

Child Advocates to Support Children in Women’s Refuge

Supporting children impacted by family violence to articulate their own needs for support and healing

Wellbeing Budget 2023

This initiative will continue to provide specialist, child-focused support to children who have experienced family violence.

The Government is investing \$5.997 million over four years to continue funding the Child Advocates programme, which supports children in eight Women’s Refuge sites across Aotearoa New Zealand.

- Children have significant exposure to family violence, causing lifelong impacts into adulthood and across generations.
- Women’s Refuge, Aotearoa’s largest family violence response service, offers a real opportunity to provide early intervention for children, which can help to disrupt the intergenerational cycle of violence.
- This initiative ensures that the eight existing Women’s Refuge sites with Child Advocates can continue to deliver the programme, with evaluation in the first two years to determine its effectiveness.
- This initiative is part of a whole-of-government Te Puna Aonui package of \$73.480 million over four years to fill key gaps and improve outcomes for family violence and sexual violence services.
- This initiative supports the delivery of the following Te Aorerekura actions:
 - Action 14: Build the specialist workforces for children
 - Action 29: Develop a plan to fill the service gaps for family violence.
- The outcomes for children accessing the Child Advocates programme include:
 - timely specialist support in response to family violence related trauma
 - increased levels of personal and community safety
 - a positive experience of seeking family violence support, increasing the chances of seeking help if required in the future.

Costs (\$m, operating)	2022/23	2023/24	2024/25	2025/26	2026/27	TOTAL
	-	1.614	1.611	1.386	1.386	5.997