

CHILD POVERTY REPORT

THE WELLBEING BUDGET
30 May 2019



BUDGET
2019

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New Zealand Government



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Budget 2019 website URL: budget.govt.nz/budget/2019/wellbeing

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CHILD POVERTY REPORT

Child Poverty and the Wellbeing Budget

Background

Budget 2019 marks New Zealand's first ever Budget Day report on child poverty.

Our Coalition Government is committed to reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing. Building on the Families Package, we have made this a priority area for investment in Budget 2019. We have also passed legislation to make sure that Governments now – and in the future – are held to account for decisions that have economic, fiscal and wellbeing impacts on children living in poverty.

The Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 ('the Act') will help to ensure an enduring focus on reducing child poverty, political accountability against published targets and transparent reporting on the progress we are making.

Children depend on the resources of their family, whānau and wider community for having their basic material needs met. For individual children, poverty is about growing up in a household that experiences financial hardship and the stress that arises from having to make decisions that involve trade-offs between basic needs. The experience of poverty can involve various forms of hardship, such as going hungry, living in cold, damp houses and foregoing opportunities, like school outings and sports activities.

There is strong evidence that growing up in poverty can harm children in multiple ways. These effects are particularly evident when poverty is severe and persistent, and when it occurs during early childhood. The harmful effects of child poverty can continue into adulthood, impacting individuals' future wellbeing and potential, and the economy and society more generally.

Budget Day child poverty reporting requirements

The Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 amended the Public Finance Act 1989, introducing section 15EA which requires the supporting information for the main Appropriation Bill (the Budget) to include a report on child poverty. The report must:

- a. discuss any progress made, in the most recent completed financial year, in reducing child poverty consistent with the targets under the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018; and
- b. indicate whether and, if so, to what extent, measures in or related to that Bill will affect child poverty.

The most recently completed financial year is 2017/18 and the targets under the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018 begin in 2018/19. This report therefore addresses paragraph (a) by providing a high-level view of recent trends up to 2017/18, before discussing the expected impact of Budgets 2018 and 2019 to address paragraph (b).

How do we measure child poverty?

The Act specifies 10 distinct measures of child poverty, including measures related to income and material hardship. Given the complexity of the issue it is important that these measures are considered together. Positive movement on all these measures together will mean real progress for the children of New Zealand.

There are three primary measures of child poverty for which data is available, and six supplementary measures (see Table 1). Two of these primary measures are income measures (one moving-line measure, with the poverty threshold taken the year the data is gathered; and one fixed-line measure, with the poverty threshold fixed to 2017/18). The third primary measure is a non-income measure and relates to material hardship. In addition, persistent poverty is an upcoming fourth primary measure, targets for which are required for and after the financial year commencing on 1 July 2025.

Table 1 – The primary measures of child poverty

	What are we measuring?	How do we measure it?	What does it tell us?
Low income, before housing costs – moving-line measure (BHC50)	A measure of the number of children in households with much lower incomes than a typical household.	The threshold line is 50 per cent of the median household income in the year measured.	How households with low incomes are doing relative to other households.
Low income, after housing costs – fixed-line measure (AHC50)	A measure of the number of children in households with incomes much lower than a typical 2018 household, after they pay for housing costs.	The threshold line is 50 per cent of the median income in 2017/18, adjusted for inflation, after housing costs are removed.	How households with low incomes are doing relative to previous years. How much housing costs impact the money available for other budget items.
Material hardship	A measure of access to the essential items for living.	The threshold line is a lack of six or more out of the 17 items in the material deprivation index. ¹	Directly measures living standards and households going without the basics. Picks up the impact of the level of income and other resources, the costs of housing and other essentials and other social and personal factors.

¹ Items are listed under four categories:

Category 1 – enforced lack of essentials: a meal with meat, fish or chicken (or vegetarian equivalent) at least each second day; two pairs of shoes in good condition; suitable clothes for special occasions; home contents insurance; the ability to give presents to family or friends on birthdays, Christmas, etc;

Category 2 – economising behaviours: going without fresh fruit or vegetables; buying cheaper cuts of meat or less meat than desired; putting off visits to the doctor; putting off visits to the dentist; doing without or cutting back on trips to the shops or other local places; putting up with feeling cold; delaying replacing or repairing broken appliances;

Category 3 – restrictions: feeling limited by available money; not being able to pay for an unexpected and unavoidable expense of \$500 within a month without borrowing;

Category 4 – financial stress and vulnerability: inability to pay electricity, gas, rates or water bills on time; inability to pay for car insurance, registration or warrant of fitness on time; and borrowing from friends or family to meet everyday living costs.

Understanding our progress towards reducing child poverty each year relies on good quality data. In Budget 2018 we invested \$25.7 million to improve the measurement of child poverty in New Zealand. This funding has allowed Stats NZ to survey more people through the Household Economic Survey and to look into improvements in data methodology and integration. We will see the full results of this investment in our Child Poverty Report in Budget 2021.

The most recent data we have for child poverty reporting is for 2017/18. This is the year prior to the full implementation of our first significant investment to reduce child poverty (the Families Package) and is the base year from which to measure progress on child poverty.

What are the child poverty reduction targets?

The Act requires the Government to set three-year and 10-year reduction targets on the three primary measures. These targets are set out in Table 2.

Table 2 – Child poverty reduction targets (% of children)

Primary measure	Baseline rate (2017/18)	3-year target rate (2020/21)	10-year target rate (2027/28)
BHC50 moving-line	16.5%	10.5%	5%
AHC50 fixed-line	22.8%	18.8%	10%
Material hardship	13.3%	10.3%	6%

The percentage number in each line in the table above shows the percentage of children in New Zealand living in poverty at the baseline year (2017/18) and at the three-year and 10-year target years.

What are the current trends in child poverty?

On 2 April 2019 the Government Statistician published the first report on the primary and supplementary measures.² Rates for the three primary measures in Stats NZ's report are presented in Figures 1, 2 and 3 (the green line on pages 6 and 7). The trends are broadly as follows:

- The rate on the before-housing-cost moving-line measure shows a slight rising trend from 2006/07 onwards.
- The rate on the fixed-line after-housing-cost measure has been steadily trending downwards from 2010/11.
- Following a significant rise between 2007 and 2011, the material hardship rate is trending down.³

When a country is experiencing broadly favourable economic conditions and wage growth, the general pattern is for incomes in the middle of the income distribution to increase at a slightly faster rate than incomes at the bottom. As a consequence, without specific government intervention, rates of child poverty on the moving-line measure will generally gradually increase over time.

² See Stats NZ website for full report: <https://www.stats.govt.nz/information-releases/child-poverty-statistics-year-ended-june-2018>.

³ MSD has provided an account of how recent figures can be understood within the context of past reporting (see Perry, MSD Working Paper 02/19 Stats NZ Child Poverty Statistics release, 2 April 2019: MSD Background and Overview, MSD, 2019).

What are we doing to reduce child poverty?

This Government has already implemented a number of policies to reduce child poverty. Some of these initiatives are designed to directly impact children living in poverty by putting more money in the pockets of parents. Others have a more indirect impact and are designed to ease the pressures faced by families – such as changes to health, housing and education settings. Wider economic policy settings implemented by this Government will also have a positive impact on reducing child poverty numbers.

In order for an initiative to have a discernible effect on measured child poverty rates, it needs to improve the resources available to families living in poverty – either by increasing incomes, reducing housing costs, or reducing other demands on household budgets.

But it's important that we don't become too fixated on the targets alone. Some initiatives may not affect the headline numbers on the primary measures, but will still make a material difference to the lives of the families and children living in poverty. Initiatives can reduce the depth and severity of poverty itself. Others, such as education and health initiatives, can address some of the related challenges faced by families and children living in poverty, by mitigating the consequences of poverty and disadvantage.

Table 3 – Policy changes intended to reduce child poverty

Directly impacts the incomes of parents of children in poverty

The Families Package, implemented from July 2018:

- increased the Family Tax Credit
- increased the Accommodation Supplement
- introduced the Winter Energy Payment for those on a main benefit and people who receive Superannuation or a Veteran's Pension
- introduced the Best Start payment for all families in the first year, followed by two more years of support for middle- and low-income families.

The package will increase the incomes of around 384,000 middle- to low-income families with children, on average, \$75 a week once it is fully rolled out.

Total investment of \$5.5 billion over four years

Budget 2019 includes further changes to **income support** settings that will impact child poverty, including:

- the indexation of all main benefits to average wage growth
- increasing the amount that beneficiaries can earn before their benefit reduces
- removing the penalty for sole parents who don't identify the other parent and/or don't apply for child support (section 192).

Ministry of Social Development (MSD) modelling indicates that approximately 146,000 families with 269,000 children will benefit from this investment.

Total investment of \$535.1 million over four years

Other changes designed to ease the pressures faced by families

In Budget 2018 we:

- expanded school-based health services in decile 1-4 schools, and free and low-cost doctors' visits for children under the age of 14
 - expanded Housing First, public housing and transitional housing
 - began improving the affordability and availability of housing through KiwiBuild
 - continued funding KickStart and KidsCan
 - provided a clothing allowance for children whose caregivers receive an Orphan's Benefit or Unsupported Child's Benefit.
-

Other changes designed to ease the pressures faced by families

In Budget 2019 we are:

- helping parents with education costs by providing increased funding for decile 1-7 schools that agree not to request donations for parents, and removing NCEA fees
- further expanding school-based health services in decile 1-5 schools
- continuing funding for KickStart and KidsCan
- working to tackle homelessness, including through further investment in transitional housing and Housing First
- supporting increasing incomes through meeting minimum wage obligations
- supporting people into sustainable employment through increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Social Development's frontline workforce.

Other changes implemented by this Government include:

- improving the quality of housing and conditions for renters by implementing the Healthy Homes Guarantee Act 2017 and through changes to the Residential Tenancies Act 1986
 - reviewing the price of electricity for households and investigating whether the prices paid are fair, efficient and equitable
 - reducing problem debt, by introducing legislative measures to stop predatory lending.
-

Changes to wider economic policy settings that will affect child poverty and intergenerational cycles of poverty

We are committed to:

- working toward reaching an unemployment rate of 4 per cent in our first term
 - improving pay and conditions for New Zealand workers through Fair Pay Agreements, minimum wage increases and pay equity
 - improving employment opportunities and outcomes, including the following in Budget 2019:
 - *Improving Māori Labour Market Resilience – Expanding the Cadetships Initiative to Improve Employment Outcomes* – \$6 million
 - *Expanding the Pacific Employment Support Service to Reduce the Rate of Pacific Young People Not in Employment, Education or Training* – \$14.5 million
 - *He Poutama Rangatahi – Continuing to Reduce the Rates of Māori Rangatahi who are not in Employment, Education and Training* – \$26.5 million
 - *Mana in Mahi – Employment Programme to Support Successful Transition into Sustainable Work* – \$49.9 million
-

A fuller list of the Budget 2019 initiatives that may affect child poverty is included at Table 5 at the end of this report. There are also a number of Budget 2019 initiatives that are unlikely to materially reduce poverty in the short to medium term, but which should nonetheless have a positive impact on the wider wellbeing of some children living in poverty and may also help break cycles of disadvantage and intergenerational poverty over the longer term. These include initiatives related to child development, whānau wellbeing, mental health, prisoner reintegration, child protection and family violence.

While we are committed to reducing child poverty and improving child wellbeing, we also have to balance this focus with other priorities. At times this could mean implementing policies that might not impact positively on reducing child poverty in the short term. The increase in Petrol Excise Duty may increase some families' costs if there are no offsetting factors. The impact of this on child poverty has not been modelled. In the longer term, transport costs for families could come down owing to the resulting investment in roads, rail and public transport.

Are we on track to reach our targets?

While it's too early to say with certainty if all of the changes we've made will enable us to reach our targets, we've been able to model the estimated impact of some of our flagship initiatives, namely the Families Package and Budget 2019 income support changes.

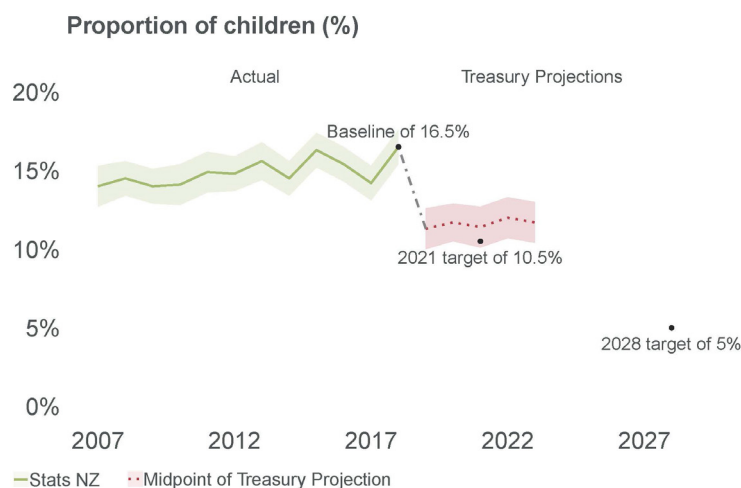
Modelling by the Treasury indicates that by 2020/21 the combined impact of the Families Package and Budget 2019 income support changes would mean:

Table 4 – Impact of the Families Package and Budget 2019 income support changes on child poverty

	By 2020/21			
	From a 2017/18 baseline of	Reduce the 2017/18 baseline	Projected proportion of children remaining in poverty	Projected number of children remaining in poverty
On the BHC50 measure	16.5% of children (around 180,000 children)	By between 24% and 37% (between 41,000 and 66,000 children)	Between 10.1% and 12.7% of children	Between 115,000 and 144,000 children
On the AHC50 measure	22.8% of children (around 250,000 children)	By between 22% and 30% (between 50,000 and 74,000 children)	Between 15.2% and 18.6% of children	Between 172,000 and 212,000 children

The Treasury's modelled estimates of changes relative to the baseline data provided by Stats NZ are set out in the graphs below.⁴ The forecast trend, taking into account the impact of the Families Package and part of Budget 2019 income support changes, is shown in red in Figures 1 and 2. It is not possible with available data for the Treasury to model the impact of the removal of the section 192 sanction or the impact of any policy changes on the material hardship measure.

Figure 1 – Children in households below the moving-line BHC poverty threshold



⁴ For all charts above, access to the data used in this study was provided by Stats NZ under conditions designed to give effect to the security and confidentiality provisions of the Statistics Act 1975. The results presented labelled as Treasury Projections are the work of the Treasury, not Stats NZ.

Figure 2 – Children in households below the fixed-line AHC poverty threshold

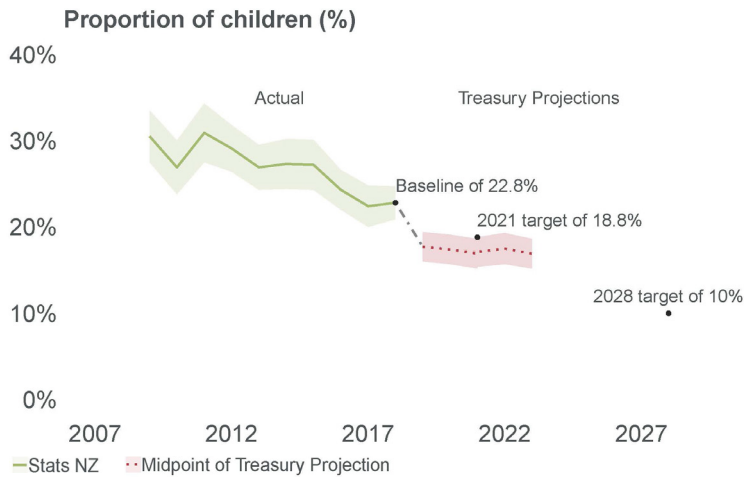
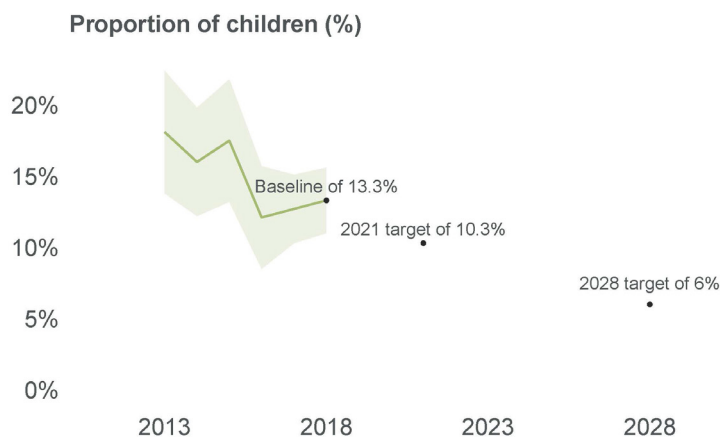


Figure 3 – Children in households experiencing material hardship



Modelling projected impact

Current reporting timeframes mean that poverty rates for the 2018/19 year will not be available until early 2020. Instead, the Treasury estimated the expected rates based on forecasts of the economy and housing costs, and taking into account the key income support packages announced in Budgets 2018 and 2019. Modelling is only available for the income measures and is not available on the material hardship measure.*

* This modelling is a projection only and the impacts of these initiatives are best expressed as a range, based on a 95 per cent margin of error. This range accounts for survey variability but not deviation from current economic forecasts.

What will we be doing next?

Budget 2019 is another step we are taking to reduce child poverty. The Prime Minister took ministerial responsibility for child poverty reduction on the formation of this Government and we have established the Child Poverty Unit within the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet to support a continued focus on tackling child poverty.⁵ Further programmes of work are being developed that will help us break the cycle of child poverty and progress towards our 10-year targets, making a tangible difference to the lives of New Zealand children living in poverty. These will be the subject of forthcoming announcements, and a central part of key work programmes, including:

- responses to the Welfare Expert Advisory Group (WEAG)
- the development and publication of the first Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy later in 2019
- our planning to further embed wellbeing in Budget 2020 and beyond.

Budget 2020 will also mark our second report on child poverty, which will include one year of data of the impact of the Families Package on child poverty.

⁵ Find more information on the Child Poverty Unit here: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-business-units/child-wellbeing-and-poverty-reduction-group>.

Table 5 – Budget 2019 initiatives that may affect child poverty

Direct impacts on the incomes of parents of children living in poverty	Other initiatives designed to ease the pressures faced by families
<p>Increasing household incomes</p> <p>\$535.1 million over four years to make changes to benefits by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> indexing main benefits to wage growth removing the penalty for sole parents who don't identify the other parent and/or don't apply for child support increasing the amount that beneficiaries can earn before their benefit reduces (abates). <p>As part of this investment, modelling by the Ministry of Social Development indicates that approximately 146,000 families with 269,000 children will receive, on average, around \$20 more per week by 1 April 2023. This investment will also benefit individuals without children.</p> <p>At an individual initiative level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> By indexing main benefits to wage growth, it is estimated that around 339,000 individuals and families will gain, on average, around \$11 per week by 1 April 2023. The amount people will gain will continue to increase beyond April 2023, as the difference between wage growth and inflation (current settings) is likely to accumulate over time. By removing the section 192 (formerly section 70A) sanction, around 12,000 sole parents will be better able to support their families, by not having a deduction applied to their benefit each week. Around 24,000 children will be better off, with affected sole parents' incomes increasing by an average of \$34 a week. By increasing the amount that beneficiaries can earn before their benefit reduces, around 73,000 low-income individuals and families will benefit. <p>This initiative is expected to impact the BHC50, AHC50 and material hardship primary measures. It will also impact the individual experiences of families and children living in poverty.</p>	<p>Helping parents with education and health costs</p> <p><i>Additional Funding for Schools to Replace Parental Donations</i> – \$266 million to help alleviate pressure on families who struggle to pay school donations. Up to 1,703 schools could be eligible, receiving \$150 per student for up to 494,000 students.</p> <p><i>NCEA – Removal of Fees and Funding of Cost Pressures</i> – \$49 million to support equity of access to NCEA qualifications, increase residual incomes for low-income families and remove the need for the caregivers of approximately 23,000 students to apply for financial assistance.</p> <p><i>Expanding and Enhancing School Based Health Services</i> – \$19.6 million to expand and enhance school based health services to 83,333 students in decile 1-5 schools.</p> <hr/> <p>Directly addressing material deprivation</p> <p><i>KickStart and KidsCan – Continuing to Improve Child Wellbeing</i> – \$3.2 million to allow the KickStart programme to continue to provide breakfast to 30,000 children in over 1,000 schools; and KidsCan to continue to provide food and essential clothing to children in over 700 low-decile schools.</p> <hr/> <p>Housing affordability</p> <p><i>Papakāinga development and rural housing repairs for better whānau wellbeing</i> – \$40 million to allow the Māori Housing Network to invest in 10 collectively owned homes every year, repairs to an estimated 100 homes every year and capability building programmes with 300 whānau groups.</p> <p><i>Supporting Pacific Households into Home Ownership through Financial Capability Services</i> – \$2.6 million to improve home ownership rates for Pacific households, through financial capability services to 300 Pacific households every year.</p> <hr/> <p>Housing tenure</p> <p><i>Housing Support Products – Expansion to Help More People Access and Maintain Tenancies</i> – \$18.9 million to support a total of 2,250 households to access and retain secure tenancies to minimise the risk of homelessness.</p>

Other initiatives designed to ease the pressures faced by families

Targeted homelessness initiatives

Transitional Housing – Funding for the Continued Provision of Transitional Housing to Support Those in Need – \$149.2 million operating; \$134.2 million capital to maintain the supply of long-term and relocatable transitional housing places to approximately 2,800, and reduce levels of homelessness by providing transitional housing accommodation and support services for up to approximately 11,500 households.

Maintaining and Strengthening the Housing First Programme as a Response to Ending Homelessness – \$197 million to strengthen the Housing First programme to a total of 2,700 places to improve the social and housing outcomes of chronically homeless people.

Income support

Meeting Minimum Wage Obligations Under the Home and Community Support (Payment – Travel Between Clients) Settlement Act – \$23 million to ensure care and support workers are paid fairly for travel time.

Employment support

Ministry of Social Development – Increasing Case Management at the Frontline – \$76.3 million to increase the Ministry of Social Development’s frontline staff capacity to be able to work more intensively with more people and help them into meaningful and sustainable work.

Disabled People and People with Health Conditions – Improving Employment and Wider Wellbeing Outcomes – \$26.3 million to support an additional 2,600 disabled people and people with health conditions to find and stay in meaningful employment, increase their knowledge and skills and improve their health and wider wellbeing.

Debt

Improving Consumer Protection Under the Credit Contracts and Consumer Finance Act 2003 – \$16 million to protect consumers from predatory and irresponsible lending practices through doubling the Commerce Commission’s credit enforcement staff, education and advocacy.

OVERVIEW: THE FRAMEWORK

Our Vision: New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people.

CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE...



... are LOVED, SAFE and NURTURED



... have WHAT they NEED



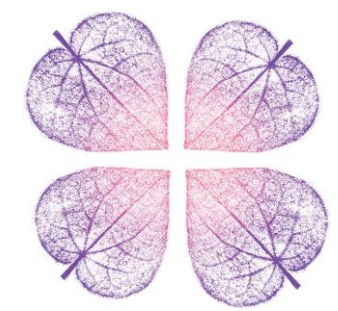
.. are HAPPY and HEALTHY



... are LEARNING and DEVELOPING



... are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED and CONNECTED



... are INVOLVED and EMPOWERED

This means:

- they feel loved and supported
- they have family, whānau and homes that are loving, safe and nurturing
- they are safe from unintentional harm
- they are safe from intentional harm (including neglect, and emotional, physical and sexual abuse)
- they are able to spend quality time with their parents, family and whānau

Indicators:

- Feeling loved
- Feeling safe
- Family/whānau wellbeing
- Injury prevalence
- Harm against children
- Quality time with parents

This means:

- they and their parents or caregivers have a good standard of material wellbeing
- they have regular access to nutritious food
- they live in stable housing that is affordable, warm and dry
- their parents or caregivers have the skills and support they need to access quality employment

Indicators:

- Material wellbeing
- Child Poverty: Material Hardship
- Child Poverty: Low income BHC50
- Child Poverty: Low income AHC50
- Food insecurity
- Housing quality
- Housing affordability

This means:

- they have the best possible health, starting before birth
- they build self esteem and resilience
- they have good mental wellbeing and recover from trauma
- they have spaces and opportunities to play and express themselves creatively
- they live in healthy, sustainable environments

Indicators:

- Prenatal care
- Prenatal exposure to toxins
- Subjective health status
- Preventable admissions to hospital
- Mental wellbeing
- Self-harm and suicide

This means:

- they are positively engaged with, and progressing and achieving in education
- they develop the social, emotional and communication skills they need as they progress through life
- they have the knowledge, skills and encouragement to achieve their potential and enable choices around further education, volunteering, employment, and entrepreneurship
- they can successfully navigate life's transitions

Indicators:

- Early learning participation
- Regular school attendance
- Literacy, numeracy and science skills
- Social skills
- Self-management skills
- Youth in employment, education or training

This means:

- they feel accepted, respected and valued at home, school, in the community and online
- they feel manaakitanga: kindness, respect and care for others
- they live free from racism and discrimination
- they have stable and healthy relationships
- they are connected to their culture, language, beliefs and identity including whakapapa and tūrangawaewae

Indicators:

- Ability to be themselves
- Sense of belonging
- Experience of discrimination
- Experience of bullying
- Social support
- Support for cultural identity
- Languages

This means:

- they contribute positively at home, at school and in their communities
- they exercise kaitiakitanga: care of the land and connection to nature
- they have their voices, perspectives, and opinions listened to and taken into account
- they are supported to exercise increasing autonomy as they age, and to be responsible citizens
- they and their families are supported to make healthy choices around relationships, sexual health, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs

Indicators:

- Involvement in community
- Representation of youth voice
- Making positive choices
- Criminal offending

Essence: Whakatōngia te kākano aroha i roto i ā tātou taitamariki kia puāwai i roto i tō rātou tupuranga aranui oranga. Plant the seed of love in our children and they will blossom, grow and journey towards the greatest pathway of life.

The following principles reflect the values New Zealanders have said are important. They guide the development and implementation of the Strategy.

1. Children and young people are taonga.
2. Māori are tangata whenua and the Māori-Crown relationship is foundational.
3. Children and young people's rights need to be respected and upheld.

4. All children and young people deserve to live a good life.
5. Wellbeing needs holistic and comprehensive approaches.
6. Children and young people's wellbeing is interwoven with family and whānau wellbeing.

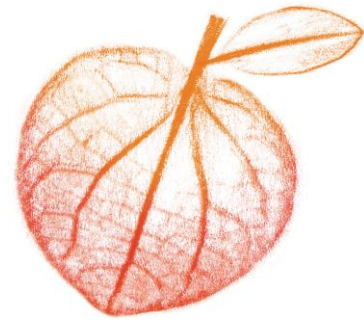
7. Change requires action by all of us.
8. Actions must deliver better life outcomes.
9. Early support is needed.

OVERVIEW: CURRENT PROGRAMME OF ACTION

CHILDREN and YOUNG PEOPLE...



... are LOVED, SAFE and NURTURED



... have WHAT they NEED



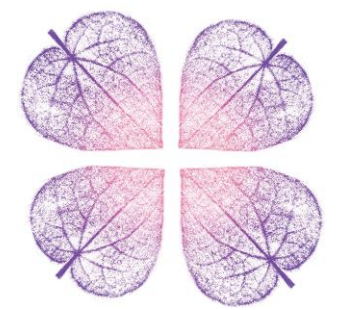
... are HAPPY and HEALTHY



... are LEARNING and DEVELOPING



... are ACCEPTED, RESPECTED and CONNECTED



... are INVOLVED and EMPOWERED

Priorities

1. Reduce child poverty and mitigate the impacts of poverty and socio-economic disadvantage
2. Better support those children and young people of interest to Oranga Tamariki and address family and sexual violence
3. Better support children and young people with greater needs, with an initial focus on learning support and mental wellbeing

Actions to support parents, caregivers, families and whānau:

- Extend paid parental to 26 weeks
- Expansion of Whānau Ora
- Prototype nurse-led family partnership
- New model of intensive intervention

Actions to prevent harm and abuse:

- National strategy and action plan to address family and sexual violence
- Early years violence prevention sites
- Investment in family violence prevention activities, including in diverse communities
- Work programme to prevent online child sexual exploitation and abuse

Actions to support victims and their families and whānau:

- Ensuring safe, consistent and effective responses to family violence
- Improve regional capability to respond to family violence
- Improve access to sexual violence services, eg kaupapa Māori and crisis support services, and improve justice process for victims

Actions to improve the quality of State care:

- Oranga Tamariki Action Plan
- National Care Standards
- Improve outcomes for Māori within the Oranga Tamariki system

Actions to improve earnings and employment:

- Increase the minimum wage to \$20 per hour by 2021
- Increase employment support through the Ministry of Social Development
- Support for disabled people and people with health conditions

Actions to create a fairer and more equitable welfare system:

- Continue to implement the Families Package
- Indexation of main benefits to wages
- Repeal s.192 of the Social Security Act
- Overhaul the welfare system

Actions to improve housing quality, affordability, and security:

- Establish 6,400 new public housing places
- Implement Healthy Homes Standards
- Warmer Kiwi Homes programme
- Strengthening Housing First
- Funding for continued provision of transitional housing

Actions to help families with the cost of the essentials:

- Free school lunch prototype
- Initiatives to reduce costs of schooling
- Implement lower-cost primary healthcare

Actions to improve maternity and early years support:

- Redesigning maternity services through the five-year Maternity Whole of System Action Plan
- Review of the Well Child Tamariki Ora programme
- Intensive Parenting Support: Expanding the Pregnancy and Parenting Service

Actions to inspire active, healthy and creative children and young people:

- Healthy Active Learning programme
- Extend and enhance nurses in schools initiative (School Based Health Services)
- Delivery of Strategy for Women and Girls in Sport and Active Recreation
- Creatives in Schools

Actions to increase support for mental wellbeing:

- Expand access and choice of primary mental health and addiction support
- Forensic mental health services for young people
- Suicide prevention strategy
- Promote wellbeing in primary and intermediate schools

Actions to improve the quality of the education system:

- Develop a statement of National Education and Learning Priorities
- Address learners' needs by improving data quality, availability, timeliness and capability
- Response to review of home-based early childhood education
- Reform of vocational education

Actions to increase equity of educational outcomes:

- Equity Index to provide more equitable resourcing to schools and kura
- Improve learning support: Learning Support Action Plan
- Improve and accelerate education outcomes for Pacific learners
- Fees-Free Tertiary Education and training

Actions to support life transitions:

- New service to support transition out of care or youth justice custody
- Programmes for young people not in education, employment or training

Actions to address racism and discrimination:

- Government work programme to address racism and discrimination
- Restart Te Kotahitanga: supporting equitable outcomes for Māori learners

Actions to increase sense of belonging and cultural connections:

- Implement Maihi Karauna – The Crown's Strategy for Māori Language Revitalisation
- Te Ahu o Te Reo Māori
- Action Plan for Pacific Aotearoa Lalanga Fou
- Funding to support Pacific realm languages
- Implement initiatives under section 7AA of the Oranga Tamariki Act 1989

Actions to promote positive and respectful peer relationships:

- Initiatives to prevent and respond to bullying in schools
- Expand healthy relationship programmes in secondary schools

Actions to increase representation of child and youth voice:

- Youth Action Plan development
- Youth Health and Wellbeing Survey – whataboutme?
- Youth Voice Project

Actions to improve advocacy for children and young people's rights:

- Build public service competency and capability in children's rights
- Implement the Child Impact Assessment Tool across central government
- Strengthen independent oversight of Oranga Tamariki system and children's issues

Actions to encourage positive contributions:

- Investment in community based youth justice facilities
- Paiheretia te Muka Tāngata initiative: Whānau Ora support for Māori in the Corrections system
- Increased services for children and young people with concerning/harmful sexual behaviours

