

The Office of the Children's Commissioner (OCC) has developed questions for agencies and organisations to use as a starting point to support the holistic intent of the [Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy](#) (the Strategy) to be realised.* The Strategy provides a shared understanding of what children and young people want and need to live a good life, and what we can all do to help achieve these outcomes. It is important that policies and actions are developed and delivered in a way that accepts, respects, connects, involves and empowers children and young people and transfers power and resources accordingly.

The Strategy's six interconnected outcome areas are underpinned by a set of principles that, when used together, promote wellbeing and equity for all children and young people and their whānau.

'How you support us matters as much as what you do' was a key finding of the [What Makes a Good Life?](#) engagement project, which heard from over 6,000 children and young people as a party of the Strategy development.

Two of the Strategy's six outcome areas – 'accepted, respected and connected', and 'involved and empowered' – provide guidance on improving the 'how', when addressing the wellbeing outcomes as a whole.

The questions below have been designed to help agencies ensure they are using the strategy, and its principles.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy's six outcome areas: Children and young people...

are loved, safe and nurtured

have what they need

are happy and healthy

are learning and developing

Step A Work collaboratively across outcome areas for a holistic approach

One of the principles of the Strategy is change requires action by all of us. In order to support the holistic intent of the Strategy, agencies will need to work together outside of their silos, in partnership with Māori, and communities, in all their diversity. For example, the 'happy and healthy' outcome is reliant on children and young people having what they need for material wellbeing.

1. How does the proposed policy interact with, and impact on, the 6 outcome areas to ensure holistic and comprehensive approaches for children and young people's wellbeing?
2. How are you shifting decision making, resources and power to Māori as tangata whenua to uphold the principles of the Strategy and the Treaty of Waitangi?
3. How are you respecting and upholding children and young people's rights under [the United Nation's Convention on the Rights of the Child](#)?
4. How are you exploring opportunities for partnership and collaboration and flexible funding with iwi and communities using whānau-centred approaches.
5. How are you engaging with other policy groups or agencies to ensure alignment of efforts and resources?

are accepted, respected and connected

Step B Support children, young people, their families and whānau to be accepted, respected and connected for who they are and who they want to be

6. How will your policy, service design, planning, and delivery support children, young people and their families to:
 - a) be connected to their culture, language, beliefs and identity, including to whakapapa and tūrangawaewae: place of belonging?
 - b) build and strengthen relationships with family, whānau, friends and others in their community?
 - c) live free from racism and discrimination by explicitly considering systemic discrimination in its different forms when developing policy, legislation, service design and delivery?
 - d) feel accepted, respected and valued at home, school, in the community and online?
 - e) experience manaakitanga: kindness, respect and care for others?

are involved and empowered

Step C Ensure children and young people's voices and views are at the centre of your approach so that they and their families and whānau are involved and empowered

7. How will your policy, service design, planning and delivery:
 - a) support children, young people and their families to participate and contribute positively at home, in their whānau, at school and kura, and in their communities, hapū and iwi?
 - b) support and empower children, young people and their families to make healthy and informed choices around relationships, sexual health, alcohol, tobacco and other drugs?
 - c) involve children and young people, and their views and perspectives, in design and delivery (and their families and whānau when appropriate)?
 - d) consider the perspectives of, and impacts, on a diverse range of children and young people and their families and whānau, including Māori, Pasifika, disabled, LGBTQIA+, those in state care, rural etc?

Useful links

- Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy: <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/sites/default/files/2019-08/strategy-on-a-page-child-youth-wellbeing-Sept-2019.pdf>
- Child Impact Assessment Tool: <https://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/resources/child-impact-assessment.html>
- OCC "How to be Child Centred" webpage: <https://www.occ.org.nz/listening2kids/child-centred/how-child-centred/>
- DPMC's policy methods toolbox: <https://dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/policy-project/policy-methods-toolbox>
- Using CYWS indicators to measure impact: <https://childyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/resources/child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy-html#section-7>

*These questions are designed for use alongside a Treaty of Waitangi analysis and tools that support impact analysis for different groups, such as the [Child Impact Assessment](#) and a gender analysis.