



Key Points for Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy submissions.

Key points discussed at Tick for Kids meeting 22.11.18 for individual organisations to consider including in submissions on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy proposed outcomes framework

On an overarching basis:

1. Welcome the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy as a significant development for all children and young people in Aotearoa New Zealand, and for our society as a whole.
2. Call for further explanation to be reflected in the Strategy documents to make clearer how the proposed outcomes framework will be operationalised, to drive substantial change in policy and practice, so that children's wellbeing is improved and their rights are promoted and protected.
3. Call for the Child Impact Assessment Tool to be used to support any revision of the proposed outcome framework, and all further development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. This will help to ensure that the guiding principles of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child are holistically considered and reflected throughout the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy proposed outcomes framework. These are the principles of non-discrimination; the best interests of the child; the child's right to life, survival and development; and the child's right to participate in matters affecting them.
4. Emphasise that the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is the best opportunity we have ever had in Aotearoa New Zealand to embed in New Zealand legislation, policy and practice the guiding principles and rights that all children are entitled to under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Call for the linkages between the proposed outcomes framework and the Government's UN Convention on the Rights of the Child Work Programme to be made clearer in a revised outcomes framework, and in all future development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy.
5. Call for the linkages to be made clearer in a revised outcomes framework between the desired outcomes and the rights under the CRC, CRPD, CEDAW and other key international human rights conventions that these give effect to, as well as linkages to other international obligations and standards, such as under the Sustainable Development Goals and UN declarations such as the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
6. Call for the linkages to be made clearer in a revised outcomes framework between the desired outcomes and Te Tiriti o Waitangi.
7. Call for a new layer to be added to the proposed outcomes framework, between the 'principles' layer and the 'desired outcomes' layer. This would be a layer entitled 'enabling settings and processes' (or something to this effect), and should include aspects such as:

- a. Government Budget and investment
 - b. Government and community resources
 - c. Community-based capability and capacity
 - d. Partnership between Government and communities and community-based organisations
 - e. Legislation, policies and practices that promote and protect children's rights
 - f. Cross cutting policies (e.g. including data protection policies, privacy settings, etc)
 - g. Child rights and wellbeing training (to support and enable implementation of the Strategy)
 - h. Mechanisms to enable children to participate in matters affecting them
8. Call for the language and framing used in the proposed outcomes framework to be more empowering for children and more inclusive, rather than framed in a way that it talks about things that are 'done to' children (an example of this is the third bullet point under focus area 8). The language used in the current draft is mixed, so we call for the language to be more empowering for children throughout, thereby recognising their status as rights holders.
 9. Call for roles of different stakeholders and child rights duty bearers to be made more explicit in the proposed outcomes framework and the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy work, importantly the various roles of government, NGOs and community-based organisations, families and whānau, parents and caregivers, and the business community/private sector. Partnership between government and those organisations and people who are directly caring for, supporting and servicing children and young people every day will be essential in achieving the vision and outcomes of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy in practice. It is essential that the sense of ownership for the implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy is fostered and held more widely than just by government.
 10. It is currently unclear how the 'desired outcomes' which are not included in the 16 potential focus areas will be supported to be fulfilled in practice. What will be the mechanism for these to be supported at the implementation level, so they are not lost?
 11. Call for a monitoring framework to be developed alongside the proposed outcomes framework, so that progress towards the desired outcomes and vision of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy are able to be tracked and monitored over time. This should include tracking and monitoring by children and young people themselves, and their families and whānau, based on their own lived experience.

More specific recommendations:

1. Focus area 1: amend the first bullet point to read 'live in *safe* and loving homes'
2. Focus area 2: Include children in work as well. Under second bullet point, suggest include injury and death of children at home as well.
3. Focus area 11: The focus should not merely be on disabled children and young people having 'improved opportunities and outcomes', but to be able to be fully included to enjoy a full and decent life. Suggested re-wording: 'Disabled children and young people are assured of equitable opportunities and outcomes.'
4. Focus area 7: there needs to be a stronger focus on refugee children and young people, and also LGBTQI+ children and young people, and also a focus on bullying prevention.

5. Focus area 8: there needs to be a focus on Pacific children too.
6. Focus area 9: suggest that civic participation should be supported by civics education. Also suggest that children's role in environmental protection and the protection of the environment for children is a separate area of focus. Therefore: suggest add an additional area of focus, 'Children and young people live in a healthy and sustainable environment', and connect with climate change prevention, public health (clean air, water, environment) and environmental sustainability. Also add as a bullet point: 'children and young people have opportunities and are supported to engage in environmental protection and promotion'
7. Focus area 10: Linkage should also be made to children and young people's mental and emotional wellbeing.
8. Focus area 13: the second bullet point needs to be reframed to be about children and young people understanding their rights and responsibilities and the rights and responsibilities of others. Also suggest that a bullet point should be added relating to children's Article 12 right to participate and have their views heard in matters affecting them, and decision-making processes and structures supporting this.
9. Focus area 14: This should be reframed to be up to the age of three, given the wealth of evidence that exists documenting the crucial and significant development that occurs up until children are aged three.