



4 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 19 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Please supply the following information under the [Official Information Act (OIA): The theoretical understanding of child development between ages 5-12 years that guides your work relating to children. This may include any of the following which informs your work:*
- *child development theories*
- *knowledge base*
- *frameworks*
- *models relevant to this age stage research focused on tamariki in this age stage.*

The Ministry does not rely on one single framework regarding child development. The framework used will be determined by the context of the work being undertaken.

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (the Strategy) is a legislative mandate under the Children's Act of 2014. The Ministry is defined in this Act as a key child-serving agency and is co-leading one of the priority areas of the Strategy. A publicly available version of this is available here: www.dPMC.govt.nz/our-programmes/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy.

The Strategy is an all-of-government framework which agencies seek to align with when undertaking work pertaining to children. The Strategy promotes wellbeing and equity for all children and young people. You can find the Strategy, which is publicly available, at the following link: www.childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/our-aspirations/strategy-framework.

The Ministry also uses the Growing Up in New Zealand survey, which is a longitudinal study of child health and wellbeing, led by the University of Auckland. This study follows the lives of 6000 children from the day they were

born in 2009 until they turn 21. Information regarding this study can be found at: www.growingup.co.nz/growing-up-reports#all-reports.

The following publicly available paper discusses child wellbeing, what that looks like, what can undermine child wellbeing, and how it can be protected and promoted: www.dpmc.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2018-06/Cabinet%20paper-Child%20Wellbeing%20Strategy-Scope%20and%20Public%20Engagement%20Process-May%202018.pdf

The Ministry compiled several evidence briefings for the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG) which covered a wide range of issues, including whānau and the benefit system, and obligations and sanctions and the impact of these on families with children. These briefings are all available online here: www.weag.govt.nz/weag-report/evidence-briefs/.

The Ministry has published information regarding the monitoring of child poverty. Our annual child poverty report includes discussion of concepts and frameworks which relate to the material wellbeing of households including children. That information is available here: www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/research/child-poverty-in-nz/index.html.

The Ministry holds a range of resources and regularly publishes research papers, working papers, and literary reviews on this webpage: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/index.html>.

Further information is also published on the Ministry's Insights page: www.msd.govt.nz/research-insights/index.html.

The principles and purposes of the Official Information Act 1982 under which you made your request are:

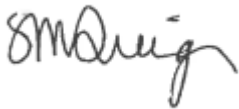
- to create greater openness and transparency about the plans, work and activities of the Government,
- to increase the ability of the public to participate in the making and administration of our laws and policies and
- to lead to greater accountability in the conduct of public affairs.

This Ministry fully supports those principles and purposes. The Ministry therefore intends to make the information contained in this letter and any attached documents available to the wider public. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry's website. Your personal details will be deleted, and the Ministry will not publish any information that would identify you as the person who requested the information.

If you wish to discuss this response with us, please feel free to contact OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz.

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding child development theories and frameworks, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Quigan', written in a cursive style.

Sarah Quigan

Manager

Official Information