






## CONVENTION REPORT YEAR

In November 2008 the Government is due to make its next report to a UN Committee. During April/May this year Non Government Organisations (NGOs) are expecting to see the draft of the Government report to the UN Committee for the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

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The previous report dated December 2000 was 190 pages. The UN Committee in June 2003 issued a List of Issues and the Government met with the Committee in September 2003. In October 2003 the Committee issued its Concluding Observations. That document is the basis of the Ministry of Youth Development's Five Year Work Programme.

So what should interested parties be doing in preparation for the draft report? The key is to look at the lives and experience of children (those under 18 years) and see what is going well, what is not quite working and what is needed to remove serious negative effects on the lives of children. This may reflect legislation, regulations, social factors, failure to understand issues, ethnic barriers, indigenous rights, lack of funding, increased funding, inter- agency services, crime, neglect, poverty, high employment, disabilities, improved research and analysis, health factors and community responses.

There have been some marked improvements in the structures and social issues affecting children. To mention a few:

- The Children's Commissioner's Legislation
- Working for Families
- Care of Children Act
- Evidence Act
- Improved pre school funding
- A range of support programmes by government
- Repeal of S 59 Crimes Act

## DOMESTIC VIOLENCE REVIEW

The Ministry of Justice has issued an electronic based discussion document to review the Domestic Violence Act. Submissions are due by 28<sup>th</sup> January 2008. It requires a working knowledge of the Act, field experience and most importantly an understanding of what works and what is not working to reduce domestic violence. We are disappointed that, given the complications of the subject matter, and the Christmas holiday period, the lack of time for consultation. This will undermine the consultation process.

LINK: <http://www.justice.govt.nz/pubs/reports/index.html>

## CHILDREN & UN = PLUS FIVE

In December 2007 the United Nations General Assembly held a two day session as a follow up to the 2002 "World Fit For Children" session. New Zealand was well represented and youth delegates participated. The theme went under a general heading "Plus Five". The Government statement is available at UNGA 62: <http://www.mfat.govt.nz/Media-and-publications/Media/MFAT-speeches/0-12-December-2007.php>

The Government also made an important 30 page report under the heading "Plus Five" which is available: <http://www.unicef.org/worldfitforchildren/index.html> THEN go to National reports, and select NZ. The text addresses four key issues:

- Promoting healthy lives
- Providing quality education
- Protecting against exploitation, abuse and violence
- Combating AIDS/HIV

Best wishes

ACYA

17 January 2008

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