

Getting it Right: a step in the right direction

Getting it Right, the first report from the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Monitoring Group (UMG) marks a new era towards realising children's rights in Aotearoa New Zealand.

For too long, a significant proportion of children in Aotearoa NZ are being denied their rights to enjoy the same quality of life as their peers. As ACYA has reported many times, almost 25 years after the Children's Convention was signed, the lack of understanding and awareness of the Convention at the highest level is impacting negatively on our children and young people.

Our most recent civil society, parallel report recommended that Aotearoa NZ implement the Children's Convention to protect and promote the wellbeing and inherent dignity of all children through policy development, public spending and practices that

- are underpinned by the general principles of non-discrimination, best interests, maximum development and participation
- encourage data collection, research and monitoring of indicators to ensure well-informed decision making
- give effect to the principles of proportionate universalism; and,
- have a clear focus on prevention and equity.

ACYA believes child rights can, and should, be used to help Government articulate a common set of values and aspirations and processes, based on the rights in the Children's Convention, that apply across all areas of government. The Children's Convention provides common ground for discussing and developing policies for children. Its use across Government would provide a blueprint for improving the wellbeing of all children and young people.

As a permanent member of the UMG, ACYA is fully supportive of the recommendations in *Getting it Right*.

CHILDREN'S RIGHTS PROTECT AND PROMOTE WELLBEING

"a child rights framework to protect and promote the wellbeing and inherent dignity of all children would enable common ground for discussing and developing policies and practices for children" ACYA Alternative Report, 2016