

Appendix 2: UNCRC actions that progress the full intent of the recommendation

NB: The combined appendices contain all recommendations made by the Committee. Although the numbering does not run consecutively, this reflects the fact that some paragraphs included only general comments and did not contain specific recommendations. Please note these are actions provided by agencies as at the 25 June 2026.

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Overarching Categories	Recommendation	Leadership	Response
Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship	6 Withdraw Reservations to article 32(2) of the Convention.	MBIE	Action: Make continued and sustained efforts to ratify the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Fundamental Conventions, including Convention No. 138. Comment: New Zealand has an obligation, under the New Zealand-European Union Free Trade Agreement to make “continued and sustained efforts” to ratify all the ILO Fundamental Conventions that it has not yet ratified, including Convention No. 138. ILO Convention No. 138 sets out the standards for a minimum age of entry to work.
Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship	11 Strengthening its data collection system under its data investment plan to cover all ahead of the Convention and its Optional Protocols. Disaggregate the data to facilitate analysis of the situation of all children in New Zealand, particularly those in situations of vulnerability.	Statistics New Zealand	Action: Statistics New Zealand are currently undergoing modernisation of statistical production systems. This will contribute to strengthened State data about children in New Zealand including adoption of mandated standards for date of birth, name, street address, gender and sex, and targeted application of standards for ethnicity, iwi affiliation and Māori descent. Comment: The Integrated Data Infrastructure (IDI) hosted by Stats NZ is already delivering valuable insights about factors that impact on the wellbeing of children, contributing to child welfare policy development. In terms of the coverage aspect of data collection, Statistics New Zealand does not survey children/young people under the age of 15 years while the IDI includes coverage for all age groups.
Governance, Accountability and System Stewardship	12 a) Ensure the Children and Young Peoples Commission has sufficient resources to monitor the implementation of the Convention and its Optional Protocols; has a mandate to receive, investigate and process complaints from children or concerned individuals or organisations and that its independence is guaranteed, ensuring that its mandate can be fulfilled autonomously in full compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.	MSD	Action: The Government has increased baseline funding for Mana Mokopuna – the Children’s Commissioner from \$3.157m to \$8.216m from 2025/26 to ensure they can carry out its statutory monitoring responsibilities under the Children’s Commissioner Act 2022 and the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act 2022. The Commissioner continues to meet Optional Protocol on the Convention Against Torture related performance measures and reports quarterly on monitoring activity. Comment: An independent statutory review examined the effectiveness of the monitoring and oversight of the children’s system, including the Children and Young People’s Commission Act (now known as Children’s Commissioner Act 2022) and the Oversight of Oranga Tamariki System Act Independent statutory review of the oversight of the Oranga Tamariki system MartinJenkins.
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	18 a) Integrate into the suicide prevention strategy (2019-2029) and the suicide action plan (2019-2024) specific measures targeting Māori, Pasifika children and boys and ensure that they consider interconnected root causes such as poverty, economic deprivation and inequality, homelessness, mental distress, bullying and discrimination, substance addiction, family violence and abuse and intergenerational trauma.	MoH	Action: The Suicide Prevention Action Plan 2025-2029 was published by the Minister for Mental Health in June 2025. It sets out 21 Health agency-led actions and 13 cross-agency actions that will be undertaken from 2025 to 2029 to prevent suicide. It builds on the current suicide prevention Every Life Matters Strategy and ongoing initiatives from the 2019–2024 action plan, including targeted initiatives for groups most in need, such as Māori youth, and rural populations.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	24 b) To allocate adequate resources to the action plan (2021-2023) for the national strategy to eliminate family violence and sexual violence and to future action plans to strengthen the multidisciplinary and multisectoral response, including cooperation between relevant service providers in addressing all cases of violence against children.	Oranga Tamariki	Action: The Te Aorerekura Action Plan 2025-2030 focus area ‘Keeping People Safe’ includes actions to improve effectiveness of multi-agency responses to Family Violence. In 2026, time-limited government funding was provided to support implementation of a new multi-agency response operating model at four test localities for safer, more connected responses for families and children at highest risk of violence. Action: The Executive Board for the Elimination of Family Violence and Sexual Violence (Executive Board) is developing a joint family violence and sexual violence Investment Strategy as an organising framework for joint action and has identified initial opportunities to improve investment. Action: For each focus area of the Te Aorerekura Action Plan, a detailed Investment Plan will be developed, the first one being for Multi-Agency Responses to Family Violence in 2026. Comment: The Executive Board brings together relevant chief executives of departments that hold the levers, services and policy settings needed to eliminate family violence and sexual violence. These chief executives operate as a board,

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			making decisions together and setting priorities across the system. They are supported by a business unit that coordinates collaborative activity, called the Centre for Family Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	24 c) Ensure and promote the mandatory reporting of cases of violence against children, through intensified awareness-raising among children, parents and professionals working with or for children about its forms and negative impacts. Also raise awareness of how to identify victims and how to access assistance, protection and support.	Oranga Tamariki MSD	Action: Recommendations from the Dame Karen Poutasi review have been accepted by the Government. There is ongoing work to implement these recommendations. Comment: Information about the Dame Karen Poutasi review is available at: https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/child-wellbeing-and-poverty-reduction/integrated-government-response-to-the-poutasi-review.html
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	25 a) Strengthen measure to raise awareness of the harmful effects child marriage on the physical wellbeing and mental health of girls.	Oranga Tamariki	Action: Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children, New Zealand Police and the Ministry of Health will complete final sign-out of the updated Child Protection Protocol which now includes Child marriage and Female Genital Mutilation (FGM). These are known to expose children to abuse and long-term harm. Comment: Forced marriage is illegal in New Zealand under the Family Violence (Amendments) Act 2018, which came into force in 2019 to protect people (especially women and children) from coerced or forced marriage. Action: The International Child Protection Unit provides advice and assistance to front line staff when a case involving FGM is being managed. Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children works with related agencies (including NZ Police) to ensure the welfare and best interests of children are upheld when responding to FGM related concerns for children.
Protection from Harm, Violence and Exploitation	25 c) Ensure that all intersex children, adolescents and their families have access to community-based psychosocial and peer support.	MoH	Action: Work with providers to design, develop and deliver guidelines, training, peer and psychosocial support and information resources for intersex children and young people by June 2027.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	28 a) Strongly invest in measures developed and implemented by Māori children and communities to prevent their placement in out of home care, limit removal, when it is deemed necessary, to the shortest time possible, provide them with adequate support while in alternative care, including access to mental health and therapeutic services and facilitate reintegration into their families and communities.	Oranga Tamariki	Action: As set out in the Oranga Tamariki Strategic Intentions 2024–2030, Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children will continue to invest in Māori-led, community-driven approaches that prevent tamariki Māori entering care, support them while in care, and enable safe reintegration with whānau. Through the Enabling Communities programmes, Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children is investing in iwi and Māori-led prototypes to shift resources and decision-making closer to tamariki and their communities. Comment: This work is being strengthened through Treaty-aligned partnerships, including 10 existing Strategic Partnership Agreements and development of a refreshed Partnership Framework. Further partnership development and investment is underway.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	28 b) Prevent and reduce the number of children removed from their family environment by providing appropriate assistance and support services to parents and caregivers in the performance of child-rearing responsibilities, including through education, counselling and community-based programmes for parents.	Oranga Tamariki MSD	Action: Progress toward Recommendation 28(b) is being supported through broader system initiatives, including the Oranga Tamariki System Action Plan. It is also being supported through Delivery of Priority #7 in the Oranga Tamariki Strategic Intentions 2024 – 2029 which is focused on supporting caregivers and partner-led care responses, so that caregivers can provide safe and loving homes for children where they can heal, belong, and be themselves. Action: The Orphan's Benefit (OB) and Unsupported Child's Benefit (UCB) are available for the care of children who are not in State care, but who cannot be cared for by their parents due to death, incapacitation or family breakdown. Comment: Services provided to children supported by UCB/OB caregivers are the responsibility of the whole children's system. These supports are an important mechanism enabling extended whānau to care for children who cannot live with their parents, helping to prevent entry into state care. Action: Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children, in partnership with Ministry of Social Development Disability Support Services and other agencies, is progressing work to identify and test early intervention approaches to reduce the number of disabled children and young people unnecessarily entering care and progressing to out-of-home staffed arrangements. This includes work on: • strengthening supports for disabled children, young people, and their families • expanding flexible respite options • improving access to community-based services. This project recognises many families caring for children with disabilities experience burnout and crisis points, and further

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				supports and services are needed to help keep that child safely at home. This project's initiatives aim to reduce unnecessary statutory involvement by addressing needs earlier in a whānau-centred and rights-based way.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	28 d)	Ensure that the need for the placement of each child in out-of-home care is always assessed by competent, multidisciplinary teams of professionals and is regularly reviewed, and that children and their families participate in decision-making in order to guarantee an individualised, culturally and community-sensitive approach.	Oranga Tamariki	Action: Oranga Tamariki has practice policies and guidance that address this recommendation. Oranga Tamariki provides Oranga Tamariki Care and Protection Family Group Conferences which involve whānau and professionals working together to address concerns and agree on a plan for a child or young person. They enable children and their families to participate in decision-making in order to guarantee an individualised, culturally and community-sensitive approach. Comment: Practices and policies include provisional approval requirements, the caregiver and adoption assessment framework, and guidance for working with children and young people who move placements or are placed in provider placements, supervised group homes and residences. Oranga Tamariki will continue to monitor the consistent application and effectiveness of these policies.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	28 e)	Ensure adequate human, technical and financial resources and continuous capacity-building for those exercising responsibilities under the Oranga Tamariki legislation on upholding children's rights, in particular staff members and caregivers of State-run institutions, family homes and foster placements.	Oranga Tamariki	Action: Continue to strengthen the capability and resourcing of those responsible for upholding children's rights under the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989. Comment: This includes improved workforce planning and recruitment to ensure adequate staffing across social work, youth justice, residential care and caregiver support functions, expanded mandatory training on children's rights, trauma-informed practice, cultural competence and safe-care responsibilities, and a refreshed Caregiver Learning Pathway for all caregivers. These improvements are supported by upgraded digital tools, case management systems, and sustained investment in training and caregiver support. A Foundational Learning Resource is also being developed to improve kaimahi capacity, competency and capability in supporting disabled tamariki, rangatahi, disabled parents and their whānau and caregivers through: learning and understanding of disability, how systems and environments are disabling, and how kaimahi can support the removal of those disabling barriers.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	28 f)	Facilitate children's access to the residential complaints process to report instances of harm, neglect, abuse and violence, and implement measures to combat retaliation.	Oranga Tamariki MSD	Action: In 2025, Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children delivered a range of resources and processes to support young people in residences to know their rights, provide feedback, make a suggestion or submit a complaint in ways that work for them. The aim of these resources and processes is to: • improve availability of easy-to-understand information about rights, decision making, and how to raise a grievance • build an environment that normalises and encourages feedback, agency, and participation in continuous improvement • increase access to advocates and trusted adults • provide alternative pathways to resolving grievances, enabling early response and/or resolution. Action: To reduce retaliation risks, protections are built into the model via independent oversight, confidentiality, and the ability to escalate complaints directly to external bodies like the Children's Commissioner and Ombudsman.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	28 g)	Systematically collect data on the views of children in and out of care on their education, health and well-being, in order to address the context that allows neglect, abuse and the mistreatment of children in out-of-home care to occur.	Oranga Tamariki	Action: Continue to strengthen the systematic collection of data on the views and wellbeing of tamariki and rangatahi in care. Comment: Through the Oranga Tamariki System Action Plan, Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children and Health NZ are developing an Information Sharing Agreement to improve visibility of health needs and support monitoring of the National Care Standards. Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children also gathers regular insights through Te Tohu o te Ora, reporting from VOYCE – Whakarongo Mai, and participation in national wellbeing surveys, including the Youth Mental Health and Wellbeing Survey and the Mental Health Survey 2026.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	31	Strengthen the integration of a human rights-based approach to disability in its implementation of the New Zealand disability strategy 2016–2026.	The Ministry of Disabled People	Action: The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026–2030, released in December 2025, is grounded in human rights frameworks, including the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) and broader international human rights commitments.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	31 a)	Take measures to reduce poverty among families of children with disabilities, including by strengthening community-based support and care services provided to	MSD Oranga Tamariki	Action: Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children, in partnership with Ministry of Social Development Disability Support Services and other agencies, is progressing work to identify and test early intervention approaches to reduce the number of disabled children and young people entering care and progressing to out-of-home staffed arrangements unnecessarily.

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Groups	these children and their Families, prioritising those from low-income households, including carer support and respite care for parents of children with disabilities, and providing access to affordable quality housing.		Comment: This work includes: - strengthening supports for disabled children, young people, and their families - expanding flexible respite options - improving access to community-based services. This project recognises that many families caring for children with disabilities experience burnout and crisis points, and further supports and services are needed to help keep that child safely at home. These initiatives aim to reduce unnecessary statutory involvement by addressing needs earlier in a whānau-centred and rights-based way. This work also aligns with the Child and Youth Strategy and the Oranga Tamariki Action Plan, which prioritises ensuring children and young people have the resources and support they need, particularly those in low-income households. Comment: The refreshed New Zealand Disability Strategy (NZDS) sets out an updated vision and principles to guide government actions affecting disabled people. This strategy identifies priority areas (education, employment, health, housing, and justice) and includes associated goals and actions to be implemented over the next five years. The refresh of the NZDS provides an opportunity for all agencies to further embed rights-based approaches for disabled people, including disabled tamariki and rangatahi. Action: Disability Support Services (DSS) is responsible for delivering support services that enable disabled people to live their everyday life. Work is underway to improve the system's fairness, consistency, transparency and sustainability. This includes establishing a legislative foundation for DSS, as well as the development of a Carers' Support Package. Comment: The DSS Taskforce (a business unit of MSD) was established to action recommendations of a 2024 independent review into the delivery of DSS aimed at stabilising and strengthening DSS and the supports DSS provides. All of the recommendations have been implemented, and the focus is on now progressing key actions to further strengthen the system. This work includes the introduction of the Disability Support Services Bill in May 2026 to create a legal foundation for DSS that will, if enacted, provide further clarity and stability to the DSS system. Alongside the legislation is the development of a Support Package for Carers which will review the sustainability of the system of supports available to carers to ensure that policy settings and funding levels are appropriate. This will consider both financial and practical supports (e.g., respite care). A public consultation in mid-2026 is also asking the disability community what further changes DSS could make to improve the services it provides to users and how it supports carers.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	31 b) Strengthen awareness-raising campaigns to combat the stigmatisation and marginalisation of all children with disabilities, including those with physical, intellectual or psychosocial disabilities, emphasising zero tolerance for all acts of violence and abuse against children with disabilities and promoting the use of child-friendly reporting mechanisms for violations	MSD Oranga Tamariki The Ministry of Disabled People	Action: Resources are being developed alongside the Oranga Tamariki Disability Strategy to build competence in supporting disabled children and to reinforce zero tolerance for violence and abuse. This work aligns with Te Aorerekura and supports wider government efforts to promote safe, child-friendly pathways for reporting concerns. Comment: Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children's Disability Strategy is grounded in a rights-based approach and includes a focus on building capability to work effectively with disabled children and their whānau. Resources for staff, caregivers and communities aim to reduce stigma and strengthen understanding of disability. This work complements cross-government initiatives under Te Aorerekura to prevent violence and promote safe reporting mechanisms for disabled children. Comment: the New Zealand Disability Strategy has a focus on ensuring that all disabled people, including disabled children and young people are safeguarded from abuse, neglect and violence.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	31 c) Promote the acquisition of competencies and skills by children and youth with disabilities in order to enhance their work opportunities, including by taking concrete action to address the reasons behind their non-completion of schooling and facilitating their transition from school to employment, by expanding and improving the quality of vocational education and training for children and youth	MoE	Refer to 37 (b) – Relevant sections of the Education and Training Act 2020 Action: Continue to implement the New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030, which has a focus on ensuring that disabled young people have the supports and information they need to transition from education and training into work. Comment: The New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030 is New Zealand's third disability strategy. It sets out the Government's commitment to all disabled people and tāngata whaikaha Māori (Māori disabled people). The strategy includes:

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	with disabilities, among other measures		• vision and principles to set the direction for the strategy and guide work across government for disabled people • five priority outcome areas of education, employment, health, housing and justice, each of which has a goal and actions • a monitoring approach to measure government's progress delivering the strategy. The goal for the education priority is 'Every learner is supported to attend, participate and progress in education. There is a high expectation that all learners – including disabled learners – will achieve their potential in the education setting of their choice'. The goal for the employment priority is 'Disabled people will have meaningful career opportunities, equal to non-disabled people, and be valued the same way. Disability-confident employers will recognise disabled people's talents and expertise, and will provide accessible and inclusive workplaces throughout the employment lifecycle'. You can find the strategy here: New Zealand Disability Strategy 2026-2030 The Ministry of Disabled People - Ministry of Disabled People Action: Continue to deliver the Youth Guarantee Fund to support programmes that give learners the skills, qualifications, and support that they need to build pathways to further education and/or employment. Comment: Youth Guarantee funding provides fees-free tertiary study at Levels 1–3 to enable young people aged 16-24 who have left schooling with low or no qualifications to attain these qualifications in a tertiary setting. Programmes delivered through Youth Guarantee provide foundational skills to learners that enable them to progress to further education and/or employment, the fund includes: • transport support for learners to attend programmes, including an exceptional circumstances transport allowances for those in isolated locations • wellbeing and pathways support for providers that supports the planning and non-education supports providers offer learners to help them succeed • required literacy and numeracy components within programmes to ensure learners are building the skills they need for future study and employment. Action: Continue to make Special Assessment Conditions (SAC) available to students providing extra help for otherwise capable students who have the capability to achieve but are affected by barriers in assessment. SAC: • is available to meet a range of physical, sensory, medical, and learning needs • may include the use of a writer or reader, computer access, rest breaks, Braille, or enlarged papers • removes or reduces barriers to achievement, providing learners with a fair and equitable opportunity to achieve credits. Action: Continue to provide guidance, tools, and supports to help teachers to recognise, plan for, and meet the needs of the diverse learners in their early learning service, school, or kura. Comment: The Ministry of Education (MoE) provides a range of strategies, guidance, and supports to help teachers create inclusive educational experiences. This includes the Expanded New Zealand Curriculum Resource which supports teachers to recognise, plan for, and meet the needs of the diverse learners in their community. Teachers are further supported through MoE learning support practitioners and support staff, who work alongside teachers to build their skills and confidence to support all learners. MoE will continue to refine and expand the range of guidance, resources, and professional development tools and supports available to teachers and support staff.
Equity, Inclusion and Outcomes for Priority Groups	31 f) Carry out the planned national disability survey in 2023, with the intention of updating the survey every five years, in order to compile data on children with disabilities to inform policies and programmes for them, and in order to facilitate access for children with all types of disabilities to accessible services, including to education and health,	Stats NZ	Action: Stats NZ intends to update the 2023 Household Disability Survey data in 10 years' time. Comment: The 2023 Household Disability Survey is complete, and data was released in 2025.

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	social protection and legal services, in particular for children living in rural areas.		
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	32 b) Strengthen the measures promoting, protecting and supporting breastfeeding, with a view to increasing the number of infants up to six months of age who are exclusively breastfed, in particular among Māori infants, including by publicising breastfeeding guidelines, encouraging flexible working arrangements and raising awareness of the importance of breastfeeding among families and the general public.	MoH	Action: Continue to deliver the National Breastfeeding Strategy. A central focus of the Strategy is improving equity in breastfeeding outcomes, particularly for whānau Māori and tāngata whaikaha Māori, and strengthening culturally responsive, whānau centred supports. Comment: The Strategy sets out national priorities, system settings, and partnership approaches required to support breastfeeding as a key public health measure. This includes the following initiatives: • Package to support breastfeeding in early childhood education settings. • Free national digital platform called "Find Your Breastfeeding Support" that provides families and health professionals with comprehensive, regionally relevant information about available breastfeeding support services, including lactation support and peer networks. • A national health promotion campaign "He Wāhi Haumaru – A Safe Space to Feed Pēpi", which works in partnership with communities and businesses to create welcoming, inclusive environments where breastfeeding parents feel supported to feed their infants. • Continued promotion of breastfeeding awareness through national public health initiatives, including World Breastfeeding Week, the Big Latch On, and other community-based events. These initiatives provide free information, peer support and education to breastfeeding parents and their whānau and contribute to increasing public awareness of the importance of breastfeeding for perinatal health.
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	32 c) Ensure an informed focus on children in the work of the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission, address inequalities of mental health outcomes for Māori, Pasifika and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex children, and prioritise children's access to affordable, quality, age-appropriate mental health and counselling services in a timely manner.	MoH	Action: Finalise the 2026/2027 work programme for the Mental Health and Wellbeing commission Comment: Rangatahi and youth mental health is a key area of focus for the Commission. The Commission has committed to prioritising rangatahi and young people and will continue advocating for equitable mental health outcomes and access to mental health services and holding the system to account. The 2026/2027 work programme will include: • publishing a monitoring report and associated products on youth-specific specialist services and responses and publish evidence-based insights on pathways and MHA service options available for rangatahi and youth • hosting a national conference that includes rangatahi and young people mental health, including improving outcomes and advocating for access to appropriate mental health services • influencing decisions on effective early intervention and prevention approaches for young people, drawing on the 2025/26 effectiveness review of what works for early intervention and secondary prevention for young people • rangatahi and youth access to services remains a focus in ongoing service and system monitoring work.
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	33 b) Address the still high rate of teenage pregnancy and the increasing rates of sexually transmitted diseases, including through ensuring: i) ii) iii) - The training of educators on the sexuality education guidelines (2015) to ensure their consistent and systematic implementation in schools across the country. - That all girls and boys, prioritising Māori adolescents, those who are out of school and those in rural areas, receive confidential and child-friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services, including access to contraceptives through the contraceptive access initiative. - That awareness of responsible parenthood and sexual behaviour is raised and fostered, paying particular attention to boys.	MoH MoE	Action: Continue to deliver the Aotearoa NZ Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infection Strategy 2023-2030 (which includes Māori and youth as priority populations), as well as broader health and education initiative including the Contraceptives Access Initiative for Māori and Pacific and women on low incomes. Comment: This Aotearoa New Zealand Sexually Transmitted and Blood Borne Infection Strategy provides a framework to help New Zealand reach our elimination and prevention goals and set the direction for action plans for hepatitis C, syphilis and HIV. It focuses on investing in disease prevention, early testing and treatment; strengthening public health surveillance systems; building contact tracing capacity; and improving the capability of the health system to manage these infections. Other initiatives include providing Family Planning Clinics and Youth One Stop Shop (YOSS) which provide primary healthcare (including drop-in services) plus a range of other services at little or no cost to youth people aged approx. 12-24 years. Sexual Wellbeing Aotearoa, which is a community provider funded by Health NZ, provides free, confidential and child friendly sexual and reproductive health information and services, and access to free or low cost and free long-term contraceptives. Link to UPR-2024-A047: Continue supporting implementation of sexuality education as part of the Health and Physical Education learning area in schools.

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Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	36 c) Specifically address the impact of severe housing deprivation on the health and well-being of children by prioritising children's stable access to adequate housing, ensuring it is allocated along fair and transparent criteria, and by increasing its financial commitment to the construction of social housing units and support for community-led housing initiatives.	MCERT	Action: Redesign the social housing needs assessment to focus more strongly on the severe and persistent barriers people face when accessing private housing. Comment: To ensure support is targeted to those with the greatest need, evidence on the impacts of stable housing (or lack of) for children and their families, and others who may be at risk of unstable housing, will inform the development of the new social housing needs assessment. Action: Prioritise families with children in emergency housing for social housing. Comment: Established in April 2024, the Priority One fast track moves families with children who have been in emergency housing for more than 12 weeks to the top of the Social Housing Register for access to social housing. Action: Continue to invest in programmes to support young people in severe housing need. Comment: This includes housing programmes such as: - youth transitional housing (which provides temporary housing and support for young people in urgent housing need) - rangatahi supported accommodation (designed to address the needs of young people who require housing and a high level of support to equip them well for adult life). Both of the above programmes support young people in severe housing need (which includes children aged 16-18) to be able to access and sustain longer-term stable housing. The Government has also agreed to develop a new social housing needs assessment as part of broader social housing reforms, improving how severe housing need is identified and prioritised across the system. This will help ensure that children, young people and families experiencing housing insecurity are better able to access stable housing and improved wellbeing outcomes. Action: Through Budget 2026, invest a further \$69.2 million to deliver between 1800 and 2250 additional social and other homes over three years starting from 2028/29. Comment: This additional investment will increase the supply of social and other homes, supporting more households, including families with children, to access stable and adequate housing. Action: Support the growth of community-led housing initiatives through reducing the barriers to access funding and financing. Comment: The introduction of the cost-based funding model earlier this year was a significant step towards better matching government-backed revenue for community-led housing initiatives more closely with their costs. MCERT continues to focus on improving the "bankability" of our contracts for social housing and other housing solutions.
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	37 a) Strengthen children's ability to have meaningful input into decisions that affect them at school, including in the planned update of the curriculum, by implementing the requirements under the Education and Training Act 2020 on consultation with children and student representation in governance structures, and in establishing accessible, independent dispute resolution mechanisms.	MoE	No action proposed Comment: The Education and Training Act 2020 enables the establishment of new local complaint and dispute resolution panels to hear serious disputes and complaints from domestic primary or secondary school students and their families about state school board decisions. The Ministry has undertaken preliminary policy work on the possible establishment of dispute panels for schools. The matter continues to be under active consideration. The Ministry of Education has consulted on all the draft national curriculum learning areas and wāhanga ako across Years 0-10. All New Zealanders, including educators, whānau, students and the wider public could submit feedback through the consultation process outlined on the Ministry's Tāhūrangi website. Opportunities to submit feedback on curriculum subjects for Years 11-13 is currently ongoing.
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	37 b) Explicitly incorporate the right to inclusive education into education legislation and policy, also ensuring adequate resourcing of the national learning support network plan	MoE	Comment: Education policy and practice is guided by the Education and Training Act 2020. Section 34 of the Act states that students with special education needs have the same rights to enrol, attend and receive education at State schools as others.

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		2030.		Section 127 of the Act states that one of the primary objectives of school boards in governing the school is to ensure that the school is inclusive of, and caters for, students with differing needs. Link to CRPD-2022-A061: The Ministry of Education is strengthening the measures for disabled people to access education by targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs. The Government's priorities for the education system include stronger learning support: targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs. Link to UPR-2024-A044: Continue to strengthen the measures for persons with disabilities to access education by targeting effective learning support interventions for students with additional needs. Action: Budget 2025 provided \$266.0 million to extend the Early Intervention Service (EIS) from early childhood education through to the end of Year 1 of primary school. Comment: This EIS funding will fund more than 560 additional full-time equivalents (FTE) over the next five years for EIS teachers and specialists. The investment will: • extend the EIS into Year 1 of primary school, including offering supported transitions into the schooling system. • reduce wait times and meet the growing demand for EIS • fund 900,000 additional learners for teacher aide hours per year from 2028.
Wellbeing, Development and Living Conditions	37 e)	Raise awareness of the government subsidies available for childhood care and education for children from 0–5 years old, targeting families from lower socioeconomic backgrounds.	MoE MSD	Action: The Government provides universal subsidies for all children aged 0-5 that attend a licensed early childhood education service, supporting parents and caregivers to participate in the labour market. Comment: This action is reflected in the high labour market participation of women with young children. The Ministry of Education subsidises children’s attendance in early childhood education services through the Early Childhood Education Funding Subsidy, the 20 Hours Early Childhood Education subsidy, Equity Funding, and Targeted Funding for Disadvantage. This funding is paid directly to services and helps to reduce cost barriers so that children can participate in early childhood education. For more information, see: https://www.education.govt.nz/parents-and-caregivers/early-learning/available-assistance Action: MSD provides childcare subsidies (including the Childcare Subsidy and OSCAR Subsidy) to support low or middle income families with the cost of early childhood education and care. Context: These subsidies help reduce financial barriers to participation in early childhood education, support parents and caregivers to engage in work or training, and contribute to improved outcomes for young children.