



# Monitoring of Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Implementation

1 January -31 Dec 2021



## Purpose

This report provides an update on the implementation of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy<sup>1</sup> (the Strategy) and its Programme of Action for the January - December 2021 period. It details what activity was carried out in this period to bring the Strategy into effect. This includes:

- an update on Programme of Action progress of policies and initiatives underway across government to help achieve the Strategy's vision and outcomes, as well as new initiatives that have been added to the Programme of Action in this period.
- an overview of how central government agencies are aligning to the Strategy framework (Signs of central agency alignment, p. 35), and examples where non-government actors have used the framework in their work (Collective action beyond central government, p. 36).

It is important to note that there are also government work programmes contributing to child and youth wellbeing that are not in the Programme of Action because they are considered to be business and usual activity for agencies. This report should be read in conjunction with the Annual Report on the Strategy, which reports on progress against the Strategy's outcomes and includes initial data on its Child and Youth Wellbeing indicators.<sup>2</sup>

Previous implementation reports, covering the period July 2020 - December 2020, and for the year ended June 2020, are available on the Child and Youth Wellbeing website:

<https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/measuring-success/reporting>

## Progress in the Programme of Action

There has been good progress made in implementing the actions across all outcome areas. COVID-19 is still affecting the rollout and implementation of some actions, while other actions have received extra supports to mitigate the effects of COVID-19.

Several initiatives have also been added to the programme, including:

- Strengthening community-led solutions to prevent child sexual abuse
- Improved support for young carers
- Early years funding for new and integrated models of health support for children and whānau in the first 1,000 days
- Ākonga Youth Community Development Fund
- Initiatives that focus on building healthy relationships, including programmes in secondary schools and refreshing the health and physical education curricula
- Delivery of the 'A Bit Sus' campaign, which aims to counter and build student resilience to misinformation.

### ***New approaches, prototypes and pilots***

Several actions explore various new approaches to the design and delivery of their services; for instance:

- The Whānau as First Navigators programme adopts a 'by Māori, for Māori' approach, aimed at helping reduce the number of Ngāi Tahu tamariki and rangatahi coming into state care.

<sup>1</sup> For further information about the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy, please refer to the Strategy's website: <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/>

<sup>2</sup> For each outcome set out in the Strategy, there is a set of indicators to measure progress on the outcome. For further information on the Child and Youth Wellbeing Indicators, please refer to the Strategy's website: <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/measuring-success/indicators>

- Early support programmes such as Family Start and Social Workers in Schools are moving to a more responsive community-led model.
- A rapid rehousing approach is being piloted, to support individuals and whānau into permanent housing.
- Work is underway to develop a public health approach to preventing and minimising gambling harm for young people/rangatahi, which is to be implemented in schools.
- Over 100 Physical Activity Advisors and Community Connectors are now in place, to support schools and kura and their local communities to get active and healthy.
- Co- design work undertaken to develop new learning approaches for tamariki rangatahi and whanau, focussed on mana-enhancing and tapu-enriched relationships to support healthy, consensual relationships. This will inform the design of locally led approaches to enable oranga whakapapa.
- The NCEA change package conducted three pilots in 2021:
  - Te Ao Haka – the new Māori Performing Arts subject at all NCEA levels
  - Literacy and Numeracy | Te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau
  - Mini pilots for NCEA Level 1 English, Science, Religious Studies and Visual Arts

### ***Progress on key initiatives***

Progress has been made on several larger-scale system changes:

- The Oranga Tamariki Action – a plan for children’s agencies to work collaboratively to support the wellbeing outcomes for children and young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki
- Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy and Action Plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence was launched in December 2021.
- Maternity Action Plan – Initial codesign work is underway, and the new Primary Maternity Services Notice 2021 went live in November 2021.
- Well Child Tamariki Ora – Work is underway to design a Tamariki Ora network, and establish a clinical governance structure.
- In February 2021 The Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan saw 1,000 new transitional housing places delivered, with a further 1,000 places delivered by November 2021.

Increased support for youth mental health implemented in 2021 includes:

- Contracting of University-based primary mental health and addiction supports and two mental health and wellbeing services for rainbow young people.
- Counsellors in schools.
- Initiatives to strengthen Pacific youth mental health and resilience, such as several wellbeing events targeting high school students and Pacific tertiary students, and wraparound Pastoral support lead by LeVa.

There has also been increased support for children's oral health:

- A procurement process to supply and distribute toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste is complete, Implementation has started and was distributed to 25 Well Child Tamariki Ora providers in December 2021.
- The 'baby teeth matter' social marketing campaign ran from June to August 2021.

### ***Impacts of COVID-19***

The COVID-19 pandemic is still delaying progression of some actions, including:

- The *Enhanced WCTO pilots* saw delays with the Tairāwhiti DHB launching an ESP service, due to workforce and COVID-19 related issues.
- COVID-19 lockdown impacted the first 6 months of delivery for *Supporting Pacific households into home ownership*
- The multi-year work programme to overhaul the welfare system has been reprioritised to support the government response to COVID-19.

However, some actions saw increased support due to COVID-19; for example:

- The *expanded coverage of whānau ora* saw Local Commissioning Entities providing emergency and critical COVID-19 support to whānau, including providing:
  - kai parcels and vouchers
  - testing and vaccination support.



# Children and Young People Loved, Safe and Nurtured

## NEW ACTIONS

### **Strengthening community-led solutions to prevent child sexual abuse (Accident Compensation Corporation with Oranga Tamariki and Ministry of Social Development)**

- There has been investment in community-led approaches and kaupapa Māori child sexual abuse prevention approaches, as well as investment in community-led design and development of child sexual abuse prevention resources to increase capability and awareness.

#### *Next steps*

- A 'toolkit' of resources will be available for communities to support healthy, consensual relationships for young people.

### **Home Safety Programme (Accident Compensation Corporation in partnership with Safekids Aotearoa)**

- The Home Safety Programme helps prevent unintentional injuries to children in the home, with a priority focus on Māori and Pacific whānau, and regions with inequities in the rate of injuries and hospitalisations.

#### *Next steps*

- Training and capability development with community providers and stakeholders in the child health and wellbeing sector.
- Direct to whānau, in-home education on child home safety, provision and installation of safety devices.

### **Expansion of Whānau-Centred Facilitation Initiative (Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- The Whānau-Centred Facilitation initiative provides locally led, holistic and whānau-centred approaches to family violence and sexual violence harm prevention, targeted at whānau at low to medium risk.
- This initiative addresses service provision gaps identified by providers.
- Work is underway to extend to multi-year contracts and to expand to new provider groups.

#### *Next steps*

- Continue expansion work.
- Undergo a formulative evaluation in mid-2022.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### **Kea Project (Ara Poutama)**

- The Kea project expanded to include Otago Corrections Facility and Christchurch Women's Prison.
- Additional funding was obtained from the Women's Prison Improvement Network in November 2021.
- Additional funding was secured to deliver the project to all women's prisons.
- Delivery was completed at Hawke's Bay and Whanganui Prisons, and partially delivered in Manawatu prison.

#### *Next steps*

- Delivery at Otago Corrections Facility, Auckland Regional Women's Correctional Facility, Christchurch Women's Prison, and Arohata Prison will commence by the first half of 2022.

**Creating a safe online and digital environment for children and young people (Department of Internal Affairs)**

- The third and final phase of the 'Keep It Real Online' campaign was released in June 2021.
- An additional episode of the successful Eggplant mini-series focussed specifically on mis/dis-information was released in Sept 2021.
- In late 2021, an external survey highlighted the successful impact of the 'Keep It Real Online' awareness campaign.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

**Family violence prevention: increased investment (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Social Development)**

- Work under the campaign for Action on Family Violence, E Tu Whānau and Pasefika Proud is continuing.
- One-off grants through Pasefika Proud have helped young people to start talking about the protective factors that keep them safe from harm.
- Research with young people has been undertaken to inform Phase 1 of the #LoveBetter initiative, which is focused on breakups.
- Concept development is underway and will be ready for testing March/April.

*Next steps*

- The Pasefika Proud grants Initiative will be completed for several Pacific communities.
- #LoveBetter is planned to launch in mid-2022 and research with young people will continue.

**Improve regional capability to respond to family violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Social Development)**

- Work underway to develop the regional practice and systems lead roles and responsibilities, to align with the evolving wider Family Violence and Sexual Violence system.

*Next steps*

- Finalise the system lead roles, and begin recruitment process.

**Violence prevention needs of diverse communities (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Joint Venture Business Unit)**

- Work undertaken to better understand violence prevention needs and programmes in diverse communities, including 200 in-depth interviews.
- An engagement report has been published (available on [violencefree.govt.nz](https://violencefree.govt.nz)).

*Further action since July 2021:*

- Approved five funding grants to support national-level family violence and sexual violence prevention initiatives for LGBTQIA+ people, disabled people, older people, and new migrant communities.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

**Sexual violence support services for children and young people (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Oranga Tamariki)**

- Funding for Sexual Harm support for children services has been increased.

*Next steps*

- Continue to assess current rates as appropriate.
- Continue to identify gaps in service availability across regions.



**Develop kaupapa Māori services for victims/survivors, perpetrators and their whānau (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Social Development)**

- An independent working group of seven Māori sector experts, including survivor voices, was engaged to develop the Kaupapa Māori Sexual Violence service guidelines.

*Next steps*

- Test the guidelines in rural and remote communities through six self-identified Kaupapa Māori sexual violence service providers over 18 months.
- Complete the contracting phase.

**Improve justice response to victims of sexual violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Justice)**

- The Sexual Violence Legislation Act was passed, which includes legislative changes to better protect complainants from inappropriate and unduly invasive questioning.

*Next steps*

- A set of initiatives is being progressed to reduce the risk of sexual violence victims experiencing further trauma when participating in the court process.
- A Best-practice education for judges and lawyers in sexual cases is underway.
- A Quality Framework has been implemented for the communication assistance service.

**Health sector screening for early intervention and prevention of family violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Ministry of Health) BAU**

- The Māori Expert Advisory Group, established to provide advice to inform a training programme for primary health care and community service providers, presented their report. Included recommendations for strengthening early identification of, and response to, family violence and sexual violence in the health and disability sector.
- Violence Intervention Programme training continued for health practitioners in district health boards.

*Next steps*

- Continue work with stakeholders to improve services and responses for victims of family violence.
- Further consideration of the Māori Expert Advisory Group report.

**National strategy and action plan to prevent and eliminate family violence and sexual violence (Family Violence and Sexual Violence, Joint Venture Business Unit)**

- Engagement on a National Strategy and Action Plan was undertaken between May and July 2021.
- This included 120 tangata whenua, specialist sector and community-led hui, reaching over 2000 people. Also received almost 1000 submissions.
- Te Aorerekura - the National Strategy and Action Plan to eliminate family violence and sexual violence was launched in December 2021.

*Next steps*

- The first annual Te Aorerekura hui is planned for June 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### Enhanced WCTO pilots (nurse-led family partnership model) (Ministry of Health)

- Two of the three Enhanced Support Pilot (ESP) sites are operational - (Lakes DHB and Counties Manukau DHB).
- There were delays with the Tairāwhiti DHB launching an ESP service, due to workforce and COVID-19 related issues.

##### Next steps

- The Hauora Te Tairāwhiti ESP launch expected in 2022.

*Status: As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.*

#### Family justice reforms in response to the final report of the independent panel (Ministry of Justice)

- The Family Court (Supporting Children in Court) Legislation Act 2021 was passed.
- The second of four remuneration increases have been made for lawyers for children, to incentivise the recruitment and retention of skilled practitioners.
- Most of the new Kaiārahi Family Court Navigators have been recruited – they will provide guidance and information about the resolution/support options available to parents, caregivers and whānau.
- The new service experience has been designed, including new and accessible resources for parents and whānau.
- A researcher has been engaged to undertake a stocktake of child participation models.

##### Next steps

- The stocktake will be completed mid-March 2022, s9(2)(f)(iv)

Further increases in remuneration for lawyers for children.

- Introduce Legislation to implement a new role the Family Court Associate, and commence recruitment in 2023.

#### Improve the wellbeing of male victims/survivors of sexual violence through peer support services (Ministry of Social Development)

- A new FTE costing model (based on the Oranga Tamariki fair funding framework) was developed to better reflect the cost of service, and a longer term, three-year contract has been implemented.

##### Next steps

- Determine target client group.
- Determine core capabilities and competencies for providers and enable providers to work collaboratively.
- Design client journey map to better understand the current investment including, service gaps for clients and to confirm overlap with services funded by other Government agencies.

#### Increase access to crisis support services for victims/survivors (Ministry of Social Development)

- Increased funding in Budget 2019 for Specialist Sexual Harm Crisis Support Services (SHCSS).
- A new FTE costing model, (based on the Oranga Tamariki fair funding framework) was developed.
- New funding allocation model has been developed.
- Longer term, three-year contracts have also been introduced.

##### Next steps

- Design client journey map to better understand the current investment including, service gaps for clients and to confirm overlap with services funded by other Government agencies.



#### Increased funding to support iwi and NGO partners that provide early support (Oranga Tamariki)

- Increased funding allocated to iwi, Māori organisations and NGOs, to support the delivery of services with a focus on early support.

##### *Next steps*

- Oranga Tamariki will implement the Future Direction Plan, which commits to working with iwi and community leaders, and greater investment in partners with a focus on early support. This will include
  - working with iwi and community leaders in each region to identify opportunities to co-design services
  - developing and building on approaches to partnering that enable decision-making by whānau, hapū, iwi and communities
  - greater investment in partners so that they can support whānau aspirations and needs.

#### Improve outcomes for Māori children and young people within the Oranga Tamariki system (Oranga Tamariki)

- The Ministerial Advisory Board completed and published its report, Te Kahu Aroha.
- The Oranga Tamariki Future Direction Plan was released in September 2021, drawing on themes from across Te Kahu Aroha and recommendations from previous reviews and the Waitangi Tribunal report.
- As a result of the Chief Ombudsman report, Oranga Tamariki has
  - updated and strengthened its Intake and Early Assessment, Breastfeeding, and Family Group Conference policies and guidance.
  - implemented an internal process to track the number of tamariki who enter care under a section 78 (without notice) order.
  - introduced a site assurance process for Reports of Concern relating to newborn/unborn pēpi to ensure safety and wellbeing concerns are identified and addressed promptly.
  - developed a framework for monthly auditing and analysing of case files for newborn/unborn pēpi entering care under a section 78 order.

##### *Next steps*

- Publishing the second annual report on implementing section 7AA (relating to improving outcomes for tamariki Māori, their whānau, hapū and iwi).
- Implementing the Future Direction Plan and ongoing response to Te Kahu Aroha, which is expected to address several concerns and findings raised in the Waitangi Tribunal's Report, and support the fundamental and significant shift in the approach, operating model and practice of Oranga Tamariki to be tamariki and whānau centred.

#### Implementation of National Care Standards (Oranga Tamariki)

- A programme of workshops has been developed to strengthen kaimahi understanding of the National Care Standards and practice
- Development of policy and practice guidance and internal monitoring processes.
- The All About Me Plan has been updated to better reflect te ao Māori and the needs of Youth Justice.
- The My Rights My Voice resource has also been updated, to better reflect the principles of the Care Standards, and te ao Māori and tamariki-centric lens.

##### *Next steps*

- Release online learning modules and updated My Rights, My Voice resource.



- Continue development of the work programme to grow knowledge and improve practice of the Care Standards within residential and group care contexts.

#### Oranga Tamariki Action Plan (Oranga Tamariki)

- A draft Oranga Tamariki Action Plan was developed by children's agencies for initial consideration by the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministers in December 2021.

##### Next steps

- s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Publish the Action Plan and s9(2)(f)(iv) [REDACTED]
- Undertake in-depth assessments of needs in housing, education, and health, which include recommendations on how to prioritise access to services for the Action Plan's priority population.

#### Financial assistance for caregivers (Oranga Tamariki)

- Amendments were made to the Social Security Act 2018 to enable short-term caregivers to access the Orphan's Benefit (OB) or Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB), and establish Holiday and Birthday Allowances for those receiving the OB and UCB.
- Extended a nappy payment and increased standard payments to caregivers receiving the OB and UCB to ensure caregivers supporting children inside and outside the State care system receive the same level of support.

##### Next steps

- Report back to Cabinet by the Minister for Children on a new model of support for caregivers of children outside of State care.
- Continue work to reform the caregiver financial assistance and support system, the base rates of the OB, UCB, and Foster Care Allowance will increase by \$5 per child, per week, from 1 April 2022.

#### Early intervention support for families and whānau (Oranga Tamariki)

- Working with agencies to collectively support iwi/Māori and community-led models of early support/whānau support, and enabling increased community and regionally-led decision-making for prevention.
- Supporting accelerated implementation of iwi and community-led whānau prevention initiatives in three communities (Waikato, Canterbury and Hawke's Bay).
- Supporting establishment of a localised system learning approach that aims to provide support to tamariki and their whānau within the first 1,000 days (conception through to 2 years).
- Co-created a culturally-relevant evolution for SKIP, resulting in Tākai – a community-led kaupapa, which provides a complete parenting resource from pregnancy to five years of age, designed for formal and informal supporters of parents and whānau.

##### Next steps

- Clarify Oranga Tamariki's role in early support and prevention and how Oranga Tamariki will support community-led planning.
- s9(2)(i) [REDACTED]
- By September 2022 there will be greater investment in partners with a focus on early support.
- Launch and continue to evolve Tākai, including developing training and learning packages.

**Intensive (Whānau) Response - new model of intensive intervention for those at risk of entering care (Oranga Tamariki)**

- This action is about working collaboratively with community and iwi partners to create new intensive whānau support models so that children can be kept safely at home.
- Intensive Response community and iwi-led models of care are 'live' in eight locations (Tokoroa, Christchurch East, Whakatū Marae, Te Hiku, Kirikiriroa, Wairarapa, Porirua, and Taranaki/Dannevirke) with a plan to extend across the country.
- Design work with communities, iwi and Māori partners continues in an additional seven locations.

*Next steps*

- Continue and expand support across all 15 Intensive Response locations.
- Alignment of Intensive Response to Future Direction for Oranga Tamariki, which includes shifting centrally enabled aspects of the kaupapa to the regions where practical.

**Expand coverage of whānau ora to support more whānau to thrive and achieve wellbeing outcomes (Te Puni Kōkiri) BAU**

- Explored ways to collaborate and further promote the use of whānau-centred approaches across government.
- Partnered with three Local Commissioning Entities (LCEs) in the North Island.
- LCEs provided emergency and critical COVID-19 support to whānau, including providing:
  - kai parcels and vouchers
  - testing and vaccination support.

*Next steps*

- Support the Office of the Auditor General's review, assessing how well the public sector is supporting Whānau Ora and identifying opportunities.
- Provide Capability and capacity building training in partnership with LCEs.
- Shift from funding Contracts to Outcome Agreements.

**Ngā Tini Whetū - early support for families and whānau (Accident Compensation Corporation, Oranga Tamariki, Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- Intensive support has been provided to 800 whānau through this whānau-centred early intervention prototype. Ngā Tini Whetū seeks to support whānau by navigating them towards a brighter future, preventing injuries and averting Oranga Tamariki intervention.
- Kaupapa Māori reporting frameworks have been developed to track whānau progress, and an initial evaluation has been completed.
- Ngā Tini Whetū providers helped deliver vaccines, COVID-19 testing, Manaaki care packages and frontline support.
- A strategic case for Ngā Tini Whetū is being developed with Te Pou Matakana, with support from Price Waterhouse Coopers.

*Next steps*

- Continue to provide quarterly reporting.
- Produce a six-monthly progress report.
- Final high-level evaluation due September 2022 (original date of June 2022 delayed by COVID-19). Supplementary whānau interview findings report due early 2023.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.



# Children and Young People Have What They Need

## NEW ACTIONS

### Improved support for young carers across government (Ministry of Social Development)

- Mahi Aroha (Carers Strategy Action Plan 2019-2023) has young carers (those aged under 25 who provide ongoing care for someone close to them that needs assistance with everyday living) as a priority group.

#### Next steps

- Work to include young carers in policy development and to identify young carers and provide support for them.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Funding for continued provision of transitional housing (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

Between 1 January and 31 December 2021, the total number of transitional housing places increased by a net of 1,146 to 5,102.

- This progress included delivery of another 1,000 transitional housing places. This milestone was delivered in November 2021, building on the 1,000 places already provided under the Homelessness Action Plan in February 2021.
- Increased dedicated transitional housing supply with wraparound support options for rangatahi/young people, s9(2)(f)(iv), with more opportunities coming in each month. Progress continues to be affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

#### Next steps

- Continuing to deliver new build transitional housing supply, with a further 1,000 places due for delivery s9(2)(f)(iv)

### Strengthening Housing First (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

- 359 new individuals and whānau accepted to the Housing First programme from July 2021 December 2021.
- Reviewed contracting arrangements as part of on-going relationship management approach.
- Renegotiated and extended expired Housing First programmes.
- Commissioned an external evaluation of Housing First, with first phase completed in December 2021.

#### Next steps

- Complete second phase of the evaluation, focussing on Rapid Rehousing and whānau and individual experiences and outcomes of Housing First.
- Release the final evaluation Review report in December 2022.

### Housing Support Products (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

- Additional funding of \$6 million was agreed by Cabinet for the 21/22 financial year to respond to increased demand and ensure Housing Support Products continue to provide assistance to households to access and sustain private rentals.

#### Next steps

- Housing Support Products will continue to be provided to eligible households to access and sustain private rental tenancies.

#### Homelessness Action Plan (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development)

- 17 out of 18 immediate actions in the Action Plan are fully underway, despite ongoing housing supply and Covid-19 challenges.
- Delivered 1,005 new transitional housing places by February 2021, meeting the target set by the Action Plan. Delivered a further 1,000 places by November 2021.
- Secured 77 supported accommodation places for eligible young people leaving Oranga Tamariki care by August 2021.
- Funded two specific initiatives to support rangatahi/young people through the Local Innovation and Partnership Fund.
- Established a flexible funding package to support whānau with children in emergency housing, where other government support is not available.
- Housed 159 people through the Rapid Rehousing pilot by August 2021.
- Completed a review of the first 18 months of Action Plan implementation and progress.

#### Next steps

- Implement the remaining action plan item in early 2022.
- Publicly release the 18-month review of the Action Plan in early 2022.
- Prioritise work on five critical areas that emerged through the 18-month review, including meeting the needs of rangatahi/young people.
- Evaluate the first phase of the Action Plan in 2022, to inform the development of phase two of the Aotearoa New Zealand Homelessness Action Plan.

#### Tailored housing outcomes for Māori (Ministry of Housing and Urban Development and Te Puni Kōkiri)

- Established Whai Kāinga Whai Oranga, with combined investment from Budget 2021 (\$380m) and the Māori Infrastructure Fund (\$350m) to deliver housing supply, infrastructure and repairs.
- Allocated funding for the continued capability building of iwi and Māori housing providers.
- Approved/contracted several projects across supply, infrastructure, repairs and building capability.
- Partnering with iwi and Māori entities to prototype Māori-led solutions in targeted regions.

#### Next steps

- Receive and review applications from iwi and Māori housing providers.
- Draft contracts for successful applicants for He Taupua funding.
- Review the MAIHI Ka Ora – the National Māori housing strategy every three years.

#### Ka Ora, Ka Ako: free and healthy school lunch programme (Ministry of Education)

- At the end of Term 4, around 210,000 students at 918 schools were receiving a daily healthy lunch.
- Worked with other government agencies during COVID-19 lockdowns to redirect underspent funding toward the New Zealand Food Network, community grants, and making one off grants to KidsCan and Eat My Lunch.

#### Next steps

- Complete contract extensions for schools and kura.
- Onboard new schools wanting to receive lunches.



- Undertake external evaluation, with report due by December 2022.

#### **Government response to Fair Pay Agreement Working Group report (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)**

- Cabinet agreed key features of the Fair Pay Agreement (FPA) system and Bill enabling approved drafting.
- Policy advice on the system components finalised.

##### *Next steps*

- Cabinet agreement to introduce the FPA Bill to the House will be sought early 2022.
- Implementation Programme underway to ensure FPA initiations are supported once legislation is passed.

#### **Supporting Pacific households into home ownership (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Established a dedicated Housing Unit to implement the delivery of the initiative.
- Contracted the Retirement Commission, several businesses and 15 providers to deliver financial capability programmes.
- Contracted consultants to work with Pacific communities to develop housing project feasibility reports and business cases.
- Established a Pacific housing interagency working group.
- Received Ministerial approval to the draft Fale mo Aiga – Pacific Housing Strategy and Action Plan 2021-2030.
- The COVID-19 lockdown and restrictions has impacted first six months of delivery.

##### *Next steps*

- Over 700 people expected to complete the Pacific Financial Capability Development programme by end of 2022 and 100 participants achieve home ownership.
- Investment in shovel ready development projects.
- Continue work to implement the Pacific Housing Strategy and Action Plan.
- Develop a reporting and monitoring framework.

#### **Changes to abatement setting (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Increased abatement thresholds increased from 1 April 2021 for Jobseeker Support, NZ Superannuation/Veteran's Pension with non-qualifying partner, and the Supported Living Payment/Sole Parents, Support/Veteran's Pension (under 65).
- Part of the welfare overhaul work programme.

#### **Main benefit increases (Ministry of Social Development)**

- \$20 per adult per week increase in main benefits came into effect on 1 July 2021
- First stage of Budget 2021
- Part of the welfare overhaul work programme.

#### **Overhaul the welfare system (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Cabinet approval of a renewed welfare overhaul work programme to reflect the changes made since November 2019 and COVID-19.
- The work focuses on areas of major transformational change.
- Implemented the removal of the subsequent child policy from the Social Security Act 2018.

##### *Next steps*



- A key focus for 2022 will be the Review of Working for Families, as well as continuing to make progress with regard to income support, employment and training, and the overall work on resetting the foundations of the welfare system.
- The Minister for Social Development and Employment will report back to Cabinet on the overall progress of the welfare overhaul work programme.

#### **Continued Government funding for KickStart Breakfast and KidsCan (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Both programmes active, on track and on budget.
- MSD has Governance role in Kickstart Breakfast, and has partially funded breakfasts for around 40,000 children, 4 times a week.
- They've also partially funded the KidsCan rain jacket programme, with 21,565 rain jackets distributed.

#### **Support for disabled people and people with health conditions (Ministry of Social Development)**

- REACH service came to an end in June 2021.
- Funding secured to continue the remaining Oranga Mahi trial services to F23.
- Here Toitū service went live in MidCentral DHB region in June 2021. This included the Responding Early component (previously preventative) that supports people at risk of losing their job because of their health condition and/or disability.
- E Ara E (IPS Youth model) was launched in Auckland in May 2021.
- IPS in Counties Manukau and Auckland DHB was delayed and went live February 2022.

#### *Next steps:*

- Whītiki Tauā (virtual mentoring service) was expanded to South Island youth aged 18-24 years on a main benefit or exiting a benefit into employment or study
- Expansion of Responding Early into the current Here Toitū providers in Auckland and Canterbury is planned for June 2022.
- Monitoring South-Island roll-out of Whītiki Tauā to inform expansion nationwide later in 2022.
- Roll-out of Puāwaitanga App to occur in April/May 2022.
- Evaluation of Oranga Mahi services underway.
- Findings from literature review of integrated employment services published in May 2022.
- Implementation and early outcome evaluations completed for the REACH and Here Toitū programmes and reports aimed to be published by July 2022.
- Evaluation for Rakau Rangatira is planned to commence June 2022.
- Implementation and early outcomes evaluation for the Responding Early component of Here Toitū deferred to October 2022.

#### **Review the treatment of debt to government (Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet)**

- Cabinet has agreed that the debt to Government work programme will focus on ensuring debt recovery is fair, effective and avoids exacerbating hardship, and preventing debt from occurring.
- MSD's contribution to the debt to Government work programme includes the review of hardship assistance, supporting MOJs work to *improve the attachment order process, particularly for beneficiaries*, working with Inland Revenue to prevent overpayment debt, and participation in the common debtors pilot with Inland Revenue.

##### *Next steps*

- Inland Revenue, the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Social Development will become joint lead agencies on this initiative.
- Work will be undertaken to explore the development of an overarching framework for how to approach clients with debt to repay, and/or for clients about to take on new debt. This should also include consideration of Kainga Ora debt (rent arrears).
- Further advice due to Ministers in 2022 and a report back to Cabinet scheduled for July 2022.

#### **Expand and strengthen employment services to support more disabled New Zealanders (Ministry of Social Development)**

- The first of two evaluation cycles was completed - it looked across the pilot through secondary documents and data and key stakeholder interviews and engagements.
- In-depth case studies were undertaken with five learners, five whānau members, three schools and three providers.
- Analysis and results were presented to the Evaluation Partnership Group (EPG) in December 2021.

##### *Next steps*

- Standards and Monitoring Services (SAMS) and is expected to run for approximately 12-14 months, starting in July 2021.
- The evaluation team will create an Evaluation Partnership Group (EPG) to ensure the work is accurate and informed by local knowledge and useful for the intended purpose.

#### **Papakāinga development (Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- 133 houses contracted for delivery for calendar year 2021, with 39 houses completed.
- Te Puni Kōkiri has funded 538 whare repairs in the 2021 calendar year.

##### *Next steps*

- Investment allocations for iwi-led housing delivery are expected to be confirmed by March 2022.

#### **Improved Whānau Ora navigator support for whānau to build their financial capability (Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- All Whānau Ora Commissioning Agencies have workforce development plans in place.
- Eight-week financial training course provided through a commissioning agency was discontinued.
- Whānau Ora commissioning agencies continued to support financial outcomes through their partners and Navigator support.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.



# Children and Young People are Happy and Healthy

## NEW ACTIONS

### **Provide free toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste to tamariki and their whānau (Ministry of Health)**

- Completed procurement process to supply and distribute toothbrushes and fluoride toothpaste.
- Finalised the service delivery model.
- The 'baby teeth matter' social marketing campaign ran from June to August 2021.
- Implementation underway in December 2021 via 25 Well Child tamariki Ora providers, with further providers engaged to deliver the initiative.

#### *Next steps*

- A Kaupapa Māori evaluation provider has been commissioned and draft evaluation plan is in progress.
- Further Development of collateral and social marketing.

### **Early Years Initiative (Ministry of Health)**

- Funding of \$60 million over four years was committed through Budget 2020 to enable changes to supports delivered across the first 1,000 days.
- Partnered with the Southern Initiative for initial co-design work.
- Stage One is underway and sets the initiative's foundations including Te Tiriti partnership governance, undertaking an environmental scan and current state research of early years services.

#### *Next steps*

- Complete an Environment Scan in February 2022.
- Stand up and early years taskforce.

### **Public health approach to preventing gambling harm for young people (Ministry of Health)**

- Develop a public health approach to preventing and minimising gambling harm for young people/rangatahi, which is to be implemented in schools.

#### *Next steps*

- Cabinet approval in April 2022
- Final Strategy to Prevent and Minimise Gambling Harm 2022/23 to 2024/25 published in May 2022
- Implementation (including procurement) from 22/23.

### **Counsellors in Schools (Ministry of Education)**

- New funding announced in November 2021 to provide counsellors in 141 primary, intermediate, area and small secondary schools in New Zealand
- Equates to 90 additional counselling staff across the country
- Programme is underway in Te Tai Tokerau and Otago/Southland

#### *Next steps*

- Roll out in other regions

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Update of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) Action Plan (Ministry of Health)

Increasing the capability and capacity to provide specialist assessments and interventions across the life course of living with FASD is being progressed through a staged approach.

- Appointed providers to develop NZ-specific FASD diagnostic guidelines and research.
- Signed co-design contracts with three DHBs for the neurodevelopmental assessment and support (NASP) pilot.
- Extended support to Te Pou to deliver its introductory FASD e-learning course for frontline professionals.
- Study funded for a by-proxy estimation of the prevalence of FASD.

#### Next steps

- Complete NASP co-design process and begin service delivery in the DHBs.
- OT will consider Alert Program®

Complete the by-proxy estimation study by June 2022. *Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

### Every Life Matters - He Tapu te Oranga o ia Tangata: Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan (Ministry of Health)

- Hosted national hui of suicide prevention workforces.
- Continued community funding for suicide prevention initiatives targeting Māori, Pacific and youth.
- Release of suicide data web tool and new media guidelines for suicide reporting.

#### Next steps

- Review process for investigating deaths by suicide.
- Develop a roadmap to implement a national Real Time Surveillance (RTS) that will provide timely/accurate suicide data.
- Pilot a HeadFirst Mental Wellbeing Programme across five DHB areas, involving workshops in schools and clubs, leveraging of the influence of rugby.
- Develop social media suicide prevention guidelines and related materials.
- Synthesise evidence for effective suicide prevention and postvention, highlighting research gaps to be filled in the future.
- Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework in partnership with Māori and those with lived experience.

### Expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction support (Ministry of Health)

- 18 youth primary mental health and addiction services in 15 DHB areas including a national youth-specific telehealth/ webchat service.
- Contracts are in place for two mental health and wellbeing services for rainbow young people, and University-based primary mental health and addiction supports.
- Work is underway with Te Pūkenga to implement expanded mental wellbeing supports for tertiary students.
- Negotiations have been completed for youth primary mental health and addiction services in remaining DHB areas.
- s9(2)(i)

#### Next steps



- Contracted Dovetail Consulting Ltd, in partnership with the Kinnect Group, to undertake an evaluation of the youth primary mental health and addiction initiative.
- The final evaluation report is due on 31 March 2023.

#### **Promote wellbeing in primary and intermediate schools (Ministry of Health)**

- Continue Sparklers - online wellbeing resources for Years 1–8.
- Commissioned an external evaluation of Sparklers which is underway.

##### *Next steps*

- Consider and agree service enhancements, based on the findings of the evaluation.

#### **Expansion of Mana Ake (Ministry of Health)**

- Contracts signed for the co-design of tailored Mana Ake services.

##### *Next steps*

- Proposed service descriptions for tailored Mana Ake service delivery to be received by all DHBs.

#### **Maternity Action Plan (MAP) (Ministry of Health)**

- Developed a co-owned model for the early years' governance rūpū, with Māori engaged as equal decision makers and Te Tiriti partners.
- Partnered with the Southern Institute for initial co-design work.
- The new Primary Maternity Services Notice 2021 went live in November 2021.

##### *Next steps*

- Develop terms of references and wānanga with invited governance rūpū members to develop the partnership.
- Complete an environmental Scan in February 2022.
- Stand-up an early years' taskforce.
- Develop and implement automated solutions for the new Primary Maternity Services Notice.

#### **Initial work towards a single measurement and assessment schedule from conception to age 24 (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education)**

- School Entry Kete development now includes mokopuna and whānau voice tools and a strengths-based orientation.
- A Kete Self/Co Regulation and Empathy tool is in development.
- 'Before School Health Check' integration work has been put on hold due to COVID-19.
- Development and trialling of all individual tool components is underway.
- Design and IT build of Kete scoping requirements is underway.

##### *Next steps*

- Continue engagement with the Schools Reference Group to explore how learning information will be captured and utilised in the Kete.

#### **Review of the Well Child Tamariki Ora programme (Ministry of Health)**

- Projects are underway to design a Tamariki Ora network.
- Commissioning services to establish a clinical governance structure.
- Contracts for Technical Advisory and Clinical Governance Groups are in place.
- Evaluation of the National Sudden Unexplained Death in Infancy Prevention Programme is completed.

##### *Next steps*



- Redesigned WCTO clinical schedule completed ready for testing and implementation.
- WCTO and B4 School Check clinical schedule redesign completed June 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### **Extend nurses in schools (School-based Health Services) (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education)**

- The Ministry of Health initiated the setup of a Youth Advisory Group.
- recommendations from Te Tatau Kitenga for the enhancement of School-based Health Services (SBHS) informed the development of the enhancements work programme.

##### *Next steps*

- Complete the SBHS Formative Evaluation report in March 2022.
- Develop of the SBHS Workforce Development Plan in November 2022.

#### **Healthy active learning (Ministry of Health, Ministry of Education, Sport NZ) ]**

- Employed a Physical Activity workforce of 101 Advisors and Community Connectors to support schools and kura and their local communities.
- Developed a suite of Health and Physical Education curriculum resources, including Māori medium resources, which are now available to schools and kura.
- Developed Tapuwaekura (a Kaupapa Māori approach to Healthy Active Learning).

##### *Next steps*

- Ongoing development of resources and tools.
- Expand the initiative from 8 to 14 regions across Aotearoa from January 2022.
- Release refreshed Health and Physical Education Online website.
- Evaluation and feedback will occur via Curriculum Leads and website data channels.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

#### **Strengthening Pacific youth mental health and resilience (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Kau Tūlī regional group activities included several wellbeing events targeting high school students and Pacific tertiary students in Wellington, Christchurch, Dunedin and Auckland. Some were lived streamed through social media, uploaded as an online resource and/or involved participation of local health and wellbeing organisations and experts.
- There was also a full day event held in April 2021 aimed at igniting interests for Pacific youth to pursue a career in business through social enterprise.
- As part of the Toloa Secondary School scholarship programme, students will be part of a Wellbeing programme which will provide wraparound Pastoral support lead by LeVa.

##### *Next steps*

- An evaluation of the Kau Tūlī Innovators of Influence is underway.

#### **Delivery of strategy for women and girls in sport and active recreation (Sport NZ)**

- Sport NZ delivered the 2021 Women and Girls Summit.
- Release of the updated Sport NZ Young Women in sport and active recreation profile.
- Delivered the second year of targeted initiatives aimed at enhancing participation in physical activity and wellbeing.
- Allocated funding from the Tū Manawa Active Aotearoa towards community-based projects.

##### *Next steps*

- Launch and deliver a social behaviour campaign with the aim of increasing participation amongst young women.

- Reframe Sport NZ future action plan to the Women & Girls Strategy.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

Proactively Released

# Children and Young People are Learning and Developing

## NEW ACTIONS

### **Pūtoi Rito Communities of Readers (Department of Internal Affairs)**

- Pūtoi Rito Communities of Readers is a National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa initiative that aims to engage children and young people with reading for pleasure and wellbeing.
- Four projects delivered in Phase 1 2019-2021, focussed on early childhood through to late teens and included development of research, resources, videos and tools.
- Due to COVID-19 constraints, a revised timeframe is proposed for commencing the next phase.

#### *Next steps*

- Work towards a new Pūtoi Rito project being informally agreed, by June 2022.
- Explore options for a second new project.
- Manage Pūtoi Rito, Te Awhi Rito and He Pārekereke as an integrated programme in the next phase (2022-2023).

### **Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund (Ministry of Youth Development with Ministry of Education)**

- Announced in late 2020, the Ākonga Youth Development Community Fund supports iwi and community-based youth development providers to deliver programmes outside of traditional education settings (e.g. schools/kura) to support up to 5,500 ākonga/learners (12 – 21 years) who have been adversely affected by the impact of COVID-19 to stay engaged in their education journey.

#### *Next steps*

- The Fund will end in December 2022.
- The final evaluation report is due in February 2023.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### **Trialling support for young children to improve their self-regulation, resilience, and social skills (Ministry of Education)**

- This initiative involves the implementation of three pilot programmes – ENGAGE, Alert and Incredible Beginnings.
- ENGAGE has been delivered to 52 early learning services.
- Occupational therapists have been employed to deliver the Alert programme.
- Incredible beginnings contracts have been confirmed with programme deliverers and group leaders have been recruited.
- Process evaluations are underway for all three programmes.

#### *Next steps*

- The delivery of ENGAGE will continue. The Alert and Incredible Beginnings pilot programmes will be delivered in terms 1 and 2 2022.

### **Education Workforce Strategy (Ministry of Education)**

- Undertook a co-design project to develop a workforce strategy and agreed a vision and high-level outcomes.
- Identified desired strategic shifts and a draft action plan and consulted with key partners.



- This work was connected to the development of a full immersion Māori-medium strategy and work to strengthen the Māori medium pathway.

*Next steps*

- Work on a strategy has been deferred with a focus on COVID-19 support.

**Address learners' needs by improving data quality, availability, timeliness and capability (Ministry of Education)**

- The programme was scheduled to deploy Te Rito nationally, however, these plans were impacted by cybersecurity concerns.
- The programme has continued to build connection technology, resolve security and privacy issues, and develop enhancements for its connected schools, kura, and education providers.
- Underwent Independent Quality Assurance.

*Next steps*

- Reset the programme responsible for delivering Te Rito.
- Provide a briefing to Ministers on the revised Te Rito delivery options.

**Reform of vocational education (Ministry of Education)**

- Operationalised Workforce Development Councils (WDCs) and Regional Skills Leadership Groups.
- Shifted responsibility for qualifications setting from each Transitional Industry Training Organisation (TITO) to the relevant WDC.
- Four TITOs transitioned the remainder of their functions and ceased their usual Gazetted activities.
- Agreed on the design of the unified funding system underpinning Reform of Vocational Education.
- Te Pūkenga completed a draft operating model.

*Next steps*

- Transition the remaining seven TITOs in 2022.
- Implement the unified funding system in 2023.
- Implement Te Pūkenga operating model.
- Undergo a Treasury Gateway review in 2022.

**Programme to establish curriculum leads to support the health and wellbeing of learners (Ministry of Education)**

- Initiated the Curriculum Lead Service in Term 2, 2021 with 38 Curriculum Leads located in regional offices working in early learning services, kōhanga reo, schools and kura.
- Held a large regional workshop in Christchurch in August 2021.

*Next steps*

- The Curriculum Leads continue to work in early learning services, kōhanga reo, school and kura through 2022.
- The service will support the implementation of the Relationships and Sexuality Guidelines upon the release of the suite of new supporting resources in February/March 2022.
- Curriculum Lead service evaluation and feedback is planned for 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

#### **National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) change package (Ministry of Education)**

- Published a suite of NCEA Level 1 subject material.
- Organised Accord Teacher-Only Days.
- Launched off the shelf packages of learning, to support the School Leavers' Toolkit Programme in secondary schools.
- Announced NCEA Change Programme rephased over an additional year to support the sector.
- Conducted three pilots:
  - Te Ao Haka – the new Māori Performing Arts subject at all NCEA levels,
  - Literacy and Numeracy | Te Reo Matatini me te Pāngarau,
  - Mini pilots for NCEA Level 1 English, Science, Religious Studies and Visual Arts.
- Completed separate gateway and financial reviews.

##### *Next steps*

- The Ministry will advise the Minister on implementation of Literacy and Numeracy standards in August 2022.
- Developing NCEA Level 2 subjects' material.
- Organising three Accord Teacher-Only Days.
- Completion of a practitioners' evaluation.

#### **Tomorrow's Schools review (Ministry of Education)**

- The initial funding to establish Te Mahau and start its work programme has been received and includes up to 40 Curriculum Leads.
- The impact of COVID-19 on the sector has meant that some Tomorrow's Schools initiatives have needed to be progressed at a slower pace.
- Established Te Mahau (previously referred to as the Education Service Agency) in Oct 2021, within a redesigned Ministry of Education.

##### *Next steps*

- The focus for 2022 will be to further support implementation of Tomorrow's schools' initiatives focused on building a strong and capable workforce and improving supports to the sector and leadership through Te Mahau and Te Poutāhū (National Curriculum Centre).

#### **A code of pastoral care for domestic tertiary students (Ministry of Education)**

- Finalised the new Pastoral Care of Tertiary and International Learners Code of Practice.
- Developed guidance to help tertiary providers implement the Code in 2021.

##### *Next steps*

- The Education and Training Amendment Bill is currently being considered by the Select Committee.

#### **Equity index (Ministry of Education)**

- Completed development of the schooling Equity Index and advice on funding options completed.
- Internal Ministry impact assessments are currently underway to help transition all uses of school decile to the new Equity Index.

##### *Next steps*

- Further engagement on this transition with external stakeholders.
- Develop further advice to support the implementation of the Equity Index in schooling in 2023.



#### Improve learning support: Learning Support Action Plan (Ministry of Education)

- Established a Learning Support Network of Expertise, in partnership with Massey University, which now has over 2300 members.
- Established Te Rourou, an open-access Learning Support resource repository.
- Funded Professional Learning and Development (PLD) for Learning Support Coordinators on autism, and developed PLD modules to support inclusive learning environments for neuro-diverse children and young people.
- Developed the Te Ao Māori programme to meet the needs of gifted children and young people.
- Finalised 39 new and/or revised contracts with Attendance Service providers.

##### *Next steps*

- Complete the Highest Needs Review.
- Progress the redesign of Alternative Education provision.
- Develop and begin implementation of a strategy to address declining attendance.

#### Free access to period products in schools (Ministry of Education)

- Delivery of phase one, which focused on getting products to schools and kura as simply and as quickly as possible.
- As at the end of 2021, 1,986 schools and kura had opted into the initiative.
- In response to COVID-19 lockdowns, the initiative also distributed 40,000 packs of period products to the New Zealand Food Network to redistribute through their channels.

##### *Next steps*

- Phase Two will involve schools and kura being able to order a variety of product, request dispenser units, and access to educational resources. This will be rolled out from the start of Term 1, 2022.
- Design an evaluation of the initiative.

#### The Auckland Pacific Skills Shift (Alo Vaka) Initiative (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment)

- worked closely with delivery partners to forecast and adjust milestones, delivery approaches, timeframes and budgets to ensure the programme remained on track despite impact of COVID-19 disruptions.
- The Alo Vaka programme delivered 1,040 participants across the programme.
- two micro-credentials, with a further two submitted to NZQA for approval and piloting.
- Development of a Good Employer Matrix and Wage Strategy.
- A permanent Governance structure for the Alo Vaka programme established.

##### *Next steps*

- Ongoing monitoring and evaluation activities and quarterly reporting from delivery partners.
- draft work programmes for FY22/23 for review and approval by Oversight/Governance Groups.

#### Enabling distance learning (Ministry of Education)

- Provided 49,000 devices to schools for their students and connected more than 40,000 families to the internet during lockdowns.
- Continued provision of learning packs to schools and kura and early learning services who required them in Te Tai Tokerau, Auckland and Waikato.
- Undertook targeted engagement with the schooling sector to inform continued work on blended and distance education.

#### Next steps

- Explore options for increasing collaborative learning opportunities for schools, including considering options for expanding the roles of Te Kura, the Virtual Learning Networks and other blended education organisations.
- Focus on building the foundations for blended education, including reviewing legislative settings and the continued development of infrastructure to support schools.

#### Programmes for young people not in Education, Employment or Training (NEETS) (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kōkiri)

- Pae Aronui evaluation has demonstrated that the flexibility of this programme to enable providers to take the kaupapa Māori approach of doing 'whatever it takes' to support rangatahi; prioritising building relationships and trust and leveraging whānau, hapū, iwi and community networks has been effective for this often hard to reach group who can be inadvertently missed by mainstream services.
- Year 2 of the programme, more than 270 rangatahi were engaged of which 148 employment, 80 education and 171 training outcomes were reported.
- The Tupu Aotearoa programme continues to support Pacific people identified as NEET (not in employment, education or training) into further education, employment and training (EET).
- Tupu Aotearoa is being delivered to Pacific people across the country from Whangarei to Invercargill including two pilot initiatives in Auckland and Wellington to support Pacific people with disabilities to transition into further EET.
- Annual evaluations of the Tupu Aotearoa Programme for the financial year 2020/21 are currently being undertaken.
- Taiohi Ararau – Passport to Life is an initiative designed to support disengaged taiohi aged 15-24 years into education and employment.
- An evaluation found that the underpinning of Māori values contributed to the success of the programme. Providers developed a relational approach focused on supporting taiohi to realise their aspirations, within the context of their whānau.

#### Next steps

- An evaluation report of the Tupu Aotearoa Programme due for completion by the end of March 2022.
- Pae Aronui final evaluation of all three years of findings being produced due for completion by July 2022.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.



**Employment Strategy and action plans (Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Two Employment Action Plans have previously been released: The Youth Employment Action Plan, and the Disabled Workers Employment Action Plan.
- MBIE is continuing to coordinate across action plans including developing investment proposals as part of the Employment Strategy.
- Consultation has been completed for numerous action plans including: Pacific Employment Action Plan, Māori Employment Action Plan; Former Refugees, Recent Migrants and Ethnic Communities Employment Action Plan; Older Workers Employment Action Plan and Women's Employment Action Plan.

*Next steps*

- Work is underway with agencies on the implementation of immediate actions and the ongoing monitoring and eventual evaluation of the Māori Employment Action Plan. Women's and Older Women's Employment Action Plans are expected to be launched by mid-2022.

**Tolua - empowering Pacific participation in STEM (Ministry for Pacific People)**

- Delivered the first quarter of the Tolua in work Support programme.
- 17 candidates have been successfully placed with employers with a mix of Pacific ethnicities, with a further 48 candidates that are at varying stages of employment process for placement.
- Tolua are partnering with key Providers and Employers to provide a pathway to employment for those who are either finishing Tertiary studies in STEAM as well as summer internships to enable our Pacific Learners to 'earn while they learn' at school.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is business as usual.

# Children and Young People are Accepted, Respected and Connected

## NEW ACTIONS

### Expanding healthy relationships programmes in secondary schools. Refresh the health and physical education curricula (Accident Compensation Corporation)

- Investment in primary sexual violence prevention system includes supporting young adults to increase their skills and knowledge and targeting the social norms that support harmful behaviours. This involves:
- Strengthening healthy and consensual relationships support aligned to the national curriculum.
- Refreshing teaching and lesson resources.

#### Next steps

- The Ministry of Education will become the joint lead agency, with the Accident Compensation Corporation, on this programme.
- Develop a transition plan with Mates and Dates providers.
- Provide ongoing curriculum support for schools to provide effective relationships and sexuality education programmes.
- Refresh sections of the national curriculum for schooling to strengthen the focus on teaching and learning about healthy relationships.

### Social Cohesion work programme (Ministry of Social Development)

- The Ministry of Social Development is responsible for developing three policy products to improve social cohesion in New Zealand. To give effect to the recommendations of the Royal Inquiry into the Christchurch Terror Attack, Cabinet mandated work to:
  - Engage with communities to create a strategic framework based on a shared understanding of social cohesion focused on what unites us as people in New Zealand, while valuing diversity and taking tangible steps to become an inclusive society
  - Build on the Government's existing work programme through tangible government actions in the short, medium and long term to improve social cohesion
  - Identify how to support and enable communities, the business sector, the cultural sector, and central and local government to undertake actions to improve social cohesion in their communities, including specific ways stakeholders can contribute.
- Extensive engagement has been completed for Phase 1 (June – September 2021) and Phase 2 (September – October 2021), including targeted engagement.

#### Next steps:

- Complete engagement for Phase 3 (October 2021 – February/March 2022) and Phase 4 (January – March 2022)
- Cabinet approval for policy products in June 2022.

## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### Initiatives to prevent and respond to bullying in schools (Ministry of Education)

- Trials and analysis of new Wellbeing at School (W@S) survey items completed.
- Continued to provide Wellbeing@School school climate survey toolkit and supports.
- Completed and shared 'Our Kind of School' report.
- Delivered Bullying-Free New Zealand Week in May 2021 and published a new Bullying-Free NZ Website resource.



- Supported development and release of resources to strengthen inclusion of LGBTQIA+ learners.

*Next steps*

- Deliver bullying-Free NZ Week in May 2022.
- Support the development of a workbook for educators to support them in identifying and responding to rainbow-focused bullying.
- Undertake youth engagement to inform improved Bullying-Free NZ week initiative.

**Changes to teaching New Zealand history in schools and kura (Ministry of Education)**

- High levels of engagement for the draft Te Takanga o Te Wā (Māori history guidelines) and Aotearoa New Zealand's histories curriculum content.
- Feedback has been summarised and published.
- Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, the new content will now be taught in all schools and kura by January 2023.

*Next steps*

- The curriculum content will be made available to teachers and kaiako.
- Schools and kura can opt-into implementation planning and will have access to online resources in 2022 to support readiness.

**Review protections against the incitement of hatred (Ministry of Justice)**

- Undertook public consultation on the incitement of hatred and discrimination.

*Next steps*

- Advice on options to progress the work on the incitement of hatred and discrimination is being developed following feedback analysis.

**Government work programme to address racism and discrimination (Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice)**

- Invested in the development of a national action plan against racism, and established a team to lead the work.
- Te Hurihanganui programme is working alongside five diverse communities to test what works in practice, in order to inform system shifts in education. Early discussions are underway with a sixth community.
- Established a Design Team and released literature review to progress the shift away from streaming towards more inclusive and equitable education.
- Implemented an ongoing pilot of the Challenging Racism toolkit for year 9 and 10 students.
- Trailing three social and emotional learning programmes in early learning settings.
- Rolled out Community Learning Hubs in Auckland and Wellington – set up to support ethnic communities' engagement with the education system.
- Included "cultural capability" as a new priority for Professional Learning and Development for teachers and kaiako.
- Passed the Conversion Practices Prohibition Legislation Bill.

*Next steps*

- Continue Te Hurihanganui work to engage and fund communities to drive sustainable change for themselves.
- Develop a blueprint for ending streaming.
- Continue the trialling of three social and emotional learning programmes.
- Seek Cabinet agreement to the approach and process for developing the action plan
- Begin and complete first phase of public engagement.

#### Action Plan for Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)

- Cabinet approved four rescoped focus areas for the Pacific Wellbeing Strategy.
- These areas have been rescoped and targeted consultation has taken place on the draft Strategy focus areas.

##### Next steps

- Targeted engagement on a draft strategy.
- Seek SWC approval on Draft Strategy.

#### Pacific language support (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)

- The Pacific Languages Innovation Fund Pilot has supported 520 Pacific language-based initiatives (\$3.1m).
- The Ministry for Pacific Peoples supported the delivery of 9 Pacific Language Weeks from May to October 2021.
- The Strategy was released for public consultation in October 2021.

##### Next steps

- Complete the Community Action Plan and All-of-Government Action Plan by end of 2022.
- Launch summary findings from Leo Moana o Aotearoa Survey in July 2022.
- Refresh and strengthen approach to Pacific Language Weeks.

#### Participation of Youth Justice Victims in Family Group Conferences (FGCs) (Oranga Tamariki)

- Established and implemented a victim reimbursement scheme to financially compensate participation costs for victims attending FGCs. This scheme is provided in addition to other expense reimbursement processes already available to victims.
- Established a one-year trial utilising Victim Support in partnership with iwi, which tests the use of independent 'navigators' to guide victims through the FGC process.
- Developed a joint working group to address areas of improvement to better support sexual violence victims throughout the Youth Justice System, but specifically FGCs.
- Commissioned and published an evidence brief to explore the issues and need for support of child victims of sexual abuse. This information will be incorporated into the Oranga Tamariki and Police sexual violence work programme.

##### Next steps

- Complete the Victim Support Trial in June 2022, and undertake external evaluation prior to any potential continuation or expansion.

#### Implement Section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989 (Oranga Tamariki)

- Nine strategic partnership agreements have been signed.
- Refreshed agreement with Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.
- Funded Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu to deliver a Whānau as First Navigators programme, which aims to reduce the number of tamariki and rangatahi Māori entering the Oranga Tamariki system

##### Next steps

- Continue to work with current strategic partners and consider any new requests for partnership.
- There are likely to be more refreshed Strategic Partnerships, Whānau Care and Intensive Response agreements in 2022.
- Continue to uphold Oranga Tamariki's commitment to empower and provide flexibility for iwi, Māori and communities.



- The shift of Oranga Tamariki to be "locally-led, regionally-enabled, centrally-supported" will support partnerships and relationships focused on solutions for children and whānau in need. Oranga Tamariki will continue to uphold its commitment to empower and provide flexibility for iwi, Māori and communities to lead and make decisions and develop 'by Māori, for Māori' approaches.
- Publish the s7AA report, which was delayed due to COVID-19 and to allow Te Kahu Aroha and the Future Direction Plan to be incorporated.
- Seven new mana tamaiti measures were identified for 2021 and further new measures are being considered for 2022.

#### Implement Maihi Karauna - the Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation (Te Puni Kōkiri)

- Developed an updated implementation plan which was agreed by Te Papa Kōrero (the governance oversight Chief Executives' group).
- Completed a quantitative predictive model (He Ara Poutama) that will inform and assist with planning decisions for te reo Māori revitalisation.
- Completed 30 of the 32 Māori language plans for core public service agencies.
- Commenced Te Ture mō te Reo Māori 2016 (Māori Language Act 2016) review.
- Completed the Māori media business case.

#### *Next steps*

- Publish the 2021 Māori Karauna indicators monitoring report in early 2022.
- Completion of the Maihi Karauna and Te Whare o te Reo Mauri Ora formative evaluation.
- Confirm agreed set of priorities for Te Whare o te Reo Mauri Ora.

# Children and Young People are Involved and Empowered

## NEW ACTIONS

### **Develop the Oranga Whakapapa programme (Accident Compensation Corporation)**

- Co- designed approaches for tamariki rangatahi and whānau to know about mana-enhancing and tapu-enriched relationships to support healthy, consensual relationships.
- This will include a clear understanding of the mātauranga on what a positive tangata whenua relationship is, including the enablers for whānau and the design of locally led approaches to enable oranga whakapapa.

#### *Next steps*

- Undertake co-design process with whānau, hapu and communities.

### **Tools to support healthy, consensual relationships for young people (Accident Compensation Corporation)**

- A 'primary prevention toolkit' for communities that focuses on healthy relationships for people of all ages.

#### *Next steps*

- The toolkit will be made available for communities and align with the refresh of the New Zealand curricula.

### **Pilot Group Violence Programme for Young Men (Under 25) Delivered within the Special Treatment Unit at Rimutaka Prison (Ara Poutama)**

- This pilot is designed to develop an intensive group treatment option for young men aged under 25 years who are imprisoned for serious violence.
- The pilot recognises the need to provide better therapy options for young men who often return quickly to prison after release and who, due to behavioural problems, remain untreated in higher security settings.

#### *Next steps*

- The pilot will run from March - October 2022.
- An evaluation of the pilot is expected to be completed in December 2022.

### **A Bit Sus (Department of Internal Affairs)**

- With funding from the National Library, the School Library Association of New Zealand Aotearoa (SLANZA) has partnered with Tohatoha to deliver the 'A Bit Sus' campaign, which aims to build students resilience to misinformation and help build the library sector's capabilities in countering misinformation.
- The campaign is accompanied by a professional development programme for school librarians, followed by event at each school.
- Tohatoha continue working with expert reviewers to keep the programme in line with the latest evidence about misinformation interventions.

#### *Next steps*

- Discussion with SLANZA and Tohatoha is planned to identify options to continue delivery once funding ends in June 2022.



## PROGRESS UPDATES FROM JANUARY TO DECEMBER 2021 – ACTIONS IN TRAIN

### **Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata initiative: Whānau Ora support for Māori in the corrections system (Ara Poutama, Ministry of Social Development, Te Puni Kōkiri)**

- A new Kaiarataki Navigator workforce has been established, in partnership with iwi and local providers, to better support whānau engaged with the corrections system.
- New approaches developed, in partnership with Māori, to underpin the operating models at Hawke's Bay Regional Prison and Northland Regional Corrections Facility that include whānau-centred practices that support Whānau Ora outcomes.
- A new Integrated Service Case Management workforce has been established in Hawke's Bay and Northland, informed by the voices and lived experiences of whānau, to work in a whānau-centred way.

#### *Next steps*

- Work alongside local Māori communities to further explore embedding Whānau Ora and whānau-centred approaches across the corrections system.
- A progress evaluation of Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata will be undertaken in the second half of 2022.

### **Increased services for children and young people with concerning/harmful sexual behaviours (Family Violence Sexual Violence, Oranga Tamariki)**

- The Early Support pilot workshops for professionals commenced in Mid and South Canterbury.
- Delivery approaches for three other small geographical areas are being developed (Bay of Plenty, Te Tai Tokerau, and West Coast).

#### *Next steps*

- The Early Support Pilot workshops for teachers at Mid-South Canterbury will run from Term one-three in 2022.
- Learnings from Te Tai Tokerau community responses to rangatahi experiences of sexual harm will be leveraged to further develop services.
- Sexual Harm Scoping document will contribute to formulating decisions and discussions in the Midlands region (Waikato/Bay of Plenty).
- Discussions are in progress to establish a crisis peer support group for rangatahi on the West Coast.

### **Kau Tuli (Ministry for Pacific Peoples Youth Advisory Group) (Ministry for Pacific Peoples)**

- Kau Tuli contributed advice to the Pacific Wellbeing Strategy and the Pacific Language Strategy.
- During COVID-19, Kau Tuli members supported the MPP's Pacific COVID-19 communications and engagements.
- Kau Tuli Innovators of Influence Advisory Group being evaluated, with the data collection phase completed.
- Final report to be completed.

*Status:* As of 31 December 2021, this action is finished.

#### **Build independent oversight of Oranga Tamariki system and children's issues (Ministry of Social Development)**

- The Bill was introduced on 8 November 2021 and passed its first reading on 16 November 2021.

##### *Next steps*

- Officials are giving the initial briefing and departmental report in March 2022.
- The Bill is expected to pass its third reading by the end of the year.

#### **Build public service competency and capability in children's rights (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Work with an external provider and stakeholders to build a children's rights training hub, including an updated child impact assessment tool.

##### *Next steps*

- testing with external stakeholders and aim to launch in April 2022.
- Developing implementation plan.

#### **Implement the Child Impact Assessment Tool across government (Ministry of Social Development)**

- The Child Impact Assessment Tool (CIAT) has been reviewed/refreshed, and integrated into the children's rights training hub – see action item above.

##### *Next steps*

- Refreshed CIAT will be launched in 2022, along with the training hub.

#### **Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey – WhatAboutMe? (Ministry of Social Development)**

- Data collection paused due to level 3 and 4 COVID-19 restrictions.
- Further action since July 2021 the associate Minister for Social Development and Employment directed that the fieldwork continued until the end of November 2021.

##### *Next steps*

- Survey report are due to be completed by March 2022.
- Data will be publicly available in April 2022.

#### **Youth Plan (Ministry of Youth Development)**

- Progress report on the Youth Plan actions was included in the reports to Child and Youth Wellbeing Ministers.
- A Measurement framework has been developed, to establish benchmark data on youth outcomes.

##### *Next Steps*

- All actions in the Youth Plan are completed or on track for delivery by June 2022.
- The Youth Plan review is likely to be completed in 2022 or by early 2023.

#### **Youth Voice Project (Ministry of Youth Development)**

- Hivers worked with government agencies to engage with young people on climate change, emissions, and housing.
- 192,000 people were reached by the Hive Youth Climate Change engagement campaign (targeting the 13 to 24 age group).

##### *Next steps*

- A new group of Hivers will be recruited by April 2022.
- The Hive's 2022 engagement priorities and work programme will be designed collaboratively by the Hivers, Hive Steering Group and Ministry of Youth Development.



#### Investment in community-based youth justice facilities (Oranga Tamariki)

In the new Youth Justice Community Homes Programme:

- Partnerships with mana whenua have been formed in five Phase 1 locations.
- The development of the phase 1 homes has progressed despite the challenges and demands of COVID-19.
- The whenua search is well advanced in three locations (with acquisition plans underway).
- Land use consent applications are being drafted for three locations and initial insights have been gathered from kaimahi, whānau and rangatahi by one of Oranga Tamariki's partners in one location.

In the Community Based Remand/Bail Homes:

- An additional nine community remand placements provided by NGO and Iwi Social Services were made available across the Tauranga, Waikato and Tairāwhiti regions.

*Next steps*

- Complete acquisition work, consent applications and service design work for the new Youth Justice Community Homes.
- Continue engagement with iwi for the delivery of a Canterbury Youth Justice remand/bail home.
- Complete evaluation of Oranga Tamariki community remand home services, with a final report available by 30 June 2022.

# Alignment with the Strategy

## Central government alignment

Using all the levers available to government to improve child wellbeing, and to address the barriers that our tamariki and rangatahi continue to face, requires collective effort by government agencies in the way they plan, prioritise and carry out their day-to-day work.

When Cabinet endorsed the Strategy in 2019, it set the expectation that the Strategy would drive decision-making and alignment for child and youth wellbeing across all agencies working in this area. This expectation was confirmed in July 2021, when social sector agency chief executives reported to Ministers that they had identified opportunities to collectively advance their contribution to the wellbeing outcomes of the Strategy in the seven areas set out below.

Progress and highlights in 2021 include:

### *Regional structures to support child and youth wellbeing*

- Regional Public Service Commissioners and their advisors have engaged in opportunities to support and advance the Strategy, with many regions advancing regional priorities focussed on child wellbeing (e.g. the first 1,000 days) or related areas such as family safety.

### *Commissioning of services*

- The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) and Oranga Tamariki are leading cross-government work to implement a relational approach to commissioning services delivered by non-government organisations to better support individual, whānau and community wellbeing. This system approach is aligned with the Strategy's wellbeing outcomes and principles.
- A number of agencies report good progress in implementing a relational approach – these includes the Accident Compensation Corporation (ACC) and Oranga Tamariki (the latter through partnering more closely with Māori and communities).
- Te Puni Kōkiri is continuing to expand whānau centred approaches and Whānau Ora, providing initiatives and commissioning approaches that look to enhance the wellbeing of whānau, and through this, tamariki and rangatahi.

### *Enhancement of SmartStart*

- SmartStart is an online platform that allows new parents to register the birth of their baby, register for BestStart, apply for an IRD number, update their Work & Income information, and access a range of parenting information and supports for children aged 0-6 years. A roadmap of enhancements for the next five years has been developed to help provide more holistic and comprehensive information and support.

### *Learning and development*

- MSD is developing an online child's rights and wellbeing training module and an update of the Child Impact Assessment tool, which includes aligning the tool to the Strategy, to be launched in 2022.
- The Policy Project, hosted by DPMC, has produced a report on the impact of engagement on the development and implementation of the Strategy and related initiatives, to demonstrate the value of involving child and youth perspectives in policy development.



- Oranga Tamariki has held training sessions for staff on the Strategy and the Child Wellbeing model, which is built around the Strategy outcomes.
- ACC has commissioned work to better understand culturally-empowering forms of play for child development, and how to action critical system shifts for equity and to support indigenous knowledge.
- In partnership with The Workshop, the Child Wellbeing Unit facilitated a two-day wānanga in March 2021 with sector experts and educators, to deepen understanding of child brain development, including drawing on traditional Māori and Pasifika knowledge bases.

#### *Corporate documentation*

- A small number of agencies, such as MSD, the Ministry of Education and Oranga Tamariki, have articulated their contribution to the Strategy in annual reports and statements of intent.

#### *Budget and funding processes*

- Through the annual Budget process, agencies have been invited to show where proposed initiatives will reduce child poverty and improve child and youth wellbeing.
- Te Manatū Waka is including children and young people's voices in the Generational Investment Approach it is leading across the transport sector.

#### *Indicators and measures*

- Three of the indicators that Te Manatū Waka uses to monitor the performance of the transport system have a direct focus on child and youth wellbeing – there are also indicators that indirectly measure transport's contribution to child wellbeing (such as household spending on transport).
- Te Puni Kōkiri monitors and reports on a set of indicators to social sector chief executives on a regular basis, with a focus on wellbeing outcomes relevant to tamariki Māori.

### **Collective action beyond central government**

The Strategy aims to galvanise efforts and build momentum to improve child and youth wellbeing, and mobilise collective action. Examples of activity underway to activate the Strategy in communities during this period are highlighted below.

#### *Charities / iwi / philanthropy organisations*

- Led by the Child Wellbeing Unit, collaborative work is underway with key stakeholders to strengthen alignment between the Strategy Framework and child wellbeing needs and aspirations in the regions. This includes working alongside the Taranaki Public Service Regional Commissioner, the TOI Foundation, iwi and other key stakeholders, to improve wellbeing and equity of access to services for hapū Māmā and infants and toddlers (and their whānau) in Taranaki. This has led to increased support for the hapū wananga antenatal support for whānau, and to develop a locally-led, holistic whānau-centred system. Collective approaches are being developed in other regions, but progress has slowed due to COVID-19 demands on regional staff and resources.

- The Strategy has been used by several NGOs and philanthropy organisations as a basis for their work to support children and young people – examples include St John, TSB Community Trust and Inspiring Communities.
- Several charities are involved in delivering programmes – for example, Te Whare Maire o Tapuwae Charitable Trust is working with the Ministry of Health to deliver health services.

#### *Local government*

- The Child Wellbeing Unit has been working closely with Taituarā to support council staff to consider the perspectives and wellbeing of children, young people and their families. Councils have also been involved in co-designing guidance, and have shared resources, initiatives, plans and policies specifically focussed on supporting child and youth wellbeing, and showcased examples of how this is already being done.
  - Wellington City Council's finalised its Strategy for Children and Young People, based on the six wellbeing outcomes set out in the government's Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy. These outcomes informed its engagement with young Wellingtonians.
  - Napier City Council undertook initial engagement, including with children and young people, to get their big picture ideas about what a good life in Napier might be like. This, and further upcoming engagement activities, will inform the development of its own child and youth wellbeing strategy.
  - Te Aka Mauri, in Rotorua City, brings together the Library as a community facility with the Children's Health Unit. Other initiatives linked to its Strategy help bring the child and youth wellbeing framework to life.
  - Dunedin Council ran an Ōtepoti Youth Vision Hui in May 2021, which focussed on Youth-friendly spaces in the city. These Hui are held every six months to monitor and inform its 'Ōtepoti Youth Vision' which was launched in 2019.