

ACYA Strategic Plan 2017 – 2022 (summary)



Who we are

Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa is a non-government organisation tasked with producing and presenting the civil society parallel report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child (UN Committee) on New Zealand's compliance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC).



Our vision and guiding principles

ACYA's vision is to work towards a New Zealand where the rights of children and young people are upheld and embedded in law, policy, practice and wider society. We aim to:

- Promote greater understanding and action of UNCRC in civil society through engagement and dissemination
- Influence government implementation of UNCRC through partnerships
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- Lead the evidence in civil society contribution to the UNCRC reporting cycle
- Planning for sustainability

Where we are going

ACYA has successfully secured a grant from the J R McKenzie Trust for the next reporting cycle and has completed a strategic planning exercise. There are six distinct phases we want to address over the next five years starting with analysing our current position after the release of the UN Concluding Observations (UN Committee, 2016).

How we operate

Governed by a Steering Committee made up of volunteers with expertise about UNCRC, we face a unique set of challenges as we liaise with our coalition partners and networks from across the public and private sector to create an awareness of children's rights.

Organisational outcomes sought 2017 – 2022

Planning for sustainability

- ACYA's Administrative Functions are merged with YouthLaw
- ACYA has secured sufficient independent funding and/or capacity to complete core tasks for the 2017-2022 period

Promoting awareness , action and engagement

- ACYA acts as part of a coalition both within the UMG and at a broader level to seek action against UNCRC promises and Committee Recommendations.
- ACYA is recognised as a leader within partnerships campaigning for full implementation of the UNCRC

Influencing through partnerships

- Diverse groups of children, and organisations working with and for children are supported to influence ACYA plans through our workshops and campaigns and during the reporting process.
- ACYA is recognised as a leader within partnerships campaigning for full implementation of the UNCRC

Evidence -based reporting and advocacy

- ACYA's Steering Committee holds strong academic and advocacy skills and draws on relevant and up-to-date research and input from communities of children and those who work with them in presenting reports and formulating advocacy strategies.

By 2021 children's rights are a priority at all levels in policy development and implementation; there is widespread understanding and acceptance of the benefit to nationhood of applying a child rights framework; children can actively participate in plans and systems affecting their lives; child wellbeing is achieved through universal delivery of services complementing a child rights agenda.

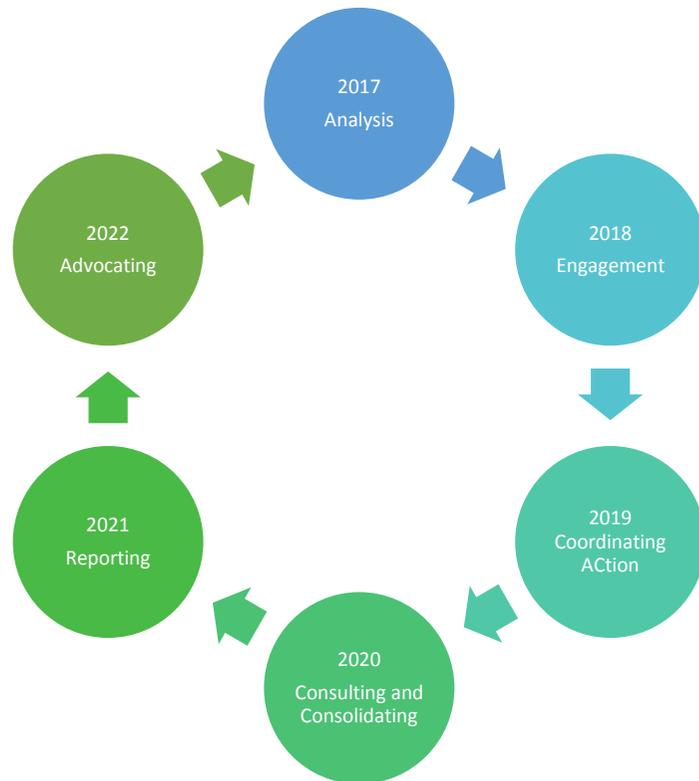
2017 Analysis

Work stream	Organisational outcomes
<p><i>Planning for sustainability</i> Strategic Plan and Communication and engagement plan established and reviewed; Annual Plan developed to identify key areas of work</p> <p><i>Awareness, action and engagement</i> Recruit and appoint a Coordinator Training and awareness raising Events/conferences/seminar series</p> <p><i>Influencing through partnerships</i> Membership and coalition building. Identifying priority issues and coordinating actions</p> <p><i>Evidence-based reporting and advocacy</i> Monitoring UNCRC compliance process Country Focal Point</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Key areas of work identified (July); Strategic Plan and Annual Plan finalized and presented at AGM (September); 6-year Budget presented; 2. Coordinator recruitment process and appointment achieved (August) 3. Resources and capacity to provide advice identified 4. Establish processes for work with coalition partners and network building; Mutual understanding of coalition partner roles and responsibilities established; Clusters and networks identified and established over the next 5 years (July) 5. ACYA role on UMG clarified 6. <i>Phase One Communication and Engagement Plan</i> (July - September); Plan developed and established; Support pre-electoral events with coalition partners; Membership list updated; Relationships with core agencies enacted through projects and work we do; Briefing papers prepared for incoming Members of Parliament (September-October) <i>Phase Two Communication and Engagement Plan</i> (October – November) 2018 Annual Hui scheduled to reflect strengths in the sector; plans for regional or issue-specific hui for information sharing in place; Values document developed; Project protocols developed; Submission policy developed in conjunction with stakeholders; Position paper developed to guide decisions on submissions (case by case basis). (December); Revised website presents key information clearly (December); 7. UN shortened reporting process confirmed; responsive to CRC requests to information

2018 Engagement

Work streams	Organisational outcomes
<p><i>Planning for sustainability</i> Strategic Plan and Communication and engagement plan established and reviewed; Annual Plan developed</p> <p><i>Awareness, action and engagement</i> Training and awareness raising Events/conferences/seminar series 25-year anniversary event</p> <p><i>Influencing through partnerships</i> Membership and coalition building Identifying priority issues and coordinating actions</p> <p><i>Evidence-based reporting and advocacy</i> Monitoring UNCRC compliance process Country Focal Point</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Strategic Plan reviewed; Ten-year funding plan presented; Communication and engagement plan is established and reviewed (this review includes independent statutory officers with responsibilities around human rights); 2. Training/resources about UNCRC in general and the General Measures of Implementation specifically developed and promulgated; 3. Continued strengthening of relationships with coalition partners; Local and regional network connections/clusters established; Position paper for membership/coalition partners' competence and contribution completed; Membership fee proposal developed for AGM 2018/2019; 4. Improved General Measures of Implementation established UMG Annual Report addresses the General Measures of Implementation raised by ACYA; An annual monitoring process is developed and implemented; Systems for collecting information to be used for reporting in place; Annual situational reports issued (July/August); 5. Coalition partners, networks and clusters identify issues and coordinate actions; method for data gathering and documenting developed 6. Seminar series for public sector established; Annual situational update hui (July); UNCRC Anniversary Conference hosted (focus on improving processes for General Measures of Implementation). 7. Shortened reporting cycle confirmed; Children's delegation process established <p><i>Specific Projects:</i> 25 years of UNCRC/Annual Hui; Child rights awareness training re: Concluding Observations Documentary ideas; research projects identified</p>

ACYA's work plan cycle 2017 – 2022



ACYA submits its report to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child every five years. This reporting cycle began with the release of the UN Committee's Concluding Observations (2016). We are coming to the end of our analysis phase (2017) and about to develop and implement a Communication and Engagement plan where we hope to strengthen

existing partnerships, engage new civil society partners/members to forward our vision for children and young people's rights to be upheld and embedded in law, policy and practice. Ultimately, we want to create an awareness of the UNCRC and its potential as a framework for a society that respects and upholds children's rights.

Want to know more?

Visit our website: www.acya.org.nz

