



Proactive Release

The following Cabinet papers, related Cabinet minutes and briefings have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction:

Adopting the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

Briefings relating to indicators for the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

Date of release: 20 November 2019

The following documents have been included in this release:

***Cabinet Paper: Adopting the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
(CAB-19-SUB-0085)***

***Cabinet Minute: Adopting the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
(CAB-19-MIN-0085)***

***Briefing: Update on the Indicators for the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
(DPMC-2018/19-1107)***

***Briefing: Proposed Indicators for the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
(DPMC-2018/19-1195)***

***Briefing: Proposed Indicators for the Strategy and Child Poverty Related Indicators
(DPMC-2018/19-1294)***

Briefing: Final Suite of Indicators and measures for inclusion in Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (DPMC-2019/20-27)

Some parts of this information release 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 has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction code:

- 9(2)(a): to protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.



Briefing

FINAL SUITE OF INDICATORS AND MEASURES FOR INCLUSION IN CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction
Hon Tracey Martin, Minister for Children

Date	5/07/2019	Priority	Medium
Deadline	10/07/2019	Briefing Number	DPMC-2019/20-27

Purpose

The proposed child and youth wellbeing indicators and possible measures have been reviewed to confirm the suitability of each for inclusion in the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy). This paper provides you with a summary of the findings and recommendations from this review. We are seeking your approval to include the updated content (see appendix 1) which reflects these recommendations, in the proposed Strategy going to Cabinet for consideration.

Recommendations

1. **Note** that following our earlier advice to include a set of 35 proposed indicators and possible measures in the strategy, it was agreed that:
 - a. oral health would not be included as an indicator because it was assessed as unsuitable for inclusion in the Strategy
 - b. the five child poverty related indicators were suitable and should be included in the Strategy
 - c. to strengthen the link with children in poverty, the reporting on the child poverty related indicators will be broken out by household income or socioeconomic status, and the monitoring report will also include measures at different thresholds (moderate and severe food security; housing affordability at 30, 40 and 50% of income; irregular, moderate and chronic absence from school)
 - d. the process for finalising the indicators and measures should be accelerated to enable a final set of indicators and measures to be included in the Strategy prior to adoption

- e. the Child Wellbeing Unit, in consultation with the Chief Science Advisor to the Minister of Child Poverty Reduction, and other technical advisors as necessary, would review the remaining indicators and measures and assess their suitability for inclusion in the Strategy and provide you with further advice following that process
2. **Note** that the Child Wellbeing Unit, Child Poverty Unit, Chief Science Advisor to the Minister of Child Poverty Reduction, the Chief Education Scientific Advisor, and advisors from the Social Investment Agency, Statistics New Zealand, and the Ministry of Social Development have participated in the review and made the following recommendations:
 - a. the 'resilience' and 'household income' indicators should be removed
 - b. three child poverty indicators and one indicator relating to bullying should be added
 - c. a range of minor technical changes to some measures and minor changes to the wording of some indicators are needed
 - d. use supplementary measures and data sources as part of the detailed reporting on indicators to strengthen the analysis
 3. **Note** that the Child Wellbeing Unit has updated the content of the Strategy to reflect the recommendations arising from the review (attached as appendix 1), which will need to be considered by Cabinet and will be final at the point the Strategy is adopted
 4. **Agree** to the updated suite of indicators and measures, and include the updated content in the proposed Strategy going to Cabinet for consideration.

Minister for Child Poverty Reduction: **Yes / No**

Minister for Children: **Yes / No**

s9(2)(a)

Maree Brown
Director
Child Wellbeing Unit

5/7/2019

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

...../...../2019

Hon Tracey Martin
Minister for Children

...../...../2019

Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Maree Brown	Director, Child Wellbeing Unit	s9(2)(a)	✓
Jasmine Ludwig	Senior Analyst	s9(2)(a)	

Minister's office comments:

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

FINAL SUITE OF INDICATORS AND MEASURES FOR INCLUSION IN CHILD AND YOUTH WELLBEING STRATEGY

Background

1. You have previously received a briefing (DPMC-2018/19-1294) on a set of proposed indicators and possible measures for inclusion in the Child and Youth and Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy).
2. Following this advice we met with you and agreed that:
 - a. oral health would not be included as an indicator because it was assessed as unsuitable for inclusion in the Strategy
 - b. the five child poverty related indicators were suitable and should be included in the Strategy
 - c. to strengthen the link with children in poverty, the reporting on the child poverty related indicators will be broken out by household income or socioeconomic status, and the monitoring report will also include measures at different thresholds (moderate and severe food security; housing affordability at 30, 40 and 50% of income; irregular, moderate and chronic absence from school)
 - d. the process for finalising the remaining child and youth wellbeing indicators and measures should be accelerated to enable a final set of indicators and measures to be included in the Strategy prior to adoption
 - e. the Child Wellbeing Unit, in consultation with the Chief Science Advisor to the Minister of Child Poverty Reduction, and other technical advisors as necessary, would review the remaining indicators and measures and assess their suitability for inclusion in the Strategy and provide you with further advice following that process.
3. Accordingly, two science advisors and advisors from the Social Investment Agency, Statistics New Zealand, Child Poverty Unit, Child Wellbeing Unit and the Ministry of Social Development (with responsibility for the WhatAboutMe? survey) met to review the proposed indicators and possible measures and assessed the suitability of each for inclusion.
4. Officials considered whether each indicator and measure should be included in the Strategy when assessed against a set of strategic and technical criteria. A key consideration influencing selection of measures was that indicators would need to have data available for reporting purposes in 2021.

Final suite of indicators and measures for your approval

5. The Child Wellbeing Unit proposes a total of 36 indicators and associated measures based on feedback from the review process. From the 34 proposed in previous advice, two have been removed ('resilience' and 'household income'), three new child poverty indicators have been added, and one indicator is separated into two indicators ('experience of discrimination' and 'experience of bullying'). There have also been a number of relatively minor changes to the measures and wording of some indicators.
6. The updated indicators and measures have been set out in table 1 below. We are seeking your agreement to these child and youth wellbeing indicators and measures, and to include them in the proposed Strategy for consideration by Cabinet. We have updated the content of the Strategy to reflect these changes (see Appendix 1).
7. Additionally, to address some of the issues around data availability, we also suggest including supplementary measures for some indicators as part of the detailed reporting. There will still be a single key measure for each indicator, but detailed reporting will be supported by additional measures that will provide important contextual information, enable a more regular reporting cycle, or broaden the age range reported on. These supplementary measures do not need to be specifically identified in the Strategy.
8. A detailed summary of the feedback from officials participating in the review of the indicators is provided in paragraphs 9-37.

Table 1: Child and Youth Wellbeing Indicators and Measures

Outcome: Children and young people are loved, safe and nurtured	
Indicator	Measure
Feeling loved	Percentage of young people who feel that they are loved by the people who look after or care for them. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Feeling safe	Percentage of young people who feel safe (at school, at home, at work, online, in the community where they live). <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Family / whānau wellbeing	Percentage of young people rating their family as doing well. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Injury prevalence	Number of serious injuries (fatal and non-fatal) per 100,000 children and young people. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Harm against children	Number of children and young people with a report of concern to Oranga Tamariki requiring further action. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Quality time with parents	Percentage of young people who feel that they get to spend enough time with the people who look after or care for them. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>

[IN-CONFIDENCE]

Outcome: Children and young people have what they need	
Indicator	Measure
Material wellbeing	Percentage of children living in households experiencing good material wellbeing. <i>Source: Household Economic Survey</i>
Child poverty: Material hardship	Percentage of children living in households experiencing material hardship. <i>Source: Official Child Poverty Measure</i>
Child poverty: Low Income (BHC 50)	Percentage of children living in households with less than 50 percent median equivalised disposable household income before housing costs are deducted. <i>Source: Official Child Poverty Measure</i>
Child poverty: Low Income (AHC 50)	Percentage of children living in households with less than 50 percent median equivalised disposable household income after housing costs are deducted. <i>Source: Official Child Poverty Measure</i>
Food insecurity	Percentage of children living in households where food runs out sometimes or often. <i>Source: NZ Health Survey 2019/20 onwards</i>
Housing quality	Percentage of children and young people living in households with a major problem with dampness or mould. <i>Source: Household Economic Survey</i>
Housing affordability	Percentage of children and young people living in households spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing. <i>Source: Household Economic Survey</i>
Outcome: Children and young people are happy and healthy	
Indicator	Measure
Prenatal care	Percentage of women who registered with a Lead Maternity Carer within the first trimester of pregnancy. <i>Source: National Maternity Collection</i>
Early exposure to toxins	Percentage of women who registered with a Lead Maternity Carer smoking at registration and discharge. <i>Source: National Maternity Collection</i>
Subjective health status	Percentage of young people reporting their health as good, very good, or excellent. <i>Source: NZ Health Survey.</i>
Preventable admissions to hospital	Rate of preventable admissions to hospital for children and young people. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Mental health status (psychological distress)	Percentage of young people who experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress at some stage over a four-week period. <i>Source: NZ Health Survey.</i>
Self-harm and suicide	Percentage of young people who have deliberately hurt themselves, seriously thought about, and/or attempted suicide in the last 12 months. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>

Outcome: Children and young people are learning and developing	
Indicator	Measure
Participation in early learning	Percentage of children attending early childhood education for 10 or more hours a week on average at age 3 and at age 4. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Regular school attendance	Percentage of children and young people who are regularly attending school. <i>Source: School Attendance Survey</i>
Literacy, numeracy, and science skills	Percentage of 15 year-olds meeting the level 2 benchmark for reading, maths and science. <i>Source: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)</i>
Social-emotional skills	This measure is under development. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Self-management skills	This measure is under development. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Youth participation in employment, education, or training	Percentage of young people who are participating in education, training, or employment. <i>Source: Household Labour Force Survey</i>
Outcome: Children and young people are accepted, respected and connected	
Indicator	Measure
Support for cultural identity	Percentage of young people who have someone they can ask about their culture, whakapapa or ethnic group. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Speaking a second language	Percentage of young people who can have a conversation in two or more languages. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Sense of belonging to New Zealand	Percentage of young people who feel a sense of belonging to Aotearoa/New Zealand as a whole. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Experience of discrimination	Percentage of young people who report experiencing discrimination in the previous 12 months. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Experience of bullying	Percentage of young people who experienced bullying in the last 12 months. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Ability to "be themselves"	Percentage of young people who find it easy to express their identity. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>

Outcome: Children and young people are involved and empowered	
Indicator	Measure
Involvement in community	Percentage of young people who report helping others in the neighbourhood or community (e.g. help out on the marae or church, or belong to a volunteer organisation). <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Social support	Percentage of young people who say they have an adult they could turn to if they were going through a difficult time and needed help. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Representation of young people's voices	Percentage of young people enrolled and voting in the New Zealand general election. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data</i>
Making positive choices	Percentage of young people who report drinking heavily in the past 4 weeks (exceeding 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a single session on one or more occasions). <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Criminal offending	Offending rates per 10,000 children and young people. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data</i>

Summary of feedback from review process

9. Feedback from officials participating in the review of the indicators and measures has been summarised below.

Feedback on data availability and robustness

10. There was a discussion about the strengths and disadvantages associated with relying on the WhatAboutMe? survey for a large proportion of the measures. In summary:
- A key strength is that this survey directly asks young people aged 12-18 about their experiences of wellbeing.
 - Another strength is that the survey also asks questions that allow the data to be disaggregated for population groups that are often invisible in other data sources (e.g. young people with disabilities, and young people identifying as LGBTQI+).
 - Drawing multiple indicators from a single data source also enables analysis across multiple outcomes to understand more about the interactions between the different aspects of wellbeing.
 - A key disadvantage of the WhatAboutMe? survey is that it is a new survey. The methodology of the survey has been designed in an attempt to build on the Youth 2000 series and maximise the statistical robustness. However, until the data has been collected and analysed, it is impossible to know the actual statistical robustness.

- e. Another disadvantage is that the survey is on a three-year reporting cycle. This limits the frequency of reporting on measures drawn from this data source.
11. It was noted that there is a lack of alternative data sources which survey children and young people about their wellbeing, and this is part of a wider issue around availability of data about the wellbeing of children and young people.
 12. The proposed content for the Strategy acknowledges these data limitations and signals that the indicators and measures used are expected to evolve and be improved over time. The importance of this message was reinforced by the review.
 13. It was also noted that many of the questions included in the WhatAboutMe? survey were also used in the Youth 2000 series or are similar to questions in the NZ health survey, the General Social Survey, and wellbeing@school survey. These data sources have different limitations, but could be used to triangulate or validate some of the measures, provide additional information, or provide an update in years when the WhatAboutMe? survey is not reported on.
 14. The recommendation resulting from this discussion is that the detailed reporting against the indicators should also include some supplementary measures that are drawn from other data sources. Each indicator will still have a primary measure that is used for 'headline reporting'. Supplementary measures would be reported on in addition to the primary measure, as part of the detailed reporting. They will be used to strengthen and enrich the analysis, rather than be a formal requirement of the reporting. An example of the use of supplementary measures would be the 'self-harm and suicide' indicator. Detailed reporting would also include reporting on suicide rates and possibly rates of hospitalisations for self-harm which are reported annually, in addition to the measure drawn from the WhatAboutMe? Survey; i.e. percentage of young people who have deliberately hurt themselves, seriously thought about, and/or attempted suicide in the last 12 months.
 15. As required by legislation, detailed reporting on each indicator will include an analysis by household income or socioeconomic status wherever data is available and an analysis of the disparity of outcomes for Māori. Feedback also reinforced the importance of focusing on equity of outcomes as part of the detailed reporting and ensuring careful and purposeful messaging about the analysis.

Feedback on 'Children and young people are loved, safe and nurtured' indicators

16. The proposed indicators 'feeling loved', 'feelings of safety', 'whānau wellbeing', 'injury prevalence' and 'quality of time with parents' and the associated measures were all assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy.
17. Data from the wellbeing@school survey (from the education sector) and the General Social Survey could be used for supplementary measures for these indicators. This would enable more regular reporting and capture a broader age range.

18. It is recommended that the indicator 'whānau wellbeing' is renamed 'family/whānau wellbeing' to align with the description used in Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand.
19. The proposed indicator 'harm against children' was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. 'Number of children and young people with a report of concern to Oranga Tamariki requiring further action' was assessed to be the best available measure for this indicator. Subsequent to the review, officials from Oranga Tamariki – Ministry for Children have confirmed that this measure is the most appropriate to use.

Feedback on 'Children and young people have what they need' indicators

20. The 'food insecurity', 'housing quality', and 'housing affordability' indicators and associated measures are confirmed Child Poverty Related Indicators and are suitable for inclusion in the Strategy.
21. The 'material wellbeing' indicator was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. It is recommended that the measure uses a fixed point on the index at which the household is assessed to have "good" material wellbeing, rather than the mean score. The fixed point is yet to be determined, but will be confirmed by Statistics New Zealand and Ministry of Social Development in the next few weeks. This use of the measure will align with the measure to be included in Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand.
22. The 'household income' indicator was assessed as an inadequate measure of 'children and young people have what they need'. It was recommended that this indicator be replaced by the three primary child poverty measures. Consequently it is proposed that the following three indicators are used: 'child poverty: material hardship', 'child poverty: low income (BHC 50)' and 'child poverty: low income (AHC 50)'. This will simplify the reporting of this outcome and align it with the child poverty measures in the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018.

Feedback on 'Children and young people are happy and healthy' indicators

23. The 'preventable admissions to hospital' indicator and measure is a confirmed Child Poverty Related Indicator and is suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. Note the naming of this indicator has been corrected on advice from the Ministry of Health. The indicator and measure is otherwise unchanged.
24. 'Prenatal care', 'early exposure to toxins', 'subjective health status', 'self-harm and suicide' and the associated measures were all assessed as suitable for inclusion in the strategy.
25. It is recommended when reporting on the indicator for 'self-harm and suicide' the detailed analysis include a breakdown of three different components: 'self-harm', 'suicidal ideation' and 'attempted suicide'. Additionally youth suicide rates will also be included as a supplementary measure. Rates of hospitalisation for self-harm could also be included. These measures are drawn from a different data source that are reported annually.

26. The 'mental wellbeing' indicator was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. The measure recommended by officials is the same measure used in Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand and, as such, the indicator should be renamed 'mental health status (psychological distress)' to align with the description of the measure in Indicators Aotearoa New Zealand.
27. The 'resilience' indicator and associated measure was assessed as not suitable for inclusion in the Strategy predominately because it is an untested measure for a concept that is ill-defined. Consequently the indicator has been removed from the list of proposed indicators.

Feedback on 'Children and young people are learning and developing' indicators

28. The 'regular school attendance' indicator and measure is a confirmed Child Poverty Related Indicator and is suitable for inclusion in the Strategy.
29. The 'literacy and numeracy skills', 'participation in early learning', and 'youth NEET' indicators were assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy with some minor changes:
 - a. It is recommended that the indicator 'literacy and numeracy skills' is renamed 'literacy, numeracy, and science skills' and that the measure uses the level 2 benchmark rather than mean score. It is also recommended that supplementary measures be included in detailed reporting which draw from Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) and Progress in International Reading Literacy Study (PIRLS). These supplementary measures will increase the frequency of information available and broaden the age range reported against for this indicator.
 - b. It is recommended that the measure for participation in early childhood education is the percentage of children attending early childhood education for 10 or more hours a week on average at age 3 and at age 4. This recently developed measure from the Ministry of Education uses data from the new Early Learning Information system. The Ministry of Education is in the process of briefing the Minister of Education on this indicator.
 - c. It is recommend that 'youth not in employment, education or training (NEET)' indicator is reframed to be a positive, strengths based measure, by simply reversing the measure to be 'youth participation in employment, education or training'.
30. The 'self-management skills' and 'social-emotional skills' indicators were assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. The science advisors are working with the Ministry of Social Development to include an appropriate set of questions in the WhatAboutMe? survey for the purpose of constructing measures for these two indicators. The specific measures will not be confirmed in time for the release of the Strategy, but the measures are able be included in time for delivery of the first WhatAboutMe? Survey. This means data will be available by the first required annual report in 2021.

Feedback on 'Children and young people are accepted, respected and connected' indicators

31. The 'support for cultural identity', 'speaking a second language', 'sense of belonging to New Zealand', and 'ability to be themselves' indicators and measures were assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy.
 - a. Given the three-year reporting cycle for the WhatAboutMe? survey, it was recommended that some supplementary measures, drawn from other data sources are also included. Various potential sources have been identified, including administrative data, the Census, and the wellbeing@school survey.
32. The 'experience of bullying or discrimination' indicator and measure was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. However, it is recommended that reference to bullying be removed from the 'experience of discrimination' indicator and 'experience of bullying' be reported on as a separate, new indicator.
33. It is recommended that the measure for the 'experience of bullying' indicator is 'percentage of young people who experienced bullying in the last 12 months' from the WhatAboutMe? survey. Supplementary measures drawn from other data sources could also be included in the detailed reporting. Various potential sources have been identified, including PISA and the wellbeing@school survey.

Feedback on 'Children and young people are involved and empowered' indicators

34. The 'involvement in community' and 'social support' indicators and measures have been assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy.
35. The 'representation of children and young people's voices' indicator was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. 'Youth voting rates' has been assessed to be the best available measure for this indicator.
36. The 'making positive choices' indicator was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. Two measures were discussed: contraception use and hazardous/heavy drinking. Both measures are viable, but hazardous/heavy drinking is recommended as the preferred measure as it is assessed to be less value driven. New Zealand based research suggests that factors relating to cultural identity and cultural values influence decisions about early pregnancy and parenthood¹.
37. Criminal offending was assessed as suitable for inclusion in the Strategy. Overall offending rates for children and young people aged 10-16 has been assessed to be the best available measure for this indicator.

¹ Marie, D., Fergusson, D.M., & Boden J.M. (2011). "Cultural identity and pregnancy/parenthood by age 20: Evidence from a New Zealand birth cohort", *Social Policy Journal of New Zealand*, 37, pp. 1-18.

Appendix 1: Updated content for inclusion in the proposed Strategy

Are the six outcomes measurable?

The Children's Act 2014 requires the Strategy to indicate the extent to which the outcomes included in the Strategy are measurable. To determine the measurability of the six outcomes in the strategy, we reviewed local and international research on measuring wellbeing, a wide range of wellbeing measurement frameworks, and a range of different data sources that collect information on children and young people's wellbeing.

We found that there are common measures that are often used to measure children's wellbeing - these include indicators like birth weight, suicide rates, mortality rates, immunisation rates, teenage pregnancy rates, obesity rates, physical activity levels, income levels, housing conditions, and educational attainment. These are internationally comparable and there is a strong evidence base associated with them. The more common measures often have an emphasis on physical health, material wellbeing and educational attainment. However other aspects of outcomes in the Strategy, such as mental wellbeing, loving and nurturing homes, and culture and identity are less commonly captured in existing wellbeing frameworks.

We found that there are significant gaps in available data on children and young people. In particular:

- There are not many data sources that regularly collect data (i.e. at least once a year) about children and young people's wellbeing that are also nationally representative (i.e. look at all children and young people, or at a sample of children and young people that is 'typical' of New Zealand). One-off data collections, cohort studies and surveys that are only collected every few years can tell us a lot about what is important for children and young people's wellbeing, but aren't suitable for measuring the outcomes on an ongoing basis.
- Very few existing surveys directly ask children and young people about their experiences of wellbeing. Many data sources are measures based on what children and young people have or do not have, that indirectly measure wellbeing through service use, or rely on an adult's assessment of children's wellbeing.
- There are very few existing indicators of wellbeing available for the pre-natal period through to about age 12 and most of the larger data collections start at age 15. There is little to no existing data for children under age 12 for three of the outcomes.
- Many of the existing data sources include some sort of measure of socioeconomic status, or a similar measure like school decile, however the definitions vary significantly depending on the data source. Many of the existing data sources also include some ethnicity information, but other demographic details such as disability status or sexuality are less common.
- There is a lot more deficit-based data than there is strengths-based data, i.e. many of the existing indicators measure the presence/absence of harm or poor outcomes, rather than the presence/absence of wellbeing or desired outcomes.

How will the six outcomes be measured?

The Children's Act 2014 requires the Strategy to indicate how the measurable outcomes will be measured, including by analysing disparities of outcome for children in poverty and children with socioeconomic disadvantage.

To determine the best way to measure the outcomes, we reviewed local and international research on measuring wellbeing, talked to a range of experts in child and youth wellbeing and in data and measurement, considered the nine principles of the strategy and the feedback received through the public engagement. From this, we identified a set of broad 'criteria' to help narrow down the many existing measures of wellbeing to a set of 36 indicators that will collectively measure the outcomes in the most direct and simplest way possible.

The criteria included a preference for indicators that are statistically robust, regularly collected, strengths-based, non-specific (i.e. broadly informative), relevant and easily understood, applicable to all children and young people, internationally comparable, able to be disaggregated, culturally responsive, and aligned with the other government indicators and measurement frameworks to enable consistency and coherency across government.

Recognising that children and young people are the experts in their own wellbeing, we wanted to ensure that their voice is well reflected in the indicators. This means what we measure also reflects the things children and young people told us was important to their wellbeing (things like feeling safe and the wellbeing of their family and whānau) and their experience of those things (asking children and young people directly wherever possible).

- It is intended that the indicators will be refreshed or updated at least once per year, as part of the legislative requirement for the responsible Minister to report annually to Parliament on progress against the outcomes in the Strategy.
- The reporting on each indicator will include an analysis by household income or socioeconomic status² wherever data is available. The indicators will also include an analysis of the disparity of outcomes by ethnicity and other demographic variables of significance, wherever data is available. The reporting may also draw on additional data sources and include additional measures to supplement the analysis.
- Given the current limitations around data availability, we also expect that the indicators and measures will be built on and improved over time; some indicators may be added or replaced where better data and measurement methodology becomes available. There is work underway across agencies that is focused on improving the quality of data or collecting new or different data on children and young people's wellbeing.

² Or best proxy available; i.e. the definition of socio-economic status will vary depending on the data source.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Indicators

Outcome: Children and young people are loved, safe and nurtured	
Indicator	Measure
Feeling loved	Percentage of young people who feel that they are loved by the people who look after or care for them. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Feeling safe	Percentage of young people who feel safe (at school, at home, at work, online, in the community where they live). <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Family / whānau wellbeing	Percentage of young people rating their family as doing well. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Injury prevalence	Number of serious injuries (fatal and non-fatal) per 100,000 children and young people. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Harm against children	Number of children and young people with a report of concern to Oranga Tamariki requiring further action. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Quality time with parents	Percentage of young people who feel that they get to spend enough time with the people who look after or care for them. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Outcome: Children and young people have what they need	
Indicator	Measure
Material wellbeing	Percentage of children living in households experiencing good material wellbeing. <i>Source: Household Economic Survey</i>
Child poverty: Material hardship	Percentage of children living in households experiencing material hardship. <i>Source: Official Child Poverty Measure</i>
Child poverty: Low Income (BHC 50)	Percentage of children living in households with less than 50 percent median equivalised disposable household income before housing costs are deducted. <i>Source: Official Child Poverty Measure</i>
Child poverty: Low Income (AHC 50)	Percentage of children living in households with less than 50 percent median equivalised disposable household income after housing costs are deducted. <i>Source: Official Child Poverty Measure</i>
Food insecurity*	Percentage of children living in households where food runs out sometimes or often. <i>Source: NZ Health Survey 2019/20 onwards</i>
Housing quality*	Percentage of children and young people living in households with a major problem with dampness or mould. <i>Source: Household Economic Survey</i>
Housing affordability*	Percentage of children and young people living in households spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing. <i>Source: Household Economic Survey</i>

*Note: these indicators are also child poverty related indicators.

Outcome: Children and young people are happy and healthy	
Indicator	Measure
Prenatal care	Percentage of women who registered with a Lead Maternity Carer within the first trimester of pregnancy. <i>Source: National Maternity Collection</i>
Early exposure to toxins	Percentage of women who registered with a Lead Maternity Carer smoking at registration and discharge. <i>Source: National Maternity Collection</i>
Subjective health status	Percentage of young people reporting their health as good, very good, or excellent. <i>Source: NZ Health Survey.</i>
Preventable admissions to hospital*	Rate of preventable admissions to hospital for children and young people. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Mental health status (psychological distress)	Percentage of young people who experienced high or very high levels of psychological distress at some stage over a four-week period. <i>Source: NZ Health Survey.</i>
Self-harm and suicide	Percentage of young people who have deliberately hurt themselves, seriously thought about, and/or attempted suicide in the last 12 months. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Outcome: Children and young people are learning and developing	
Indicator	Measure
Participation in early learning	Percentage of children attending early childhood education for 10 or more hours a week on average at age 3 and at age 4. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data.</i>
Regular school attendance*	Percentage of children and young people who are regularly attending school. <i>Source: School Attendance Survey</i>
Literacy, numeracy, and science skills	Percentage of 15 year-olds meeting the level 2 benchmark for reading, maths and science. <i>Source: Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA)</i>
Social-emotional skills	This measure is under development. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Self-management skills	This measure is under development. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Youth participation in employment, education, or training	Percentage of young people who are participating in education, training, or employment. <i>Source: Household Labour Force Survey</i>

*Note: these indicators are also child poverty related indicators.

Outcome: Children and young people are accepted, respected and connected	
Indicator	Measure
Support for cultural identity	Percentage of young people who have someone they can ask about their culture, whakapapa or ethnic group. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Speaking a second language	Percentage of young people who can have a conversation in two or more languages. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Sense of belonging to New Zealand	Percentage of young people who feel a sense of belonging to Aotearoa/New Zealand as a whole. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Experience of discrimination	Percentage of young people who report experiencing discrimination in the previous 12 months. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Experience of bullying	Percentage of young people who experienced bullying in the last 12 months. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Ability to "be themselves"	Percentage of young people who find it easy to express their identity. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Outcome: Children and young people are involved and empowered	
Indicator	Measure
Involvement in community	Percentage of young people who report helping others in the neighbourhood or community (e.g. help out on the marae or church, or belong to a volunteer organisation). <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Social support	Percentage of young people who say they have an adult they could turn to if they were going through a difficult time and needed help. <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Representation of young people's voices	Percentage of young people enrolled and voting in the New Zealand general election. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data</i>
Making positive choices	Percentage of young people who report drinking heavily in the past 4 weeks (exceeding 5 or more alcoholic drinks in a single session on one or more occasions). <i>Source: The Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey - 'WhatAboutMe?'</i>
Criminal offending	Offending rates per 10,000 children and young people. <i>Source: Derived from administrative data</i>

Annual report on progress against the outcomes

The Children’s Act 2014 requires the responsible Minister to prepare an annual report on achievement of the outcomes that the strategy indicates are sought for children identified in the strategy. Before finalising the report, the responsible Minister must consult the children’s Ministers on a draft of the report.

The report must be presented to the House of Representatives and published online. The report must include analysis of outcomes for Māori children and may also include analysis of other population groups if sufficient data is available.

The first report is due in early 2021. This report will include indicators data for each of the outcomes as well as monitoring and evaluation information on the policies and actions set out in the first Strategy. The reporting on each indicator will include an analysis by household income or socioeconomic status³ wherever data is available. The indicators will also include an analysis of the disparity of outcomes by ethnicity and other demographic variables of significance, wherever data is available.

Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018

The Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 requires the government of the day to set long-term (10-year) and intermediate (3-year) targets on a set of child poverty measures against which the government must report annually.

There are four primary measures:

- Low income before housing costs (below 50 percent of median income, moving line)
- Low income after housing costs (below 50 percent of median income, fixed line)
- A measure of material hardship (reflecting the proportion of children living in households with hardship rates below a standard threshold)
- A measure of poverty persistence (currently being developed).

In early 2018, the Government announced its targets for the three primary measures for which data is available, and then it formally adopted these targets on 22 May 2019.

These are:

Primary measure	Baseline rate	3-year target rate	10-year target rate
BHC 50 moving line	16% of children	10% of children	5% of children
AHC 50 fixed line	23% of children	19% of children	10% of children
Material hardship	13% of children	10% of children	6% of children

Under the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018, the Minister must also identify one or more indicators related to the causes, correlates, and/or consequences of child poverty - ‘Child Poverty Related Indicators’. The reporting on the Child Poverty Related Indicators is the responsibility of the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, who must publish a dedicated ‘monitoring report’ for each financial year, alongside the report of the Government Statistician.

³ or best proxy available; i.e. the definition of socio-economic status will vary depending on the data source.

The Minister for Child Poverty Reduction has identified that a subset of the *Child and Youth Wellbeing indicators* will be used as the first set of *Child Poverty Related Indicators*. These are:

- **Housing affordability.** As measured by percentage of children and young people living in households spending more than 30 percent of their disposable income on housing. *Source: Household Economic Survey*
- **Housing quality.** As measured by the percentage of children and young people living in households with a major problem with dampness or mould. *Source: Household Economic Survey*
- **Food insecurity.** As measured by the percentage of children and young people living in households where food runs out often or sometimes. *Source: NZ Health Survey 2019/20 onwards*
- **Regular school attendance.** As measured by percentage of children and young people who are regularly attending school. *Source: School Attendance Survey.*
- **Preventable admissions to hospital.** As measured by rate of preventable admissions to hospital for children and young people. *Source: Administrative data from Ministry of Health.*

Proactively released by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction