

High level summary and assessment of the Government actions in response to the UNCRC recommendations

In 2023, the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child issued 94 recommendations following New Zealand's 2023 examination. These recommendations cover several ministerial portfolio responsibilities and their associated agencies and require a coordinated, cross-agency response. MSD is the coordinating agency for the UNCRC.

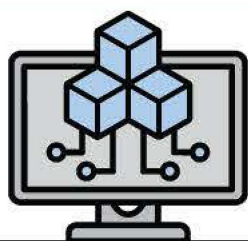
A cross-agency exercise has been undertaken to identify and map current government activity against the UNCRC recommendations.

We have assessed the current Government response to each recommendation using the following criteria:

- Proposed actions progress the full intent of the recommendation
- Proposed actions partially progress the recommendation
- Recommendation is appropriately addressed by existing operational practices
- Recommendations that are not being progressed currently

As part of the Government response, we propose that actions that respond to the UNCRC recommendations are published on the Human Rights Monitor tool, a transparent public platform designed to track progress against international human rights commitments: <https://humanrights.govt.nz/>

The UNCRC recommendations are grouped below under five overarching categories, alongside an assessment of the current Government response and the lead agencies responsible.



Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship

17 total recs

Recommendations that cover the core machinery of government required to deliver children's rights, including legal frameworks, coordination, monitoring, resourcing, and system accountability.

These recommendations focus on:

- Legal incorporation & international commitments (embedding UNCRC, removing reservations)
- System leadership & coordination (whole-of-government alignment)
- Monitoring, accountability & complaints mechanisms
- Data, evidence & reporting systems
- Resourcing & budgeting



Agencies

Corrections, MBIE, MOJ, MPP, MSD, NZ Police, Oranga Tamariki, SIA, Stats NZ, Treasury

Rec numbers:

5, 6, 7a-b, 9, 10a-c, 11, 12a-d, 46, 47, 48, 49
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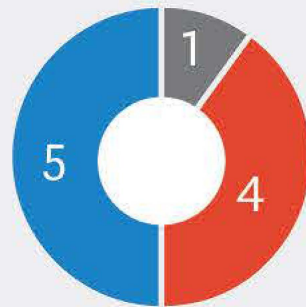
Child-Centred Policy, Participation and Rights Application

10 total recs

Recommendations related to ensuring policy and decision-making are consistently child-centred, uphold rights, and enable children to actively participate and be heard.

These recommendations focus on:

- Child participation and voice
- Best interests and decision-making frameworks
- Mainstreaming child rights in policy tools and processes
- Access to justice and remedies



Agencies

MoE, MoJ, MSD, MYD, Oranga Tamariki

Rec numbers:

8a-c, 17, 19a-e, 20



Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation

27 total recs

Recommendations related to protecting children from violence, abuse, exploitation, harmful practices, and unsafe systems, including justice and digital harms.

These recommendations focus on:

- Violence prevention and response systems
- Online safety and harmful content
- Justice system protections
- Harmful practices (e.g., child marriage, intersex procedures)
- Labour exploitation and commercial harms
- Business responsibilities



Agencies

ACC, Corrections, Customs, DIA, MBIE, MoE, MoH, MoJ, MSD, NZ Police, NZDF, Oranga Tamariki

Rec numbers:

13a-c, 14, 22, 24a-e, 25a-c, 41a-c, 43a-e, 44a-d, 45a-b



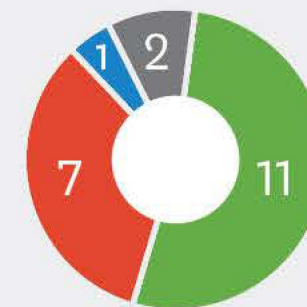
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups

21 total recs

Recommendations related to addressing structural disadvantage and inequities and ensuring better outcomes for groups experiencing poorer outcomes (e.g. Māori, Pasifika, disabled children, and those in care).

These recommendations focus on:

- Non-discrimination and systemic inequities
- Indigenous (Māori) rights and outcomes
- Disability rights and inclusion
- Children in care and family environments
- Refugee, migrant, and minority children



Agencies

MBIE, Ministry of Disabled People, MoE, MoH, MoJ, MSD, Oranga Tamariki, Stats NZ, TPK

Rec numbers:

16, 26, 28a-g, 29, 31a-f, 38, 40a-c



Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions

19 total recs

Recommendations related to children's holistic wellbeing and development, including health, education, housing, environment, and material living standards.

These recommendations focus on:

- Physical and mental health
- Education and development
- Poverty and material wellbeing
- Family supports and early life conditions
- Climate and future wellbeing



Agencies

MCERT, MoE, MoH, MoJ, MSD, Oranga Tamariki, Stats NZ, Treasury

Rec numbers:

18a-b, 21a-c, 32a-c, 33a-b, 34, 36a-c, 37a-e