



*Nurse Practitioners
New Zealand*

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30 November 2018

Submission on:

Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

Submission To: Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

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Organisation Name:	Nurse Practitioners New Zealand – Child and Youth Auckland region
Organisation description: (tell us about your organisation – i.e. who do you represent? How many members do you have? Are you a local or national organisation?)	<p>NPNZ is a professional group of NZ nurse practitioners and is a division of the College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) Inc.</p> <p>We have over 300 members of all varying subspeciality practice.</p> <p>This submission was compiled by a section of Child and Youth Nurse Practitioners working within the wider Auckland region.</p>
Executive Summary: (Please provide a short summary of the key points of your Submission - 200 words)	<p>Timely piece of work</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Needs transparency to provide authenticity to the core principles and aims with consultation from youth and children 2. Consider using WHO definitions up to the age of 24, regardless of if young people are in state care or not. In recognition of the rights of children and young people. 3. Encourage free primary healthcare for those aged 0 – 18 years, and the lifting the age of youth justice to include those aged under 21 years. 4. Infusion of Sustainable Development Goals as measure. 5. The Treaty of Waitangi is used to as underpinning principal of partnership. 6. Providing transparent pathways that insist that children and young people are given proper agency over policy. 7. Could be strengthened through meaningful engagement with youth to recognise and address the unique developmental challenges that young people face. 8. Align with the Youth Development Strategy.

Submission Content

Thank you for the opportunity to feedback on this important piece of work aimed at addressing the needs of children, young people and their families in NZ.

Thank you for all the work that has been done so far in the development of this document. As a group we agree this is a timely piece of work that could be integral to health gains for this population group going forward. The intention of the framework is solid and is underpinned by entirely appropriate and important documents.

The following feedback is the collective voice of senior Nurse Practitioners who work with children and young people from across the greater Auckland area.

Firstly – in the framing of this document it is difficult to tell where the consultation with children and young people has been in the development of the framework. In order for this document to hold the mana it deserves – from the outset a transparent process is required to provide authenticity to the core principles and aims.

Secondly in coupling children and young people together without discourse to illuminate the clear developmental difference in approach and needs undermines children and young people and their diverse and unique developmental needs. We encourage you to consider using WHO definitions up to the age of 24, regardless of if young people are in state care or not. In recognition of the rights of children and young people we also encourage free primary healthcare for those aged 0 – 18 years, and the lifting the age of youth justice to include those aged under 21 years.

In the interest of positioning NZ as the best place to live in the world it would be good to see the infusion of Sustainable Development Goals as measure of if this is being achieved. The Treaty of Waitangi is used to as underpinning principal of partnership – this could be extrapolated further to include other core principles of protection and partnership of the rights of children and young people. To see this written into legislation would give these principles rigor and ensure the wellbeing of children and young people is the basis of decisions moving forward.

Providing transparent pathways that insist that children and young people are given proper agency over policy which is aimed at them need to be developed and protected. This has been attempted in this strategy but does not go far enough in enacting the 54 Articles of the Convention of the Rights of the Child.

The Child Wellbeing Strategy has some excellent intention in regard to considering child wellbeing prior to birth, including social and economic domains. It clearly acknowledges the need to support family and mothers to be leaders in the health of their families however it does not specifically address the developmental challenges that young people face and it is well recognised that this is a crucial factor in the health outcomes for young people in New Zealand. The strategy could be

strengthened through meaningful engagement with youth to recognise and address the unique developmental challenges that young people face, as well as honour their worldview. We recommend that this part of the document is strongly aligned with the Youth Development Strategy and that wide and robust consultation with young people and those that care for them are engaged in the development of this. To acknowledge the importance of this alongside on-going consultation with children, young people, Whānau, communities, and professionals the strategy should have a circle that states 'Children and Young People have a voice in all things that concern them'.

There is no acknowledgement of children and young people's sexual and gender identity development. Diversity of all types should be protected in this document.

Finally, we recognise that wellbeing is a complex concept with multiple intrinsic factors that are difficult to measure, and recommend that any tools proposed to measure wellbeing should be robustly tested and evaluated in a New Zealand context.



Mark Baldwin NP
Chairperson NPNZ