

## EDUCATION

- 5 Giving parents the skills they need to raise their children.
- 6 Providing teenagers with information on care-giving, budgeting and life skills in schools including teaching them about responsibilities of parenthood.

## WORKING TOGETHER

- 7 Encouraging health, education and welfare agencies to give families information on matters such as: Antenatal care, Child health checks, Dental care and Education,
- 8 More early intervention and home visiting programmes such as Family Start, Wraparound, Youth Aid
- 9 Sharing good local ideas in health, education or social welfare so other communities can benefit.
- 10 Finding ways to make sure people can get information they need about shared parenting, and encouraging parents to put the children's interests first if couples separate.

## TO FIND OUT MORE:

The full report is available for \$11.25 (inclusive of GST, packing and posting) from the Corporate Office of the Department of Social Welfare, Private Bag 21 Wellington.

Facsimile: (04) 916 3908

It is also available at [www.dsw.govt.nz](http://www.dsw.govt.nz)

## TO FIND OUT MORE:

The Response Report is available for \$11.25 (inclusive of GST, packing and posting) from the Corporate Office of the Department of Social Welfare, Private Bag 21 Wellington, or can be viewed on the departmental website

[www.dsw.govt.nz](http://www.dsw.govt.nz)

NEW ZEALAND'S  
RESPONSE  
TO THE  
CODE DISCUSSION





## THE CODE RESPONSE

Earlier this year, thousands of New Zealanders told us what they thought about important social issues in response to the booklet *Towards a Code of Social and Family Responsibility*.

The document is based on the belief we must all work together for the well-being of ourselves and our families. As New Zealanders, we need to be clear about our mutual rights and responsibilities.

The discussion was not a referendum, a survey or research, but was an opportunity for you to take part in a debate on important social issues.

New Zealanders took the opportunity to have their say, responding in greater numbers than ever before.

The booklet identified 11 important social issues. We asked for your thoughts and expectations about each issue.

The issues were:

- ① Looking after our children
- ② Pregnancy care
- ③ Keeping children healthy
- ④ Learning for the under 5s
- ⑤ Getting children to school ready to learn
- ⑥ Young offenders
- ⑦ Sharing parenthood
- ⑧ Training and learning for employment
- ⑨ Work obligations and income support
- ⑩ Managing money
- ⑪ Keeping ourselves healthy

The majority who responded indicated support for all 11 of the expectations in the questionnaire.

We have a diverse country with people who have strong opinions, and both these characteristics came through in your responses.

New Zealanders are particularly interested in education, health, welfare and justice issues.

All your responses were read and analysed and 10 ideas have been identified which the Government will develop.

Many of your ideas are already part of our Strengthening Families strategy. This is all about government agencies working with community groups to help families at greatest risk.

After carefully examining all your responses, we are developing these 10 concepts.

## IN SOCIAL WELFARE

- 1 Referring people to budget advisors if they regularly need emergency income support.
- 2 In 1999 a review will consider lowering the age at which children can be prosecuted in Court. Also, to look at giving the Courts powers to make parents set curfews and attend parenting courses.
- 3 Research better ways of housing extended families.

## IN HEALTH

- 4 Better child health by increasingly taking health services to disadvantaged children and their families and by working together with other social services agencies such as Welfare, Housing and Education.