



Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), and the Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group (CWPRG) on behalf of Hon Jan Tinetti, Minister for Child Poverty Reduction:

Reviewing Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Reporting

The following document has been included in this release:

Title of paper: Briefing DPMC-2022/23-326: Reviewing Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Reporting.

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- S9(2)(a) protect the privacy of natural persons, including that of deceased natural persons.



Coversheet

Briefing: Reviewing Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Reporting

Date:	14/10/2022	Report No:	DPMC-2022/23-326
		Security Level:	IN-CONFIDENCE
		Priority level:	Routine

	Action sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Minister for Child Poverty Reduction	Discuss with officials at your meeting on 21 October 2022	21/10/2022

Name	Position	Telephone		1 st Contact
Clare Ward	Executive Director, Strategy, Governance and Engagement Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group	9(2)(a)	9(2)(a)	✓
Laura Ross	Senior Analyst	N/A	N/A	

Minister's Office

Status:

Signed

Withdrawn

Comment for agency

Attachments: No

Briefing

Reviewing Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation Reporting

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

Date	14/10/2022	Security Level	IN-CONFIDENCE
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Purpose

1. We seek your agreement to improve how we monitor and report on the implementation of Child Youth and Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy).

Executive Summary

2. As part of the 2022 Strategy Review (the Review) you agreed the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) would improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our monitoring, measurement and reporting [DPMC-2021/22-2587 refers].
3. Streamlining our approach to delivering our next Strategy Monitoring Report to Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) is an action we can take to immediately address this, while we develop our longer-term measurement, monitoring and reporting improvements.
4. In 2019, SWC directed DPMC to monitor the implementation of the Strategy as an overarching framework for child and youth policies and services, and to report on progress to SWC on a six-monthly basis, via the Social Wellbeing Board [SWC-19-MIN-0085]. In 2021, SWC shifted this to an annual reporting requirement [SWC-21-MIN-0047].
5. There are two options that we consider will continue to meet this SWC directive, while addressing the findings and recommendations of the Review. We recommend Option A – streamlining the Strategy Monitoring Report. We will implement your preferred option for our next report, covering the 2022 calendar year.
6. This is the first of tranche of our proposed changes to the way in which we monitor, measure and report progress toward the wellbeing outcomes for children and young people described in the Strategy. We will provide advice on the next tranche of changes in the first half of 2023.

Recommendations

1. **Note** we consider SWC-19-MIN-0085 allows for prioritisation of our monitoring and reporting on the policies and actions that address the most pressing needs of children and young people
2. **Indicate** your preferred option:
EITHER
 - 2.1. Option A – produce a streamlined Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Monitoring Report (recommended) **YES / NO**
 - OR**
 - 2.2. Option B – utilise the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Annual Report to meet Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee requirements **YES / NO**
 - OR**
 - 2.3. Option C – discontinue reporting against a Programme of Action to Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee **YES / NO**
 - OR**
 - 2.4. Option D – Continue to produce a full Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Monitoring Report (status quo) **YES / NO**
3. **Forward** this advice to the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministers for their information **YES / NO**
4. **Agree** to proactively release this report, subject to any appropriate withholding of information that would be justified under the Official Information Act 1982. **YES / NO**

9(2)(a)

Clare Ward
Executive Director
Child Wellbeing and Poverty
Reduction

14 October 2022

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Minister for Child Poverty Reduction

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Background

7. The Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) monitors and reports on the delivery of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) in multiple ways that differ in commissioning, scope, and level of detail.
- The Monitoring Report, an annual Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) requirement, describes progress in the last calendar year, and next steps for all 104 current Programme of Action activities across government.
 - The Strategy Annual Report, an annual statutory requirement, summarises progress and next steps for around 35 actions and reports on the Strategy's 36 wellbeing indicators.
 - The Child Poverty Reduction Indicators Report, also an annual statutory requirement, focuses in greater detail on five wellbeing indicators deemed to be causes and consequences of child poverty, alongside progress updates for government activities that relate to these indicators.
 - Your Strategy Ministerial Group Tracker (the Tracker) provides detailed delivery updates by quarter and is produced approximately six-weekly for your 20 key actions and policies.
 - We also maintain a list of all current and completed Programme of Action initiatives on our website, which we update regularly with major milestones.
8. The table below summarises current Strategy monitoring and reporting:

Source	Purpose	Required by	Availability	Number of PoA items	Level of detail	Pages
Monitoring Report	Annual reporting to SWC monitoring the implementation of child and youth policies and actions	SWC-19-MIN-0085, SWC-21-MIN-0047	Proactively released	104	Medium	31
Annual Report	Annual publication reporting progress towards the Strategy's six outcomes	Children's Act 2014	Published	33	Medium	67
Child Poverty Related Indicators	Annual publication analysing selected causes and consequences of child poverty	Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018	Published	25 (approx.)	Low	37
Tracker	Six-weekly reporting to CYWS Ministers on progress for high priority programmes	CYWS Ministers	Released under the OIA with redactions	20	High	6
Website	Communications resource to demonstrate the scope of the Strategy	n/a	Published and regularly updated	All 173 past and current actions	Medium	n/a

Improving our reporting

The Strategy Review identified the need for more efficient and effective measurement, monitoring and reporting

9. Stakeholder engagement through the Review identified measurement, monitoring and reporting as key levers for accountability, and for supporting two-way information flow between non-government organisations, communities and government.
10. Ensuring our overall approach to monitoring, measurement and reporting is efficient and effective is one of five enablers that will support government to make progress on the Strategy's priority areas [DPMC-2021/22-2587 refers].
11. The Review identified that the approach to setting out and monitoring the current Programme of Action was too broad to drive change effectively. To support the implementation of the Strategy, we need to refine our focus and prioritisation. You also asked us to consider how we can streamline current monitoring and reporting.
12. Ultimately, streamlining will be achieved by focusing monitoring and reporting on the Strategy's four priority areas and five enablers, which will form the basis of a revised, more focused and prioritised Programme of Action. The revised Programme of Action will be strongly informed by the roadmaps being developed by lead agencies by the end of 2022. We will work with lead agencies to develop an aligned, effective monitoring and reporting approach for this, and will come back to you with advice on this in the first half of 2023.
13. Subsequent advice will focus on how to ensure that a diverse range of voices inform all our measurement, monitoring, evaluation and reporting products to develop the holistic knowledge and evidence base needed to focus on what matters and what works.
14. In the immediate term, we need to consider how to report on the current Programme of Action for the next reporting cycle. Streamlining our approach to delivering our next annual Monitoring Report is an action we can take to immediately improve effectiveness and efficiency, while we develop our longer-term measurement, monitoring and reporting improvements.

There are alternative approaches that will meet our monitoring requirements

15. In 2019, SWC agreed that "officials monitor and report on implementation progress", referring to "policies and actions that focus on addressing the most pressing needs for children and young people", and further that these are "set out in more detail in the Government Programme of Action". SWC-19-MIN-0085 directs officials to monitor the implementation of the Strategy and report to SWC on progress. SWC-21-MIN-0047 directs officials to deliver this monitoring annually.
16. Neither minute explicitly requires DPMC to report on every initiative and policy within the Programme of Action, although we have done this in our Monitoring Reports to date.
17. The Programme of Action currently includes over 100 items that differ significantly in scale and scope. While all items contribute to improving child and youth wellbeing, they do not all seek to address the most pressing needs. Through the Review, agency stakeholders told us the current approach of collating updates for the Monitoring Report was burdensome and sought streamlining of monitoring and reporting arrangements.
18. For the next Monitoring Report to SWC, we recommend prioritising our monitoring and reporting to the initiatives likely to make the greatest contribution to improving wellbeing. This will direct SWC's attention to where it can be of greatest value to ensuring progress, while

reducing the reporting burden on agencies. We consider SWC-19-MIN-0085 allows for prioritisation of our monitoring and reporting to the policies and actions that address the most pressing needs of children and young people.

19. We will continue to use the Child and Youth Wellbeing website as a home for Programme of Action updates and announcements.

Options analysis

Option A: Produce a streamlined Monitoring Report on priority actions

18. We would continue to produce a Monitoring Report but focus the content to priority actions. Priority actions could be those already covered in the Tracker, or a revised set of priorities that could inform future Trackers. If so, this would enable us to utilise the detailed agency updates we already collate to deliver an improved product to SWC. In addition to more detailed monitoring data sourced from the Tracker, we could seek to integrate headline wellbeing indicators data from the Annual Report.
19. This option reduces the reporting burden on agencies, particularly if monitoring is focused to Tracker priorities, and supports SWC with detailed monitoring information alongside high level outcomes data.
20. Although there will be some content overlap with the Annual Report, keeping the Monitoring Report separate from the Annual Report will ensure we can provide SWC with the information they need for progress monitoring as a succinct and targeted product.

Option B: Utilise the Annual Report to meet SWC reporting requirements

21. We would cease to produce the Monitoring Report and would instead provide SWC with the Annual Report. As per Option A, we would focus the content to priority actions.
22. This option supports SWC in its monitoring function by combining progress updates alongside detailed wellbeing indicators analysis, for example demography, and other outcomes data, as is already included in the Annual Report. As with Option A, this option reduces the reporting burden on agencies, especially if we prioritise reporting to Tracker items. Producing one report rather than two will also reduce the administrative burden associated with publication.
23. The Annual Report is not currently designed to fulfil a monitoring function, and we would need to make changes to the structure and depth of the information it contains to ensure SWC receives what they need to conduct their monitoring role effectively. We would work with your office to ensure your Annual Report expectations continue to be met.

Option C: Discontinue reporting progress against a Programme of Action

24. Under this option, we would not produce a Monitoring Report either separately or as part of the Annual Report.
25. This option reduces the reporting burden on agencies but would not meet SWC's requirement as it currently stands. While we don't consider the current Programme of Action to be an efficient monitoring tool, we do consider that assessing and reporting progress on key government actions remains an important part of the future monitoring approach. If this option were chosen, agreement from SWC would be needed.

Option D: Status Quo – Continue to produce a monitoring report against the full Programme of Action

26. Under this option, we would continue to produce a Monitoring Report similar that produced in previous years. We do not recommend this approach as it does not take us towards the future model and is resource intensive for agencies and DPMC.

27. The table below evaluates our current approach and proposed options against criteria of effectiveness for keeping SWC updated, efficiency for agencies and clarity of purpose.

Option	Content				Assessment criteria		
	Purpose	Number of POA items	Reports on activity	Reports on outcomes	Improves SWC monitoring	Reduces agency burden	Clarity of purpose
A) Streamlined Monitoring Report	Progress monitoring for SWC	20-30	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
B) Utilise Annual Report to meet SWC requirements	Progress monitoring for SWC and outcomes reporting for a broad public audience	20-30	Yes	Yes	Yes – subject to adjusting the content as discussed in paragraph 25	Yes	Likely to reduce the clarity of purpose of the Annual Report
C) Discontinue programme of monitoring report	n/a	n/a	No	No	No	Yes	n/a
D) Status Quo – Full Monitoring Report	Progress monitoring for SWC	104	Yes	No	No	No	Yes

Recommendation

- 28. Both Options A and B improve effectiveness and efficiency and would be straightforward to implement as an interim step, while broader changes are considered.
- 29. We recommend Option A, producing a streamlined Monitoring Report focusing on enhanced monitoring data for priority actions that seek to address the most pressing needs of children and young people.
- 30. Option A improves effectiveness and efficiency. It also delivers the greatest clarity of purpose, ensuring we can deliver a product tailored to the depth of content SWC need to conduct effective progress monitoring needs, while continuing to deliver an accessible public Annual Report, focused on progress towards improved child and youth wellbeing outcomes.
- 31. Although there are resource implications continuing to produce two products, we still gain significant efficiency through the proposed prioritisation and potential use of the Tracker content.

Treaty of Waitangi considerations and te ao Māori perspective

32. The changes proposed here do not have a direct impact on our te Tiriti o Waitangi obligations. Future changes to monitoring and reporting will include consideration of how measures can better reflect the voices of tamariki, rangatahi and whānau Māori, and te ao Māori perspectives of wellbeing.

Financial implications

33. The changes proposed here will reduce the reporting burden on agencies, therefore more effectively use limited resource.

Next steps

34. We consider that Options A, B and D satisfy SWC's directives, therefore you do not need to seek Cabinet approval for this change should you select one of these. Option D would require agreement from SWC. If you select Option A or B, you may wish to inform the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group of your plans.

35. We will implement your preferred option for the upcoming 2022 calendar year report, which you will deliver to SWC in March 2023.

36. If you select Option A or B, we will work with your office to identify which current policies and actions are your priorities for our monitoring.

37. This is the first of tranche of our proposed changes to the way in which we monitor, measure and report progress toward the outcomes for children and young people sought through the Strategy. We will provide advice on the next tranche of changes in the first half of 2023.