds of support available are a core part of this work, including in kaupapa Māori organisations, Pacific organisations, general practices, and community and youth settings.

→ Since July 2019

Budget 2019 invested \$455 million over four years towards expanding access to and choice of primary and community mental health and addiction services. This included:

- Sustaining and expanding existing primary mental health and addiction services and pilots, and developing new services.
- Expanding workforce capacity and capability.
- Collaboratively designing core components of enhanced responses for priority population groups.
- Establishing implementation infrastructure.

9(2)(f)(iv)

→ New Investment

An additional \$25 million has been provided through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund to expand and accelerate frontline mental health and wellbeing services at tertiary education institutes to help students manage ongoing stresses related to COVID-19. The funding builds on the existing roll out of free primary mental health and wellbeing services for youth aged 12-24 years, including the Piki programme for 18-25 year olds in Wellington (listed as a supporting action below), programmes at Auckland and Canterbury Universities, and the Youth RFP referred to above.

→ Next steps

9(2)(j)

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health	From 2019

### Forensic mental health services for young people

Budget 2019 provided funding to ensure safe and secure forensic mental health services are available to young people. This responds to the legislative change increasing the youth justice age from 17 to 18 years, resulting in more young people within the youth justice system. \$19 million will be invested over four years in youth forensic mental health, including support for 20 youth forensic staff to receive specific post graduate level training annually, over four years.

→ Since July 2019

The training course is underway and the funding for community staffing has been assigned to lead DHBs of each of the five youth forensic regions for distribution. Dedicated funding will be provided to increase community youth forensic staff across all regions, over four years.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health	From 2019

### Suicide prevention strategy

Government has committed to developing a national suicide prevention strategy focused on the needs of particular groups. This will include a focus on children and young people.

→ Since July 2019

On 10 September 2019, *Every Life Matters He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata: Suicide Prevention Strategy 2019-2029* and *Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2019-2024* was released. The Suicide Prevention Office (SPO), responsible for overseeing the implementation of the strategy and action plan, was officially opened in late November. A Māori expert reference panel chaired by Sir Mason Durie was established to provide the Director of the Suicide Prevention Office with expert, high level strategic advice, support and guidance on matters relating to Māori suicide prevention and implementation of *Every Life Matters: He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata*.

The Office has delivered a number of the Budget 2019 investments including:

- the development of a national suicide bereavement response service
- additional postvention services in DHBs
- establishing Māori and Pacific Suicide Prevention Community Funds
- enhanced information services for whānau and the media.

The Office is also progressing other actions, including commissioning a review of the Coronial Suspected Suicide Data Sharing Service, and a review of regional and community-level suicide prevention and postvention resources

→ Next steps

The reviews noted the above are expected to be completed by September 2020, with the findings informing suicide prevention approaches and investments moving forward. A monitoring and evaluation framework, a stakeholder engagement plan, and a communications strategy, will be developed.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Health Suicide Prevention Office	From 2019

### Promote wellbeing in primary and intermediate schools

Budget 2019 investment will make resilience-building and mindfulness resources more readily available to primary and intermediate schools and teachers across the country.

→ Since July 2019

Planned work was reconfigured due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding was re-directed to developing resilience-building and mindfulness resources for parents to use at home with children (Sparklers at Home).

→ Next steps

Planned work on school-based resources will re-commence in 2020/21.

#### Lead agency

Ministry of Health

#### Timeframe

From 2019

### Strengthening Pacific Youth Mental Health and Resilience (newly added)

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is piloting a programme to support Pacific young people to lead their own innovative initiatives to strengthen Pacific youth mental health and resilience. A second component of this work recognises the important role of family and community, and will focus on supporting the intergenerational conversation about Pacific youth mental health and raising awareness.

#### Lead agency

Ministry for Pacific Peoples

#### Timeframe

From 2019

### Supporting actions

#### Piki pilot expansion:

The pilot, launched in Porirua in February 2019, provides free counselling and age-appropriate mental health support for young people aged 18 to 25 years with mild to moderate mental health conditions. The pilot was fully operational across the Wellington region by the end of 2019 and will run until 2021.

→ Since July 2019

Completed. The Piki pilot is being delivered in a phased manner across the three District Health Board areas in the Greater Wellington Region with full-service coverage. The Ministry of Health has received the first evaluation report from the University of Otago, Wellington. A final evaluation will be delivered at the end of the pilot (30 June 2021).

#### Āta Hihiko:

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Be Intent partnered to create the Āta Hihiko app, which was customized during a series of co-design workshops in South Auckland and Northland from July-October 2017. This is a Māori-focused self-development app that is designed to encourage and build wellbeing behaviours. The app helps young people make good decisions and small behaviour changes throughout their day to build aspiration, good habits, resilience, and mental and emotional wellbeing. It is being run as a trial with 100 young Māori.

→ Next steps

Further work on the app has been paused as a consequence of COVID-19. When possible, a trial of the co-designed solution will go-live with a larger sample group to further understand the impact of the app on improving wellbeing outcomes for young people.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Children and young people are learning and developing



are **LEARNING** and  
**DEVELOPING**

This means:

- they are positively engaged with, progressing and achieving in education
- they develop the social, emotional and communication skills they need as they progress through life
- they have the knowledge, skills and encouragement to achieve their potential and enable choices around further education, volunteering, employment and entrepreneurship
- they can successfully navigate life's transitions

### Improve quality in education

#### Statement of National Education and Learning Priorities and Tertiary Education Strategy

The statement of National Education and Learning Priorities (NELP) for early childhood and compulsory education will set out the education and learning priorities for all early learning settings (including ngā kōhanga reo), schools and kura. The Tertiary Education Strategy (TES) sets out the Government's long-term strategic direction and current and medium term priorities for tertiary education.

→ Since July 2019

From 17 September until 25 November the Ministry of Education undertook public consultation on the draft NELP and draft TES. Consultation on the TES closed on 25 October, with consultation on the NELP continuing through to 25 November. This consultation included 25 community hui across the country, in addition to targeted engagements with sector and other stakeholders.

→ Next steps

Publication of the NELP and the TES was delayed due to the COVID pandemic. These documents are being finalised with the Minister of Education.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Education

**Timeframe**

From 2020

#### Education Workforce Strategy and workforce strategy for Māori-medium education

An Education Workforce Strategy is being developed in partnership with the education sector. Work will include the wider workforce across early learning, primary and secondary education, and the learning support workforce. This will be complemented by a workforce strategy for Māori-medium education covering Māori immersion level one, where more than 81% of learning is provided in Māori language immersion. The two strategies are highly connected, and will largely share the same outcomes.

→ Since July 2019

The original timeline has been reviewed after a delay before the primary principals' collective agreement was settled in August 2019. This work is now being progressed, and the co-design process being undertaken with the education sector is continuing.

→ Next steps

The two strategies will be considered by Cabinet when a new government is formed.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	Timeline is currently being reviewed.

**Address learners' needs by improving data quality, availability, timeliness and capability**

This initiative provides a data system that enables a joined-up approach to data about student progress and their learning support needs throughout their schooling.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry has established the Data Protection and Use Policy for the Social Sector in Education working group and held a symposium on 10 March.

Automated data quality checks have been implemented for a number of core data collections and systems in the Early Childhood Education (ECE) and schooling sectors, e.g. the annual ECE Census and school roll collections; and the ENROL system. Ensuring correct information is entered at the point of data collection reduces the amount of time spent correcting data quality issues. A national learner data repository, called Te Rito, has been purchased. This will create an individual record of every learner, and follow that learner through their entire learner journey. Data will transfer from school student management systems into the Te Rito platform.

Te Rito early stage roll-out went live in early March for twelve schools and nine ECEs in the Bay of Plenty region.

→ Next steps

This rollout included provision of a set of dashboards and the standardised Learning Support Register (sLSR). A second roll-out of the sLSR is planned for one cluster in early August involving an additional eight schools. Further rollouts are planned and additional functionality is being developed. Two-way data flow remains the main priority, and the introduction of piloting the virtual learning features is scheduled for later this year.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2019

**Response to the review of home-based early childhood education**

The focus of this action is a gradual shift towards requiring home-based educators to hold at least a level 4 ECE qualification to improve the quality of educator-child interactions in home-based early childhood education. Evidence suggests that an ECE qualification supports educators to provide children with stimulating, warm and supportive early learning experiences. Research shows that high-quality ECE can improve children's learning and developmental outcomes, particularly for those in socio-economic disadvantage.

→ Since July 2019

In response to the review, advice was provided to the Minister of Education on a transition profile and transition costs for next steps.

→ New investment

Home-based ECE services on the quality funding rate will receive a 3.8% rate increase from 1 January 2021.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2018

**He Taonga Te Tamaiti - Every Child A Taonga: Early Learning Action Plan 2019-29**

A draft strategic plan was developed by a Ministerial Advisory Group, a larger Reference Group that included sector stakeholders, and the Ministry of Education (MoE). In November 2018 the draft plan was launched for public consultation, which ran until March 2019, with substantial feedback being received.

→ Since July 2019

The plan, now entitled He Taonga Te Tamaiti - Every Child A Taonga: Early Learning Action Plan 2019-29, was published in December 2019. The action plan draws on what New Zealanders said about the draft strategic plan, and what they shared during Kōrero Mātauranga, and is focused on change and transformation in early learning. It sets out five interdependent objectives and 25 actions intended to work together to raise quality, improve equity and enable choice of service type in early learning.

→ Next Steps

Implementation will take a stepped approach over the next 10 years, and will be contingent on Cabinet agreement to individual actions and future Budget processes. A number of actions will require changes to one or more aspects of the regulatory framework that governs early learning services. The actions set out in this action plan requiring regulatory change should be understood as statements of intention, pending any necessary public consultation within the regulatory change process.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2019

**Urgent Response Fund for learner wellbeing (newly added)**

The Government will provide a \$50 million Urgent Response Fund (URF) for the 2020/2021 year for centre-based early learning services, schools and kura to support the wellbeing needs of their learners and ākonga.

Examples of how the Urgent Response Fund could be used include:

- catch-up learning support, small group tutoring
- professional advice, such as mentors, councillors, child psychologists and behaviour support workers to advise on responses to children or young people's needs
- community support by a service or school, such as before or after school care
- additional teacher time or teacher aide time to support children and young people with wellbeing needs related to the COVID-19 lockdown.
- teacher release to provide additional support to students
- additional support for learners with mild to moderate, to high and complex needs including those who are neurodiverse and gifted

- necessary resources or materials for improving wellbeing/reducing stress, anxiety
- connecting with iwi, hapū, community organisations, churches, local services and others who know their communities and are well placed to support families and whānau.

Responsibility for the Fund is devolved to Directors of Education, working with early learning services, schools, and kura, and all funding decisions are made collectively. The funding, for 2020/2021, can be used for individual, group, class or school, kura or early learning service-wide responses to children and young people’s wellbeing needs.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Education

**Timeframe**

2020/2021

**Programme to establish Curriculum Leads to support the health and wellbeing of learners (newly added)**

A new programme will establish 40 new curriculum leads to work with schools, kura, centre-based early learning services and kōhanga reo to support the health and wellbeing of learners. These positions will be regionally based, and will work in partnership to embed high-quality teaching approaches to mental health, wellbeing and healthy relationships in learning programmes and local curricula. The curriculum leads will have expertise in The New Zealand Curriculum, Te Marautanga of Aotearoa and Te Whāriki. They will have the ability to work with Pacific, Māori, disability and lower socio-economic communities to engage in sensitive conversations that support children and young people.

The curriculum leads announcement is in response to the expected increase in wellbeing and mental health needs of learners post-COVID-19, and in response to the Education Conversation | Korero Mātauranga, the Māori Education Wānanga and the Pacific Education Fono.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Education

**Timeframe**

Ongoing from Term 1, 2021

**Tomorrow’s Schools Review**

Tomorrow’s Schools is the name given to a set of major reforms that dramatically changed the governance, management and administration of the New Zealand school system which began in 1988. As part of the Education Work Programme, the Tomorrow’s Schools Independent Taskforce was appointed to review the provision of compulsory schooling in Aotearoa New Zealand with a focus on developing a schooling system that promotes equity and excellence for all young people, and prepares them for the challenges and opportunities they will face in the future.

The Taskforce provided an initial report to the Minister of Education in November 2018. From December 2018 to April 2019 the Taskforce undertook more than 100 public and targeted meetings with stakeholders and received more than 5,000 submissions on this initial report. The Taskforce’s final report was then submitted to the Minister of Education in July 2019.

→ Since July 2019

In November 2019 the Government released its response to the Taskforce’s final report, *Supporting All Schools to Succeed: reform of the Tomorrow’s Schools system*. This document announced a series of significant reforms representing a reset of the Tomorrow’s Schools system. The key features of this approach are:

- more responsive, accessible and integrated local support to schools and early learning services

- stronger arrangements to underpin principal leadership of the schooling system
- a better balance between local and national responsibilities for school property and network provision.

→ Next Steps

The reset is significant and the intended changes require ongoing investment of both time and resource. These will need to be managed in a coherent and connected way over the next ten years.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From May 2019

### National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) Change Package

In May 2019, following a review and extensive public engagement, a package of seven changes to strengthen NCEA was announced. These changes are:

- Make NCEA more accessible – zero fees, fewer barriers for learners with disabilities and learning support needs.
- Equal status for mātauranga Maori in NCEA – develop new ways to recognise mātauranga Maori, build teacher capability, and improve resourcing and support for Maori learners and te ao Māori pathways.
- Strengthen literacy and numeracy standards and assessments – ensure students with an NCEA have functional literacy and numeracy skills that will ready them to transition into tertiary education or the workplace.
- Fewer, larger standards – new achievement standards and resources will be developed to replace existing standards and ensure the qualification achieved credentials the most significant learning in a learning area or subject.
- Simplify NCEA's structure – credits can no longer be carried over to the next level and resubmissions will only be allowed where they take students from a Not Achieved grade to an Achieved grade. Sixty credits are required to pass each NCEA level.
- Clearer pathways to further education or work – develop a Vocational Entrance Award to clearly signal when a student is ready to transition into higher level vocational education and strengthen vocational pathways through NCEA.
- Keep NCEA Level 1 optional – ensure Level 1 provides students with the broad, foundational knowledge needed to support specialisation at Levels 2 and 3.

→ Since July 2019

New NCEA Level 1 standards have been developed for four subjects (English, Science, Religious Studies and Visual Arts) through a Trial and Pilots process, in preparation for rebuilding NCEA standards and resources across all subjects. The draft Level 1 teaching and assessment resources were released for public feedback from December 2019 to early March 2020, have been iterated, and will be re-released for further input from the education sector in mid- to late-August.

Four NCEA Panels have been established to ensure a broad range of stakeholders – including Māori, Pacific communities, advocates for vocational pathways, and organisations advocating for people with disabilities – have a voice in the design and implementation of the NCEA changes.

Feedback Hubs have been established in a small number of schools across New Zealand to assist in designing and testing materials relating to the NCEA Change Package. These Feedback Hubs

aim to seek feedback from students, teachers, school leaders, parents, whānau, Board of Trustees and other members of the school community.

While work on the NCEA change programme has been ongoing during COVID-19, most sector engagement work for the NCEA Review (including the Review of Achievement Standards) was put on hold. As a result, new NCEA Level 1 standards will now be developed and trialled by the end of 2022, with new Level 2 and 3 standards following by the end of 2023 and 2024 respectively.

→ Next Steps

The Ministry of Education will continue partnering with key stakeholders – students, parents and the education sector – to complete the detailed design of the NCEA changes and ensure they are coherently, accessibly and successfully implemented. The Ministry will also begin working with groups of teachers and other experts in each subject to develop new standards, assessment tasks and supports for NCEA Level 1.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From May 2019

**Reform of vocational education**

The Government is considering creating one system for all vocational education where:

- All vocational education organisations will have clear roles and uphold and enhance Māori-Crown partnerships.
- Public vocational education will be available consistently throughout New Zealand via a single national Institute of Skills and Technology.
- There will be a single funding system that focuses everyone on the right things.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Education continues to partner with the Tertiary Education Commission and NZQA to deliver the reforms, as well as working closely with the New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology (NZIST). NZIST, which came into being on 1 April 2020, brought the existing sixteen Institutes of Technology and Polytechnics (ITPs) together into one organisation. The Education (Vocational Education and Training Reform) Amendment Bill also came into effect on 1 April 2020.

Eight members of Te Taumata Aronui were agreed by Cabinet and announced on 16 December 2019. The members will work with officials to develop a tertiary education system that works with Māori to improve learner and community outcomes. The location of NZIST and recruitment of subsidiary board members has been completed.

Analytical and policy design work has progressed for the Unified Funding System, supported by a Funding Reference Group.

The detailed timeline for the evaluation and selection process for the Primary and Construction Centres of Vocational Excellence was finalised. The TEC is currently considering proposals for funding.

The final Workforce Development Council (WDC) coverage areas have been agreed and the six WDCs were announced on 17 December. Interim establishment boards are being set-up, and funding has been appropriated for the WDCs.

→ Next steps

The appointment, establishment and operation of the Council and the NZIST as an organisation.

Support the work programme of Te Taumata Aronui.	
<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ministry of Education	Changes phased in from 2020

<b>Support for Te Kōhanga Reo (newly added)</b>	
An extra \$196.2 million in funding for Te Kōhanga Reo was provided through Budget 2020. This will help ensure kaiako are adequately paid and learning facilities are in good condition in order to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori.	
<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ministry of Education	From May 2020

<b>A code of pastoral care for domestic tertiary students (newly added)</b>	
\$6.1 million in funding is being provided to administer a code of pastoral care for domestic tertiary students.	
<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ministry of Education	May 2020

<b>Urgent boost to Playcentre funding (newly added)</b>	
The COVID-19 lockdown disrupted the flow of grants, donations and fundraising that Playcentre Aotearoa organises to help provide this learning environment for around 9,500 children. As a consequence, \$3.7 million is being provided to address these urgent funding issues. A further \$500,000 will also be available to assess the condition of playcentre facilities throughout the country.	
This funding is in addition to the extra funding of \$3.1 million over four years for playcentres in Budget 2020.	
<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
Ministry of Education	June 2020

## Increase equity of educational outcomes

Equity Index	
<p>Medium-term work is under way to better understand and target socio-economic disadvantage, and provide more equitable resourcing to schools and kura. This includes replacing the current decile funding system with the Equity Index.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>Cabinet agreed in principle to shift from deciles to the Equity Index from the 2021 or 2022 school year. A first round of sector engagement on this was completed November 2019. This included 21 engagement sessions with principal groups, unions and peak bodies across New Zealand, and 14 sessions with the Ministry's regional staff.</p> <p>→ Next steps</p> <p>A second round of engagement with the wider public on the proposed shift is planned for late 2020.</p>	
Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2019

Action Plan for Pacific Education 2020-2030	
<p>Through a fono series in 2018 that was part of a broader conversation on education, Pacific learners, families, teachers, leaders and communities shared what matters to them in education: an education system that is free from racism; that values Pacific children, young people and families as leaders of learning; and supports them to feel safe, valued and equipped to achieve their education aspirations. A further 28 fono were held with Pacific communities across the country in 2019 to design an Action Plan for Pacific Education.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>In response to the 2018 and 2019 fono, the Action Plan for Pacific Education 2020-2030 was developed. The Action Plan outlines the shifts Pacific communities want to see in the education system to support this direction of travel, and details existing government investment in Pacific learners and their families. This includes investments made to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19. The Action Plan was launched in July 2020.</p>	
Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2020

Improve learning support: Learning Support Action Plan
<p>The Learning Support Action Plan has been developed to improve outcomes for children and young people who need extra support in the education system. Budget 2019 provided funding for these key actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a Learning Support Coordinator (LSC) role to strengthen in-school support and build the learning support capability of teachers, identify and plan for the disability and learning support needs of children and young people, and lead school/kura-wide engagement with parents and whānau.</li> <li>• Flexible use of funding to meet increased demand for learning support services.</li> </ul>

- Implement early intervention support for an additional 4,600 children.
- Provide additional funding so schools can maintain the current level and quality of English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) programmes.
- Support learning opportunities for children and young people who are deaf or hard of hearing, and increase the availability of Assistive Technology.
- Expand the Te Kahu Tōi, Intensive Wraparound Service.
- Provide education services and assessments in Youth Justice Residences and Community Remand Homes.

This investment supports the priorities of the Learning Support Action Plan to provide earlier support, and strengthen an inclusive education system where every child and young person feels a sense of belonging, is present, makes progress, and where their wellbeing is safeguarded and promoted.

→ Since July 2019

*LSCs:*

Resources and training on the LSC role were delivered to Boards of Trustees and principals in more than 35 workshop events across the country. Three, two-day induction forums for all LSCs and cluster Lead Principals, in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch were held in February 2020. A draft copy of the resource *Learning Support Coordinator – A Guide to the Role* was at induction forums. Feedback from this group and sector bodies will inform the final version.

A specialist provider has been contracted to evaluate the design, implementation, and operation of the LSC role. The evaluation will use a mix of methods including quantitative indicators, survey data, interviews and site visits, in four main phases over three years. As at June 2020, approximately 534 of the 623 LSC roles (86%) had commenced employment in schools.

*Standardised Learning Support Register*

In 2019 design workshops took place with a range of stakeholders to develop a standardised Learning Support Register (sLSR). The sLSR will enable LSCs, schools and clusters to record learning support needs in one place, provide a consistent language about learning support, show the number of learners who need support, and track learners' progress over time. Implementation will begin in 2020.

*Neurodiversity:*

A literature review on Neurodiversity in the Education context was commissioned from The Donald Beasley Institute. This has now been completed.

Two primary schools in the Wellington region are piloting a self-regulation alert programme with support from the Ministries of Education and Health.

*Strengthening screening and the early identification of learning support needs:*

Existing tools have been identified to help with the identification (not diagnosis) of dyslexia. These tools were made available in February 2020 to coincide with the rollout of the first tranche of LSCs in schools.

*Meeting the learning needs of gifted children and young people:*

A Māori Advisory Group was established to support development work on culturally specific services and approaches to explore the Māori cultural context for gifted ākonga. Sixty five gifted learners received awards to complete a particular project or activity in areas that may be quite

different from their usual learning. In November, 18 teachers of gifted students received awards enabling them to improve their ability to support gifted learners. In April 2020 a further 46 awards for gifted learners were announced.

*Improving education for children and young people at risk of disengaging:*

Work to support students at risk of disengaging from education has focused on the redesign of Alternative Education and the Attendance Service (this includes Alternative Education, Activity Centres and Te Kura at risk gateway). Sector engagement has led to a proposal to provide in-school, full-time intensive support and post-school transition support and pathways. Intensive support would also include primary aged students.

Two Attendance Service trials are being piloted in Kawerau and South Auckland to move support and resources closer to the schools and community. The trials will run for 21 months and will be developed within a flexible implementation framework to ensure that changes can be made, during the trials, if necessary. MoE is continuing to work with and identify education providers for the residential community remand homes being established across the country.

→ Next steps

- Deliver ongoing regional forums for LSCs, principals, Resource Teachers and MoE specialist staff in the second half of 2020.
- Provide LSCs with a final and printed copy of the resource *Learning Support Coordinator – A Guide to the Role* in August 2020.
- Start a phased rollout of the standardised Learning Support Register on the Te Rito platform.
- Develop a more strategic and planned approach to the overall network of education provision in order to strengthen the range of supports available in each region in line with the National Education Network Plan.
- Provide a series of engagement sessions with key stakeholders on the key findings of the Donald Beasley Institute’s literature review on neurodiversity and identify next steps in supporting these learners.
- Work with a key group of thought leaders around Te Aō Māori and neurodiversity to ensure that all work is well positioned within a strength based Māori world view.
- Work with Autism NZ to pilot an online professional learning programme for LSCs and complete an evaluation of this programme by the end of July with a view to further extend this initiative, subject to available resources.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	2019-2025

**Early Intervention: Te Kōhanga Reo – Learning Support Initiative and Targeted COVID-19 Response (newly added)**

This initiative enables the Ministry of Education to partner with Te Kōhanga Reo National Trust to co-design and co-deliver targeted strategies and support for the kōhanga whānau (kaiako, parents, whānau) to support tamariki with learning support needs and reduce the gap in access to learning support. This initiative focuses on keeping kōhanga whānau connected during COVID-19 alert levels and enabling a safe return of all tamariki and whānau to Kōhanga.

Programmes that benefit Māori must reflect cultural ways of knowing and being. The combined expertise of the Trust (Te Ao Māori and Te Reo Māori) and the specialist knowledge of the

Ministry, will ensure that all communication, resources and approaches are built on Kaupapa Māori and meet the unique needs of their communities.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Education

**Timeframe**

May 2020

**Improve and accelerate education outcomes for Pacific learners**

This initiative works to ensure that Pacific learners and their families have their identities, languages and cultures valued and respected, and that they have the skills, knowledge, and equitable opportunities to pursue any educational pathway. This will be done by partnering with communities to focus on achieving outcomes for Pacific learners, growing the cultural competency of the workforce, and providing opportunities to learn in Pacific languages

→ Since July 2019

Implementing the initiative so far has included:

- Contract confirmed for production of professional learning and development materials that will enable teachers and leaders to engage with Tapasā.
- 47 providers confirmed to deliver a Parent Responsive Education programme in 63 locations, including 13 school-led providers.
- 25 schools identified to participate in additional Developing Mathematical Communities of Inquiry in 2020.
- Scoping work completed on community-based education pilots as part of the Action Plan for Pacific Education.
- A fono held with Pacific bilingual teachers to determine the need for and priority order for resource development.

→ Next steps

Production of Tapasā professional development materials completed. Delivery of the Parent Responsive Education programme across 63 locations. Development of an online toolkit. Community-based education pilots in three regions underway.

**Lead agency**

Ministry of Education

**Timeframe**

From 2019

**Targeted support for Pacific learners to access education (newly added)**

\$80.2 million is being provided over 4 years through Budget 2020 for targeted support to ensure Pacific learners and families are equipped to access education. It will support Pacific learners' access to education by:

- Funding brokerage services between Pacific learners and families and education services, and Pacific providers and government agencies.
- Establishing a Pacific Education Innovation Fund to promote culturally sustaining practice in the COVID-19 context.
- Enabling leaders in Tautai o le Moana, a principal leadership collaborative, to promote culture change in schools to support Pacific learners.

- Providing governance and management support for Pacific early learning centres; and translating and distributing key materials in Pacific languages.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Education

From 2020

**Toloa - Empowering Pacific participation in STEM (newly added)**

\$4.85 million is being provided over 2 years to increase Pacific participation in STEM related sectors, to increase skills and income through the Toloa programme.

This programme encourages Pacific students to pursue studies in STEM subjects, with the aim of increasing the number of Pacific peoples employed in STEM careers. To reach key Pacific audiences simultaneously, the Toloa Programme delivers to three key strands:

- Toloa Tertiary Scholarships for Pacific students pursuing STEM related study.
- Toloa Kenese for Post Primary Pacific students to increase awareness and influence students into STEM study options early on.
- Toloa Community Fund for Community Groups promoting and delivering STEM activities to our key Pacific influencer groups (parents, family, religious ministers etc.)

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry for Pacific Peoples

May 2020

**Fees-Free Tertiary Education and Training**

Government introduced the Fees-Free Tertiary Education and Training policy in January 2018. Eligible students beginning study at a university, wānanga, institute of technology, polytechnic, or private training establishment, can now get their first year of full-time study fees-free, or an equivalent amount of part-time study fees-free. New apprentices and their employers can have their on-job training costs covered for their first two years. The intent is to remove financial barriers for people to go onto further study or training.

→ Since July 2019

Completed.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Tertiary Education Commission

From 2018

**Free access to period products in schools (newly added)**

Findings from the Youth19 Survey found 12 per cent of year 9 to 13 students who menstruate reported difficulty getting access to products due to cost. Approximately one in 12 students reported having missed school due to lack of access to sanitary products. This trend is worse for lower decile schools, but barriers to access exist for students in schools of all deciles.

\$2.6 million has been invested to provide free period products to schools starting in term 3. The roll-out will begin at 15 Waikato schools and be expanded to all state and state-integrated schools on an opt-in basis in 2021.

**Lead agency**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Education

Term 3 2020

#### Enabling distance learning (newly added)

Emergency funding of \$87.8 million allocated over 2 years was provided to enable distance learning for early childhood education and schooling. This included \$38.7 million being provided for National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) online programme, which has already enabled two-thirds of the NECA exams to be delivered digitally.

##### Lead agency

Ministry of Education

##### Timeframe

From May 2020

#### High School Health Needs Fund (newly added)

The School High Health Needs Fund (SHHNF) will be increased by \$19.65 million in funding over 4 years. SHHNF provides teachers' aide support for students with high health needs who need care and supervision for more than six weeks so they can attend school safely. Since 2014 the number of students supported through the SHHNF has grown by an average of 16.3 per cent each year.

##### Lead agency

Ministry of Education

##### Timeframe

From May 2020

#### Specialist library services for schools and young people (newly added)

\$13.3 million is being provided over four years for specialist library services for schools and young people with the greatest need at this time.

##### Lead agency

Ministry of Education

##### Timeframe

May 2020

#### Supporting Action

##### Digital Technologies for All Equity Fund:

This fund was established through Budget 2018 to give less advantaged students better access to digital tools, skills and knowledge.

→ Since July 2019

Digital Ignition | Māpura Matihiko, led by EY, was delivered to 3,748 students/ākonga by the end of Term 3 2019. Student responses indicate the majority (>90%) agree or strongly agree the workshops have been useful, enjoyable, able to be understood and exciting.

→ Next steps

Contracts have been extended until the end of 2020. Milestone reports are expected quarterly, complemented by monthly reporting.

## Support life transitions

### New service for transition support out of State care or youth justice custody

Budget 2019 provided funding for a new transition support service for eligible young people leaving State care or youth justice custody, to provide a more gradual and supported transition to adulthood, up to the age of 25. The service is relationship-based, and will support young people to prepare for transition, respond to their needs as they leave, and help them gain life skills to thrive as an adult. It will provide advice and assistance, opportunities for more young people to have a trusted adult in their lives, and broker services and housing support.

→ Since July 2019

Oranga Tamariki has partnered with 49 community and Iwi/Māori partners across Aotearoa to provide transition services. There are 78 FTE Transition Workers nationwide, and 604 young people actively working with their transition workers.

Eligible young people will:

- be able to request advice and assistance from us after they leave care or a youth justice residential placement until they turn 25
- have a Transition Worker to walk alongside them and maintain regular contact up to the age of 21
- be supported to remain living or return to living with a caregiver between 18 and 21.

→ Next steps

On-going support continues from Oranga Tamariki through its transition partners.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 1 July 2019

### Programmes for young people not in education, employment or training (NEETs)

Budget 2019 provided funding to expand programmes that enhance education and employment outcomes for young people:

- **Mana in Mahi – Strength in Work:** a programme to help get disadvantaged young people into long term sustainable employment while gaining an apprenticeship or formal industry qualification. Budget 2020 provided for the expansion of Mana in Mahi as part of the Apprenticeship Support Programme. It now offers additional supports to employers and includes workers of all ages who may have to retrain as a result of COVID-19.
- **Tupu Aotearoa (previously known as the Pacific Employment Support Services):** providers are contracted to work with and support Pacific young people NEETs and engage directly with Pacific families and communities to ensure Pacific young people NEETs are supported into employment and training. Budget 2019 funding and the Provincial Growth Fund will support the expansion of Tupu Aotearoa into regional (recently established in Waikato, Manawatu-Wanganui, Bay of Plenty, Hawkes Bay, Otago and Southland) and metropolitan areas (previously only in South Auckland and now rolled out to wider Auckland) across New Zealand.
- **He Poutama Rangatahi:** Budget 2019 provided additional funding for this initiative that supports communities to develop pathways (poutama) for rangatahi (young people aged 15 to 24 years) who are NEETs, to take them through to sustained employment, underpinned by intensive pastoral care.



This builds on funding provided through 2018 for He Poutama Rangatahi programmes and these initiatives:

- **Pae Aronui:** A new initiative to enhance skills and employment opportunities for rangatahi Māori aged 15-24 who are NEETs. Pae Aronui targets urban areas of South and West Auckland, Hamilton, Porirua and the Hutt Valley as they have the highest number of Māori rangatahi who are not in employment, education or training, and with the highest projected employment growth rates.
- **Taiohi Ararau - Passport to Life:** funding was provided to expand this programme for taiohi aged 15-24 who are NEETs. Through the programme, participants can access essential documents including a birth certificate, bank account, driver's licenses, or an IRD number.

→ Since July 2019

#### **Mana in Mahi:**

Phase One was completed successfully in June 2019, delivering 247 placements against a target of 150. Of the 247 placements, 47% are Māori and 6% are Pacific People. Phase Two commenced in July 2019 with the aim of a further 1,850 placements by the end of the 2022/23 year.

Achievements in Phase Two so far:

- Policy setting changes implemented extending client eligibility and allowing the use of part-time contracts. This will enable more people with health conditions and disabilities to participate.
- Implementation of an enhanced training pathways process which supports young people to enrol in industry training sooner.
- Implementation of an improved off boarding process for participants who leave the programme.
- Guidance provided to staff to navigate qualification pathways with employers and clients.
- Phase One evaluation process complete – January 2020.
- Delivery of additional support services for young people in the Mana in Mahi programme.
- Virtual mentoring (phone and internet based) - February 2020.

#### **Pae Aronui:**

Continued to support and monitor six providers who were contracted through Pae Aronui Year One (the 2019 calendar year) to test innovative approaches. Achievements include:

- Providers exceeding the contracted numbers with more than 250 rangatahi engaged across the target regions.
- Around 50% of those engaged are wāhine.
- Many of the rangatahi engaged are achieving employment and education outcomes.
- Procurement process for the Year Two contracts is currently underway.

Reporting identified recurring themes that impact on the participation of Rangatahi Māori in education and employment; for example:

- Rangatahi receiving help with other issues particularly physical and mental health.
- Evidence that NEETS can be categorised depending on their needs. Some are closer to achieving employment and education outcomes while others require more intensive

interventions. This distinction is critical to providing the right types of support to help rangatahi achieve.

**As at 16 December 2019, He Poutama Rangatahi:**

- Had funded 33 projects.
- Was supporting approximately 2300 rangatahi.
- Had over 80% of those enrolled identify as Māori.

→ New investment

**Mana in Mahi:**

A further \$30.3 million was provided through Budget 2020 to expand to offer additional supports to employers and include workers of all ages who may have to retrain as a result of COVID-19.

**He Poutama Rangatahi:**

A \$121 million investment through Budget 2020 was made to move He Poutama Rangatahi to a sustained footing in the regions, and speed up its establishment in urban areas like West and South Auckland, Hamilton, Porirua and East Christchurch.

**Tupu Aotearoa:**

\$13.9 million is being provided through Budget 2020 to expand Tupu Aotearoa across New Zealand into new regions, and will extend services to Pacific people of all ages.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Mana in Mahi: Ministry of Social Development Tupu Aotearoa: Ministry for Pacific Peoples He Poutama Rangatahi: Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Pae Aronui and Taiohi Ararau: Te Puni Kōkiri	From 2018

**Employment Strategy and Action Plans (newly added)**

The Employment Strategy presents the Government’s vision for the labour market and the changes it is implementing to improve employment outcomes for all New Zealanders. The first Action Plan, the Youth Employment Action Plan, sets out a programme of actions for government agencies to improve education, training and employment outcomes. Action Plans to improve employment outcomes for disabled peoples, Māori, Pacific peoples, older workers and job seekers, refugees, recent migrants and ethnic communities will follow.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	From 2020

**Trades and Apprenticeships Training Package (newly added)**

A \$1.6 billion Trades and Apprenticeships Training Package will provide opportunities for New Zealanders to receive trades training. It invests in training and education for people who might have lost their jobs, or who want to move into a different sector where prospects are better.

It includes:

- \$334 million funding for additional tertiary education enrolments
- \$320 million targeted investment support for free trades training in critical industries

- \$412 million support for employers to retain and keep training their apprentices, which funded
  - \$380.6 million Apprenticeship Boost Initiative
  - \$30.3 million Mana in Mahi expansion
- \$276 million funding for Workforce Development Councils and Regional Skills Leadership groups, to be established to give industry and regions a greater voice and help them respond to COVID-19 context
- \$141 million to support high quality tertiary and trades education
- \$32 million increased funding to meet demand in Trades Academies
- \$50 million for a Māori Apprenticeships Fund
- \$19 million for group training schemes to retain apprentices
- \$26 million operating and capital for a new online careers advice system.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education Tertiary Education Commission Ministry of Social Development Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	From May 2020

#### The Auckland Pacific Skills Shift initiative (newly added)

\$22.1 million in funding will be provided over 4 years to support Auckland Pacific people who have lost jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic, or who are in low-skilled precarious work, to transition into quality employment. The programme will offer wrap-around support, and delivery of micro-credentials and community capability building.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment	From May 2020

#### Supporting Actions

##### School Leavers' Toolkit:

A package of tools, resources and targeted curriculum is being developed to support educators to increase opportunities for students aged 13 to 18 to develop civics knowledge and skills, financial literacy, and key workplace competencies before they leave school. Tools include a website and the development of ways to credential Toolkit learning.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Education has promoted the School Leavers' Toolkit websites to increase awareness of products available. It is maintaining and expanding products and continuing to manage a range of strategic partnerships as part of the School Leavers Toolkit to strengthen pathways through secondary education into further education and/or employment.

→ Next steps

Continue to expand and launch new School Leavers' Toolkit products including training and support workshops, educational resources for educators, and content for students.

##### Driver licence scheme for young people on youth benefits or in care:



Funding is provided to meet the costs of getting a driver licence for young people receiving the Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment or in Oranga Tamariki care. The scheme covers costs such as obtaining a birth certificate for identification, professional driving lessons and test fees.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry for Social Development has partnered with NZTA to provide a \$5 million investment from the NZTA's Community Road Safety Fund to support the direct costs of obtaining a driver licence.

As at 31 March 2020:

- 817 young people had been enrolled/assisted.
- 1,595 driving lessons had been paid for.
- 358 driving tests had been paid for.
- 182 young people had achieved their learner licence.
- 124 young people had achieved their restricted licence.

Uptake of the initiative is voluntary and led by the young person themselves.

**Expand Limited Service Volunteer (LSV) programme:**

Government is doubling the number of participants in this free “work readiness” training course for 18-24 year-olds, with some 17 year-olds able to attend by exception. The course is a six-week residential course delivered by the New Zealand Defence Force, with support from the Ministry of Social Development and the New Zealand Police.

→ Since July 2019

The expansion to the existing LSV programme started in July 2019 with the new build facilities at Whenuapai Air Base in Auckland and the refurbishment of a NZDF leased site in Trentham, Wellington.

→ Next steps

The full expansion to 1,600 trainees per annum will be completed by December 2020.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children



## Children and young people are accepted, respected and connected



are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED  
and CONNECTED

This means:

- they feel accepted, respected and valued at home, school, in the community and online
- they feel manaakitanga: kindness, respect and care for others
- they live free from racism and discrimination
- they have stable and healthy relationships
- they are connected to their culture, language, beliefs and identity, including whakapapa and tūrangawaewae (place of belonging)

### Address racism and discrimination

#### Government work programme to address racism and discrimination

Officials are developing a work programme that will aim to address racism and discrimination, including through policy and legislative processes; for example, by ensuring that the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi), and anti-racism and anti-discrimination considerations are built into advice to Ministers, and Cabinet and Parliamentary processes.

→ Since July 2019

A draft work programme was considered by Ministers in November 2019 and a series of proposals have been developed to support practical action. The Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Education lead cross-agency policy advice on reducing the impact of racism and discrimination across government and within the education system.

Cabinet Office circular CO (19) 5 was issued in October 2019, and set out guidelines agreed by Cabinet for consideration of the Te Tiriti o Waitangi in policy development and implementation. In December 2019, Te Arawhiti published a range of tools and resources on its website to build public sector capability in regard to the Te Tiriti. The Human Rights Commission launched the second phase of its *Give Nothing to Racism* campaign in July 2020, which has a focus on raising awareness of racist behaviour and the harm caused to those on the receiving end of it.

#### Lead agencies

Ministry of Education  
Ministry of Justice

#### Timeframe

From 2019

#### Restart Te Hurihanganui: supporting equitable outcomes for Māori learners

Te Hurihanganui (previously Te Kotahitanga) aims to support equitable outcomes for Māori learners by addressing cultural bias and racism in the education system (Te Hurihanganui) and supporting whānau to engage in the education of Māori learners (Mana Whānau). This will be done by testing and evaluating initiatives that support education professionals to enhance classroom practice and whole-of-school culture. It will also test and evaluate initiatives that



support whānau to engage in the education of their children and young people, and enable iwi and Māori organisations to facilitate and broker this engagement.

→ Since July 2019

Completed recruitment of core team responsible for design and implementation. Identified six communities targeted for participation, as well as two alternate communities. Started initial engagement with iwi in three of the identified communities. Completed initial stocktake of existing products/services/resources that could support implementation.

→ Next steps

Development of procurement strategy, and change and engagement strategy. Start to engage with education providers.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2019

**Support Māori learners and whānau, and strengthen the integration of te reo Māori for all learners (newly added)**

A total of \$200 million is being provided to support Māori learners and whānau to reconnect and succeed in education post COVID-19, strengthen the integration of te reo Māori into all students' learning, and boost support for Māori learners and whānau to stay connected with education services following COVID-19.

Funding will deliver a coherent, integrated programme of support for Māori learners and whānau, for all learners of te reo Māori, and the education workforce. Over the next four years, support includes:

- \$51.0 million to support iwi and Māori organisations to provide facilitation and brokerage services between Māori learners and whānau and local education services
- \$108.3 million to expand delivery of Te Ahu o te Reo Māori, strengthening the capability and confidence of up to 40,000 kaiako and up to 10,000 teachers to successfully integrate te reo Māori into all students' learning, online and in the classroom using innovative learning approaches
- \$13.0 million to expand delivery of Te Kawa Matakura to three more regions and create more young Māori leaders through mātauranga and te reo Māori, supported by iwi
- \$8.0 million over the next four years to maintain delivery of a te reo Māori immersion programme nationally for up to 75 new whānau each year
- \$15.3 million to increase te reo Māori curriculum resources
- \$4.4 million will contribute to ensuring the successful implementation of all the Māori language initiatives.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From May 2020

**Supporting Action**

**Review protections against hate speech:**

Government began work to review protections against hate speech.



→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Justice reviewed the operation of the incitement provisions of the Human Rights Act 1993 to assess whether these protections against hate speech could be strengthened. Options were provided to the Minister of Justice in December 2019 for consideration.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children



## Increase sense of belonging and cultural connections

### Implement Maihi Karauna – the Crown’s Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation

Government released Maihi Karauna - the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation 2019-2023 in August 2018. Maihi Karauna identifies all New Zealanders under 25 as a priority group and sets out what the Crown will do to support a strong, healthy, thriving Māori language in New Zealand. All government agencies are required to develop a te reo Māori language plan by 30 June 2021. Implementation will be staged, from 2020-2023, with a full cross-government implementation plan. Budget 2019 provided funding for Te Taura Whiri to lead the coordination of the implementation of Maihi Karauna, and funding to support national and regional events that promote the use of te reo Māori.

→ Since July 2019

Published the implementation plan for the Maihi Karauna (and publicly released the Cabinet paper) which provides an overview of current, modified, and future te reo Māori activities across a range of agencies. The plan also provides a platform to scale up activity that supports te reo Māori revitalisation.

Transitioned responsibility for the Maihi Karauna Senior Officials Group and Te Papa Kōrero to Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori which will support effective implementation and allow Te Puni Kōkiri to focus on becoming a convening agency for its four priorities within Maihi Karauna.

→ New Investment

The Whakarauora Reo Budget 2020 initiative was developed in conjunction with te reo Māori sector entities. This initiative provides funding for additional IT support and accommodation (a dedicated language planning hub) for Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori to ensure that it can fulfil its responsibilities to coordinate cross-agency implementation of the Maihi Karauna strategy, and ensure a secure and effective IT platform. The language planning hub will support every core public service agency having a te reo Māori language plan by July 2021.

→ Next steps

Develop a work programme and engagement strategy for the four Maihi Karauna priorities. Initiate Cabinet review of Te Ture mō Te Reo Māori 2016. A key purpose of this review is to assess the operation and effectiveness of the legislation since enactment.

**Lead agency**

Te Puni Kōkiri

**Timeframe**

From September 2019

### Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori

Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori is intended to better integrate te reo Māori across the education system, ensuring the workforce can comfortably use some level of te reo Māori correctly with all ākonga (learners) and, over time, increasingly incorporating te reo Māori into teaching practices and programmes. It is designed to improve all levels of Māori language ability in the education workforce. Staff can participate in kura reo-style learning with support from a group of te reo Māori experts, some of which will be delivered through wānanga and online learning support.

→ Since July 2019

Programme testing delivered in four regions from July – December. There were 685 participants in total, with 576 completing the programme (an 84% retention rate). Evaluation reported that



programme delivery was of a very high quality and participant confidence and use of te reo increased. Online registration for January – June 2020 commenced on 16 December.

→ Next steps

2020 course delivery in the same four regions for February to June. Planning delivery July – December and extension nationally from 2021.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	Implementation began 2019

#### Action Plan for Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou

In 2017 and 2018, Government engaged with thousands of Pacific people to develop the Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou report, which refreshes the Ministry for Pacific People's Pacific vision set in 1999. 'Confident, thriving and resilient Pacific young people' is one of the four goals of Pacific Aotearoa. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is developing an action plan and deliverables with government agencies and stakeholders that align to the goals of Pacific Aotearoa.

→ Since July 2019

In November 2019, Cabinet agreed for the Ministry for Pacific Peoples to develop a new way of working through an All-of-Government Pacific Wellbeing strategy (AoGPW strategy). The AoGPW strategy will steer three key initiatives across government:

- Coordinate and support Lalanga Fou Deputy Chief Executive Governance Group to influence better alignment and collaboration.
- Lead co-design of Pacific Wellbeing Outcomes Framework.
- Deliver enhanced Kapasa and Yavu Pacific cultural capability programmes across government.

The Lalanga Fou Deputy Chief Executive Governance Group has been established to provide strategic oversight on the AoGPW strategy.

→ Next steps

Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou Report back to Pacific communities (June 2021).

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	From January 2019

#### Funding to support Pacific realm languages

Funding has been provided to deliver projects in three regions (South Waikato, Wellington, and Auckland) over four years to support Pacific learners and families from the New Zealand realm countries of Niue, the Cook Islands and Tokelau, to support competencies in Pacific realm languages and English, and to successfully transition into schooling. This includes brokering access to evidence-based initiatives and developing language resources in te reo Māori Kūki Āirani, gagana Tokelau and vagahau Niue.

→ Since July 2019

The first of two fono with Pacific bilingual teachers have been held to determine the need for and priority order for resource development.



→ Next steps

Analysis of the Pacific bilingual report is underway and further decisions about resource development will be made after this analysis.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	2019–2023

**Implement section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989**

Legislative changes that came into force on 1 July 2019 require specific considerations for Māori children and young people. The Chief Executive of Oranga Tamariki (OT) has duties in relation to the Treaty of Waitangi (Te Tiriti o Waitangi) to develop strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations, and ensure policies, practices and services have regard for the principles of mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga. The Chief Executive also has a duty to ensure that policies and practices have the object of reducing disparities by setting measurable outcomes for Māori children and young people. The Chief Executive is required to report annually on these duties.

Budget 2019 provided funding to:

- Expand Kairāanga (specialist Māori roles in sites) to support the active participation of whānau in decisions affecting tamariki who come into the Oranga Tamariki system.
- Focus on developing strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations to enable these organisations to be actively involved in meeting the needs of Māori children, young people and their whānau.

→ Since July 2019

In November 2019, Cabinet agreed to an interim approach for OT to set measurable outcomes for tamariki Māori and to develop strategic partnerships with iwi and Māori organisations, in line with the obligations set out in section 7AA. OT has signed strategic partnership agreements with four iwi to date: Te Rūnanga ā Iwi o Ngāpuhi, Waikato-Tainui, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu, and Ngāi Tūhoe.

OT has developed five mana tamaiti objectives, which set out how OT will ensure that departmental policies, practices and services have regard to the concepts of mana tamaiti, whakapapa and whanaungatanga in line with section 7AA obligations. Five Quality Assurance Standards have been developed to support the mana tamaiti objectives to be implemented in the design of policies, practices and services.

OT continues to roll out the expansion of kairāanga-ā-whānau roles with 42 positions either filled or currently undergoing recruitment.

→ Next steps

Looking forward, OT will prioritise its efforts on the following key focus areas:

1. Improving our practice and ensuring whānau participation in decision making.
2. Enabling community-led responses to prevent contact with the state system.
3. Partnering to enable the Treaty aspirations of Māori.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 1 July 2019



### Changes to teaching New Zealand history in schools and kura (newly added)

The National Curriculum currently enables schools and kura to decide how New Zealand history is covered, but there is variation in delivery. The curriculum changes will reset a national framework so all learners and ākonga are aware of key aspects of New Zealand history and how they have influenced and shaped the nation.

#### Lead agency

Ministry of Education

#### Timeframe

From 2019

### Supporting Actions

#### Increase engagement with te reo Māori across a range of media platforms:

Budget 2019 provided funding to support the revitalisation of te reo Māori and the goals of the Maihi Karauna Strategy through increasing engagement with te reo Māori on broadcast and online platforms. This content will have a focus on rangatahi audiences, and will be delivered across a range of platforms.

→ Since July 2019

Te Māngai Pāho has:

- Funded three pilot “Snap Reo” initiatives, which are short on-line programmes with engaging content for rangatahi.
- Worked collaboratively with Te Taura Whiri i te Reo Māori to run a series of nine regional wānanga for rangatahi, and to run a two day national rangatahi summit.
- Made provision to fund rangatahi led initiatives developed at the regional wānanga.

→ Next steps

Progress the rangatahi-led initiatives. Report back on the outcomes from the three pilot “Snap Reo” initiatives. Make the rangatahi audience one of the priorities in funding rounds in the second half of 2020.

#### Te Kawa Matakura:

Te Kawa Matakura is another step forward in the education system's recognition of the value of Māori knowledge. It will enable Māori achievement by investing in students who display excellence in mātauranga Māori. Rangatahi Māori will be able to develop the skills, knowledge and capabilities to participate confidently in te ao Māori, New Zealand society, and as global citizens. This project includes developing a unique Tohu Mātauranga qualification, developing the criteria for describing strategic outcomes and graduate profiles, and confirming the assessment approach for participants to become graduates.

→ Since July 2019

Programme design, development, implementation and review processes have been completed. The qualification was developed, submitted to NZQA, and is now listed on the NZQF. 24 ākonga have been accepted for the programme, which fulfilled the required participant number. Te Kawa Matakura Official Launch was held on 4 February 2020.

→ Next steps

Development of Level 7 degree programme.



#### **Pacific language support – Ministry for Pacific Peoples:**

The Ministry is establishing a new set of internal language support functions to ensure the survival of Pacific languages among New Zealand's Pacific communities. This will focus on supporting revitalisation, research and community-led initiatives.

→ Since July 2019

In November 2019, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples launched a Pacific Languages Innovation Fund Pilot to support Pacific communities that are leading initiatives that celebrate and increase awareness of Pacific languages, help grow the number of speakers of Pacific languages, and help ensure Pacific languages are recognised and valued.

The Ministry hosted a Lalanga Fou Languages and Tech Fono that brought together local, regional and international languages, culture and identity experts and researchers, and linguists. The purpose of Fono was to share innovative ideas and best practice strategies on language revitalisation and maintenance, and to identify ways technology and innovation may assist the survival of Pacific languages.

#### **Support Te Rūnanga Nui O Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori:**

This initiative aims to improve outcomes for Māori learners attending kura kaupapa Māori. This will be done by providing funding to Te Rūnanga Nui o Nga Kura Kaupapa Māori to better undertake its kaitiaki (guardianship) and kaitautoko (advocacy) functions.

→ Since July 2019

An Outcome Agreement (Bilateral) 2019 – 2024 and updated Tauaki Kawa were signed by the Ministry of Education and Te Rūnanga Nui O Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori on Friday 20 December. It sets out a work programme to support kura kaupapa Māori with strengthening professional capability, Arotake Whaiaro and curriculum development through to June 2024.

→ Next steps

The preparation of the Draft Ngā Kura Kaupapa Māori ā-rohe report, and the Annual Report.

#### **Tuia – Encounters 250:**

Budget 2018 boosted funding for the national commemoration marking 250 years since the first onshore meetings between Māori and Europeans. The additional funding supported a national voyaging event from October to December 2019, with opportunities for hundreds of young people to participate while the vessels were at sea. Funding was also provided for a national education programme for schools and a supporting community education programme.

→ Since July 2019

Completed. Tuia – Encounters 250 commemoration included the Tuia 250 Voyage Trainee programme that ran from October to December 2019. The programme provided an opportunity for people of all ages to experience life on-board a waka hourua/va'a or tall ship. 517 individuals took up this opportunity. 322 of the 517 participants were aged 14-18 years. The Spirit of Adventure Trust worked with the majority of the young people involved, engaging 77 schools from around Aotearoa who took the opportunity to sail a leg on the Spirit of New Zealand.

The Ministry of Education reprioritised funding to support the Tuia – Encounters 250 kaupapa with curriculum content and community engagement; delivering the national education programme, Tuia Mātauranga. The centrepiece of the national education programme, the Tuia Mātauranga roadshow, was an interactive showcase aimed to inspire and engage children and young people using technologies (Augmented Reality, Virtual Reality and holograms). Content covered voyaging, traditional navigation, first encounters and settlement, NZ histories and the



relationships between people and the environment. Over 27,000 New Zealanders visited the travelling roadshow at 42 events in 24 New Zealand communities from Kaitiaki to Invercargill (11 flotilla sites and 13 other communities).

#### HEIHEI:

In 2018, NZ On Air and TVNZ launched HEIHEI, New Zealand's first free (and ad-free) online media platform for children's content. The platform reflects a commitment to connecting children to local content, and promotes diversity and inclusion.

→ Since July 2019

Between launching in May 2018 and the migration of video content to TVNZ OnDemand in May 2020, there were 403,627 users (unique browsers) who visited HEIHEI over 1,579,634 times. The HEIHEI app has been downloaded over 128,000 times on iOS and Android.

The product underlying platform for HEIHEI was discontinued. After researching viable alternatives, NZ On Air and TVNZ agreed the best solution was to move HEIHEI video content within the TVNZ OnDemand environment, and host HEIHEI Games on a separate but connected platform run by Gamefroot. This move will mean HEIHEI shows are now available on more endpoints, including big screens like Connected TVs. Increased discoverability of HEIHEI content is expected as a result.

The content moved initially with a 'soft launch', and a targeted promotional campaign being launched when content was fully switched over. In the first unofficial month of HEIHEI video being within OnDemand there was an average weekly reach of 5,000 users viewing the content, generating on average 42,000 streams per week. As TVNZ OnDemand records audience data differently, it is difficult to compare the user numbers from previous data.

To date NZ On Air has funded 68 Scripted and Factual projects for HEIHEI that reflect a diversity of NZ cultures and identities. This has included over 7 interactive games.

→ Next steps

NZ On Air and TVNZ are currently shortlisting the 141 HEIHEI content pitches submitted to the May/July funding round. Shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit full proposals to NZ On Air's August/September round. This will result in new, local scripted and factual series being funded, and these will be aimed at the older end of the HEIHEI demographic (tamariki aged 7-9+).

NZ On Air will soon launch the results of our Children's Media Use Survey 2020. The results show a strong appetite for games among tamariki and NZ On Air plans to respond accordingly with its funding initiatives this year.



## Promote positive and respectful peer relationships

Initiatives to prevent and respond to bullying in schools	
<p>Supporting evidence-based initiatives to prevent and respond to bullying.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>The Bullying Prevention and Response Work Programme for 2019-2022 has been developed and approved by the Bullying Prevention Advisory Group. This work programme will be the main vehicle through which the Ministry of Education’s bullying prevention and response work is progressed. <i>He Māpuna te Tamaiti – Supporting Social and Emotional Competencies in Early Learning</i> has been printed and distributed to Early Childhood Centres and new entrant teachers. A completely revised online Behaviour and Learning guide has been made available on the Inclusive Education website.</p> <p>→ Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Completion of pilot and trial of new Wellbeing at School (W@S) survey items regarding racism/unfairness and student resilience.</li> <li>• Four video webinars aimed at supporting schools and clusters to make effective use of the W@S survey toolkits are to be completed and made available via W@S resources web page.</li> <li>• W@S promotional pamphlets are to be updated and distributed to schools.</li> <li>• Update the Bullying-Free NZ Week 2020 competition and resources with emphasis on supporting youth agency.</li> </ul>	
Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Education	From 2019

Expanding healthy relationships programmes in secondary schools (Mates & Dates)	
<p>The Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) is supporting expansion of Mates &amp; Dates – a programme that teaches secondary students the knowledge and skills to engage in safe, healthy and respectful relationships.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>ACC’s flagship youth programme Mates &amp; Dates continues to be delivered in schools. When the country moved into Alert Level 1, Mates &amp; Dates providers continued to work with community based regional providers to deliver facilitator competency workshop(s).</p> <p>More than 7,000 students have completed Mates &amp; Dates in 2020, and the programme has been successfully redeployed since May to support young people in the recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	
Lead agency	Timeframe
Accident Compensation Corporation	2019–2020



### Supporting Action

#### Support uptake of Loves-Me-Not:

Loves-Me-Not is a 'whole-school approach' to prevent relationship abuse and promote healthy relationships among senior secondary students. Loves-Me-Not includes a one-day workshop facilitated by Police, school staff and relevant local non-governmental organisations.

#### → Since July 2019

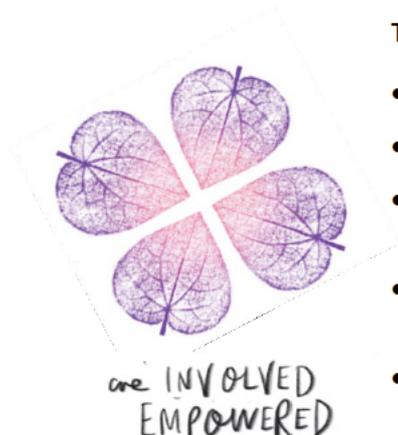
In 2019, Loves-Me-Not was implemented in 584 classes across 120 schools and education institutions. Whilst this is six schools fewer than in 2018, the number of workshops delivered increased by 19; meaning the programme reached more students overall. Loves-Me-Not was one of the programmes reviewed during the Evaluation of Existing Healthy Relationships Programmes in New Zealand Secondary Schools, undertaken by the Accident Compensation Corporation and Ministry of Education on behalf of the Sexual Violence Prevention Advisory Board. In August, the Sophie Elliott Foundation (which partnered with Police in the development of Loves-Me-Not) formally signed over the Foundation's intellectual property and resources to Police.

#### → Next steps

Go-live of the revised resources on Police's School Portal. Revision of Loves-Me-Not for 2021 to align to the recommendations of Phase 2 of the Evaluation of Existing Healthy Relationships Programmes in New Zealand Secondary Schools. This was originally due in mid-2020, however the timeline was extended to 31 October 2020 due to the interruption of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Children and young people are involved and empowered



This means:

- they contribute positively at home, at school and in their communities
- they exercise kaitiakitanga: connection and care of the land and nature
- they have their voices, perspectives and opinions listened to and taken into account
- they are supported to increase autonomy as they age and to be responsible citizens
- they and their families are supported to make healthy and informed choices around relationships, sexual health, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs

### Increase child and youth voice and participation

#### Youth Plan 2020-2022: Turning Voice into Action – rebuilding and recovering

The Youth Plan sets out actions that government will take, in partnership with others, to mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 for rangatahi. It aims to ensure rangatahi have a say in decisions about recovery, to support the wellbeing of rangatahi and their family and whānau, to enable rangatahi leadership, and to drive transformative change.

→ Since July 2019

In October 2019, the Ministry of Youth Development – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi, engaged with over 1,200 rangatahi, and approximately 90 youth sector representatives, on the development of the Youth Plan. This enabled rangatahi to feed directly into its focus areas and to inform the development of actions. Cabinet approved the Youth Plan, which was launched in late July 2020. It was reframed to focus on COVID-19 recovery.

The Youth Plan is for rangatahi aged 12-24 years, but has a particular focus on four priority groups aged 17-24 years: rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people and disabled young people. By prioritising these groups, it aims to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 for those who are likely to be disproportionately impacted.

Youth Plan actions sit under four focus areas: voice, wellbeing, leadership and transformative change. Actions were developed by the Youth Plan Cross-Agency Working Group, based on information from the engagement process, as well as more recent evidence related to the impacts of COVID-19.

→ Next steps

A measurement framework is currently being developed, which will align with the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. This will enable a review of the Youth Plan in two years' time.

The Minister for Youth will provide six-monthly progress reports to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee. Updates on the Youth Plan will also be provided to Cabinet every six-months through these monitoring reports.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry for Youth Development	From 2019

### Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey – *WhatAboutMe?*

*Whataboutme?* has been developed to collect health and wellbeing data on up to 14,000 young people in New Zealand in secondary schools, alternative education units, kura kaupapa, and Youth One Stop Shops to inform policies, programmes, and services. The survey is to be conducted every three years, and data collected will be used to measure progress on 15 indicators under the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.

→ Since July 2019

The survey questions have been finalised and made publicly available on the survey website. Ethics approval has been granted to deliver the survey to 14-18 year olds. Data collection for the survey was due to start in May 2020, but was paused in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting school closures.

→ Next steps

Data collection for the survey will begin from early next year, and the data will be made publicly available after it has been collected and cleaned.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From 2019

### Youth Voice Project

The Youth Voice Project focuses on increasing youth voice and youth representation across government.

→ Since July 2019

The Hive is one initiative under the Youth Voice Project. It aims to increase young people's participation in the policy development process by building a relationship, trust and two-way communication between young people and government agencies through the use of social media, and an innovative technological platform. The Biodiversity Strategy consultation was used as a pilot policy consultation for The Hive. Young people were involved in co-designing a youth-friendly consultation process which resulted in 281 young people making submissions. Of these, 84% reported that they had never previously submitted to government.

→ Next steps

The findings from The Hive evaluation will be used to inform next steps for The Hive, as well as future projects as part of the Youth Voice Project.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry for Youth Development	From 2019

### Kau Tūlī (Ministry for Pacific Peoples Youth Advisory Group) (newly added)

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples (MPP) is piloting the establishment of a Youth Advisory Group made up of six Pacific young people from across New Zealand to support and advise MPP in achieving Goal 4 of the Pacific Aotearoa vision (Confident, Thriving and Resilient Pacific Young People). Operating under an 'Impact and Development Model', MPP will invest into the Kau Tūlī members through personal and professional development opportunities. Additionally, Kau Tūlī members will be supported to develop and lead their own initiatives through an incubator programme.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry for Pacific Peoples	From 2020

### Supporting Action

#### Strengthening a youth voice in policy:

Several measures are being adopted to increase youth voice in decision-making. These include:

- *Youth Advisory Group for the Minister of Education*: the group was set up to enable young people to have their say and influence the education system and issues that affect them.
- *Establishment of Youth Advisory Panel*: the Office of Film and Literature Classification has established a Youth Advisory Panel. The panel, shared with the Police, advises on a variety of projects on classification decision-making and research, and how they affect young people.
- *Establishing a youth voice in environmental policy work*: the Ministry for the Environment is looking at how it communicates with youth and how it can open channels for youth to feed their views into its work programmes, with an initial focus on climate, water, and the review of the resource management system.

→ Since July 2019

**Ministry of Education**: engaged the Youth Advisory Group in ongoing discussions and development of the proposed approach to ensure children and young people live free from racism and discrimination. Engagements began in 2018 and continued throughout 2019.

**Office of Film and Literature Classification**: the Classification Office's Youth Advisory Panel has provided advice on classifications, ethical practice in sensitive media research, and most recently made a submission to Parliament on an upcoming bill on commercial on-demand content. It also collaborates with the Classification Office on podcasts, videos for social media, and presentations.

→ Next steps

**Ministry of Education**: further engagements with the Youth Advisory Group will be scheduled as the free from racism and discrimination work develops.

**Office of Film and Literature Classification**: The Youth Advisory Panel will share their perspectives on drug use and misuse in film, and what their expectations are with restrictions and descriptive notes. This information will be used to inform the Classification Office's approach to warnings in this area, and to refine the development of digital self-classification tools.

## Advocate for children and young people's rights

### Build independent oversight of Oranga Tamariki system and children's issues

In March 2019, following a review of independent oversight arrangements for the Oranga Tamariki (OT) system and children's issues (the Beattie Review), Cabinet agreed to strengthen the system of independent oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system and children's issues in three core areas:

- System level advocacy for all New Zealand children and young people, which will continue to be undertaken by the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC).
- Oversight and investigation of complaints of matters related to the application of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 and/or the children in the care or custody of the State, which will be undertaken by the Office of the Ombudsman.
- Independent monitoring and assurance of the operations and obligations delivered under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 and associated regulations. Cabinet Ministers agreed to appoint the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) as the independent monitor from 1 July 2019 to establish the function, with the in-principle intent that it is transferred to OCC once robustly established, and a new legislative framework is in place.

Budget 2019 provided funding for MSD to establish and operate the monitoring function. A report back on establishment and transition is due to Ministers in March 2021.

→ Since July 2019

On 4 December 2019, Cabinet agreed to further detail regarding:

- The purpose and function of the independent monitor.
- The future governance arrangements for OCC.
- Proposals to enable the Children's Commissioner, the Ombudsman and the independent monitor to access and share information to operate as an effective and cohesive system.

MSD is also leading a process of policy and legislative change which will be achieved through a new Act and associated regulations.

The more robust independent monitoring function will be phased in over time:

- Phase 1 – initial monitoring began 1 July 2019, focused on information received on abuse or neglect in relation to children in care or custody, and the response. The Monitor delivered its first report to the Minister for Children in December 2019, which was released publicly through the Monitor's website on 27 January 2020.
- Phase 2 – expanded monitoring by December 2020 focused on compliance with all aspects of the National Care Standards.
- Phase 3 – intended longer-term expansion, which would enable broader monitoring of the Oranga Tamariki Act and associated regulations.

The Independent Children's Monitor, in conjunction with the OCC and the Office of the Ombudsman, held regional hui on strengthening oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system, from January to March 2020.

→ Next steps

The second report of the Independent Children's Monitor to the Minister for Children, and a substantive update to Ministers on progress with establishment of the monitoring function.

The *Children and Young People's Commission and Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Bill* will achieve the legislative changes discussed above. The Bill is to be introduced to Select Committee after the election period in late-October 2020.

Lead agencies	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	2019–2021

#### Implement the Child Impact Assessment Tool across government

The Child Impact Assessment Tool will be finalised and implemented across government agencies.

→ Since July 2019

The Child Impact Assessment tool was finalised in 2018 and is part of the Cabinet-agreed cross-agency work programme to progressively implement the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (the Children's Convention) in New Zealand. Child Impact Assessments have been included in recent Cabinet papers from a range of agencies. The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has recently been in conversation with the Treasury to include child impact assessments in Regulatory Impact Assessments. This action is closely related to the child rights training being developed by MSD and the Office of the Children's Commissioner (below).

→ Next steps

MSD will continue to work with agencies to improve and promote the use of the Child Impact Assessment tool. MSD will also work with DPMC to improve alignment between the Child Impact Assessment tool and the Strategy.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Ministry of Social Development	From 2019

#### Build public service competency and capability in children's rights

As part of its work programme to implement the Convention on the Rights of the Child, Government has committed to develop training for public servants on children's rights and the Convention.

→ Since July 2019

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has completed a literature review of relevant public sector e-learning modules from New Zealand and overseas, including Children's Convention e-Learning models from Scotland and Wales, a child rights toolkit and complementary e-learning package developed by the European Union (EU) and UNICEF, and a child rights training mechanism used by legal practitioners in the EU. This has led to an understanding of what key components should be included in our children's rights training (for example, interactive activities to enhance and improve the learning experiences of public servants; children's case stories and studies to provide real-life experiences; the Treaty of Waitangi).

MSD has also undertaken an online survey of public servants, which received 128 responses (mainly from policy groups). The majority of respondents have heard of the Children's Convention but not in great detail, and are supportive of using tools to help them apply children's rights approaches to their work. Development of a Child Rights Training (CRT) Module is currently in the early stages of being undertaken by MSD and the Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC).



→ Next steps

With advice and support from the OCC, MSD is exploring options around resourcing and finalising an approach for a CRT module. Decisions will be made in consultation with the Children's Convention Monitoring Group and cross-agency Deputy Chief Executives group.

**Lead agencies**

**Timeframe**

Ministry of Social Development  
Office of the Children's Commissioner

From 2019

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children

## Encourage positive choices and contributions

### Investment in community-based youth justice facilities

From 1 July 2019, 17-year-olds were included in the youth justice system in most circumstances. Alongside this, there are planned changes to the way young people are detained in custody. It is a priority that as few young people as possible are remanded in youth justice facilities. New ways of managing young people waiting for their court proceedings are being established.

Budget 2019 provided investment in a new type of small, community-based youth justice facility that is designed and operated through partnerships, including with iwi and Māori organisations. They provide a home-like environment to support rehabilitation and mirror community life, and facilitate and encourage close family and whānau connections. In current youth justice facilities, practice changes are being made to achieve some of these same objectives. Work is also underway to support young people who offend into education and employment, including introducing new vocational training programmes into residences.

→ Since July 2019

#### New Builds: Community-based Youth Justice Placements Services

The business case was approved by Joint Ministers Robertson and Martin. Proposed regional locations were approved, an initial review of the district planning rules was completed, and site selection and acquisition processes were developed. The programme brief was approved by the Oranga Tamariki Senior Leadership Team in February 2020. The Youth Justice Placements Governance steering group (YJPSG) was established. A high-level engagement approach was developed, and engagement with local mana whenua Te Ātiawa is underway to inform the development of cultural competency, and receive high-level feedback on the engagement approach. A review, which is being carried out by Treasury, began in June.

#### Community Based Remand/Bail Homes (Parani):

Twenty new community placements are now in place. Iwi and NGO providers for four additional community-based remand/bail homes have been finalised, with one each in Tauranga and Havelock North and two in Auckland. Four remand beds in a repurposed Oranga Tamariki community home in Hamilton were also opened.

→ Next steps

#### New Builds: Community-based Youth Justice Placements Services

Project Delivery Plan approved by YJPSG, and begin procurement of planning and legal services to support the programme. Commence partnership engagement with mana whenua. Finalise land acquisition and disposal process.

#### Existing Community Based Remand/Bail Homes (Parani):

Set up a three bed Youth Justice Bail service in Nelson by the end of September 2020, and a three bed Youth Justice Bail Service in Invercargill by 31 December 2020. Set up a remand care home service in Gisborne by 31 December 2020. Set up the proposed additional Youth Justice home in Canterbury for female rangatahi by 31 December 2020.

Lead agency	Timeframe
Oranga Tamariki	From 1 July 2019

### Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata initiative: Whānau Ora support for Māori in the Corrections system

Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata - Uniting the Threads of Whānau, is a kaupapa that draws on the strengths of the Whānau Ora approach to support Māori (under 30 years old) and their whānau who are engaged in the Corrections system to develop their own pathways to achieve their

aspirations. Through Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata, a specialised Kaiarataki navigator workforce will work directly with young Māori and their whānau at all stages in their journey through the system. This workforce will assist them to build and maintain strong relationships, set and work toward goals, and access the services and support they need. Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata contributes to shifting the Corrections system towards whānau ora and whānau centred approaches. This system shift acknowledges the importance of whānau in improving individual and intergenerational wellbeing, thereby reducing reoffending, victimisation and imprisonment. The kaupapa will be piloted in Hawke's Bay from August 2020, and subsequently in Northland towards the end of 2020. Budget 2019 provided funding to Te Puni Kōkiri (TPK), Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections and the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) to work alongside Māori to co-design and implement this kaupapa.

→ Since July 2019

The kaupapa has progressed well, with the agencies working together effectively. Work included:

- Establishing cross-agency project governance, including a signed Memorandum of Understanding which expresses the commitment by the Chief Executives to this kaupapa.
- Establishing strong relationships across agencies at both a regional and national level.
- Actively engaging mana whenua, iwi, hapū, Māori service providers, and the wider Māori community in the two target locations (Hawke's Bay and Northland).
- Establishing a cross-agency project team at a national and regional level, and collectively planning the design phase for the kaupapa.
- Completing the co-design phase in Hawke's Bay with the production of a report. The co-design report is supporting Ara Poutama to implement changes.
- Securing the services of an independent co-design facilitator, and commencing the design phase of the kaupapa in Northland.
- Successfully contracting four providers, one in Hawkes Bay and three in Northland, to prototype Paiheretia for tāne from Hawke's Bay Regional Prison and the Northland Regional Corrections Facility who are returning to their whānau and community during COVID-19.

→ Next steps

Key next steps are to:

- Complete the co-design phase of Paiheretia for Northland.
- Finalise data sharing protocols and arrangements between the providers, Ara Poutama, MSD, and TPK.
- Procure an independent evaluation team to undertake a formative and summative evaluation of the kaupapa and develop an evaluation framework.
- Finalise an implementation plan to successfully prototype and test the Paiheretia approach.
- Begin the procurement process for non-government providers to deliver a Kaiarataki Navigator workforce both in Hawke's Bay and Northland.
- Raise the awareness and understanding of Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata to protect the mauri of the kaupapa, and gauge interest and support for the kaupapa.
- Continue the enabling work and the cultural capability uplift of Ara Poutama Aotearoa staff in both regions.

Lead agencies

Timeframe



<p>Te Puni Kōkiri Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Department of Corrections Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Prototyping in Hawke’s Bay and Northland from May 2020, with the kaupapa being implemented through a staggered approach from August 2020.</p>
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<b>Increased services for children and young people with concerning/harmful sexual behaviours</b>	
<p>This initiative, funded through Budget 2019, aims to increase child wellbeing through increased service capacity to meet demand for prevention, education, early intervention, assessment and treatment services for children and young people who display concerning and harmful sexual behaviours. This includes ensuring services, including assessments, treatments and preventative initiatives, can be delivered in a kaupapa Māori context and are suitable for those with behavioural problems, intellectual disabilities or neuro-disabilities.</p> <p>→ Since July 2019</p> <p>Oranga Tamariki increased funding to existing providers to target existing waitlists, and stabilise the service provision while design and development progressed. Work is underway under another action to establish a partnership approach with the Ministry of Social Development (MSD), to develop kaupapa Māori service responses (<i>Develop kaupapa Māori services for victims/survivors, perpetrators and their whanau</i>).</p> <p>→ Next steps</p> <p>Commence an early intervention pilot in South Canterbury. The pilot will train Educators in the early learning and primary school setting on how to identify and respond to concerning or harmful sexual behaviours. The pilot will be independently evaluated to ensure each agency’s outcomes are measured.</p> <p>Work with sector partners to develop a more inclusive response for those with intellectual and neuro-disabilities, and look at ways of delivering specialist harmful sexual behaviour services for those in smaller geographical areas.</p> <p>Finalise the partnership approach with MSD for kaupapa Māori services for those with harmful sexual behaviour.</p>	
<b>Lead agency</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
<p>Family Violence and Sexual Violence Joint Venture</p>	<p>From 2019</p>

Released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction and Minister for Children