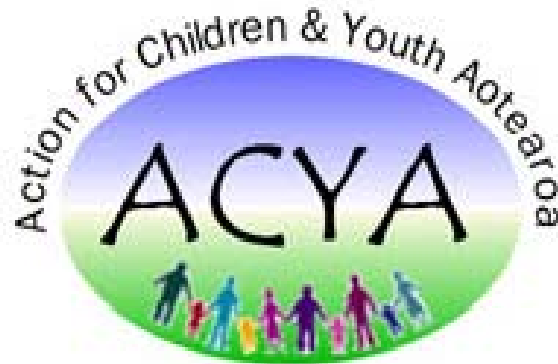


Children's rights: Towards Social Justice

Sarah Te One, Chair ACYA



What is ACYA?

Action for Children and Youth Aotearoa (ACYA) is a coalition of NGOs that promotes the rights and wellbeing of our children and youth.

Acknowledgments

- The JR McKenzie Trust
- ACYA Steering Committee
- The many people who contributed to our Alternative Report

It's a process: The Government prepares it's report. Then we ask

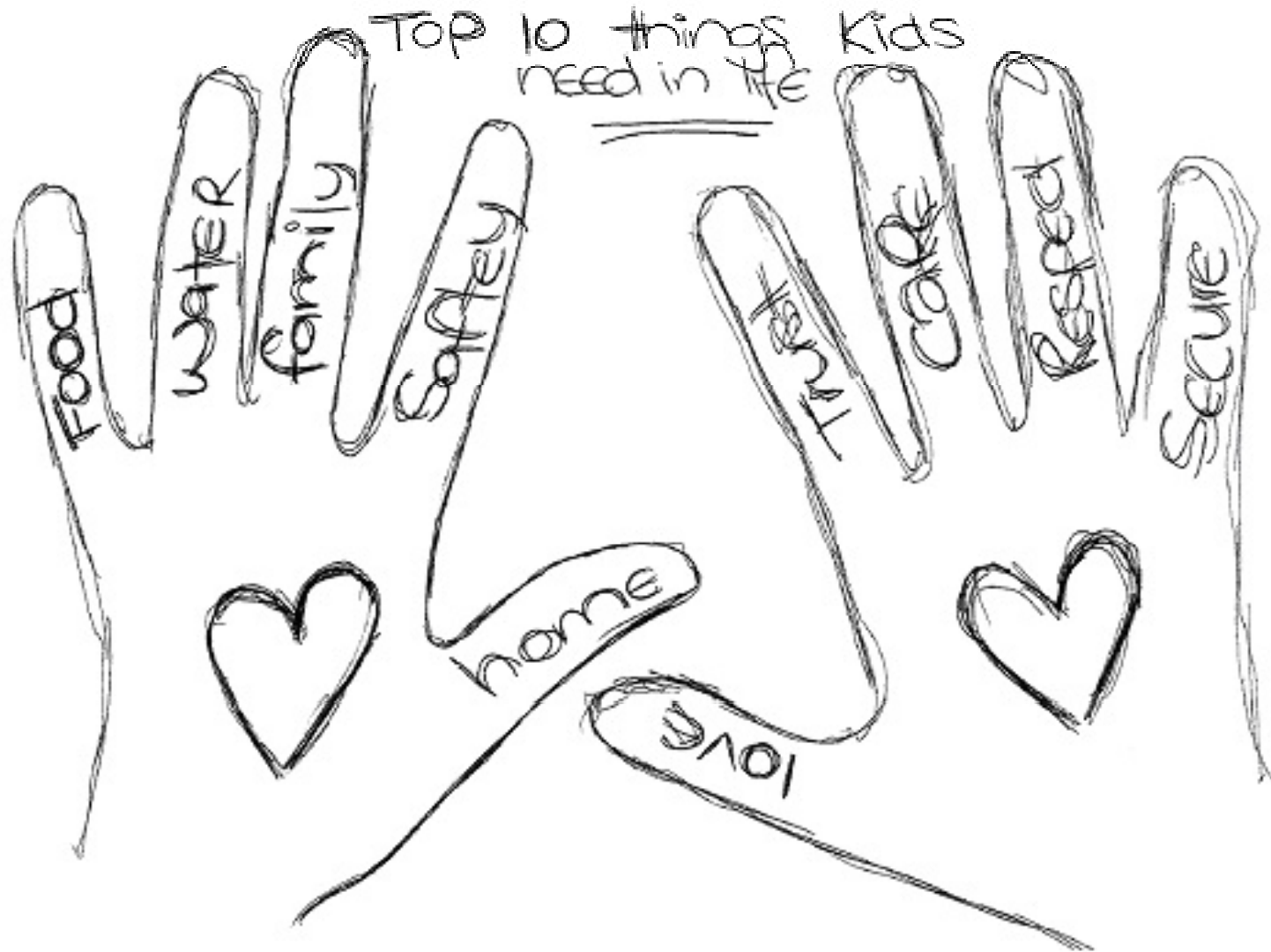


- Are the rights of children and young people in New Zealand being protected?
- Are there breaches of those rights?

The UN Committee on the Rights of the Child prepares the Concluding Observations which acknowledge progress and express concern where rights have been breached



What children and young people think



Children's rights are about

Dignity

Equality

Respect

How CRC views children

- Children are **active** participants in their lives
- Children have a **right to be heard** as individuals and as a group
- Children and their family/whānau are **part of society**

Four Articles establish General Principles

- Children are entitled to **non discrimination**
- Children have the **right to life, survival and development**
- Children's **best interests** should be a primary consideration
- Children have the rights **to have a say** in matters that affect them

General measures of implementation

Article 4 (Protection of rights):
Governments have a responsibility to take all available measures to make sure children's rights are respected, protected and fulfilled.

Our key messages

- Implement the CRC progressively
- Develop an overarching strategy for children, including mechanisms to ensure that public spending respects, promotes, protects and fulfils children's rights

Four emergent themes

- Inconsistent and incomplete data
- Greater cohesion and coordination
- Universal *and* proportionately targeted responses to meet **all children's needs**.
- Ensure spending advances children's rights.

Adopt a CRC framework

- **Guide** policy development, public spending and practices
- Robust data collection and research
- Monitor indicators to **ensure well-informed decision-making.**
- Proportionate universalism focus on prevention and equity.

A plan of action for all children

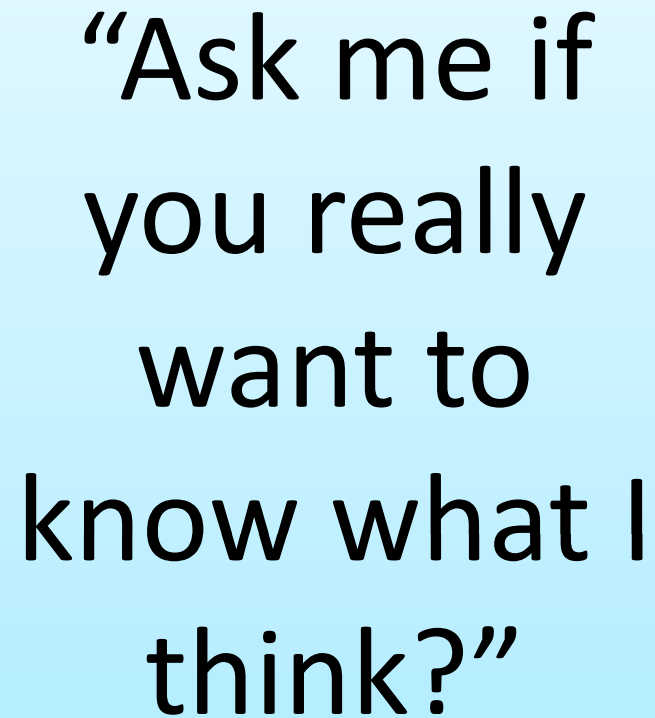
- What needs to be done to **realise and protect the rights** of the child;
- Who will **do the work** required;
- **Timeframes** for when the rights will be realised or protected; and,
- How **progress** will be monitored.

Listen, children have rights to ...

- Effective, accessible and genuine avenues of complaint;
- access to independent advocacy.

Children's participation is a process where...

The main
barriers are
created by
adult attitudes



“Ask me if
you really
want to
know what I
think?”

Children have a right to know ...

- Aware of the issues that affect them.
- Live with the consequences of decisions made about them.

“Weird, why wouldn’t they ask me?”

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It's our collective responsibility

ACYA's 5th Periodic Alternative
Report is available from
www.acya.org.nz