



## Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) on behalf of Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction:

### **Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: Update on implementation and review of the Strategy**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of Paper:** Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: Update on implementation and review of the Strategy: (SWC-22-SUB-0090 refers)

**Title of Minute:** Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: (SWC-22-MIN-0090 refers)

**Title of Cabinet Minute:** Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 20 May 2022 (CAB-22-MIN-0189)

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 codes:**

- 9(2)(f)(iv) to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials; and
- 9(2)(i); enable a Minister of the Crown or any public service agency or organisation holding the information to carry out, without prejudice or disadvantage, commercial activities.

Office of the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## **Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: update on implementation and review of the Strategy**

### **Proposal**

1. This paper outlines how the Government is delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) and outlines the approach I intend to take for the first statutory review of the Strategy by August this year. This paper also informs Cabinet of my intention to release the report, *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 January-31 December 2021* (Appendix One) and of the upcoming release by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet of the report *Process Evaluation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy* (summary provided in Appendix Two).

### **Relation to government priorities**

2. The Strategy's vision is to make New Zealand the best place in the world for children and young people. The Strategy's focus on addressing long-term enduring issues, notably eliminating child poverty and improving child and youth wellbeing, means that it plays a critical role in contributing to the Government's priority of laying the foundations for the future.
3. Improving child wellbeing is also an area of cooperation under the Cooperation Agreement between The NZ Labour Party and The Green Party Of Aotearoa NZ<sup>1</sup>.

### **Executive Summary**

4. New Zealand's first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy was launched in August 2019, setting out a vision of New Zealand as the best place in the world for children and young people [SWC-19-MIN-0085]. I have convened regular meetings of a Ministerial Group to drive and oversee the Government's implementation of the Strategy, and to ensure that good progress is being made in achieving its outcomes.
5. On 12 April 2022, I presented to the House and publicly released the first statutory Annual Report on the Strategy's outcomes and the third annual Child Poverty Related Indicators report. Together these reports indicate that, while significant progress is being made in areas relating to material wellbeing, youth justice and harm against children, young people's mental wellbeing is of increasing concern. While the data show good progress and some evidence of increasing equity, data also indicates continued and, in some cases, worsening disparities for Māori, Pacific, disabled and rainbow children and young people.
6. As directed by the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) in April 2021, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) has also prepared a monitoring report of the Strategy's Programme of Action for the 2021 calendar year [SWC-21-MIN-0047]. Although some initiatives have again been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, overall good progress has been made in implementing actions in the Strategy's Programme of Action as is shown in the *Monitoring of Child and Youth*

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<sup>1</sup> 31 October 2020

*Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 January-31 December 2021* report in Appendix One. It is my intention to publish this report.

7. Of note are more examples of agencies working collaboratively and with community stakeholders on complex issues such as family violence and sexual violence and supporting the wellbeing of children and young people in the care system. I expect Ministers and their agencies to continue to identify further opportunities for holistic, whānau centred community-led approaches to help achieve the vision of the Strategy.
8. I am also particularly pleased that the Ministerial Group has agreed to embed a specific first 1,000 days wellbeing objective in all major health, social sector and income support policy and service delivery work programmes that impact on children and young people; and to take a localised system learning approach to develop an integrated network of holistic services and support for children and their whānau, building on the health sector early years prototypes. The period from conception to the age of around two years is the most critical developmental period in a child's life and the best opportunity we have to address long-term inequities in wellbeing. <sup>s9(2)(f)(iv)</sup>  

9. Work is now underway to inform the first statutory three-yearly review of the Strategy, which I must complete by August 2022. The review will draw on the findings of the above reports as well as evaluations of specific work programmes such as The Families Package.
10. To support the review, my officials recently commissioned a process evaluation of the Strategy. The report, *Process Evaluation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy*, a summary of which is provided in Appendix Two. Findings from this evaluation, along with our monitoring and work with stakeholders suggests that the primary focus of the Review should be on the best means of achieving the Strategy's outcomes. It is important to ensure that the review also considers the views and experiences of a wider group of key stakeholders, most notably children and young people themselves. It is my intention that targeted engagement will take place to inform the review
11. It is my strong expectation that the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group will ensure that every effort is made by government to deliver on the actions already committed to under the Strategy as well as using it to drive and prioritise future government efforts.

## Background

12. New Zealand's first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy was launched in August 2019, setting out a vision of New Zealand as the best place in the world for children and young people [SWC-19-MIN-0085]. The Strategy is an important step in our work to achieve our vision for children and young people. It was developed over many months, informed by wellbeing research and frameworks, and extensive public engagement, including insights from some 6,000 children and young people.
13. As the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction, I have overall responsibility for the Strategy, with individual Ministers accountable for particular initiatives. In order to maintain consistent and clear monitoring and evaluation, key legislative requirements include the following:
  - Under the Children's Act 2014, I must provide, after consultation with children's Ministers, an annual report on progress in achieving the Strategy's outcomes

- Under the Child Poverty Act 2018, I must provide an annual report on the child poverty related indicators<sup>2</sup>
  - Under the Children's Act 2014, I must also complete a review of the Strategy, in consultation with the children's Ministers, within three years of its adoption (i.e. by August 2022).
14. In addition to these legislated requirements, I also provide SWC with a report of progress on implementing the Strategy. In April 2021, SWC directed DPMC officials to provide further monitoring reports on the Strategy annually, rather than every six months, to align with the annual reports on progress in achieving the Strategy's outcomes and on the child poverty related indicators [SWC-21-MIN-0047].
  15. During the current term of Government, I have established a Ministerial Group on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy to drive and oversee its delivery. The scope of the Group is portfolios that have a significant decision-making responsibility for child and youth policy and service development and delivery. This includes portfolios with legislative responsibility related to the Strategy under the Children's Act 2014.
  16. This paper provides Cabinet with an overview of progress against the Strategy. This is drawn from the documents referred to in paragraphs 13 and 14. It sets out some of our achievements in the last year. It also identifies areas where we need continued focus. Finally, it sets out my proposed approach to the review of the Strategy.

#### **Assessment of progress in delivering on the Strategy**

17. On 12 April 2022, I presented to the House and publicly released the first statutory Annual Report on the Strategy's outcomes (for the year to 30 June 2021) and the third annual Child Poverty Related Indicators report. The COVID-19 pandemic has forced the delay in data collection and analysis for the Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey, externally branded as *whataboutme?*, which will be the primary data source for 15 of the Strategy's 36 wellbeing indicators. Due to this delay, the 2020/21 Annual Report uses supplementary data where available.
18. The data in the Annual report indicates that significant progress is being made in areas relating to material wellbeing, youth justice and harm against children. However, young people's mental wellbeing is of increasing concern. While the data show good progress and some evidence of increasing equity, data also indicates continued and, in some cases, worsening disparities for some population groups, particularly Māori, Pacific, disabled children and young people, and children and young people who identify as part of the rainbow community. The Annual Report also discusses the impact of COVID-19 on children and young people's wellbeing.
19. In addition to these statutory reports, I am required to report to SWC annually on progress made across government agencies in delivering actions and aligning to the Strategy. The report *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 January-31 December 2021* is provided in [Appendix One](#). I intend to release this monitoring report along with the proactive release of this Cabinet paper in June 2022.
20. An update on progress of Programme of Action initiatives relating to each of the Strategy's outcome areas, as well as highlights from the Annual Report and Child Poverty Related Indicators report, is provided below. It is important to note that there are also government work programmes contributing to child and youth wellbeing that

<sup>2</sup> A child poverty related indicator is a measure of a cause, consequence, or correlate of child poverty. Five child poverty related indicators were established in September 2019 – housing affordability, housing quality, food insecurity, regular school attendance, and avoidable hospitalisations – and reported on in June 2020.

are not in the Programme of Action because they are considered to be business as usual activity for agencies.

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

21. The Annual Report of the Strategy's outcomes shows that, in 2020/21, most children and young people said they had good whānau wellbeing. Some measures related to intentional injury appear to be tracking downwards, but unintentional injury remains a leading cause of harm to children and young people.
22. There has been a vast amount of work to deliver the commitments in the Strategy's Programme of Action that are focused on keeping children safe and protect them from harm. Highlights from the 2021 reporting period include:
  - the launch of *Te Aorerekura*, the national strategy and action plan to prevent and eliminate family violence and sexual violence – setting out 40 actions over two years, and informed by engagement with over 2,000 people and almost 1,000 submissions;
  - the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan for children's agencies to collectively improve wellbeing outcomes for children and young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki – although the plan was endorsed by Cabinet this year (4 April 2022), its development took place in 2021. s9(2)(f)(iv)
  - the final phase of the *Keep It Real* online safety initiative being completed with the release of *The Inter-Yeti*, an online interactive storybook for 5-11 year-olds.
23. I am pleased to see the strong commitment across multiple agencies to the development and publication of *Te Aorerekura* and the development of the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan. However, I recognise that the publication of these plans is just the beginning. Their successful implementation is of critical importance to improving the wellbeing of large numbers of children, young people and whānau throughout New Zealand and it is my expectation that progress is made on delivering real change over the coming months.
24. I am also pleased to see progress being made on Ngā Tini Whetū<sup>3</sup>, with support for some 800 whānau through kaupapa Māori services tailored to whānau need; as well as the Enhanced Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) pilots, which are now operational in three sites with an evaluation report scheduled for release in the coming weeks. I look forward to seeing the results of these initiatives with a view to strengthening the government's extension of whānau-centred approaches to support wellbeing.
25. It is also good to see some new initiatives added to the Programme of Action under this outcome area during the course of 2021. Strengthening community-led solutions to prevent child sexual abuse, a home safety programme and the initiative to expand whānau-centred facilitation all contribute to children's safety and wellbeing<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> *Ngā Tini Whetū* is supported by Te Puni Kōkiri, Oranga Tamariki and the Accident Compensation Corporation and in partnership with the Whānau Ora Commissioning Agency.

<sup>4</sup> Strengthening community-led solutions to prevent child sexual abuse (Accident Compensation Corporation with Oranga Tamariki and the Ministry of Social Development); Home Safety Programme (Accident Compensation Corporation in partnership with Safekids), and Expansion of Whānau-centred Facilitation Initiative (Te Puni Kōkiri).

*Children and young people have what they need*

26. The Annual Report of the Strategy's outcomes and Child Poverty Related Indicators report show that, in 2020/21, most children and young people had a good standard of material wellbeing, and we are making progress on improving support to those who are currently going without. Child Poverty Statistics released in February 2022 show that child poverty rates have continue to trend downward, despite the impact of COVID-19. Compared to our 2017/18 baseline, 66,500 fewer children are in low-income households on the fixed-line after-housing costs primary measure, and 21,900 fewer children experiencing material hardship. We are also seeing encouraging signs on some of our child poverty related indicators – these suggest food insecurity has decreased, and housing quality has improved.
27. A range of measures to reduce child poverty were introduced in our previous term of Government, and in the immediate response to COVID-19. The Government continues to provide financial support to families and whānau affected by COVID-19 as we know that the pandemic has exacerbated existing and persistent inequities. Highlights from the Strategy's Programme of Action related to children and young people having what they need include:
- the roll-out of Ka Ora, Ka Ako, the Free and Healthy School Lunches programme, with 918 schools and kura delivering lunches to approximately 210,000 students by the end of 2021;
  - a \$20 per adult per week increase in main benefits from 1 July 2021, and a further increase to the levels in line with a key recommendation from the Welfare Expert Advisory Group, plus an additional \$15 per adult per week for families with children from 1 April 2022;
  - changes to abatement settings as part of the welfare overhaul work programme – enabling many part-time working beneficiaries, including sole parents, to keep a greater proportion of their private earnings;
  - Working for Families changes announced in November 2021, which included increases to the Family Tax Credit and Best Start payment;
  - progress made in implementing the Homelessness Action Plan, which includes initiatives to support young people experiencing housing need;
  - a new initiative to support young carers<sup>5</sup> – recognising the impact on a young carer's personal development, education, mental health and/or employment.
28. We have made a great start on reducing child poverty, but there is more work to be done. We have set new three-year child poverty targets (for 2021/22, 2022/23 and 2023/24), which will continue our momentum and ensure we are on track to reach our ten-year targets. We will also have a clear focus on reducing the disparities experienced by tamariki Māori, and Pacific and disabled children, and ensuring our policy measures are effective in reducing poverty for those particular groups.
29. In terms of the key strategic shifts that are vital for ensuring that children's wellbeing is at the heart of government, I note that the welfare overhaul work programme has been reprioritised with a focus on major transformation change that will include specific

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<sup>5</sup> Improved support for young carers across government (Ministry of Social Development)

initiatives to improve the wellbeing of children and families. I look forward to seeing real change in this area, which will help ensure that children and young people truly have what they need.

*Children and young people are happy and healthy*

30. The Annual Report of the Strategy's outcomes show that, in 2020/21, most children and young people reported being in good health<sup>6</sup>. Potentially avoidable illness appears to be decreasing over time. However, mental distress among young people has increased by 8% over the course of the pandemic, with this increase being higher for Māori young people<sup>7</sup>. The burden of injury, preventable disease and mental distress is inequitably distributed.
31. Highlights of activity from the 2021 the Strategy's Programme of Action include:
- the increase in youth primary mental health and addiction services with 18 now available in 15 DHB areas, a new national youth-specific telehealth/webchat service, and 20 contracts for kaupapa Māori services in 14 DHB areas secured;
  - the provision of new counselling services for children and young people in primary, intermediate and secondary schools;
  - the launch of the refocused Maternity Action Plan;
  - a new Physical Activity Workforce of 100 advisors to support schools, kura and local communities with healthy eating and quality physical activity<sup>8</sup>.
32. Four new initiatives were added to the Strategy's Programme of Action this year under this outcome area. In addition to the Counsellors in Schools initiative highlighted above, the 'baby teeth matter' social marketing campaign, backed up by the roll out of oral healthcare items via Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) providers, will support oral health for young children<sup>9</sup>; funding of \$60 million over four years to enable new and integrated models of health support for children and whānau across the first 1,000 days of a child's life<sup>10</sup>; and a public health approach to prevent gambling harm among young people is underway.
33. I acknowledge the pressures on the health system as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the changes underway to transform the health system. However, I do not want to lose sight of strategic shifts that are needed across the early years system as a whole. Key planks are the Maternity Action Plan (including maternal mental health support), and transformation of WCTO to a whānau-centred system of integrated early years health, financial support, social services and informal support. I expect all portfolio Ministers to ensure that a first 1,000 days objective is embedded across all relevant work programmes to ensure that every child in New Zealand gets a good start in life.
34. The delivery of more youth mental health and addiction services, including the expansion of the promising holistic school-based initiative Mana Ake and continuation

<sup>6</sup> 92% of young people aged 15-24 years reported their health and good, very good or excellent.

<sup>7</sup> The New Zealand Health Survey reports 19% of young people aged 15-24 years experienced high or very high psychological distress compared to 11% the previous year (pre-pandemic). The increase in psychological distress has been particularly acute for Māori young people, increasing from 14% in 2019/20 to 26% in 2020/21.

<sup>8</sup> Healthy active learning (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Sport NZ)

<sup>9</sup> Provide free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to tamariki and whanau (Ministry of Health)

<sup>10</sup> Early Years Initiative (Ministry of Health)

of the Piki youth-focused integrated therapies programme, will help address the real and emerging mental wellbeing needs of children and young people. However, we also need to continue to build the protective factors that support children and young people's wellbeing so that their resilience and mental health is not continually tested. Addressing the social and economic determinants of health is core to *Kia Manawanui: Long term pathway toward mental wellbeing*, which the government launched last year.

*Children and young people are learning and developing*

35. The Annual Report on the Strategy's outcomes shows that, in 2020/21, participation in early learning and attendance at school continued to be impacted by the COVID-19. Attendance at school and early childhood education has decreased in 2020/21 compared to the previous year but remains higher than in 2019. This is considered part of an overall trend of decreasing attendance that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. Regular school attendance rates were lower for Māori and Pacific students. School students performed higher than the OECD average in maths, reading and science in 2018<sup>11</sup>. Rates of youth participation in employment, education or training continue to be stable over time.
36. In 2021, highlights from the Strategy's Programme of Action include:
- three pilot programmes to support Social and Emotional Learning in young children (on track to reach 6,000 children by 30 June 2022)<sup>12</sup>;
  - the roll out of free period products to schools and kura – 1,986 schools and kura had opted into this initiative at the end of 2021;
  - 49,000 devices provided to schools for their students and more than 40,000 families connected to the internet to enable distance learning during COVID-19 lockdown<sup>13</sup>;
  - expansion of a number of programmes to support education and employment outcomes for young people – e.g. Pae Aronui and Taiohi Ararau.
37. Two initiatives have been added to the Programme of Action under this outcome area. The Ākonga Youth Community Development Fund supports learners who have been adversely affected by COVID-19 to stay engaged in education; and Pūtoi Rito aims to engage children and young people in reading for pleasure and wellbeing.
38. The Education and Workforce Select Committee has released its report into school attendance, with 22 recommendations for the Government. The Committee's findings support much of what is known about the drivers of low attendance and disengagement in learning. This is a complex issue that we have been concerned about for some time, and that has been worsened by the impact of our COVID-19 measures. It will require collective effort from the Government, schools, communities, iwi and whānau to address. The report will inform the finalisation of an Engaging In Learning strategy, which is part of the Ministry of Education's work to address this issue.

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<sup>11</sup> In 2020/21, 97% of children participated in early learning before starting school, 83% of 18-year-old students attained the equivalent of NCEA Level 2 or above, and around one third of young people participated in tertiary study.

<sup>12</sup> Trialling support for young children to improve their self-regulation, resilience and social skills (Ministry of Education)

<sup>13</sup> Enabling distance learning (Ministry of Education)

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

39. Racism, discrimination and stigma amplify the effects of disadvantage for many including children and young people who identify as Māori, Pacific, disabled, rainbow and/or from refugee, migrant and ethnic communities. The Annual Report shows that most young people felt able to express their identity and had good social support, but that Māori and Pacific and students were more likely to experience discrimination and bullying<sup>14</sup>.
40. Highlights from the Strategy's Programme of Action in 2021 include:
- an ongoing pilot of the Challenge Racism toolkit for year 9 and 10 students<sup>15</sup>;
  - the 'Our Kind of School' report highlighting effective school and kura practice in creating safe, inclusive environments that deter bullying<sup>16</sup>;
  - progress in the development of the national action plan against racism.
41. Two new actions were added to the Programme of Action in 2021, under this outcome area, to improve social cohesion and to expand the *Mates and Dates* healthy relationships programmes in secondary schools. This is a development from earlier work undertaken. The final curriculum content for Aotearoa New Zealand's histories and Te Takanga o Te Wā has been released and is now available to all New Zealand schools and kura. It means they can start planning now to teach it from the beginning of 2023.
42. Cabinet has recently agreed the proposed scope and public engagement for the national action plan against racism. It is important that this include targeted engagement with children and young people to gather their insights and ideas - the negative impacts of racism emerged as a key theme during engagement with children and young people in the development of the Strategy, I look forward to proposals on how the plan will address the issues and ideas they raise.

*Children and young people are involved and empowered*

43. The Strategy sets out a framework for holistic wellbeing for children and young people. An essential part of this is the empowerment of children and young people to feel positive and comfortable with their own identity. Feeling a sense of value and belonging is a powerful motivator to contribute at home or in communities, and has wider wellbeing benefits to the individuals.
44. The Annual Report shows that, in 2020/21, children and young people contributed positively to their communities with rates of civic participation increasing over time<sup>17</sup>, and that youth offending rates continue their long-term downward trend<sup>18</sup>. Rates of hazardous drinking, smoking and cannabis use are of concern, particularly among young people aged under 18 years.

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<sup>14</sup> 20% of young people aged 18-24 years reported experiencing discrimination in the past 12 months. Pacific and Māori young people were more likely to experience discrimination at 23% and 27% respectively.

<sup>15</sup> Government work programme to address racism and discrimination (Ministry of Education and Ministry of Justice)

<sup>16</sup> Initiatives to prevent and respond to bullying in schools (Ministry of Education)

<sup>17</sup> 78% of young people aged 18-24 years voted in the 2020 general election, compared to 74% of people aged 25-34 years.

<sup>18</sup> Offending rates dropped by 10% across all young people aged 10-17 years, 15% among Māori young people aged 10-17 years and 40% among Pacific young people aged 10-17 years

45. Highlights in 2021 from the Strategy's Programme of Action include:
- youth voice initiatives, such as The Hive, involving young people working with government agencies on diverse issues such as New Zealand's biodiversity strategy, climate change, emissions, and housing – 192,000 people were reached by the Hive Youth Climate Change engagement campaign (targeting the 13 to 24 age group);
  - the provision of advice and support from Kau Tūlī, the Ministry for Pacific People's youth advisory group, on a range of government initiatives including COVID-19 communications and engagement targeted towards Pacific young people.
46. A significant initiative contributing to this outcome area is the Youth Plan (led by the Minister for Youth), which drives equitable wellbeing outcomes for young people and prioritises four groups experiencing disadvantage and marginalisation: Māori, Pacific, rainbow and disabled young people. The Youth Plan comprises 16 actions, and progress on them is either continuing or complete, with a review of the Youth Plan being prepared.
47. Four new actions have been added to the Programme of Action in 2021, under this outcome area: two initiatives to support healthy and consensual relationships among young people<sup>19</sup>, a pilot group violence prevention initiative for young men at Rimutaka Prison, and an education campaign to counter misinformation ('A Bit Sus') aimed at students and led through a partnership between the Schools Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa and Tohatoha. I am particularly interested to see next steps developed for initiatives to support this work, given the global rise in, and consequences of, the spread of misinformation.

**Moving beyond alignment – using the Strategy to drive and prioritise government activity**

48. The implementation report on the Strategy's Programme of Action also reports on alignment to the Strategy's outcomes, as set out in agencies' strategic and business planning documents and funding decisions with the Strategy. This expectation is set out in the published Strategy and in Cabinet's 2019 consideration of it [SWC-19-MIN-0085], and has been supported by a July 2021 report from the Social Wellbeing Board to the Ministerial Group.
49. This year's monitoring report shows that only a small number of agencies made demonstrable changes following the Social Wellbeing Board's report. I look forward to the completion of the child rights training module, and to the implementation of the relational approach to social sector commissioning across government. I am pleased to see that Te Puni Kōkiri regularly monitors and reports to social sector chief executives on a set of wellbeing indicators, with a focus on wellbeing outcomes relevant to tamariki Māori. I am also pleased to see consideration of child and youth wellbeing by agencies beyond the social sector, such as Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport's indicators to measure the performance of the transport system. Three of these directly relate to child and youth wellbeing.

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<sup>19</sup> Develop the Oranga Whakapapa programme and (Accident Compensation Corporation), Tools to support healthy consensual relationships for young people (Accident Compensation Corporation)

50. As we enter the first review of the Strategy, I will be considering further ways to ensure that the Strategy is actively used to drive and prioritise collective efforts across government and more broadly.
51. A good early example is the decision made by the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group, in December 2021, to embed a specific first 1,000 days wellbeing objective in all major health, social sector and income support policy and service delivery work programmes that impact on children and young people, and to develop and test holistic, local early years system learning approaches to support the first 1,000 days in a child's life. This period from conception to the age of around two years is the most critical developmental period in a child's life and the best opportunity we have to address long-term inequities in outcomes. s9(2)(f)(iv)

### The Strategy must be reviewed by August 2022

52. As the responsible Minister for the Strategy, I have a duty to complete a review of the Strategy within three years of its adoption (i.e. by 18 August 2022) and in consultation with children's Ministers. The Children's Act 2014 sets out separate processes and consultation requirements for reviewing the Strategy, and for making any changes to the Strategy. The proposed timing for the review, and any subsequent changes to the Strategy, is summarised in Figure 1. The blue box constitutes the review, and must be completed by August 2022, and the green boxes show the steps needed to meet the legal requirements for any proposed changes. Cabinet noted and agreed this timeline in April 2021 [SWC-21-MIN-0047 refers].

Figure 1: Timeline for review and any changes to the Strategy



53. The Strategy must build on what we know about what has worked to date and where improvements may be needed to make further progress. This should include evidence from our monitoring of the Strategy's indicators, the effectiveness of current interventions, what we know about what works, and input from stakeholders about what is working and what could be strengthened or changed.

54. My initial assessment is that the Strategy could be strengthened in the following ways. It could:

- drive and prioritise (rather than ‘align’) government policy e.g. through a much more targeted Programme of Action, and/or small suite of targeted action plans including the establishment of a child poverty plan [DPMC-2021/22-1549];
- improve equity of outcomes, by addressing barriers to the Strategy’s responsiveness to tamariki and rangatahi Māori, disabled children and young people, and other groups that are overrepresented in adverse wellbeing outcomes;
- encourage more collective ownership of the Strategy and support community/non-government;
- streamline the number of Strategy monitoring and reporting arrangements, to improve communication to the public and make key information more accessible.

55. This assessment is informed by the recent process evaluation of the implementation of the Strategy, and early indications from the annual report data.

*A recent process evaluation has identified strengths with the current Strategy as well as areas for improvement*

56. To support the review, my officials have recently commissioned an independent process evaluation of the Strategy. The process evaluation is built on feedback from a range of stakeholders through face-to-face interviews, focus groups, and an online survey, as well as a review of a range of contextual documents. The evaluation concludes that while there is broad and strong support for the vision and outcomes of the Strategy, not everyone sees themselves or their work reflected in the framework and there is still much to do to see real change in practice.

57. Key areas for improvement include enabling greater government agency and community buy-in, driving (rather than aligning) government efforts, and a need for a stronger and more explicit focus on tamariki and rangatahi Māori. The executive summary and recommendations from this report are provided in Appendix Two.

*Themes from recent engagements with children and young people are largely consistent with what we heard during engagement to inform the Strategy*

58. My officials have also reviewed themes from recent engagements with children and young people. While there are some new and emerging themes coming through (e.g. climate change, impacts of social media), and mental distress and/or anxiety is featuring more strongly, the key findings are largely consistent with what we heard during engagement to inform the Strategy.

*Focus of the review*

59. In light of this early assessment, I consider that the review should focus primarily on::

- how best to give effect to the Strategy outcomes – the policies, Programme of Action, including supporting communities to deliver;
- how progress against the Strategy is measured – the indicators and measures, and streamlining the monitoring and reporting arrangements;
- how implementation of the Strategy is governed;
- how the Strategy could better integrate Māori concepts of wellbeing.

*It is important that the review involves stakeholders*

60. It is important to ensure that the review also considers the views and experiences of key stakeholders, most notably children and young people themselves. I consider that targeted engagement ahead of the review would also include peak bodies and experts on child and youth wellbeing. I will develop a detailed plan for engagement in consultation with the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group. Engagement would occur in May-June 2022. If I decide to make changes to the Strategy following the August review, I will follow the consultation requirements set out in the Children's Act 2014 (Figure 1 refers).
61. It is my strong expectation that, both before and after the Strategy is reviewed, the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial group will ensure that every effort is made by government to deliver on the Strategy.

### **Consultation**

62. The Ministries of Education, Health, Housing and Urban Development, Justice, Social Development, Transport and Youth Development; the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment; the Ministries for Pacific Peoples and Women; the Accident Compensation Corporation, Ara Poutama Aotearoa – Corrections, Department of Internal Affairs, Inland Revenue, Oranga Tamariki, Police, Social Wellbeing Agency, Stats NZ, Te Puni Kōkiri and The Treasury have been consulted on this paper.

### **Financial Implications**

63. Any financial implications arising from the contents of this paper are being met within existing baselines or considered in future Budget processes.

### **Legislative Implications**

64. There are no legislative implications arising from the content of this paper.

### **Regulatory Impact Analysis**

65. Regulatory impact analysis requirements do not apply to this paper as there are no regulatory changes being sought.

### **Treaty of Waitangi Implications**

66. The implementation of the Strategy is intended to give practical effect to the Treaty of Waitangi. This includes acting to the fullest extent possible to enable the achievement of equitable outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. One of the Strategy's principles is that Māori are tangata whenua and the Māori-Crown relationship is foundational. As discussed in the findings of the process evaluation ([Appendix Two](#)), there is scope for the review of the Strategy to more fully consider the unique and specific needs, preferences and aspirations of tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau.

### **Population Implications**

67. The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is underpinned by the Children's Act 2014, which stipulates that the Strategy must address the wellbeing of all children; improve the wellbeing of children with greater needs; reduce child poverty and mitigate the impacts of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage experienced by children; and improve the wellbeing of the core population of interest to Oranga Tamariki. The core populations of interest to Oranga Tamariki are children and young people at risk of

entering State care and/or youth justice, currently in State care and/or youth justice, and young people who are under aged 21 years and who have been in care.

68. The Annual Report of the Strategy's outcomes and Child Poverty Related Indicators report show that persistent, and in some cases worsening, disparities are experienced by Māori, Pacific, disabled and rainbow children and young people. The Strategy's vision of New Zealand as the best place in the world for children and young people can only be achieved through coordinated efforts to support wellbeing and address these inequities.

### Human Rights

69. The implementation of the Strategy supports the fundamental freedoms of children and young people recognised in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 and the Human Rights Act 1993. As set out on the Children's Act 2014, the Strategy is intended to help New Zealand meet its international obligations relating to children. These include New Zealand's commitments in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

### Proactive Release

70. I intend to proactively release this paper subject to any redactions appropriate under the Official Information Act 1982. I also intend making the attached monitoring report on the Strategy (1 January – 31 December 2021) and the full report of the process evaluation of the Strategy available online.

### Recommendations

The Minister for Child Poverty Reduction recommends that the Committee:

1. **note** that the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) was launched in 2019, setting out our vision that New Zealand is the best place to be a child or young person;
2. **note** that I have recently presented to the House and publicly released the first statutory Annual Report of the Strategy and the third annual Child Poverty Related Indicators report;
3. **note** that, in April 2021, the Social Wellbeing Cabinet Committee directed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to continue monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, and to report on an annual basis to this Committee [SWC-21-MIN-0047];
4. **note** that, overall, agencies are making good progress on delivering specific actions under the current Programme of Action agreed by Cabinet in July 2019, as well as those actions that were added from Budget 2020, Budget 2021 and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund;
5. **note** my expectation that Ministers make every effort to deliver on the actions already committed to under the Strategy as well as using it to drive and prioritise future government activity.
6. **agree** to the public release of the *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 January-31 December 2021* report, subject to minor amendments by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;

7. **note** that preparations are underway for the first statutory three-yearly review of the Strategy and the child poverty related indicators, which must be completed by August 2022, and which will consider the overall progress made by the Government in delivering on the Strategy;
8. **note** that a process evaluation of the Strategy has been completed to inform the review of the Strategy, and that the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet intends to publish the full report, *Process Evaluation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy*, on its website at the same time as the release of this Cabinet paper and monitoring report;
9. **note** my intention that that the review focus primarily on:
  - 9.1. how best to give effect to the Strategy outcomes – the policies, Programme of Action, including supporting communities to deliver;
  - 9.2. how progress against the Strategy is measured – the indicators and measures, and streamlining the monitoring and reporting arrangements;
  - 9.3. how implementation of the Strategy is governed;
  - 9.4. how the Strategy could better integrate Māori concepts of wellbeing;
10. **note** that I plan to undertake targeted engagement ahead of the review of the Strategy, with a detailed approach to be developed in consultation with the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group;
11. **invite** the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction to report back to this Committee on the outcomes of the review, including proposals for whether changes will be made and how any proposed changes will be consulted on.

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern  
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction



Monitoring of  
Child and Youth  
Wellbeing Strategy  
Implementation  
1 January – 31 Dec 202



## Purpose

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy<sup>1</sup> (the Strategy) and its Programme of Action for the January - December 2021 period. It details what activity was carried out in this period to bring the Strategy into effect. This includes:

- an update on Programme of Action progress of policies and initiatives underway across government to help achieve the Strategy's vision and outcomes, as well as new initiatives that have been added to the Programme of Action in this period.
- an overview of how central government agencies are aligning to the Strategy framework (Signs of central agency alignment, p. 35), and examples where non-government actors have used the framework in their work (Collective action beyond central government, p. 36).

It is important to note that there are also government work programmes contributing to child and youth wellbeing that are not in the Programme of Action because they are considered to be business and usual activity for agencies. This report should be read in conjunction with the Annual Report on the Strategy, which reports on progress against the Strategy's outcomes and includes initial data on its Child and Youth Wellbeing indicators.<sup>2</sup>

Previous implementation reports, covering the period July 2020 - December 2020, and for the year ended June 2020, are available on the Child and Youth Wellbeing website:

<https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/measuring-success/reporting>

## Progress in the Programme of Action

There has been good progress made in implementing the actions across all outcome areas. COVID-19 is still affecting the rollout and implementation of some actions, while other actions have received extra supports to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Several initiatives have also been added to the programme, including:

- Strengthening community-led solutions to prevent child sexual abuse
- Improved support for young carers
- Early years funding for new and integrated models of health support for children and whānau in the first 1,000 days
- Ākonga Youth Community Development Fund
- Initiatives that focus on building healthy relationships, including programmes in secondary schools and refreshing the health and physical education curricula
- Delivery of the 'A Bit Sus' campaign, which aims to counter and build student resilience to misinformation.

### ***New approaches, prototypes and pilots***

Several actions explore various new approaches to the design and delivery of their services; for instance:

- The Whānau as First Navigators programme adopts a 'by Māori, for Māori' approach, aimed at helping reduce the number of Ngāi Tahu tamariki and rangatahi coming into state care.

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<sup>1</sup> For further information about the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, please refer to the Strategy's website: <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/>

<sup>2</sup> For each outcome set out in the Strategy, there is a set of indicators to measure progress on the outcome. For further information on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Indicators, please refer to the Strategy's website: <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/measuring-success/indicators>

- Early support programmes such as Family Start and Social Workers in Schools are moving to a more responsive community-led model.
- A rapid rehousing approach is being piloted, to support individuals and whānau into permanent housing.
- Work is underway to develop a public health approach to preventing and minimising gambling harm for young people/rangatahi, which is to be implemented in schools.
- Over 100 Physical Activity Advisors and Community Connectors are now in place, to support schools and kura and their local communities to get active and healthy.
- Co- design work undertaken to develop new learning approaches for tamariki rangatahi and whanau, focussed on mana-enhancing and tapu-enriched relationships to support healthy, consensual relationships. This will inform the design of locally led approaches to enable oranga whakapapa.
- The NCEA change package conducted three pilots in 2021:
  - Te Ao Haka – the new Māori Performing Arts subject at all NCEA levels
  - Literacy and Numeracy | Te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau
  - Mini pilots for NCEA Level 1 English, Science, Religious Studies and Visual Arts

### ***Progress on key initiatives***

Progress has been made on several larger-scale system changes:

- The Oranga Tamariki Action – a plan for children’s agencies to work collaboratively to support the wellbeing outcomes for children and young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki
- Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy and Action Plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence was launched in December 2021.
- Maternity Action Plan – Initial codesign work is underway, and the new Primary Maternity Services Notice 2021 went live in November 2021.
- Well Child Tamariki Ora – Work is underway to design a Tamariki Ora network, and establish a clinical governance structure.
- In February 2021 The Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan saw 1,000 new transitional housing places delivered, with a further 1,000 places delivered by November 2021.

Increased support for youth mental health implemented in 2021 includes:

- Contracting of University-based primary mental health and addiction supports and two mental health and wellbeing services for rainbow young people.
- Counsellors in schools.
- Initiatives to strengthen Pacific youth mental health and resilience, such as several wellbeing events targeting high school students and Pacific tertiary students, and wraparound Pastoral support lead by LeVa.

There has also been increased support for children's oral health:

- A procurement process to supply and distribute toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste is complete, Implementation has started and was distributed to 25 Well Child Tamariki Ora providers in December 2021.
- The 'baby teeth matter' social marketing campaign ran from June to August 2021.

### ***Impacts of COVID-19***

The COVID-19 pandemic is still delaying progression of some actions, including:

- The *Enhanced WCTO pilots* saw delays with the Tairāwhiti DHB launching an ESP service, due to workforce and COVID-19 related issues.
- COVID-19 lockdown impacted the first 6 months of delivery for *Supporting Pacific households into home ownership*
- The multi-year work programme to overhaul the welfare system has been reprioritised to support the government response to COVID-19.

However, some actions saw increased support due to COVID-19; for example:

- The *expanded coverage of whānau ora* saw Local Commissioning Entities providing emergency and critical COVID-19 support to whānau, including providing:
  - kai parcels and vouchers
  - testing and vaccination support.

# Children and Young People Loved, Safe and Nurtured

## NEW ACTIONS

### Strengthening community-led solutions to prevent child sexual abuse (Accident Compensation Corporation with Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Social Development)

- There has been investment in community-led approaches and kaupapa Māori child sexual abuse prevention approaches, as well as investment in community-led design and development of child sexual abuse prevention resources to increase capability and awareness.

#### Next steps

- A 'toolkit' of resources will be available for communities to support healthy, consensual relationships for young people.

### Home Safety Programme (Accident Compensation Corporation in partnership with Safekids Aotearoa)

- The Home Safety Programme helps prevent unintentional injuries to children in the home, with a priority focus on Māori and Pacific whānau, and regions with inequities in the rate of injuries and hospitalisations.

#### Next steps

- Training and capability development with community providers and stakeholders in the child health and wellbeing sector.
- Direct to whānau, in-home education on child home safety, provision and installation of safety devices.

### Expansion of Whānau-Centred Facilitation Initiative (Te Puni Kōkiri)

- The Whānau-Centred Facilitation initiative provides locally led, holistic and whānau-centred approaches to family violence and sexual violence harm prevention, targeted at whānau at low to medium risk.
- This initiative addresses service provision gaps identified by providers.
- Work is underway to extend to multi-year contracts and to expand to new provider groups.

#### Next steps

- Continue expansion work.
- Undergo a formulative evaluation in mid-2022.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Kea Project (Ara Poutama)

- The Kea project expanded to include Otago Corrections Facility and Christchurch Women's Prison.
- Additional funding was obtained from the Women's Prison Improvement Network in November 2021.
- Additional funding was secured to deliver the project to all women's prisons.
- Delivery was completed at Hawke's Bay and Whanganui Prisons, and partially delivered in Manawatu prison.

#### Next steps

- Delivery at Otago Corrections Facility, Auckland Regional Women's Correctional Facility, Christchurch Women's Prison, and Arohata Prison will commence by in the first half of 2022.

**Creating a safe online and digital environment for children and young people (Department of Internal Affairs)**

- The third and final phase of the 'Keep It Real Online' campaign was released in June 2021.
- An additional episode of the successful Eggplant mini-series focussed specifically on mis/dis-information was released in Sept 2021.
- In late 2021, an external survey highlighted the successful impact of the 'Keep It Real Online' awareness campaign.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

**Family violence prevention: increased investment (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Social Development)**

- Work under the campaign for Action on Family Violence, E Tu Whānau and Pasefika Proud is continuing.
- One-off grants through Pasefika Proud have helped young people to start talking about the protective factors that keep them safe from harm.
- Research with young people has been undertaken to inform Phase 1 of the #LoveBetter initiative, which is focused on breakups.
- Concept development is underway and will be ready for testing March/April.

*Next steps*

- The Pasefika Proud grants Initiative will be completed for several Pacific communities.
- #LoveBetter is planned to launch in mid-2022 and research with young people will continue.

**Improve regional capability to respond to family violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Social Development)**

- Work underway to develop the regional practice and systems lead roles and responsibilities, to align with the evolving wider Family Violence and Sexual Violence system.

*Next steps*

- Finalise the system lead roles, and begin recruitment process.

**Violence prevention needs of diverse communities (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Joint Venture Business Unit)**

- Work undertaken to better understand violence prevention needs and programmes in diverse communities, including 200 in-depth interviews.
- An engagement report has been published (available on [violencefree.govt.nz](http://violencefree.govt.nz)).

*Further action since July 2021:*

- Approved five funding grants to support national-level family violence and sexual violence prevention initiatives for LGBTQIA+ people, disabled people, older people, and new migrant communities.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

**Sexual violence support services for children and young people (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Oranga Tamariki)**

- Funding for Sexual Harm support for children services has been increased.

*Next steps*

- Continue to assess current rates as appropriate.
- Continue to identify gaps in service availability across regions.

**Develop kaupapa Māori services for victims/survivors, perpetrators and their whānau (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Social Development)**

- An independent working group of seven Māori sector experts, including survivor voices, was engaged to develop the Kaupapa Māori Sexual Violence service guidelines.

*Next steps*

- Test the guidelines in rural and remote communities through six self-identified Kaupapa Māori sexual violence service providers over 18 months.
- Complete the contracting phase.

**Improve justice response to victims of sexual violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Justice)**

- The Sexual Violence Legislation Act was passed, which includes legislative changes to better protect complainants from inappropriate and unduly invasive questioning.

*Next steps*

- A set of initiatives is being progressed to reduce the risk of sexual violence victims experiencing further trauma when participating in the court process.
- A Best-practice education for judges and lawyers in sexual cases is underway.
- A Quality Framework has been implemented for the communication assistance service.

**Health sector screening for early intervention and prevention of family violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Health) BAU**

- The Māori Expert Advisory Group, established to provide advice to inform a training programme for primary health care and community service providers, presented their report. Included recommendations for strengthening early identification of, and response to, family violence and sexual violence in the health and disability sector.
- Violence Intervention Programme training continued for health practitioners in district health boards.

*Next steps*

- Continue work with stakeholders to improve services and responses for victims of family violence.
- Further consideration of the Māori Expert Advisory Group report.

**National strategy and action plan to prevent and eliminate family violence and sexual violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Joint Venture Business Unit)**

- Engagement on a National Strategy and Action Plan was undertaken between May and July 2021.
- This included 120 tangata whenua, specialist sector and community-led hui, reaching over 2000 people. Also received almost 1000 submissions.
- Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy and Action Plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence was launched in December 2021.

*Next steps*

- The first annual Te Aorerekura hui is planned for June 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### Enhanced WCTO pilots (nurse-led family partnership model) (Ministry of Health)

- Two of the three Enhanced Support Pilot (ESP) sites are operational - (Lakes DHB and Counties Manukau DHB).
- There were delays with the Tairāwhiti DHB launching an ESP service, due to workforce and COVID-19 related issues.

##### Next steps

- The Hauora Te Tairāwhiti ESP launch expected in 2022.

Status: As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### Family justice reforms in response to the final report of the independent panel (Ministry of Justice)

- The Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Act 2021 was passed.
- The second of four remuneration increases have been made for lawyers for children, to incentivise the recruitment and retention of skilled practitioners.
- Most of the new Kaiārahi Family Court Navigators have been recruited – they will provide guidance and information about the resolution/support options available to parents, caregivers and whānau.
- The new service experience has been designed, including new and accessible resources for parents and whānau.
- A researcher has been engaged to undertake a stocktake of child participation models.

##### Next steps

- The stocktake will be completed mid-March 2022, s9(2)(f)(iv)

Further increases in remuneration for lawyers for children.

- Introduce Legislation to implement a new role the Family Court Associate, and commence recruitment in 2023.

#### Improve the wellbeing of male victims/survivors of sexual violence through peer support services (Ministry of Social Development)

- A new FTE costing model (based on the Oranga Tamariki fair funding framework) was developed to better reflect the cost of service, and a longer term, three-year contract has been implemented.

##### Next steps

- Determine target client group.
- Determine core capabilities and competencies for providers and enable providers to work collaboratively.
- Design client journey map to better understand the current investment including, service gaps for clients and to confirm overlap with services funded by other Government agencies.

#### Increase access to crisis support services for victims/survivors (Ministry of Social Development)

- Increased funding in Budget 2019 for Specialist Sexual Harm Crisis Support Services (SHCSS).
- A new FTE costing model, (based on the Oranga Tamariki fair funding framework) was developed.
- New funding allocation model has been developed.
- Longer term, three-year contracts have also been introduced.

##### Next steps

- Design client journey map to better understand the current investment including, service gaps for clients and to confirm overlap with services funded by other Government agencies.

#### Increased funding to support iwi and NGO partners that provide early support (Oranga Tamariki)

- Increased funding allocated to iwi, Māori organisations and NGOs, to support the delivery of services with a focus on early support.

##### *Next steps*

- Oranga Tamariki will implement the Future Direction Plan, which commits to working with iwi and community leaders, and greater investment in partners with a focus on early support. This will include
  - working with iwi and community leaders in each region to identify opportunities to co-design services
  - developing and building on approaches to partnering that enable decision-making by whānau, hapū, iwi and communities
  - greater investment in partners so that they can support whānau aspirations and needs.

#### Improve outcomes for Māori children and young people within the Oranga Tamariki system (Oranga Tamariki)

- The Ministerial Advisory Board completed and published its report, Te Kahu Aroha.
- The Oranga Tamariki Future Direction Plan was released in September 2021, drawing on themes from across Te Kahu Aroha and recommendations from previous reviews and the Waitangi Tribunal report.
- As a result of the Chief Ombudsman report, Oranga Tamariki has
  - updated and strengthened its Intake and Early Assessment, Breastfeeding, and Family Group Conference policies and guidance.
  - implemented an internal process to track the number of tamariki who enter care under a section 78 (without notice) order.
  - introduced a site assurance process for Reports of Concern relating to newborn/unborn pēpi to ensure safety and wellbeing concerns are identified and addressed promptly.
  - developed a framework for monthly auditing and analysing of case files for newborn/unborn pēpi entering care under a section 78 order.

##### *Next steps*

- Publishing the second annual report on implementing section 7AA (relating to improving outcomes for tamariki Māori, their whānau, hapū and iwi).
- Implementing the Future Direction Plan and ongoing response to Te Kahu Aroha, which is expected to address several concerns and findings raised in the Waitangi Tribunal's Report, and support the fundamental and significant shift in the approach, operating model and practice of Oranga Tamariki to be tamariki and whānau centred.

#### Implementation of National Care Standards (Oranga Tamariki)

- A programme of workshops has been developed to strengthen kaimahi understanding of the National Care Standards and practice
- Development of policy and practice guidance and internal monitoring processes.
- The All About Me Plan has been updated to better reflect te ao Māori and the needs of Youth Justice.
- The My Rights My Voice resource has also been updated, to better reflect the principles of the Care Standards, and te ao Māori and tamariki-centric lens.

##### *Next steps*

- Release online learning modules and updated My Rights, My Voice resource.

- Continue development of the work programme to grow knowledge and improve practice of the Care Standards within residential and group care contexts.

#### Oranga Tamariki Action Plan (Oranga Tamariki)

- A draft Oranga Tamariki Action Plan was developed by children's agencies for initial consideration by the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministers in December 2021.

##### Next steps

- s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Publish the Action Plan and s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Undertake in-depth assessments of needs in housing, education, and health, which include recommendations on how to prioritise access to services for the Action Plan's priority population.

#### Financial assistance for caregivers (Oranga Tamariki)

- Amendments were made to the Social Security Act 2018 to enable short-term caregivers to access the Orphan's Benefit (OB) or Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB), and establish Holiday and Birthday Allowances for those receiving the OB and UCB.
- Extended a nappy payment and increased standard payments to caregivers receiving the OB and UCB to ensure caregivers supporting children inside and outside the State care system receive the same level of support.

##### Next steps

- Report back to Cabinet by the Minister for Children on a new model of support for caregivers of children outside of State care.
- Continue work to reform the caregiver financial assistance and support system, the base rates of the OB, UCB, and Foster Care Allowance will increase by \$5 per child, per week, from 1 April 2022.

#### Early intervention support for families and whānau (Oranga Tamariki)

- Working with agencies to collectively support iwi/Māori and community-led models of early support/whānau support, and enabling increased community and regionally-led decision-making for prevention.
- Supporting accelerated implementation of iwi and community-led whānau prevention initiatives in three communities (Waikato, Canterbury and Hawke's Bay).
- Supporting establishment of a localised system learning approach that aims to provide support to tamariki and their whānau within the first 1,000 days (conception through to 2 years).
- Co-created a culturally-relevant evolution for SKIP, resulting in Tākai – a community-led kaupapa, which provides a complete parenting resource from pregnancy to five years of age, designed for formal and informal supporters of parents and whānau.

##### Next steps

- Clarify Oranga Tamariki's role in early support and prevention and how Oranga Tamariki will support community-led planning.
- s9(2)(i) [REDACTED]
- By September 2022 there will be greater investment in partners with a focus on early support.
- Launch and continue to evolve Tākai, including developing training and learning packages.

**Intensive (Whānau) Response - new model of intensive intervention for those at risk of entering care (Oranga Tamariki)**

- This action is about working collaboratively with community and iwi partners to create new intensive whānau support models so that children can be kept safely at home.
- Intensive Response community and iwi-led models of care are 'live' in eight locations (Tokoroa, Christchurch East, Whakatū Marae, Te Hiku, Kirikiriroa, Wairarapa, Porirua, and Tararua/Dannevirke) with a plan to extend across the country.
- Design work with communities, iwi and Māori partners continues in an additional seven locations.

*Next steps*

- Continue and expand support across all 15 Intensive Response locations.
- Alignment of Intensive Response to Future Direction for Oranga Tamariki, which includes shifting centrally enabled aspects of the kaupapa to the regions where practical.

**Expand coverage of whānau ora to support more whānau to thrive and achieve wellbeing outcomes (Te Puni Kōkiri) BAU**

- Explored ways to collaborate and further promote the use of whānau-centred approaches across government.
- Partnered with three Local Commissioning Entities (LCEs) in the North Island.
- LCEs provided emergency and critical COVID-19 support to whānau, including providing:
  - kai parcels and vouchers
  - testing and vaccination support.

*Next steps*

- Support the Office of the Auditor General's review, assessing how well the public sector is supporting Whānau Ora and identifying opportunities.
- Provide Capability and capacity building training in partnership with LCEs.
- Shift from funding Contracts to Outcome Agreements.

**Ngā Tini Whetū - early support for families and whānau (Accident Compensation Corporation, Oranga Tamariki, Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- Intensive support has been provided to 800 whānau through this whānau-centred early intervention prototype. Ngā Tini Whetū seeks to support whānau by navigating them towards a brighter future, preventing injuries and averting Oranga Tamariki intervention.
- Kaupapa Māori reporting frameworks have been developed to track whānau progress, and an initial evaluation has been completed.
- Ngā Tini Whetū providers helped deliver vaccines, COVID-19 testing, Manaaki care packages and frontline support.
- A strategic case for Ngā Tini Whetū is being developed with Te Pou Matakana, with support from Price Waterhouse Coopers.

*Next steps*

- Continue to provide quarterly reporting.
- Produce a six-monthly progress report.
- Final high-level evaluation due September 2022 (original date of June 2022 delayed by COVID-19). Supplementary whānau interview findings report due early 2023.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

# Children and Young People Have What They Need

## NEW ACTIONS

### Improved support for young carers across government (Ministry of Social Development)

- Mahi Aroha (Carers Strategy Action Plan 2019-2023) has young carers (those aged under 25 who provide ongoing care for someone close to them that needs assistance with everyday living) as a priority group.

#### Next steps

- Work to include young carers in policy development and to identify young carers and provide support for them.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Funding for continued provision of transitional housing (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

Between 1 January and 31 December 2021, the total number of transitional housing places increased by a net of 1,146 to 5,102.

- This progress included delivery of another 1,000 transitional housing places. This milestone was delivered in November 2021, building on the 1,000 places already provided under the Homelessness Action Plan in February 2021.
- Increased dedicated transitional housing supply with wraparound support options for rangatahi/young people, s9(2)(f)(iv), with more opportunities coming in each month. Progress continues to be affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Next steps

- Continuing to deliver new build transitional housing supply, with a further 1,000 places due for delivery s9(2)(f)(iv)

### Strengthening Housing First (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

- 359 new individuals and whānau accepted to the Housing First programme from July 2021 December 2021.
- Reviewed contracting arrangements as part of on-going relationship management approach.
- Renegotiated and extended expired Housing First programmes.
- Commissioned an external evaluation of Housing First, with first phase completed in December 2021.

#### Next steps

- Complete second phase of the evaluation, focussing on Rapid Rehousing and whānau and individual experiences and outcomes of Housing First.
- Release the final evaluation Review report in in December 2022.

### Housing Support Products (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

- Additional funding of \$6 million was agreed by Cabinet for the 21/22 financial year to respond to increased demand and ensure Housing Support Products continue to provide assistance to households to access and sustain private rentals.

#### Next steps

- Housing Support Products will continue to be provided to eligible households to access and sustain private rental tenancies.

#### Homelessness Action Plan (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

- 17 out of 18 immediate actions in the Action Plan are fully underway, despite ongoing housing supply and Covid-19 challenges.
- Delivered 1,005 new transitional housing places by February 2021, meeting the target set by the Action Plan. Delivered a further 1,000 places by November 2021.
- Secured 77 supported accommodation places for eligible young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care by August 2021.
- Funded two specific initiatives to support rangatahi/young people through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund.
- Established a flexible funding package to support whānau with children in emergency housing, where other government support is not available.
- Housed 159 people through the Rapid Rehousing pilot by August 2021.
- Completed a review of the first 18 months of Action Plan implementation and progress.

#### Next steps

- Implement the remaining action plan item in early 2022.
- Publicly release the 18-month review of the Action Plan in early 2022.
- Prioritise work on five critical areas that emerged through the 18-month review, including meeting the needs of rangatahi/young people.
- Evaluate the first phase of the Action Plan in 2022, to inform the development of phase two of the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan.

#### Tailored housing outcomes for Māori (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Te Puni Kōkiri)

- Established Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga, with combined investment from Budget 2021 (\$380m) and the Māori Infrastructure Fund (\$350m) to deliver housing supply, infrastructure and repairs.
- Allocated funding for the continued capability building of iwi and Māori housing providers.
- Approved/contracted several projects across supply, infrastructure, repairs and building capability.
- Partnering with iwi and Māori entities to prototype Māori-led solutions in targeted regions.

#### Next steps

- Receive and review applications from iwi and Māori housing providers.
- Draft contracts for successful applicants for He Taupua funding.
- Review the MAIHI Ka Ora – the National Māori housing strategy every three years.

#### Ka Ora, Ka Ako: free and healthy school lunch programme (Ministry of Education)

- At the end of Term 4, around 210,000 students at 918 schools were receiving a daily healthy lunch.
- Worked with other government agencies during COVID-19 lockdowns to redirect underspent funding toward the New Zealand Food Network, community grants, and making one off grants to KidsCan and Eat My Lunch.

#### Next steps

- Complete contract extensions for schools and kura.
- Onboard new schools wanting to receive lunches.

- Undertake external evaluation, with report due by December 2022.

#### **Government response to Fair Pay Agreement Working Group report (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)**

- Cabinet agreed key features of the Fair Pay Agreement (FPA) system and Bill enabling approved drafting.
- Policy advice on the system components finalised.

##### *Next steps*

- Cabinet agreement to introduce the FPA Bill to the House will be sought early 2022.
- Implementation Programme underway to ensure FPA initiations are supported once legislation is passed.

#### **Supporting Pacific households into home ownership (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Established a dedicated Housing Unit to implement the delivery of the initiative.
- Contracted the Retirement Commission, several businesses and 15 providers to deliver financial capability programmes.
- Contracted consultants to work with Pacific communities to develop housing project feasibility reports and business cases.
- Established a Pacific housing interagency working group.
- Received Ministerial approval to the draft Fale mo Aiga – Pacific Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2030.
- The COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions has impacted first six months of delivery.

##### *Next steps*

- Over 700 people expected to complete the Pacific Financial Capability Development programme by end of 2022 and 100 participants achieve home ownership.
- Investment in shovel ready development projects.
- Continue work to implement the Pacific Housing Strategy and Action Plan.
- Develop a reporting and monitoring framework.

#### **Changes to abatement setting (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Increased abatement thresholds increased from 1 April 2021 for Jobseeker Support, NZ Superannuation/Veteran's Pension with non-qualifying partner, and the Supported Living Payment/Sole Parents, Support/Veteran's Pension (under 65).
- Part of the welfare overhaul work programme.

#### **Main benefit increases (Ministry of Social Development)**

- \$20 per adult per week increase in main benefits came into effect on 1 July 2021
- First stage of Budget 2021
- Part of the welfare overhaul work programme.

#### **Overhaul the welfare system (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Cabinet approval of a renewed welfare overhaul work programme to reflect the changes made since November 2019 and COVID-19.
- The work focuses on areas of major transformational change.
- Implemented the removal of the subsequent child policy from the Social Security Act 2018.

##### *Next steps*

- A key focus for 2022 will be the Review of Working for Families, as well as continuing to make progress with regard to income support, employment and training, and the overall work on resetting the foundations of the welfare system.
- The Minister for Social Development and Employment will report back to Cabinet on the overall progress of the welfare overhaul work programme.

#### Continued Government funding for KickStart Breakfast and KidsCan (Ministry of Social Development)

- Both programmes active, on track and on budget.
- MSD has Governance role in Kickstart Breakfast, and has partially funded breakfasts for around 40,000 children, 4 times a week.
- They've also partially funded the KidsCan rain jacket programme, with 21,565 rain jackets distributed.

#### Support for disabled people and people with health conditions (Ministry of Social Development)

- REACH service came to an end in June 2021.
- Funding secured to continue the remaining Oranga Mahi trial services to F23.
- Here Toitū service went live in MidCentral DHB region in June 2021. This included the Responding Early component (previously preventative) that supports people at risk of losing their job because of their health condition and/or disability.
- E Ara E (IPS Youth model) was launched in Auckland in May 2021.
- IPS in Counties Manukau and Auckland DHB was delayed and went live February 2022.

#### Next steps:

- Whītiki Tauā (virtual mentoring service) was expanded to South Island youth aged 18-24 years on a main benefit or exiting a benefit into employment or study
- Expansion of Responding Early into the current Here Toitū providers in Auckland and Canterbury is planned for June 2022.
- Monitoring South-Island roll-out of Whītiki Tauā to inform expansion nationwide later in 2022.
- Roll-out of Puāwaitanga App to occur in April/May 2022.
- Evaluation of Oranga Mahi services underway.
- Findings from literature review of integrated employment services published in May 2022.
- Implementation and early outcome evaluations completed for the REACH and Here Toitū programmes and reports aimed to be published by July 2022.
- Evaluation for Rakau Rangatira is planned to commence June 2022.
- Implementation and early outcomes evaluation for the Responding Early component of Here Toitū deferred to October 2022.

#### Review the treatment of debt to government (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)

- Cabinet has agreed that the debt to Government work programme will focus on ensuring debt recovery is fair, effective and avoids exacerbating hardship, and preventing debt from occurring.
- MSD's contribution to the debt to Government work programme includes the review of hardship assistance, supporting MOJs work to improve the attachment order process, particularly for beneficiaries, working with Inland Revenue to prevent overpayment debt, and participation in the common debtors pilot with Inland Revenue.

#### Next steps

- Inland Revenue, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Development will become joint lead agencies on this initiative.
- Work will be undertaken to explore the development of an overarching framework for how to approach clients with debt to repay, and/or for clients about to take on new debt. This should also include consideration of Kainga Ora debt (rent arrears).
- Further advice due to Ministers in 2022 and a report back to Cabinet scheduled for July 2022.

#### Expand and strengthen employment services to support more disabled New Zealanders (Ministry of Social Development)

- The first of two evaluation cycles was completed - it looked across the pilot through secondary documents and data and key stakeholder interviews and engagements.
- In-depth case studies were undertaken with five learners, five whānau members, three schools and three providers.
- Analysis and results were presented to the Evaluation Partnership Group (EPG) in December 2021.

#### Next steps

- Standards and Monitoring Services (SAMS) and is expected to run for approximately 12-14 months, starting in July 2021.
- The evaluation team will create an Evaluation Partnership Group (EPG) to ensure the work is accurate and informed by local knowledge and useful for the intended purpose.

#### Papakāinga development (Te Puni Kōkiri)

- 133 houses contracted for delivery for calendar year 2021, with 39 houses completed.
- Te Puni Kōkiri has funded 538 whare repairs in the 2021 calendar year.

#### Next steps

- Investment allocations for iwi-led housing delivery are expected to be confirmed by March 2022.

#### Improved Whānau Ora navigator support for whānau to build their financial capability (Te Puni Kōkiri)

- All Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies have workforce development plans in place.
- Eight-week financial training course provided through a commissioning agency was discontinued.
- Whānau Ora commissioning agencies continued to support financial outcomes through their partners and Navigator support.

Status: As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

# Children and Young People are Happy and Healthy

## NEW ACTIONS

### Provide free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to tamariki and their whānau (Ministry of Health)

- Completed procurement process to supply and distribute toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste.
- Finalised the service delivery model.
- The 'baby teeth matter' social marketing campaign ran from June to August 2021.
- Implementation underway in December 2021 via 25 Well Child tamariki Ora providers, with further providers engaged to deliver the initiative.

#### Next steps

- A Kaupapa Māori evaluation provider has been commissioned and draft evaluation plan is in progress.
- Further Development of collateral and social marketing.

### Early Years Initiative (Ministry of Health)

- Funding of \$60 million over four years was committed through Budget 2020 to enable changes to supports delivered across the first 1,000 days.
- Partnered with the Southern Initiative for initial co-design work.
- Stage One is underway and sets the initiative's foundations including Te Tiriti partnership governance, undertaking an environmental scan and current state research of early years services.

#### Next steps

- Complete an Environment Scan in February 2022.
- Stand up and early years taskforce.

### Public health approach to preventing gambling harm for young people (Ministry of Health)

- Develop a public health approach to preventing and minimising gambling harm for young people/rangatahi, which is to be implemented in schools.

#### Next steps

- Cabinet approval in April 2022
- Final Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm 2022/23 to 2024/25 published in May 2022
- Implementation (including procurement) from 22/23.

### Counsellors in Schools (Ministry of Education)

- New funding announced in November 2021 to provide counsellors in 141 primary, intermediate, area and small secondary schools in New Zealand
- Equates to 90 additional counselling staff across the country
- Programme is underway in Te Tai Tokerau and Otago/Southland

#### Next steps

- Roll out in other regions

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Update of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Plan (Ministry of Health)

Increasing the capability and capacity to provide specialist assessments and interventions across the life course of living with FASD is being progressed through a staged approach.

- Appointed providers to develop NZ-specific FASD diagnostic guidelines and research.
- Signed co-design contracts with three DHBs for the neurodevelopmental assessment and support (NASP) pilot.
- Extended support to Te Pou to deliver its introductory FASD e-learning course for frontline professionals.
- Study funded for a by-proxy estimation of the prevalence of FASD.

#### Next steps

- Complete NASP co-design process and begin service delivery in the DHBs.
- OT will consider Alert Program®

Complete the by-proxy estimation study by June 2022. *Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

### Every Life Matters - He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata: Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan (Ministry of Health)

- Hosted national hui of suicide prevention workforces.
- Continued community funding for suicide prevention initiatives targeting Māori, Pacific and youth.
- Release of suicide data web tool and new media guidelines for suicide reporting.

#### Next steps

- Review process for investigating deaths by suicide.
- Develop a roadmap to implement a national Real Time Surveillance (RTS) that will provide timely/accurate suicide data.
- Pilot a HeadFirst Mental Wellbeing Programme across five DHB areas, involving workshops in schools and clubs, leveraging of the influence of rugby.
- Develop social media suicide prevention guidelines and related materials.
- Synthesise evidence for effective suicide prevention and postvention, highlighting research gaps to be filled in the future.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework in partnership with Māori and those with lived experience.

### Expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction support (Ministry of Health)

- 18 youth primary mental health and addiction services in 15 DHB areas including a national youth-specific telehealth/ webchat service.
- Contracts are in place for two mental health and wellbeing services for rainbow young people, and University-based primary mental health and addiction supports.
- Work is underway with Te Pūkenga to implement expanded mental wellbeing supports for tertiary students.
- Negotiations have been completed for youth primary mental health and addiction services in remaining DHB areas.
- s9(2)(i)

#### Next steps

- Contracted Dovetail Consulting Ltd, in partnership with the Kinnect Group, to undertake an evaluation of the youth primary mental health and addiction initiative.
- The final evaluation report is due on 31 March 2023.

#### Promote wellbeing in primary and intermediate schools (Ministry of Health)

- Continue Sparklers - online wellbeing resources for Years 1–8.
- Commissioned an external evaluation of Sparklers which is underway.

##### *Next steps*

- Consider and agree service enhancements, based on the findings of the evaluation.

#### Expansion of Mana Ake (Ministry of Health)

- Contracts signed for the co-design of tailored Mana Ake services.

##### *Next steps*

- Proposed service descriptions for tailored Mana Ake service delivery to be received by all DHBs.

#### Maternity Action Plan (MAP) (Ministry of Health)

- Developed a co-owned model for the early years' governance rōpū, with Māori engaged as equal decision makers and Te Tiriti partners.
- Partnered with the Southern Institute for initial co-design work.
- The new Primary Maternity Services Notice 2021 went live in November 2021.

##### *Next steps*

- Develop terms of references and wānanga with invited governance rōpū members to develop the partnership.
- Complete an environmental Scan in February 2022.
- Stand-up an early years' taskforce.
- Develop and implement automated solutions for the new Primary Maternity Services Notice.

#### Initial work towards a single measurement and assessment schedule from conception to age 24 (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education)

- School Entry Kete development now includes mokopuna and whānau voice tools and a strengths-based orientation.
- A Kete Self/Co Regulation and Empathy tool is in development.
- 'Before School Health Check' integration work has been put on hold due to COVID-19.
- Development and trialling of all individual tool components is underway.
- Design and IT build of Kete scoping requirements is underway.

##### *Next steps*

- Continue engagement with the Schools Reference Group to explore how learning information will be captured and utilised in the Kete.

#### Review of the Well Child Tamariki Ora programme (Ministry of Health)

- Projects are underway to design a Tamariki Ora network.
- Commissioning services to establish a clinical governance structure.
- Contracts for Technical Advisory and Clinical Governance Groups are in place.
- Evaluation of the National Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy Prevention Programme is completed.

##### *Next steps*

- Redesigned WCTO clinical schedule completed ready for testing and implementation.
- WCTO and B4 School Check clinical schedule redesign completed June 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### **Extend nurses in schools (School-based Health Services) (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education)**

- The Ministry of Health initiated the setup of a Youth Advisory Group.
- recommendations from Te Tatau Kitenga for the enhancement of School-based Health Services (SBHS) informed the development of the enhancements work programme.

##### *Next steps*

- Complete the SBHS Formative Evaluation report in March 2022.
- Develop of the SBHS Workforce Development Plan in November 2022.

#### **Healthy active learning (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Sport NZ) ]**

- Employed a Physical Activity workforce of 101 Advisors and Community Connectors to support schools and kura and their local communities.
- Developed a suite of Health and Physical Education curriculum resources, including Māori medium resources, which are now available to schools and kura.
- Developed Tapuwaekura (a Kaupapa Māori approach to Healthy Active Learning).

##### *Next steps*

- Ongoing development of resources and tools.
- Expand the initiative from 8 to 14 regions across Aotearoa from January 2022.
- Release refreshed Health and Physical Education Online website.
- Evaluation and feedback will occur via Curriculum Leads and website data channels.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### **Strengthening Pacific youth mental health and resilience (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Kau Tūlī regional group activities included several wellbeing events targeting high school students and Pacific tertiary students in Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Auckland. Some were lived streamed through social media, uploaded as an online resource and/or involved participation of local health and wellbeing organisations and experts.
- There was also a full day event held in April 2021 aimed at igniting interests for Pacific youth to pursue a career in business through social enterprise.
- As part of the Toloa Secondary School scholarship programme, students will be part of a Wellbeing programme which will provide wraparound Pastoral support lead by LeVa.

##### *Next steps*

- An evaluation of the Kau Tūlī Innovators of Influence is underway.

#### **Delivery of strategy for women and girls in sport and active recreation (Sport NZ)**

- Sport NZ delivered the 2021 Women and Girls Summit.
- Release of the updated Sport NZ Young Women in sport and active recreation profile.
- Delivered the second year of targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing participation in physical activity and wellbeing.
- Allocated funding from the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa towards community-based projects.

##### *Next steps*

- Launch and deliver a social behaviour campaign with the aim of increasing participation amongst young women.

- Reframe Sport NZ future action plan to the Women & Girls Strategy.
- Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

Proactively Released

# Children and Young People are Learning and Developing

## NEW ACTIONS

### **Pūtoi Rito Communities of Readers (Department of Internal Affairs)**

- Pūtoi Rito Communities of Readers is a National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa initiative that aims to engage children and young people with reading for pleasure and wellbeing.
- Four projects delivered in Phase 1 2019-2021, focussed on early childhood through to late teens and included development of research, resources, videos and tools.
- Due to COVID-19 constraints, a revised timeframe is proposed for commencing the next phase.

#### *Next steps*

- Work towards a new Pūtoi Rito project being informally agreed, by June 2022.
- Explore options for a second new project.
- Manage Pūtoi Rito, Te Awhi Rito and He Pārekereke as an integrated programme in the next phase (2022-2023).

### **Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (Ministry of Youth Development with Ministry of Education)**

- Announced in late 2020, the Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund supports iwi and community-based youth development providers to deliver programmes outside of traditional education settings (e.g. schools/kura) to support up to 5,500 ākonga/learners (12 – 21 years) who have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 to stay engaged in their education journey.

#### *Next steps*

- The Fund will end in December 2022.
- The final evaluation report is due in February 2023.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### **Trialling support for young children to improve their self-regulation, resilience, and social skills (Ministry of Education)**

- This initiative involves the implementation of three pilot programmes – ENGAGE, Alert and Incredible Beginnings.
- ENGAGE has been delivered to 52 early learning services.
- Occupational therapists have been employed to deliver the Alert programme.
- Incredible beginnings contracts have been confirmed with programme deliverers and group leaders have been recruited.
- Process evaluations are underway for all three programmes.

#### *Next steps*

- The delivery of ENGAGE will continue. The Alert and Incredible Beginnings pilot programmes will be delivered in terms 1 and 2 2022.

### **Education Workforce Strategy (Ministry of Education)**

- Undertook a co-design project to develop a workforce strategy and agreed a vision and high-level outcomes.
- Identified desired strategic shifts and a draft action plan and consulted with key partners.

- This work was connected to the development of a full immersion Māori-medium strategy and work to strengthen the Māori medium pathway.

*Next steps*

- Work on a strategy has been deferred with a focus on COVID-19 support.

**Address learners' needs by improving data quality, availability, timeliness and capability (Ministry of Education)**

- The programme was scheduled to deploy Te Rito nationally, however, these plans were impacted by cybersecurity concerns.
- The programme has continued to build connection technology, resolve security and privacy issues, and develop enhancements for its connected schools, kura, and education providers.
- Underwent Independent Quality Assurance.

*Next steps*

- Reset the programme responsible for delivering Te Rito.
- Provide a briefing to Ministers on the revised Te Rito delivery options.

**Reform of vocational education (Ministry of Education)**

- Operationalised Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and Regional Skills Leadership Groups.
- Shifted responsibility for qualifications setting from each Transitional Industry Training Organisation (TITO) to the relevant WDC.
- Four TITOs transitioned the remainder of their functions and ceased their usual Gazetted activities.
- Agreed on the design of the unified funding system underpinning Reform of Vocational Education.
- Te Pūkenga completed a draft operating model.

*Next steps*

- Transition the remaining seven TITOs in 2022.
- Implement the unified funding system in 2023.
- Implement Te Pūkenga operating model.
- Undergo a Treasury Gateway review in 2022.

**Programme to establish curriculum leads to support the health and wellbeing of learners (Ministry of Education)**

- Initiated the Curriculum Lead Service in Term 2, 2021 with 38 Curriculum Leads located in regional offices working in early learning services, kōhanga reo, schools and kura.
- Held a large regional workshop in Christchurch in August 2021.

*Next steps*

- The Curriculum Leads continue to work in early learning services, kōhanga reo, school and kura through 2022.
- The service will support the implementation of the Relationships and Sexuality Guidelines upon the release of the suite of new supporting resources in February/March 2022.
- Curriculum Lead service evaluation and feedback is planned for 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

#### National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) change package (Ministry of Education)

- Published a suite of NCEA Level 1 subject material.
- Organised Accord Teacher-Only Days.
- Launched off the shelf packages of learning, to support the School Leavers' Toolkit Programme in secondary schools.
- Announced NCEA Change Programme rephased over an additional year to support the sector.
- Conducted three pilots:
  - Te Ao Haka – the new Māori Performing Arts subject at all NCEA levels,
  - Literacy and Numeracy | Te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau,
  - Mini pilots for NCEA Level 1 English, Science, Religious Studies and Visual Arts.
- Completed separate gateway and financial reviews.

#### *Next steps*

- The Ministry will advise the Minister on implementation of Literacy and Numeracy standards in August 2022.
- Developing NCEA Level 2 subjects' material.
- Organising three Accord Teacher-Only Days.
- Completion of a practitioners' evaluation.

#### Tomorrow's Schools review (Ministry of Education)

- The initial funding to establish Te Mahau and start its work programme has been received and includes up to 40 Curriculum Leads.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the sector has meant that some Tomorrow's Schools initiatives have needed to be progressed at a slower pace.
- Established Te Mahau (previously referred to as the Education Service Agency) in Oct 2021, within a redesigned Ministry of Education.

#### *Next steps*

- The focus for 2022 will be to further support implementation of Tomorrow's schools' initiatives focused on building a strong and capable workforce and improving supports to the sector and leadership through Te Mahau and Te Poutāhū (National Curriculum Centre).

#### A code of pastoral care for domestic tertiary students (Ministry of Education)

- Finalised the new Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners Code of Practice.
- Developed guidance to help tertiary providers implement the Code in 2021.

#### *Next steps*

- The Education and Training Amendment Bill is currently being considered by the Select Committee.

#### Equity index (Ministry of Education)

- Completed development of the schooling Equity Index and advice on funding options completed.
- Internal Ministry impact assessments are currently underway to help transition all uses of school decile to the new Equity Index.

#### *Next steps*

- Further engagement on this transition with external stakeholders.
- Develop further advice to support the implementation of the Equity Index in schooling in 2023.

#### Improve learning support: Learning Support Action Plan (Ministry of Education)

- Established a Learning Support Network of Expertise, in partnership with Massey University, which now has over 2300 members.
- Established Te Rourou, an open-access Learning Support resource repository.
- Funded Professional Learning and Development (PLD) for Learning Support Coordinators on autism, and developed PLD modules to support inclusive learning environments for neuro-diverse children and young people.
- Developed the Te Ao Māori programme to meet the needs of gifted children and young people.
- Finalised 39 new and/or revised contracts with Attendance Service providers.

##### *Next steps*

- Complete the Highest Needs Review.
- Progress the redesign of Alternative Education provision.
- Develop and begin implementation of a strategy to address declining attendance.

#### Free access to period products in schools (Ministry of Education)

- Delivery of phase one, which focused on getting products to schools and kura as simply and as quickly as possible.
- As at the end of 2021, 1,986 schools and kura had opted into the initiative.
- In response to COVID-19 lockdowns, the initiative also distributed 40,000 packs of period products to the New Zealand Food Network to redistribute through their channels.

##### *Next steps*

- Phase Two will involve schools and kura being able to order a variety of product, request dispenser units, and access to educational resources. This will be rolled out from the start of Term 1, 2022.
- Design an evaluation of the initiative.

#### The Auckland Pacific Skills Shift (Alo Vaka) Initiative (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

- worked closely with delivery partners to forecast and adjust milestones, delivery approaches, timeframes and budgets to ensure the programme remained on track despite impact of COVID-19 disruptions.
- The Alo Vaka programme delivered 1,040 participants across the programme.
- two micro-credentials, with a further two submitted to NZQA for approval and piloting.
- Development of a Good Employer Matrix and Wage Strategy.
- A permanent Governance structure for the Alo Vaka programme established.

##### *Next steps*

- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities and quarterly reporting from delivery partners.
- draft work programmes for FY22/23 for review and approval by Oversight/Governance Groups.

#### Enabling distance learning (Ministry of Education)

- Provided 49,000 devices to schools for their students and connected more than 40,000 families to the internet during lockdowns.
- Continued provision of learning packs to schools and kura and early learning services who required them in Te Tai Tokerau, Auckland and Waikato.
- Undertook targeted engagement with the schooling sector to inform continued work on blended and distance education.

#### Next steps

- Explore options for increasing collaborative learning opportunities for schools, including considering options for expanding the roles of Te Kura, the Virtual Learning Networks and other blended education organisations.
- Focus on building the foundations for blended education, including reviewing legislative settings and the continued development of infrastructure to support schools.

#### Programmes for young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kōkiri)

- Pae Aronui evaluation has demonstrated that the flexibility of this programme to enable providers to take the kaupapa Māori approach of doing 'whatever it takes' to support rangatahi; prioritising building relationships and trust and leveraging whānau, hapū, iwi and community networks has been effective for this often hard to reach group who can be inadvertently missed by mainstream services.
- Year 2 of the programme, more than 270 rangatahi were engaged of which 148 employment, 80 education and 171 training outcomes were reported.
- The Tupu Aotearoa programme continues to support Pacific people identified as NEET (not in employment, education or training) into further education, employment and training (EET).
- Tupu Aotearoa is being delivered to Pacific people across the country from Whangarei to Invercargill including two pilot initiatives in Auckland and Wellington to support Pacific people with disabilities to transition into further EET.
- Annual evaluations of the Tupu Aotearoa Programme for the financial year 2020/21 are currently being undertaken.
- Taiohi Ararau – Passport to Life is an initiative designed to support disengaged taiohi aged 15-24 years into education and employment.
- An evaluation found that the underpinning of Māori values contributed to the success of the programme. Providers developed a relational approach focused on supporting taiohi to realise their aspirations, within the context of their whānau.

#### Next steps

- An evaluation report of the Tupu Aotearoa Programme due for completion by the end of March 2022.
- Pae Aronui final evaluation of all three years of findings being produced due for completion by July 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

**Employment Strategy and action plans (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Two Employment Action Plans have previously been released: The Youth Employment Action Plan, and the Disabled Workers Employment Action Plan.
- MBIE is continuing to coordinate across action plans including developing investment proposals as part of the Employment Strategy.
- Consultation has been completed for numerous action plans including: Pacific Employment Action Plan, Māori Employment Action Plan; Former Refugees, Recent Migrants and Ethnic Communities Employment Action Plan; Older Workers Employment Action Plan and Women's Employment Action Plan.

*Next steps*

- Work is underway with agencies on the implementation of immediate actions and the ongoing monitoring and eventual evaluation of the Māori Employment Action Plan. Women's and Older Women's Employment Action Plans are expected to be launched by mid-2022.

**Toloa - empowering Pacific participation in STEM (Ministry for Pacific People)**

- Delivered the first quarter of the Toloa in work Support programme.
- 17 candidates have been successfully placed with employers with a mix of Pacific ethnicities, with a further 48 candidates that are at varying stages of employment process for placement.
- Toloa are partnering with key Providers and Employers to provide a pathway to employment for those who are either finishing Tertiary studies in STEAM as well as summer internships to enable our Pacific Learners to 'earn while they learn' at school.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

# Children and Young People are Accepted, Respected and Connected

## NEW ACTIONS

### Expanding healthy relationships programmes in secondary schools. Refresh the health and physical education curricula (Accident Compensation Corporation)

- Investment in primary sexual violence prevention system includes supporting young adults to increase their skills and knowledge and targeting the social norms that support harmful behaviours. This involves:
- Strengthening healthy and consensual relationships support aligned to the national curriculum.
- Refreshing teaching and lesson resources.

#### Next steps

- The Ministry of Education will become the joint lead agency, with the Accident Compensation Corporation, on this programme.
- Develop a transition plan with Mates and Dates providers.
- Provide ongoing curriculum support for schools to provide effective relationships and sexuality education programmes.
- Refresh sections of the national curriculum for schooling to strengthen the focus on teaching and learning about healthy relationships.

### Social Cohesion work programme (Ministry of Social Development)

- The Ministry of Social Development is responsible for developing three policy products to improve social cohesion in New Zealand. To give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Inquiry into the Christchurch Terror Attack, Cabinet mandated work to:
  - Engage with communities to create a strategic framework based on a shared understanding of social cohesion focused on what unites us as people in New Zealand, while valuing diversity and taking tangible steps to become an inclusive society
  - Build on the Government's existing work programme through tangible government actions in the short, medium and long term to improve social cohesion
  - Identify how to support and enable communities, the business sector, the cultural sector, and central and local government to undertake actions to improve social cohesion in their communities, including specific ways stakeholders can contribute.
- Extensive engagement has been completed for Phase 1 (June – September 2021) and Phase 2 (September – October 2021), including targeted engagement.

#### Next steps:

- Complete engagement for Phase 3 (October 2021 – February/March 2022) and Phase 4 (January – March 2022)
- Cabinet approval for policy products in June 2022.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Initiatives to prevent and respond to bullying in schools (Ministry of Education)

- Trials and analysis of new Wellbeing at School (W@S) survey items completed.
- Continued to provide Wellbeing@School school climate survey toolkit and supports.
- Completed and shared 'Our Kind of School' report.
- Delivered Bullying-Free New Zealand Week in May 2021 and published a new Bullying-Free NZ Website resource.

- Supported development and release of resources to strengthen inclusion of LGBTQIA+ learners.

*Next steps*

- Deliver bullying-Free NZ Week in May 2022.
- Support the development of a workbook for educators to support them in identifying and responding to rainbow-focused bullying.
- Undertake youth engagement to inform improved Bullying-Free NZ week initiative.

**Changes to teaching New Zealand history in schools and kura (Ministry of Education)**

- High levels of engagement for the draft Te Takanga o Te Wā (Māori history guidelines) and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content.
- Feedback has been summarised and published.
- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the new content will now be taught in all schools and kura by January 2023.

*Next steps*

- The curriculum content will be made available to teachers and kaiako.
- Schools and kura can opt-into implementation planning and will have access to online resources in 2022 to support readiness.

**Review protections against the incitement of hatred (Ministry of Justice)**

- Undertook public consultation on the incitement of hatred and discrimination.

*Next steps*

- Advice on options to progress the work on the incitement of hatred and discrimination is being developed following feedback analysis.

**Government work programme to address racism and discrimination (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice)**

- Invested in the development of a national action plan against racism, and established a team to lead the work.
- Te Hurihanganui programme is working alongside five diverse communities to test what works in practice, in order to inform system shifts in education. Early discussions are underway with a sixth community.
- Established a Design Team and released literature review to progress the shift away from streaming towards more inclusive and equitable education.
- Implemented an ongoing pilot of the Challenging Racism toolkit for year 9 and 10 students.
- Trailing three social and emotional learning programmes in early learning settings.
- Rolled out Community Learning Hubs in Auckland and Wellington – set up to support ethnic communities' engagement with the education system.
- Included "cultural capability" as a new priority for Professional Learning and Development for teachers and kaiako.
- Passed the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill.

*Next steps*

- Continue Te Hurihanganui work to engage and fund communities to drive sustainable change for themselves.
- Develop a blueprint for ending streaming.
- Continue the trialling of three social and emotional learning programmes.
- Seek Cabinet agreement to the approach and process for developing the action plan
- Begin and complete first phase of public engagement.

#### Action Plan for Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)

- Cabinet approved four rescoped focus areas for the Pacific Wellbeing Strategy.
- These areas have been rescoped and targeted consultation has taken place on the draft Strategy focus areas.

##### Next steps

- Targeted engagement on a draft strategy.
- Seek SWC approval on Draft Strategy.

#### Pacific language support (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)

- The Pacific Languages Innovation Fund Pilot has supported 520 Pacific language-based initiatives (\$3.1m).
- The Ministry for Pacific Peoples supported the delivery of 9 Pacific Language Weeks from May to October 2021.
- The Strategy was released for public consultation in October 2021.

##### Next steps

- Complete the Community Action Plan and All-of-Government Action Plan by end of 2022.
- Launch summary findings from Leo Moana o Aotearoa Survey in July 2022.
- Refresh and strengthen approach to Pacific Language Weeks.

#### Participation of Youth Justice Victims in Family Group Conferences (FGCs) (Oranga Tamariki)

- Established and implemented a victim reimbursement scheme to financially compensate participation costs for victims attending FGCs. This scheme is provided in addition to other expense reimbursement processes already available to victims.
- Established a one-year trial utilising Victim Support in partnership with iwi, which tests the use of independent 'navigators' to guide victims through the FGC process.
- Developed a joint working group to address areas of improvement to better support sexual violence victims throughout the Youth Justice System, but specifically FGCs.
- Commissioned and published an evidence brief to explore the issues and need for support of child victims of sexual abuse. This information will be incorporated into the Oranga Tamariki and Police sexual violence work programme.

##### Next steps

- Complete the Victim Support Trial in June 2022, and undertake external evaluation prior to any potential continuation or expansion.

#### Implement Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (Oranga Tamariki)

- Nine strategic partnership agreements have been signed.
- Refreshed agreement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
- Funded Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to deliver a Whānau as First Navigators programme, which aims to reduce the number of tamariki and rangatahi Māori entering the Oranga Tamariki system

##### Next steps

- Continue to work with current strategic partners and consider any new requests for partnership.
- There are likely to be more refreshed Strategic Partnerships, Whānau Care and Intensive Response agreements in 2022.
- Continue to uphold Oranga Tamariki's commitment to empower and provide flexibility for iwi, Māori and communities.

- The shift of Oranga Tamariki to be "locally-led, regionally-enabled, centrally-supported" will support partnerships and relationships focused on solutions for children and whānau in need. Oranga Tamariki will continue to uphold its commitment to empower and provide flexibility for iwi, Māori and communities to lead and make decisions and develop 'by Māori, for Māori' approaches.
- Publish the s7AA report, which was delayed due to COVID-19 and to allow Te Kahu Aroha and the Future Direction Plan to be incorporated.
- Seven new mana tamaiti measures were identified for 2021 and further new measures are being considered for 2022.

#### **Implement Maihi Karauna - the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation (Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- Developed an updated implementation plan which was agreed by Te Papa Kōrero (the governance oversight Chief Executives' group).
- Completed a quantitative predictive model (He Ara Poutama) that will inform and assist with planning decisions for te reo Māori revitalisation.
- Completed 30 of the 32 Māori language plans for core public service agencies.
- Commenced Te Ture mō te Reo Māori 2016 (Māori Language Act 2016) review.
- Completed the Māori media business case.

#### *Next steps*

- Publish the 2021 Māori Karauna indicators monitoring report in early 2022.
- Completion of the Maihi Karauna and Te Whare o te Reo Mauri Ora formative evaluation.
- Confirm agreed set of priorities for Te Whare o te Reo Mauri Ora.

# Children and Young People are Involved and Empowered

## NEW ACTIONS

### Develop the Oranga Whakapapa programme (Accident Compensation Corporation)

- Co- designed approaches for tamariki rangatahi and whānau to know about mana-enhancing and tapu-enriched relationships to support healthy, consensual relationships.
- This will include a clear understanding of the mātauranga on what a positive tangata whenua relationship is, including the enablers for whānau and the design of locally led approaches to enable oranga whakapapa.

#### Next steps

- Undertake co-design process with whānau, hapu and communities.

### Tools to support healthy, consensual relationships for young people (Accident Compensation Corporation)

- A 'primary prevention toolkit' for communities that focuses on healthy relationships for people of all ages.

#### Next steps

- The toolkit will be made available for communities and align with the refresh of the New Zealand curricula.

### Pilot Group Violence Programme for Young Men (Under 25) Delivered within the Special Treatment Unit at Rimutaka Prison (Ara Poutama)

- This pilot is designed to develop an intensive group treatment option for young men aged under 25 years who are imprisoned for serious violence.
- The pilot recognises the need to provide better therapy options for young men who often return quickly to prison after release and who, due to behavioural problems, remain untreated in higher security settings.

#### Next steps

- The pilot will run from March - October 2022.
- An evaluation of the pilot is expected to be completed in December 2022.

### A Bit Sus (Department of Internal Affairs)

- With funding from the National Library, the School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA) has partnered with Tohatoha to deliver the 'A Bit Sus' campaign, which aims to build students resilience to misinformation and help build the library sector's capabilities in countering misinformation.
- The campaign is accompanied by a professional development programme for school librarians, followed by event at each school.
- Tohatoha continue working with expert reviewers to keep the programme in line with the latest evidence about misinformation interventions.

#### Next steps

- Discussion with SLANZA and Tohatoha is planned to identify options to continue delivery once funding ends in June 2022.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### **Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata initiative: Whānau Ora support for Māori in the corrections system (Ara Poutama, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- A new Kaiarataki Navigator workforce has been established, in partnership with iwi and local providers, to better support whānau engaged with the corrections system.
- New approaches developed, in partnership with Māori, to underpin the operating models at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison and Northland Regional Corrections Facility that include whānau-centred practices that support Whānau Ora outcomes.
- A new Integrated Service Case Management workforce has been established in Hawke's Bay and Northland, informed by the voices and lived experiences of whānau, to work in a whānau-centred way.

#### *Next steps*

- Work alongside local Māori communities to further explore embedding Whānau Ora and whānau-centred approaches across the corrections system.
- A progress evaluation of Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata will be undertaken in the second half of 2022.

### **Increased services for children and young people with concerning/harmful sexual behaviours (Family Violence Sexual Violence, Oranga Tamariki)**

- The Early Support pilot workshops for professionals commenced in Mid and South Canterbury.
- Delivery approaches for three other small geographical areas are being developed (Bay of Plenty, Te Tai Tokerau, and West Coast).

#### *Next steps*

- The Early Support Pilot workshops for teachers at Mid-South Canterbury will run from Term one-three in 2022.
- Learnings from Te Tai Tokerau community responses to rangatahi experiences of sexual harm will be leveraged to further develop services.
- Sexual Harm Scoping document will contribute to formulating decisions and discussions in the Midlands region (Waikato/Bay of Plenty).
- Discussions are in progress to establish a crisis peer support group for rangatahi on the West Coast.

### **Kau Tuli (Ministry for Pacific Peoples Youth Advisory Group) (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Kau Tuli contributed advice to the Pacific Wellbeing Strategy and the Pacific Language Strategy.
- During COVID-19, Kau Tuli members supported the MPP's Pacific COVID-19 communications and engagements.
- Kau Tuli Innovators of Influence Advisory Group being evaluated, with the data collection phase completed.
- Final report to be completed.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

**Build independent oversight of Oranga Tamariki system and children's issues (Ministry of Social Development)**

- The Bill was introduced on 8 November 2021 and passed its first reading on 16 November 2021.

*Next steps*

- Officials are giving the initial briefing and departmental report in March 2022.
- The Bill is expected to pass its third reading by the end of the year.

**Build public service competency and capability in children's rights (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Work with an external provider and stakeholders to build a children's rights training hub, including an updated child impact assessment tool.

*Next steps*

- testing with external stakeholders and aim to launch in April 2022.
- Developing implementation plan.

**Implement the Child Impact Assessment Tool across government (Ministry of Social Development)**

- The Child Impact Assessment Tool (CIAT) has been reviewed/refreshed, and integrated into the children's rights training hub – see action item above.

*Next steps*

- Refreshed CIAT will be launched in 2022, along with the training hub.

**Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey – WhatAboutMe? (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Data collection paused due to level 3 and 4 COVID-19 restrictions.
- Further action since July 2021 the associate Minister for Social Development and Employment directed that the fieldwork continued until the end of November 2021.

*Next steps*

- Survey report are due to be completed by March 2022.
- Data will be publicly available in April 2022.

**Youth Plan (Ministry of Youth Development)**

- Progress report on the Youth Plan actions was included in the reports to Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers.
- A Measurement framework has been developed, to establish benchmark data on youth outcomes.

*Next Steps*

- All actions in the Youth Plan are completed or on track for delivery by June 2022.
- The Youth Plan review is likely to be completed in 2022 or by early 2023.

**Youth Voice Project (Ministry of Youth Development)**

- Hivers worked with government agencies to engage with young people on climate change, emissions, and housing.
- 192,000 people were reached by the Hive Youth Climate Change engagement campaign (targeting the 13 to 24 age group).

*Next steps*

- A new group of Hivers will be recruited by April 2022.
- The Hive's 2022 engagement priorities and work programme will be designed collaboratively by the Hivers, Hive Steering Group and Ministry of Youth Development.

### Investment in community-based youth justice facilities (Oranga Tamariki)

In the new Youth Justice Community Homes Programme:

- Partnerships with mana whenua have been formed in five Phase 1 locations.
- The development of the phase 1 homes has progressed despite the challenges and demands of COVID-19.
- The whenua search is well advanced in three locations (with acquisition plans underway).
- Land use consent applications are being drafted for three locations and initial insights have been gathered from kaimahi, whānau and rangatahi by one of Oranga Tamariki's partners in one location.

In the Community Based Remand/Bail Homes:

- An additional nine community remand placements provided by NGO and Iwi Social Services were made available across the Tauranga, Waikato and Tairāwhiti regions.

*Next steps*

- Complete acquisition work, consent applications and service design work for the new Youth Justice Community Homes.
- Continue engagement with iwi for the delivery of a Canterbury Youth Justice remand/bail home.
- Complete evaluation of Oranga Tamariki community remand home services, with a final report available by 30 June 2022.

# Alignment with the Strategy

## Central government alignment

Using all the levers available to government to improve child wellbeing, and to address the barriers that our tamariki and rangatahi continue to face, requires collective effort by government agencies in the way they plan, prioritise and carry out their day-to-day work.

When Cabinet endorsed the Strategy in 2019, it set the expectation that the Strategy would drive decision-making and alignment for child and youth wellbeing across all agencies working in this area. This expectation was confirmed in July 2021, when social sector agency chief executives reported to Ministers that they had identified opportunities to collectively advance their contribution to the wellbeing outcomes of the Strategy in the seven areas set out below.

Progress and highlights in 2021 include:

### *Regional structures to support child and youth wellbeing*

- Regional Public Service Commissioners and their advisors have engaged in opportunities to support and advance the Strategy, with many regions advancing regional priorities focussed on child wellbeing (e.g. the first 1,000 days) or related areas such as family safety.

### *Commissioning of services*

- The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Oranga Tamariki are leading cross-government work to implement a relational approach to commissioning services delivered by non-government organisations to better support individual, whānau and community wellbeing. This system approach is aligned with the Strategy's wellbeing outcomes and principles.
- A number of agencies report good progress in implementing a relational approach – these includes the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and Oranga Tamariki (the latter through partnering more closely with Māori and communities).
- Te Puni Kōkiri is continuing to expand whānau centred approaches and Whānau Ora, providing initiatives and commissioning approaches that look to enhance the wellbeing of whānau, and through this, tamariki and rangatahi.

### *Enhancement of SmartStart*

- SmartStart is an online platform that allows new parents to register the birth of their baby, register for BestStart, apply for an IRD number, update their Work & Income information, and access a range of parenting information and supports for children aged 0-6 years. A roadmap of enhancements for the next five years has been developed to help provide more holistic and comprehensive information and support.

### *Learning and development*

- MSD is developing an online child's rights and wellbeing training module and an update of the Child Impact Assessment tool, which includes aligning the tool to the Strategy, to be launched in 2022.
- The Policy Project, hosted by DPMC, has produced a report on the impact of engagement on the development and implementation of the Strategy and related initiatives, to demonstrate the value of involving child and youth perspectives in policy development.

- Oranga Tamariki has held training sessions for staff on the Strategy and the Child Wellbeing model, which is built around the Strategy outcomes.
- ACC has commissioned work to better understand culturally-empowering forms of play for child development, and how to action critical system shifts for equity and to support indigenous knowledge.
- In partnership with The Workshop, the Child Wellbeing Unit facilitated a two-day wānanga in March 2021 with sector experts and educators, to deepen understanding of child brain development, including drawing on traditional Māori and Pasifika knowledge bases.

#### *Corporate documentation*

- A small number of agencies, such as MSD, the Ministry of Education and Oranga Tamariki, have articulated their contribution to the Strategy in annual reports and statements of intent.

#### *Budget and funding processes*

- Through the annual Budget process, agencies have been invited to show where proposed initiatives will reduce child poverty and improve child and youth wellbeing.
- Te Manatū Waka is including children and young people's voices in the Generational Investment Approach it is leading across the transport sector.

#### *Indicators and measures*

- Three of the indicators that Te Manatū Waka uses to monitor the performance of the transport system have a direct focus on child and youth wellbeing – there are also indicators that indirectly measure transport's contribution to child wellbeing (such as household spending on transport).
- Te Puni Kōkiri monitors and reports on a set of indicators to social sector chief executives on a regular basis, with a focus on wellbeing outcomes relevant to tamariki Māori.

### **Collective action beyond central government**

The Strategy aims to galvanise efforts and build momentum to improve child and youth wellbeing, and mobilise collective action. Examples of activity underway to activate the Strategy in communities during this period are highlighted below.

#### *Charities / iwi/ philanthropy organisations*

- Led by the Child Wellbeing Unit, collaborative work is underway with key stakeholders to strengthen alignment between the Strategy Framework and child wellbeing needs and aspirations in the regions. This includes working alongside the Taranaki Public Service Regional Commissioner, the TOI Foundation, iwi and other key stakeholders, to improve wellbeing and equity of access to services for hapū Māmā and infants and toddlers (and their whānau) in Taranaki. This has led to increased support for the hapū wananga antenatal support for whānau, and to develop a locally-led, holistic whānau-centred system. Collective approaches are being developed in other regions, but progress has slowed due to COVID-19 demands on regional staff and resources.

- The Strategy has been used by several NGOs and philanthropy organisations as a basis for their work to support children and young people – examples include St John, TSB Community Trust and Inspiring Communities.
- Several charities are involved in delivering programmes – for example, Te Whare Maire o Tapuwae Charitable Trust is working with the Ministry of Health to deliver health services.

#### *Local government*

- The Child Wellbeing Unit has been working closely with Taituarā to support council staff to consider the perspectives and wellbeing of children, young people and their families. Councils have also been involved in co-designing guidance, and have shared resources, initiatives, plans and policies specifically focussed on supporting child and youth wellbeing, and showcased examples of how this is already being done.
  - Wellington City Council's finalised its Strategy for Children and Young People, based on the six wellbeing outcomes set out in the government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. These outcomes informed its engagement with young Wellingtonians.
  - Napier City Council undertook initial engagement, including with children and young people, to get their big picture ideas about what a good life in Napier might be like. This, and further upcoming engagement activities, will inform the development of its own child and youth wellbeing strategy.
  - Te Aka Mauri, in Rotorua City, brings together the Library as a community facility with the Children's Health Unit. Other initiatives linked to its Strategy help bring the child and youth wellbeing framework to life.
  - Dunedin Council ran an Ōtepoti Youth Vision Hui in May 2021, which focussed on Youth-friendly spaces in the city. These Hui are held every six months to monitor and inform its 'Ōtepoti Youth Vision' which was launched in 2019.

# Process Evaluation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy



## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### Background and context

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy was launched by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction in August 2019. The Strategy was developed with the vision to make New Zealand the best place in the world for children and young people. The Strategy is an overarching framework developed to provide a shared understanding of what children and young people (aged 0-25 years) need and want to be well, and to set out what the Government has committed to doing and how others can help. Its core purposes are to provide an accessible framework to improve child and youth wellbeing which can be used by anyone; to drive government policy in a unified and holistic way; to clearly outline policies which are to be implemented; to harness public support and community action; and to increase political and public sector accountability for improving wellbeing.

Consistent with the government's commitment to recognising and giving effect to Te Tiriti o Waitangi (the Treaty of Waitangi) the Strategy recognises the special status of tamariki and rangatahi Māori as tangata whenua and that government should meet their needs. According to the Strategy this means "transforming systems, policies and services to work better for Māori, supporting Māori to deliver solutions for Māori and empowering local communities to make the changes that work best for them" (p11).

### The evaluation

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet's (DPMC) Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group (CWPRG) has commissioned this evaluation, the purpose of which is to:

- understand the effectiveness of the implementation and functioning of the Strategy
- understand the effectiveness of the implementation and functioning of the Strategy in relation to improving wellbeing for tamariki and rangatahi Māori
- identify successes associated with implementation and functioning of the Strategy during its first two years, what has not worked so well and why, and opportunities for continuous improvement
- assess whether the Strategy is setting the foundation for achieving its intended medium and long term changes and outcomes.

The evaluation is framed by two key evaluation questions (KEQs), under which sit a series of criteria against which Strategy was evaluated. These are:

- KEQ 1: Has the Strategy been implemented as intended?
  - The criteria are stakeholder support and buy in, Strategy infrastructure, united and holistic implementation, implementation for Māori
- KEQ 2: Is the Strategy functioning as intended?
  - The criteria are a framework that can be used by anyone, drives government policy, harnesses community action, accountability for improving wellbeing, accountability for Māori.

## Evaluation methods

This mixed methods process evaluation focused how well the Strategy has been implemented and how effectively it is functioning. The evaluation was guided by kaupapa Māori principles and generic principles for robust research in Aotearoa New Zealand. These included: tino rangatiratanga (self determination); taonga tuku iho (cultural aspiration); whakapapa (interconnectedness and collectivism); ngā pūtake whānui (determinants); āta (respectful and reciprocal relationships); equity; community empowerment and quality.

Data collection methods included:

- **A review of 24 contextual documents**, including legislation, the full and summary version of the Strategy, Cabinet papers, and annual reports.
- **15 key informant interviews with 18 stakeholders** including people within government departments, members of the Strategy Reference Group, academic experts and people representing iwi or Māori organisations and NGOs. Five of the interview participants identified as Māori.
- **9 cross-agency focus groups and small group interviews with 68 individuals**. The focus group participants included members of working groups established to implement key Programme of Action deliverables, plus governance and oversight groups. All focus group participants were public sector employees across a range of agencies and included a range of roles from analyst to Deputy Chief Executive level.
- An **online stakeholder survey**, which received 143 responses from central government agencies, local government, non government organisations, iwi and Māori entities, academic and philanthropic organisations.

## Key findings

### **Most stakeholders support the vision, outcomes and principles of the Strategy**

There was particularly strong buy in from central government stakeholders, who consider that the Strategy provides a good foundation for building understanding across government of what good child and youth wellbeing 'looks like'. A key mechanism for gaining buy in from central government stakeholders was the efforts made to capture the child and youth voice, in a way that felt authentic. Non central government stakeholders<sup>1</sup> also supported the aspirational nature of the Strategy, its vision, and its principles. However, these stakeholders expressed concerns that key groups, particularly Māori as well as Pasifika, disabled and migrant children and youth, are not accorded adequate priority within the Strategy. Some non central government stakeholders reported limited awareness of the Strategy in their networks.

### **The governance and advisory infrastructure could be enhanced by including iwi and independent Māori leaders**

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<sup>1</sup> The term 'non-central government stakeholders' is used throughout the report to collectively refer to stakeholder organisations that are not central government agencies. This group includes NGOs, community organisations, local government, iwi and Māori entities, Pasifika entities, academics and philanthropic organisations.

Strong governance infrastructure was established to oversee the development and early implementation of the Strategy. Cross agency forums were developed at multiple tiers of government and the public sector, including a Ministerial group and Chief Executive, Deputy Chief Executive and General Manager forums. However, the Strategy implementation does not include Māori participation in governance structures. To fulfil the Crown's Tiriti o Waitangi obligations, implementation of the Strategy should include partnership with iwi in governance and decision making where appropriate.

An important aspect of the initial infrastructure was the establishment of a Strategy Reference Group. Membership included iwi and community development leaders and specialists in the education, child health, justice and social sectors, Māori organisations and Pasifika representatives. The group provided advice and expertise to the officials developing the Strategy. It ceased operating after the launch of the Strategy, leaving a gap in formal mechanisms for independent expert advice and direction from Māori and Pasifika and other community thought leaders and experts.

### **The Strategy is being used to drive cross-government collaboration through working groups on key issues**

As well as the cross agency governance forums, which continue to meet regularly, the Strategy has also driven cross agency collaboration through the establishment of joint agency working groups and cross agency taskforces such as the First 1000 Days, Debt to Government, Youth Plan and review of Working for Families working groups. Delivering these initiatives under the umbrella of the Strategy's Programme of Action has been instrumental in prioritising participation for government agencies.

### **To meet te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations it is necessary for Māori to be accorded priority status within the Strategy**

The legislation the Strategy arises from, the *Children's Act 2014*, does not specify Māori as a priority group. Māori evaluation participants considered that this means that the Strategy is not giving effect to the Crown's obligations under Te Tiriti o Waitangi to act to the fullest extent to enable the achievement of equitable outcomes for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. While Māori are overrepresented in the groups defined by the Act as 'priority', Māori are not specifically and separately prioritised which means that the Strategy does not focus on the unique and specific needs, preferences and aspirations of tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau. This undermines the ability of the Strategy to make meaningful change for Māori. Most evaluation participants that spoke from a Māori perspective considered that the Strategy is too broad in its application and expressed a desire to see a strategy that specifically focuses on the distinct needs and aspirations for tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau.

### **Achieving systemic change for tamariki and rangatahi will require a partnership approach with iwi and other Māori entities**

Some activities delivered under the Strategy were identified as positive by Māori. These were generally delivered under Crown iwi partnerships, such as the Mokopuna Ora initiative and papakāinga developments. Although the Strategy articulates a principle that 'change requires action by all of us', most Māori evaluation participants considered that genuine transfer of power and resources had not yet occurred. There was a strong call for the government to capitalise on the expertise and networks of iwi and other Māori organisations by transferring decision making powers, tools and resources to lead tamariki and rangatahi focused initiatives.

### **The Strategy framework is sound and understandable, but implementation could be enhanced by guidance on government priorities**

The Strategy framework is considered by most stakeholders to be an easy to use framework for improving child wellbeing. The six outcomes provide a taxonomy of focus areas for child and youth wellbeing. While recognising that the Strategy is aiming to create substantial change, stakeholders consistently described the Strategy as being too broad and 'trying to do too much'. Evaluation participants from central government agencies reported that they are seeking clarity on what the government sees as priority outcomes, and what actions should be accorded importance.

### **The Strategy is not yet playing a substantial role in driving policy, investment or actions**

The child poverty reduction aspects of the Strategy have been effective in driving policy and investment decisions, spurred by the legislative requirement to measure and report on child poverty reduction and the specific, numeric targets. The evidence collected during this evaluation suggests that the Strategy is not yet driving policy and investment in other areas. Government stakeholders primarily saw the Strategy as a way to organise and structure agency work programmes, and reported a perception that agencies would be working on similar actions regardless of whether or not the Strategy was in place. This was not necessarily seen as negative; the Strategy provides a framework for where work sits strategically. It has been useful to confirm the value of the work that agencies are doing, how it fits with what others are delivering, and acts as a confirmation that they are 'doing the right thing'.

### **There is a need to increase knowledge of the Strategy amongst the community to harness action**

Stakeholders that were aware of the Strategy had strong buy in to its vision. However, some prominent stakeholder organisations and groups in the child and youth wellbeing sector do not often discuss or reference the Strategy, nor advocate for it within their organisation. More needs to be done to increase awareness, understanding and buy in from non government sectors if the anticipated outcomes are to be achieved. Evaluation participants considered it important to identify and support champions within the child and youth sectors who can connect with relevant communities and generate excitement and momentum for the Strategy.

### **The Strategy is performing well as a mechanism for Ministerial and central government agency accountability**

The Strategy is a publicly articulated and publicised intent to improve child and youth wellbeing and is transparent about its intended outcomes and plan of action. This acts as a lever for accountability. Other accountability mechanisms include the legislative requirement to publicly report annually against the Strategy's outcomes and indicators, the requirement to report to Ministers against a monthly 'tracker', and the structures that have been established to govern and implement the Strategy, including the Ministerial group, the Social Wellbeing Board, the Deputy Chief Executives group and the General Managers meeting in which governance and delivery of the Strategy are core functions.

### **The indicator framework could be refined to ensure it reports meaningful data on child and young wellbeing**

The evaluation found a perception that some of the indicators and measures are considered to be well constructed, useful, and based on robust scientific evidence. In particular, measures under the 'have what they need' outcome were highlighted as sound. Other measures, particularly those relating to early childhood development, educational achievement, and the experience of children younger than 12 years old, were reported to be either missing or not 'measuring what matters'. The published Strategy identifies that there are significant gaps in available data on children and young people and notes an expectation "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" (pp 78 79). Two academic experts that were interviewed stated that additional evidence has become available since the indicator set was developed, including the OECD publication *Measuring What Matters for Child Wellbeing and Policies* and research in areas such as early childhood. They suggested that this could be an important input to refining the indicator framework.

### **The focus of accountability to Māori is on individuals, not institutions' effectiveness for Māori**

The indicator framework has been successful in capturing many child and youth wellbeing concepts that were identified by Māori as important during the Strategy consultation period. However, the measures primarily focus on the behaviour of individuals (for example, whether mothers smoke during pregnancy). There are currently no measures that examine institutions' effectiveness for Māori, and their capacity and capability to respond to needs of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau. This was seen as a critical accountability gap by Māori evaluation participants. Many of the indicators were also identified as being deficit focused, and there is a need to include more strengths based measures that focus on protective factors and what wellbeing means to Māori.

## Recommendations

Based on the findings outlined in this report, the evaluation makes the following recommendations.

### **To ensure robust Strategy governance and delivery infrastructure:**

1. Ensure strong Māori participation in Strategy leadership at all levels, including as an independent voice in governance.
2. Consider reinstating the Strategy Reference Group, or a similar group, to provide independent advice and expertise from Māori, Pasifika and NGO representatives to guide Strategy implementation.

### **To support united and holistic implementation of the Strategy:**

3. Investigate ways to drive further cross agency collaboration and more interagency work on delivering the Strategy
4. Prioritise government efforts to enable more community led design and delivery of child and youth wellbeing initiatives.

### **To strengthen implementation and accountability for Māori:**

5. Ensure that the legislation underpinning the Strategy designates Māori a priority group.
6. Establish partnerships with iwi and ensure strong Māori participation in Strategy leadership at all levels, including as an independent voice in governance.
7. Better integrate Māori needs, aspirations and concepts of wellbeing into the Strategy to increase Māori buy in and ensure the Strategy works for tamariki and rangatahi Māori. The hierarchy of preferences indicated by Māori stakeholders were as follows:
  - i. a kaupapa Māori strategy that could be applied to all. This would be founded on kaupapa Māori principles, and therefore consistent with Māori beliefs and values and informed by mātauranga Māori.
  - ii. a separate Māori strategy, which specifies outcomes and actions that specifically apply to tamariki and rangatahi Māori
  - iii. at a minimum, Māori should be highlighted as a priority group within the current Strategy and actions focused on the specific needs, preferences and aspirations of tamariki and rangatahi Māori and their whānau.
8. Resource iwi and Māori organisations to lead and deliver initiatives to support tamariki and rangatahi wellbeing.
9. Include measures that assess government institutions' capacity and capability to respond to the needs of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori as part of the Strategy reporting processes, and ensure this data informs decision making regarding the Strategy.
10. Develop new strengths based indicators that are grounded in Māori concepts of wellbeing.

### **To ensure the Strategy framework can be used by anyone:**

11. In partnership with key stakeholder groups, identify a small number of areas within the outcomes framework and Programme of Action to prioritise over the short term.

**To harness community action:**

12. Identify and support champions within the community sector, to increase awareness of and buy in to the Strategy.

**To support government accountability for child and youth wellbeing:**

13. Refine the indicators and measures in line with emerging evidence.

Proactively Released



# Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

## Minute of Decision

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### Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

**Portfolio**                      **Child Poverty Reduction**

On 18 May 2022, the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC):

- 1        **noted** that the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) was launched in 2019, setting out the vision that New Zealand is the best place to be a child or young person;
- 2        **noted** that the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (the Minister) has recently presented to the House and publicly released the first statutory Annual Report of the Strategy and the third annual Child Poverty Related Indicators report;
- 3        **noted** that in April 2021, SWC directed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to continue monitoring the implementation of the Strategy, and to report back on an annual basis [SWC-21-MIN-0047];
- 4        **noted** that, overall, agencies are making good progress on delivering specific actions under the current Programme of Action agreed by Cabinet in July 2019, as well as those actions that were added from Budget 2020, Budget 2021, and the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund;
- 5        **noted** the Minister's expectation that Ministers make every effort to deliver on the actions already committed to under the Strategy as well as using it to drive and prioritise future government activity;
- 6        **agreed** to the public release of the *Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation: 1 January-31 December 2021* report, attached to the submission under SWC-22-SUB-0090 as Appendix 1, subject to minor amendments as appropriate by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction;
- 7        **noted** that preparations are underway for the first statutory three-yearly review of the Strategy and the child poverty related indicators, which must be completed by August 2022, and which will consider the overall progress made by the government in delivering on the Strategy;
- 8        **noted** that a process evaluation of the Strategy has been completed to inform the review of the Strategy, and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet intends to publish the full report, *Process Evaluation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy*, attached to the submission under SWC-22-SUB-0090 as Appendix 2, on its website at the same time as the release of the Cabinet paper and monitoring report;

- 9 **noted** that the Minister intends that that the review focus primarily on:
- 9.1 how best to give effect to the Strategy outcomes – the policies, Programme of Action, including supporting communities to deliver;
  - 9.2 how progress against the Strategy is measured – the indicators and measures, and streamlining the monitoring and reporting arrangements;
  - 9.3 how implementation of the Strategy is governed;
  - 9.4 how the Strategy could better integrate Māori concepts of wellbeing;
- 10 **noted** that the Minister plans to undertake targeted engagement ahead of the review of the Strategy, with a detailed approach to be developed in consultation with the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group;
- 11 **invited** the Minister to report back to SWC on the outcomes of the review, including proposals for whether changes will be made and how any proposed changes will be consulted on.

Jenny Vickers  
Committee Secretary

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**Present:**

Hon Grant Robertson  
Hon Kelvin Davis  
Hon Carmel Sepuloni (Chair)  
Hon Andrew Little  
Hon Poto Williams  
Hon Kris Faafoi  
Hon Peeni Henare  
Hon Willie Jackson  
Hon Jan Tinetti  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
Hon Aupito Williams Sio  
Hon Meka Whaitiri  
Hon Priyanca Radhakrishnan

**Officials present from:**

Office of the Prime Minister  
Office of the Chair of SWC  
Officials Committee for SWC



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Report of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee: Period Ended 20 May 2022

On 23 May 2022, Cabinet made the following decisions on the work of the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee for the period ended 20 May 2022:

SWC-22-MIN-0090 **Delivering on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy** CONFIRMED  
Portfolio: Child Poverty Reduction

[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet