

Appendix 2: Progress on UNCROC Work Programme

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>1. Review of the minimum age of criminal prosecution</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has expressed concern that the minimum age for criminal conviction in New Zealand of 10 years is too low. It has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility to an internationally acceptable level and ensure that it applies for all criminal offences.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice Department of Corrections Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Analysis of the implications of adjustments to the minimum age of criminal prosecution in 2004 and 2005</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Implications of the Young Offenders (Serious Crimes) Bill will be known and the next steps for this work programme item can be determined.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> In New Zealand 10-year-olds can be charged with murder and manslaughter if it can be proven beyond a reasonable doubt that the child knew that their actions were wrong and contrary to the law. For all other criminal charges, the child must be a minimum of 14 years of age.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> The Ministry of Justice has been working with a number of agencies and youth justice experts in exploring more effective ways of managing child offenders. Options under consideration include raising the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years for murder and manslaughter. A wide range of options for reform have been identified and were reported to Ministers in December 2005. Ministers have deferred consideration of this report until the outcome of the Select Committee's current consideration of a Private Member's Bill on this issue is known. Select Committee is due to report back on the Young Offenders (Serious Crimes) Bill on 28 September 2007.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>2. Review of the upper age of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Extend the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act of 1989 to all persons under the age of 18.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Review of the upper age of the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 in 2006</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>The Ministry of Social Development will report to Cabinet with proposals for updating the CYPF Act in July 2007. The Act's upper age limit has been identified as an issue for consideration in the update.</p>

ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006

Background

The Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 is the primary piece of legislation relating to the care and protection of children. The Act currently applies to young people under the age of 17. Raising the age has significant operational and legislative implications.

The Human Rights Commission's *New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights, Priorities for Action 2005-2010* identifies the current age threshold of the Act as a specific gap in the legal framework for the protection and fulfilment of the rights of children and young people aged between 16 and 18 years in New Zealand.

Current activity

The Ministry of Social Development is working on an update of the Act. The upper age limit has been identified as an issue for consideration.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>5. Withdrawal of the Reservation on children unlawfully in New Zealand</p> <p><i>New Zealand has reserved its right to distinguish in law and practice between persons according to the nature of their authority to be in New Zealand. The UN Committee has expressed concern that the broad nature of the reservation is not compatible with the object and purposes of the Convention, and is disappointed in the slow progress towards withdrawing the Reservation. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Expedite the changes in legislation and administrative procedures necessary for the withdrawal of its General Reservation.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Education Department of Labour Ministry of Health</p>	<p>Further analysis of the implications of withdrawing the Reservation in 2005</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Minister of Education will report to Cabinet with treaty action for the withdrawal of the Reservation on children unlawfully in New Zealand following the introduction of a new Immigration Act in 2008.</p>
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i> Significant progress has been made towards withdrawal of this Reservation. In November 2003, Cabinet agreed in principle to lift the Reservation, subject to reports from the Ministries of Health and Education on the compatibility of health and education settings with UNCROC [CBC Min (03) 9/5 refers]. In 2005 Cabinet agreed that current eligibility settings for access to publicly funded health and disability services for children, and maternity services for pregnant women, were compatible with UNCROC [CAB Min (05) 18/40]. Also in 2005, Cabinet agreed in principle to amendments to Education regulations governing access to education services to accommodate children unlawfully in New Zealand [CAB Min (05) 41/3 refers]. In November 2006 Cabinet approved proposals for an UNCROC-compliant Immigration Act that will enable withdrawal of the Reservation on children unlawfully in New Zealand [CBC Min (06) 20/14].</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> This paper recommends that the Ministry of Education, in consultation with the Ministries of Justice and Foreign Affairs and Trade, undertake the necessary action for the withdrawal of the Reservation on children unlawfully in New Zealand, upon enactment of an UNCROC-compliant Immigration Act, scheduled for mid-2008.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>6. Withdrawal of the Reservation on child labour</p> <p><i>Article 32 of UNCROC provides for the right of children to be protected from work that threatens their health, education and development. New Zealand entered a Reservation to this article on the grounds that NZ children were adequately protected by existing laws. The UN Committee has raised its concerns about the adequacy of this protection and is concerned about the lack of a minimum age for admission to employment. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Expedite the changes in legislation and administrative procedures necessary for the withdrawal of its general reservation and the reservations to articles 32, paragraph 2 and 37 (c).”</p>	Department of Labour	<p>Assessment of the steps required for ratification of ILO 138 in 2005</p> <p>Report to the Government on options for the withdrawal of the Reservation to Article 32 of UNCROC in 2006</p>	<p>Underway</p> <p>Deferred</p>	The Minister of Labour will report to Cabinet on options for the withdrawal of the Reservation following the conclusion of discussions with the ILO.
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i> The Government decided to defer a decision on lifting the reservation to Article 32(2) of UNCROC until an assessment had been made of the steps required to ratify International Labour Organisation (ILO) Convention 138. Both Article 32(2) and Convention 138 require minimum ages of employment.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> The Department of Labour is assessing the policy options required for full ratification of Convention 138. This process has involved consultation with the ILO, Business New Zealand and the New Zealand Council of Trade Unions. The Department of Labour is engaged in ongoing discussions with the ILO regarding the requirements for New Zealand's possible ratification of Convention 138. Officials will discuss New Zealand's situation with the ILO at the next governing body meeting in June 2007.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>7. Corporal punishment</p> <p><i>The UN Committee regards section 59 of New Zealand's Crimes Act 1961 (which allows parents to use force as a means of punishing a child) as inconsistent with UNCROC. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>"Amend legislation to prohibit corporal punishment in the home; strengthen public education campaigns and activities aimed at promoting positive, non-violent forms of discipline and respect for children's right to human dignity and physical integrity, while raising awareness about the negative consequences of corporal punishment."</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Development of options for reform of section 59 of the Crimes Act 1961, in 2005</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>Implications of the Crimes (Abolition of Force as a Justification for Child Discipline) Amendment Bill will be known and next steps for this work programme item can be determined.</p>

ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006

Background

Section 59 of the Crimes Act 1961 has been under active review since 2000. The Government considered that before repeal of section 59 could be considered, and education campaign promoting alternatives to physical discipline was desirable. In 2003 the Government allocated \$10.8 million over three years for a parent support strategy: "SKIP – Strategies with Kids: Information for Parents" was launched in May 2004. In 2006, the Government invested \$14.8 million over four years for SKIP to continue its commitment to parenting support and education, community projects and research and monitoring.

Current activity

A Private Member's Bill seeking to repeal section 59 of the Crimes Act 1961 is currently being considered by Government and indication is that section 59 will be repealed and the use of reasonable force against a child for the purpose of correction will be removed.

Several Government initiatives focus on supporting families and reducing violence in families. They include:

- Te Rito – New Zealand Family Violence Prevention Strategy
- the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families
- the Community Prevention Programme
- Early Years
- Everyday Communities
- Strong Pacific Families
- Strategies with Kids: Information for Parents (SKIP)
- the Early Intervention Approach
- SAGES – Older People as Mentors
- Parents As First Teachers (PAFT)
- Settling In
- Strengthening Families
- Toddlers Without Tears.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>8. Review of policy, practice and legislation</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has expressed its concern about the lack of conformity in New Zealand's legislation to the UNCROC definition of "child", and the lack of consistency in the age limits that apply across our legislation. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand :</i></p> <p>"Initiate a comprehensive review of all legislation affecting children and take all necessary measures to harmonize its legislation with the principles and provisions of the Convention."</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth Development</p>	<p>Report to Cabinet on options for addressing legislative minimum age provisions, in 2006</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Ministry of Youth Development will coordinate the Government's response to a report on UNCROC by the Office of the Children's Commissioner. The Ministry of Youth Development will brief the Minister of Youth Affairs on the contents and implications of the report upon release of the draft.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> A paper proposing a review of minimum age inconsistencies in New Zealand legislation was submitted to Cabinet in 2004. Cabinet considered the potential size and scope of the review, and balancing these against the relatively low risk posed by maintaining the status quo, decided to defer the review [SDC (04) 111 refers].</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> The Ministry of Youth Development is proposing to publish the literature review that was commissioned to support its work on minimum age legislation.</p> <p>The Office of the Children's Commissioner will publish a report on New Zealand's compliance with UNCROC – in terms of legislation and policy – in mid-late 2007. The Ministry of Youth Development will co-ordinate the cross-government fact-checking process that will take place prior to the report's publication.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>9. Reducing inequalities in social wellbeing</p> <p><i>The UN Committee is concerned that a significant number of children in New Zealand live in poverty, and that single parent families headed by women, as well as Maori and Pacific Island families, are disproportionately affected. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Take appropriate measures to assist parents, in particular single parents, and others responsible for the child to implement the child’s right to an adequate standard of living. In this regard, the Committee recommends that New Zealand ensure that assistance provided to Maori and Pacific Island families respects and supports their traditional extended family structures.”</p>	Whole of Government	Report to the Government on a regular basis	Ongoing	<i>The Social Report 2007 will be published in July 2007.</i>
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The Government has taken a comprehensive approach over the past decade to improving the standard of living of children. There has been a significant increase in spending on housing, education and health over this time. The need to reduce inequalities between groups has underpinned many of the initiatives, and government agencies are required to report on how their policies and programmes will reduce inequalities. The Ministry of Social Development reports annually on progress in reducing inequalities across a range of indicators.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i></p> <p>In 2005 and 2006 funding has been committed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • for the expansion of state housing for low- income families • to create more opportunities for quality early childhood education, particularly for low- income families • to the Working for Families package that delivers extra income to low- and middle-income families • to reduce the cost of health care for children • for the expansion of innovative approaches to delivering health services in Maori and Pacific communities • for the expansion of the “Family Start” programme to support the most vulnerable families. 				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>10. Assistance to refugee children</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Continue its efforts to integrate refugee children into society and undertake an evaluation of current programmes, in particular language training, with a view to improving their effectiveness.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Education Department of Labour Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Provision of updated information on refugee resettlement work</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Department of Labour will continue its work to support the resettlement of refugee children and young people. This will be reported on in the next UNCROC annual update in November 2007.</p>

ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006

Background

Children and young people under the age of 18 make up about 50% of New Zealand's annual refugee quota. The Department of Labour coordinates an orientation programme for newly arrived refugees at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre, and MSD's Family and Community Services administers "Settling In", a community development programme that works directly with refugee and migrant communities to develop and deliver the social services they want.

Current activity

A review of English for Speakers of Other Languages programmes in 2003 has resulted in a significant increase in funding over three years for schools with ESOL students. An additional \$10 million will be invested in these programmes by 2008.

Other projects designed to assist young refugees include:

- working with the Somali community to solve problems their young people have integrating with local youth
- youth leadership programmes, which are being developed in association with the Refugee Children's Trust and the Boys' and Girls' Institute.

In addition, proposals are currently being developed in respect of the Refugee Family Quota, which are likely to be considered by Cabinet this year. Cabinet has already made decisions regarding the Settlement National Action Plan, including a work item focused on establishing a common direction to support ongoing work on refugee resettlement. A progress report will be provided to the Minister of Immigration in July 2007, with a final report by October 2007.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>11. Assessing the impact of economic reforms on children</p> <p><i>The UN Committee is concerned that despite the persistence of poverty, New Zealand has not undertaken a comprehensive study of the impact of its economic reform policies on children. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Gather disaggregated data on budget allocations for children and systematically assess the impact of all its economic policy initiatives on children.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Provision of updated information to improve the evidence-base for decision-making</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>An update of <i>Children and Young People: Indicators of Wellbeing in New Zealand</i> will be under way by December 2007.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> The Ministry of Social Development has developed a household living standards scale designed to provide a measure of the economic circumstances of families with children. This will provide policy makers with a comprehensive description and comparison over time of the living standards of New Zealanders.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> The Living Standards Research Programme is ongoing, and its most recent report was released in July 2006. The data will assist governments and communities in developing evidence-based policies to address disparities between different groups of New Zealanders.</p> <p>The Ministry of Social Development will undertake an update of <i>Children and Young People: Indicators of Wellbeing in New Zealand</i> by early 2008.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>12. "A World Fit for Children"</p> <p><i>This work programme item does not relate to a UN Committee recommendation. In May 2002, New Zealand participated in the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children (UNGASS), which adopted by consensus a "World Fit for Children" - a comprehensive range of targets, goals and actions to improve the wellbeing of children and to promote and protect their rights. The Children's Forum UNGASS also produced an official publication, entitled "A World Fit for Us".</i></p>	<p>Ministry of Youth Development Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Consultation with NGO stakeholders on which goals from a "World Fit for Children" should have priority</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The Minister of Youth Affairs will be briefed on progress with "A World Fit for Children" priority areas in consultation with UNCROC NGO stakeholders by November 2007.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> In 2002, the Ministry of Social Development undertook a stocktake of policies and programmes relevant to children in order to assess NZ's compliance with <i>A World Fit for Children</i>. In 2003, the Minister for Social Development and Employment agreed the best way for New Zealand to advance its compliance with <i>A World Fit for Children</i> was to build on existing Government initiatives under the framework of the Agenda for Children and the Youth Development Strategy Aotearoa.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> The Ministry of Youth Development has commissioned the development of a set of youth health and wellbeing indicators. A possible application of these might be to measure progress in respect of key <i>World Fit for Children</i> goals</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>13. Assistance to child abuse victims</p> <p><i>The UN Committee shares New Zealand's concern about the prevalence of child abuse. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Expand services and programmes aimed at assisting victims of abuse, and ensure that they are provided in a child-sensitive manner which respects the privacy of the victim; Increase programmes and services aimed at the prevention of child abuse in the home, schools and institutions and ensure that there are sufficient numbers of adequately qualified and trained staff to provide these services; Continue to improve the coordination of services for vulnerable families and victims of abuse.”</p> <p><i>The Committee has also recommended that New Zealand continue its efforts to strengthen the system of child protection by:</i></p> <p>“Improving the qualifications of social workers and personnel working in the child protection system and enacting measures to retain qualified and specialized staff; Taking effective measures to improve coordination between the Department of Child, Youth and Family Services and organizations delivering services to children; Increasing the financial resources allocated to alternative care, while ensuring that institutional care is used only as a last resort; Strengthening efforts to guarantee that all children placed in care have a periodic review of their treatment and all circumstances relative to their placement, in accordance with article 25 of the Convention.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Social Development</p>	<p>Updates on initiatives to address child abuse and to provide support to victims</p>	<p>Ongoing</p>	<p>The Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families will provide an update on activity since the initial Taskforce report by November 2008.</p>

ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006

Background

Family violence and its effects on children and young people is acknowledged to be a critical social issue for New Zealand. While most children are safe and secure, New Zealand does have high rates of violence within families. The Ministry of Social Development leads government work to prevent and reduce family violence, provide effective support to its victims, and ensure effective early interventions in the lives of vulnerable young children.

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Current activity

In 2005, Government announced it would be investing approximately \$43.7 million over four years on a package of proposals early interventions for vulnerable young people. This includes:

- expansion of the Family Start home visiting programme for vulnerable families to small town and rural areas
- access to free high quality early childhood education for Family Start/Early Start children in some areas
- Early Childhood Centre based parent support
- parental support built on the core Well Child service (Toddlers without Tears)
- Services for Children who Witness Family Violence
- Family Court parenting information programme
- introduction of study awards to assist Family Start workers to obtain tertiary qualifications.

Other initiatives include SKIP (Strategies with Kids, Information for Parents), which promotes non-physical discipline by helping parents develop confidence, knowledge and skills; the establishment of The Taskforce for Action on Violence; and the development and testing of a Differential Response Model that allows for a greater range of responses to child abuse notifications, including greater involvement of NGOs.

In 2006 the Government invested a further \$7 million in a Early Years package of services aimed at assisting children to have the best start in life and be supported to reach their potential by:

- establishing seven early years service hubs to provide a locally responsive approach to improving co-ordination of services
- providing eight teenage parent service co-ordinators dedicated to helping teenage parents and their children
- trialling a "Roots of Empathy" programme in up to 10 schools to assess whether it can provide positive outcomes for children in New Zealand
- extending the Early Start and Family Start programmes through boundary expansions and increasing contracted volumes to provide assistance to more vulnerable families and establishment of an additional Family Start site.

In 2006, as part of the Taskforce for Action on Violence, Government also invested:

- \$9 million in additional family violence prevention and support services, including 24 hour crisis lines, counselling, social work support, safe house accommodation, advocacy and information
- \$11.5 million in a community prevention programme to reduce family violence which includes (i) central co-ordination and resource development (ii) national initiatives to support changes in attitudes and behaviours and (iii) support for community driven initiatives.

The Government is also responding to social work workforce issues across the statutory and non-government organisation (NGO) sectors. The key components of this response are:

- the NGO Family Support Services Workforce Programme for Action, which aims to improve the supply and quality of workers in NGO family support services
- the Child, Youth and Family workforce strategy, which aims to increase the supply and quality of workers
- the introduction of registration for social workers through the Social Workers Registration Board, which aims to increase the quality of the social work workforce.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
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**14. Reservation on child labour:
Department of Labour's work programme**

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>15. Non-discrimination data request</p> <p><i>The UN Committee was concerned at the lack of consistency between the nature of the data collected and the principles and provisions of the Convention. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Develop a system of data collection that covers all areas of the Convention, paying particular attention to disaggregated data on indigenous children, and ensure that all data and indicators are used for the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of policies, programmes and projects for the effective implementation of the Convention.”</p>	<p>Statistics New Zealand</p>	<p>Social Statistics Programme; Development of a reporting framework to improve the quality and coordination of indicators relating to non-discrimination</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>Statistics New Zealand will assist the Ministries of Youth Development and Social Development to ensure that New Zealand's next 2008 UNCROC report addresses statistical quality issues identified in the UN Committee's most recent set of recommendations.</p> <p>Statistics New Zealand will work with the Ministries of Youth Development and Social Development to identify any significant information gaps and issues relating to UNCROC reporting, following completion New Zealand's next periodic report to the UN Committee in 2008.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> The UN has requested information on measures and programmes undertaken in New Zealand in relation to non-discrimination. This follows the programme of action adopted at the 2001 World Conference on Racism, Racial Discrimination and Xenophobia and Related Intolerance.</p> <p>New Zealand has been reviewing how it measures ethnicity. Defining and categorising ethnicity while keeping a balance between the need for contemporary relevance and historical continuity has been one of the challenges for this review. Statistics NZ completed the review in 2004, and on this basis has drawn up a new Statistical Standard for Ethnicity (2005).</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> The <i>Programme of Official Social Statistics</i> led by Statistics New Zealand aims to develop a coherent system of official social statistics across government to assist with informed decision making on various aspects of New Zealand society.</p> <p>The programme began in 2005/06 and will be developed over a ten year period. It is a whole-of-government programme involving a number of government departments. An external advisory group has been established for the programme, with membership made up of officials, academics and researchers.</p> <p>One component of the <i>Official Programme of Social Statistics</i> is a family survey aimed at enhancing the quality of data on children and families in New Zealand. Work on the survey commenced in 2006.</p> <p>Statistics New Zealand review team has been visiting agencies to discuss the changes that the new Statistical Standard for Ethnicity brings, and is providing support for agencies to help them reach the new Standard. It is expected that the majority of agencies will be using the new Standard by 2007.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>16. Child health outcomes</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has expressed concern at the relatively high rates of infant mortality and injuries among New Zealand children. It has also noted the disparities in child health indicators between Maori and the rest of the population. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Allocate sufficient human and financial resources to implement the Child Health Strategy;</p> <p>Take all necessary measures to ensure universal immunization coverage and develop preventive health care and guidance for parents and families that effectively address the relatively high rates of infant mortality and injuries;</p> <p>Take all necessary measures to address disparities in health indicators between ethnic communities, in particular the Maori population.”</p>	Ministry of Health	Enhancement of immunisation coverage and ongoing work to reduce infant mortality	Underway	<p>The Ministry of Health will provide an update to the Ministers of Health and Youth Affairs by June 2007 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the enhancement of immunisation coverage • ongoing work to reduce infant mortality, with a focus on reducing health inequalities.
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>In 2001 the Government began to implement its Primary Health Care Strategy which was designed to put considerably more resources into the “front end” of health care. With its focus on “getting ahead of illness”, and improving access to primary health care, its intention is to promote good health, lessen the burden of chronic disease, and to reduce the inequalities that exist in health between New Zealand populations. Between 2002 and 2008 an additional \$2.2.billion will be directed into making primary health care more accessible, particularly for children and young people and populations with the highest health needs.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i></p> <p>Over the past two years the Primary Health Care Strategy has delivered additional funding for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintaining free or very low cost access for children under six • lowering the cost of visiting the doctor for children and young people aged 6-24 years • refugee health care • child and adolescent dental health • innovative health care approaches for high needs communities, particularly Maori and Pacific communities. 				

The **National Immunisation Programme** has significantly increased rates of vaccination among New Zealand children. Outreach immunisation services have been designed to improve immunisation coverage rates for Maori and Pacific children and other priority groups with high rates of vaccine-preventable disease and low immunisation rates.

The rollout of the Meningococcal B Immunisation Programme has now ended. The meningococcal B vaccine will still be available until 31 December 2006 for those aged under 20 to allow them to complete their vaccinations. For babies and children aged six weeks to five years the vaccine will continue to be available until 2009, or until medical evidence indicates the campaign can be ended sooner.

The Child and Youth Mortality Review Committee reports that New Zealand's child mortality rates continue to trend down.

Whakatataka Tuarua: Maori Health Action Plan 2006–2011, the second Maori health action plan has been published. Whakatataka Tuarua builds on the first Maori health action plan and notes that, alongside work with Maori providers, an ongoing focus needs to remain on District Health Boards and mainstream providers to ensure more effective use of resources and initiatives aimed at improving Maori health outcomes.

As part of Whakatataka Tuarua, the Ministry of Health has identified the following areas for priority attention:

- building quality data and monitoring Maori health
- developing models based on whanau ora
- ensuring Maori participation; workforce development and governance
- improving primary health care.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>17. Adolescent health outcomes</p> <p><i>The UN Committee shares New Zealand's concern about the high rates of youth suicide, teenage pregnancies and alcohol abuse among adolescents and the insufficient level of youth mental health services, particularly in rural areas and for Maori children and children in residential institutions. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Take all necessary measures to address youth suicide, especially among Maori youth, inter alia by strengthening the Youth Suicide Prevention Programme;</p> <p>Undertake effective measures to reduce the rate of teenage pregnancies through, inter alia, making health education, including sex education, part of the school curriculum, and strengthening the campaign of information on the use of contraceptives;</p> <p>Undertake effective preventive and other measures to address the rise in alcohol consumption by adolescents and increase the availability and accessibility of counselling and support services, in particular for Maori children;</p> <p>Strengthen mental health and counselling services, ensuring that they are accessible to, and appropriate for, all adolescents, including Maori children and those in rural areas and in residential institutions.”</p>	Ministry of Health	Further progress in addressing sexual and reproductive health, alcohol abuse and mental health problems among adolescents	Underway	<p>The Ministry of Health will provide an update to the Ministers of Health and Youth Affairs by June 2007 on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • addressing sexual and reproductive health • alcohol abuse • mental health problems among adolescents <p>with a focus on reducing health inequalities.</p>
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>Youth Health: A Guide to Action - published in 2002 - presented a range of initiatives across a number of settings to improve the health of young people. District Health Boards have been encouraged to use this document to design services in their regions for young people. The successful Youth Suicide Prevention Strategy, which has led to a significant drop suicide among young males, has been adapted for use with a wider population, and a national sexual health campaign has targeted the 15-19 age group most at risk from pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">[continues over]</p>				

Current activity

The Primary Health Care Strategy (see section 16) is delivering a significant increase in funding to improve access to health services for young people. Free or low-cost access to health services is now being delivered through a growing number of school-based health services, family planning clinics, and community-based “one-stop shops”.

Primary mental health care has received a boost, with \$8 million going into innovative projects through primary health organisations.

Sexuality education in schools is being reviewed.

A review of the Regulation of **Alcohol** Advertising is under way. A Government **Review of the Sale and Supply of Alcohol to Under 18 year olds** has recently been announced, and terms of reference for the review are currently being finalised.

There are now 31 **Youth Access to Alcohol** (YATA) projects underway, which encourage and support community action targeted at reducing the illegal and irresponsible supply of alcohol to young people.

The **Healthy Eating Healthy Action** Strategy has a particular focus on children and families, and there are many programmes throughout the country that are working with schools to increase activity and to improve the eating habits of school children and their families.

Community Action on Youth and Drugs (CAYAD) responds to youth drugs issues at a local level, with a focus on collaboration between community organisations, local agencies and researchers. There are now 22 CAYAD sites in vulnerable communities around the country. A joint project between the Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Health is working with District Health Boards to identify and remove barriers to mental health service access for children and young people involved with Child Youth and Family services.

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WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>18. Adoption reform</p> <p><i>The UN Committee welcomed New Zealand's intention to reform its legislation on adoption. The Committee has recommended that In considering reform , New Zealand should pay particular attention to Article 12 and the right of children to express their views and have those views be given due weight. The Committee has also recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Require that children of a certain age consent to their adoption; Ensure the right of adopted children to access, as far as possible, information about their biological parents; and Ensure the right of children, as far as possible, to maintain one of their original first names.”</p>	Ministry of Justice	Monitoring progress of adoption reform	Underway	The Ministry of Justice will present proposals for adoption law reform to Cabinet.
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Current activity</i> The reform of adoption laws is currently on the Minister of Justice's 2006/07 work programme. Proposals for adoption law reform are being progressed and are to be considered by Ministers in 2007.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>19. Addressing education disparities</p> <p><i>The Committee has welcomed the development of bilingual education for Maori. However it has noted with concern the persistent disparities in enrolment and drop-out rates among children of different ethnic groups. It is also concerned that the increasing hidden costs of education are limiting access to education for some groups of children. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Ensure that all children have access to free primary education;</p> <p>Enforce legislation on compulsory education and prohibit exclusions on arbitrary grounds such as pregnancy, and ensure that students of the age of compulsory education who have legitimately been excluded from a school are enrolled elsewhere;</p> <p>Take effective measures to address disparities in enrolment and dropout rates between ethnic groups, including by strengthening programmes for bilingual education;</p> <p>Take all necessary measures, including the provision of quality counselling programmes in schools, to address behavioural problems of students while respecting their right to privacy.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Education</p>	<p>Ministries of Education and Youth Development to monitor progress in addressing education disparities</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education will report to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Youth Affairs by August 2007 on progress with reducing education disparities.</p>
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>The Ministry of Education's mission is to “raise achievement and reduce disparity” in all groups of New Zealand children and young people. A range of initiatives are in place that are designed to increase the participation of Maori students at all levels of education and to ensure that children with special education needs are able to participate fully. Particular attention is being paid to lowering the rates of student suspension and expulsion. Projects and programmes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Staying at School initiative • the Literacy and Numeracy Projects • the Effective Teaching work programme • the Maori Education Strategy and the Pasifika Education Plan • Better Outcomes for Children (Special education action plan). <p style="text-align: right;">[continues over]</p>				

A Student Engagement Initiative to keep students engaged in learning and to encourage disengaged students back into learning began in 2001. Between 2001 and 2005 the programme reduced the suspension rate of Maori students in SEI schools by 26%. These programmes are supported by a number of other initiatives such as a Parents Advocacy Phone Service through the Office of the Children's Commissioner and the Wellington Law Society.

Operational funding for schools will have increased between 1999 and 2006 by over \$285 million, lessening the need for schools to seek increased parent contributions.

Current Activity

The Ministry of Education continues to monitor and report annually on school suspensions and exclusions.

Maori participation and achievement in education is documented annually in *Nga Haeata Matauranga*. The latest data shows that in 2005 more than 10,000 children were enrolled in around 500 kohanga reo, and 25,000 (16% of Maori students) were enrolled in kaupapa Maori schools. NCEA achievement levels among Maori students who learn in Te reo Maori is higher than for Maori students in mainstream schools. Maori students achievement levels overall continue to rise, and the gap between Maori and non-Maori achievement in NCEA continues to narrow.

In Budget 2006 the Government announced further increases in schools' operational grants, and the extension of free education to preschoolers. Up to 20 hours per week free early childhood education for three- and four-year-olds will be available from July next year.

An increasing number of schools – particularly those in disadvantaged neighbourhoods – are taking a holistic approach to their students' health and wellbeing and have introduced a range of health and social service support for students.

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>20. Dissemination and training on children's rights</p> <p><i>The UN Committee is concerned that children and the public are not sufficiently aware of the Convention and the rights-based approach. The Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Undertake public awareness campaigns, including through the mass media, on children's rights aimed at the general public and specifically at children</p> <p>Carry out systematic education and training on the principles and provisions of the Convention for all professionals working with and for children.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth Development; Office of the Children's Commissioner; Human Rights Commission</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice to lead an interdepartmental initiative to promote and support the mainstreaming of rights considerations in policy development across government</p>	<p>Not yet underway</p>	<p>The Ministry of Youth Development will develop an expanded UNCROC web resource by March 2007. The Ministry of Justice will provide an update on its work in promoting and supporting the mainstreaming of rights considerations in</p>

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>21. Amendment of the Defence Act 1990</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“Amend the Defence Force Order to expressly prohibit active service in and outside of New Zealand by soldiers under the age of 18.”</p>	<p>New Zealand Defence Force</p>	<p>Amending wording of the Defence Act to make clear the prohibition on deploying under-18-year-olds on active service, in 2005/2006</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>The New Zealand Defence Force will review the Government's position on raising the age of voluntary recruitment for the armed services by November 2007.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>Action on this recommendation has been completed. In September 2003 New Zealand was the first country to report on the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers to the UN Committee.</p> <p>The Chief of the Defence Force agreed that the wording of Defence Force Orders for Personnel Administration should be amended to make it clear that the New Zealand Defence Force cannot deploy personnel under 18 years of age on active service, whether the active service is overseas or within New Zealand.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>22. Review of the age of voluntary recruitment</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has noted that the Defence Force Orders for Administration set the minimum age of voluntary recruitment at 17 years. However, it is concerned that this age limit has not yet been specified in the Defence Act 1990 and that the Guardianship Act 1968 allows for persons under the age of 18 who are married to be recruited into the armed forces.</i></p> <p><i>The Committee recommends that New Zealand</i></p> <p>“Amend the Defence Act and the Guardianship Act to specify a minimum age of voluntary recruitment of 17 years for all persons.</p> <p>Consider the possibility of increasing the minimum age for voluntary recruitment to 18 years.”</p>	New Zealand Defence Force	N/A	Scheduled for November 2007	The New Zealand Defence Force will review the Government's position on raising the age of voluntary recruitment for the armed services by November 2007.
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i></p> <p>Section 33 of the Defence Act 1990 sets the minimum age of appointment, enlistment or engagement at 17 years. The New Zealand Defence Force has agreed that the term 'enlistment' in section 33 of the Defence Act 1990 covers voluntary recruitment, as contemplated by Article 3 of the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers.</p> <p>New Zealand considered the issue of raising the minimum age for voluntary recruitment to 18 years in 2000 when it reviewed its signature and ratification of the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers. The Government will review its position on the voluntary age of recruitment again in 2007 as part of preparing for its 2008 periodic report to the UN Committee.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>23. Information on the cadet forces</p> <p><i>In light of the fact that a significant proportion of new recruits in the armed forces come from the cadet forces, the UN Committee has requested that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“In its next report, include information on the cadet forces, in particular on how the activities of the cadet forces accord with the aims of education as recognized in Article 29 of the Convention and on recruitment activities undertaken by the armed forces within the cadet forces.”</p>	<p>New Zealand Defence Force</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Scheduled for 2008</p>	<p>New Zealand's next periodic report will include information requested by the UN Committee on the cadet forces.</p>

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>24. Information on assistance for refugee and migrant children involved in hostilities</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has asked New Zealand</i></p> <p>“to provide information in its next report on refugee and migrant children who may have been involved in hostilities in their home country and on the assistance provided for their physical and psychological recovery and social reintegration.”</p>	New Zealand Defence Force	N/A	Scheduled for 2008	Collection of available information for New Zealand's next periodic report in November 2008.
ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006				
<p><i>Background</i> Approximately 1500 refugees come into New Zealand each year as a part of New Zealand's commitment to the United Nations High Commission on Refugees' refugee resettlement programme. Around 50% of these are children. On arrival in New Zealand, refugees are comprehensively assessed by the Auckland Public Health Service's refugee health service and their health status monitored. Those with symptoms of stress or trauma are referred to appropriate psychological services. "Refugees as Survivors" is an NGO that is funded to support refugees with mental health problems, and there are a number of other agencies who work closely with refugee families.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> Primary health services have received additional funding specifically for refugee health care, and there are a number of community health services that specialise in providing care to the refugee population. District Health Boards are required to monitor refugee health services and report on the adequacy of both the service and the funding for these services.</p> <p>The Ministry of Youth Development will work with the Department of Labour to get information assistance for refugee and migrant children involved in hostilities before New Zealand's next periodic report to the UN Committee in 2008.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>25. Public dissemination of the initial report on the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has recommended that</i></p> <p>“the initial report and written replies submitted by New Zealand be made widely available to the public at large and that New Zealand consider publishing the report, along with the relevant summary records and concluding observations adopted by the Committee.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Youth Development</p>	<p>Publication and dissemination of the report</p>	<p>Completed</p>	<p>N/A</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				

Background

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>26. Training and dissemination on the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“undertake systematic education and training on the provisions of the Convention for all relevant professional groups, in particular military personnel. In addition, the Committee recommends that the State party make the provisions of the Optional Protocol widely known to children, through, inter alia, school curricula.”</p>	<p>New Zealand Defence Force</p>	<p>Development of training modules between 2004 and 2008</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>The New Zealand Defence Force will report to the Minister of Defence and the Minister of Youth Affairs by November 2007 on progress with the development of training modules on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the law of armed conflict the provisions; and • implications of UNCROC and the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers.
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> The UN Committee is generally concerned to ensure that wide public education and training occurs on the content of UNCROC and its Optional Protocols. The Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force has directed that the Cadet Forces are to be instructed to institute training in the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC) generally, and in particular, on the provisions and implications of UNCROC and the Optional Protocol.</p> <p><i>Current activities</i> On the direction of the Chief of the New Zealand Defence Force, some preliminary work is underway to develop a training package in international humanitarian law, including UNCROC rights and obligations, for delivery to members of the New Zealand Cadet Forces (ages 13 to 18). The Defence Force has identified and intends to obtain and assess the utility of a package produced by the International Committee of the Red Cross for this purpose.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
<p>27. Review of compliance with the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Sale of Children</p> <p><i>The UN Committee has recommended that New Zealand:</i></p> <p>“ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography.”</p>	<p>Ministry of Justice</p>	<p>Legislative amendments to be made</p>	<p>Underway</p>	<p>The Ministry of Justice will report to Cabinet with options for adoption law reform. The Evidence Act 1908 will be amended by November 2007.</p>
<p>ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006</p>				
<p><i>Background</i> New Zealand has signed but not yet ratified the Optional Protocol to UNCROC on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography. A number of legislative amendments have been made or are planned to enable ratification of the Protocol.</p> <p>The Films, Videos and Publications Classification Amendment Act 2005 came into effect on 22 February 2005. Offences and penalties under the Act will assist compliance with the Protocol's requirements regarding child pornography. The Crimes Amendment Act – passed in April 2005 – implemented the necessary legislation to ratify the Protocol's requirements regarding child prostitution and the sale of children.</p> <p><i>Current activity</i> Two further legislative amendments are required before the Optional Protocol can be ratified. The first is the addition of a new offence to the Adoption Act 1955 of improperly inducing consent, as an intermediary, for the adoption of a child. This amendment may be progressed as part of a broader review of adoption laws. The second is an amendment to the Evidence Act 1908, which is on the Ministry of Justice's work programme for 2007.</p>				

WORK PROGRAMME ITEM UN Committee's Recommendations	LEAD AGENCY	MILESTONES 2004 - 2006	PROGRESS	FUTURE MILESTONES 2007 - 2008
28. Reporting requirement for youth suicide	Ministry of Youth Development Ministry of Health Ministry of Social Development	N/A	Scheduled for 2008	New Zealand to report on a comparative and disaggregated basis in 2008

ACTIVITY 2004 – 2006

Background

New Zealand is required to include information on youth suicide on a comparative and disaggregated basis for New Zealand's 2008 periodic report on its compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The periodic report will also outline new suicide prevention measures that have been put in place. These include:

- New Zealand Suicide Prevention Strategy 2006-2016
- ongoing youth suicide prevention work at Ministry of Youth Development including "Youth Access to Primary Health Care" project
- A Towards Wellbeing programme run by Child, Youth and Family.