

**[In Confidence]**

Office of the Minister for Youth

Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee

**New strategic direction and approach for the refreshed Youth Plan**

**Proposal**

- 1 This paper seeks your agreement to the strategic direction and approach, and the public release of the refreshed Youth Plan, titled *Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action* (Youth Plan).
- 2 I propose that the Youth Plan's strategic framework document, which is attached as Appendix one, is to be reviewed every five years and the rolling suite of actions to give effect to the vision and strategic direction of the Youth Plan, which is attached as Appendix two, is to be reported on annually.
- 3 I also intend to publicly release the refreshed Youth Plan following Cabinet agreement and to issue a media release at the same time.

**Relation to government priorities**

- 4 The Youth Plan is an all-of-government action under the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy (CYWS), which focuses on the outcome 'children and young people are involved and empowered.' To realise this vision, the CYWS suggests that young people should:
  - 4.1 be able to contribute positively at home, at school, and in their communities;
  - 4.2 exercise kaitiakitanga: care of the land and connection to nature;
  - 4.3 have their voices, perspectives, and opinions listened to and taken into account;
  - 4.4 be supported to exercise increasing autonomy as they age, and to be responsible citizens; and
  - 4.5 be supported, alongside their families, to make healthy choices around relationships, sexual health, alcohol, tobacco, and other drugs.

**Executive Summary**

- 5 On 1 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to the previous plan, *Youth Plan 2020-2022: Turning Voice into Action*, which set out a range of actions to support youth voice, wellbeing, leadership, and transformative change [SWC-20-MIN-0088 refers]. The Youth Plan is led by the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Taiohi and supported by the Ministry of Social Development (MSD) – Te Manatū Whakahiato Ora.

- 6 Cabinet agreed the Youth Plan would be reviewed two years after its launch [SWC-20-MIN-0088 refers]. The review of the Youth Plan was completed in two phases.
- 7 Phase One of the review commenced in July 2022 with a range of evaluation activities intended to assess the efficacy of the Youth Plan in facilitating improved outcomes for young people in Aotearoa New Zealand.
- 8 Phase Two included a mapping exercise and literature review. These established how the Youth Plan could fulfil its purpose alongside wider government and CYWS work, and suggested the refreshed Youth Plan focus on youth voice and leadership and add new priority cohorts.
- 9 Targeted engagement with young people occurred in both phases of the review, which informed the direction of the refreshed Youth Plan. This demonstrated the value of youth voice and leadership in shaping the direction of the refreshed Youth Plan to ensure the plan resonates with and reflects the priorities that are important to young people.
- 10 The refreshed Youth Plan will focus on supporting youth voice and leadership to inform policies that are important to young people and will address all young people aged 12-24 years. Given the cohort covers a wide age range, I propose to divide the cohort into two age groups (12-17 years and 18-24 years), with seven priority cohorts: rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, disabled young people, young women, young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants), and young people living in the regions.<sup>1</sup>
- 11 The refreshed Youth Plan will be divided into three interconnected documents to best achieve its overall aims:
  - 11.1 A strategic framework, which sets out the purpose of the Youth Plan and its long-term strategic aims. I propose to review the strategic framework in five years following its launch. This will give sufficient time for the strategic framework to come into fruition and to assess whether there are specific areas for improvement.
  - 11.2 A rolling suite of actions to give effect to the strategic framework. This will provide flexibility to adapt to any changes required to address the emerging needs of young people. I propose to add new actions as appropriate on an ongoing basis and report on the rolling suite of actions annually. This will ensure that the actions are fit-for-purpose and provide sufficient planning time for any new actions that may require budget considerations. In 2024, I will report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee (SWC) on progress to the rolling suite of actions giving effect to the Youth Plan.
  - 11.3 A high-level measurement framework, which will guide how we measure the effectiveness of the rolling suite of actions in achieving the key intended outcomes of the Youth Plan for young people. The Youth

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<sup>1</sup> Regions refers to non-urban, rural and often isolated areas across Aotearoa New Zealand.

Plan Measurement Framework provides an intervention logic or theory of change process to assess how the actions within the Youth Plan contribute to youth voice and leadership outcomes at an individual level, organisational and systems level, and wider population level (where appropriate). The high-level measurement framework provides a common foundation for how agencies would examine the effectiveness of their initiatives within the Youth Plan while complementing those agencies' existing indicators and measures they already have in place for their individual actions, rather than replacing them.

## Background

*The Youth Plan is an action under the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy*

- 12 On 1 July 2020, Cabinet established the *Youth Plan 2020-2022: Turning Voice into Action* (Youth Plan 2020-22) as an action under the CYWS. It serves as the primary action giving effect to the 'children and young people are involved and empowered' outcome [SWC-20-MIN-0088 refers]. Cabinet also agreed the Youth Plan would be reviewed two years after its launch and would report back SWC on its findings.
- 13 The Youth Plan 2020-22 had two broad aims, to:
  - 13.1 co-ordinate youth-focused work across government agencies; and
  - 13.2 facilitate improved outcomes for all young people aged 12-24 years.
- 14 The Youth Plan 2020-22 was affected by the emergence of COVID-19 in its early development stages. Its focus adjusted to also:
  - 14.1 mitigate the impacts of COVID-19 for young people;
  - 14.2 focus on an older cohort of 17 to 24-years-olds, who were navigating significant life transitions during COVID-19 recovery, such as starting a first job or leaving home; and
  - 14.3 focus on four priority cohorts experiencing marginalisation, which made it likely the impacts of COVID-19 would become more significant: rangatahi Māori, Pacific, rainbow, and disabled young people.
- 15 The development and ongoing monitoring of the Youth Plan is led by MYD and supported by MSD. The Youth Plan 2020-22 actions were initially organised around four outcome areas: voice, wellbeing, leadership, and transformative change.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> These outcomes were defined in the Youth Plan 2020-22 as:

- Voice: Rangatahi voices and perspectives are listened to, valued, and embedded in decision-making at all levels, particularly in decisions about COVID-19 recovery.
- Wellbeing: The wellbeing of rangatahi, their family and whānau, and their communities is supported and strengthened.
- Leadership: Rangatahi are enabled to lead their own lives, have their identities seen, valued, and respected and have increasing influence in their communities and over government policy.

**A review of the initial Youth Plan was conducted to inform the direction of the refreshed plan**

*Phase One of the review assessed the efficacy of the previous Youth Plan*

- 16 Phase One of the review of the Youth Plan 2020-2022 commenced in July 2022, coinciding with the first review of the CYWS. Phase One involved a range of evaluation activities, including a process evaluation, and engagement with young people and the youth sector. These assessed the efficacy of the Youth Plan 2020-22 in facilitating improved outcomes for young people in Aotearoa New Zealand. Analysis concluded:
- 16.1 the Youth Plan 2020-22 successfully coordinated increased cross-agency collaboration and raised the profile of issues concerning young people across government;
  - 16.2 the Youth Plan 2020-22 was broad in scope and outcomes were difficult to measure over a short timeframe, which could be addressed by providing a refined focus in a refreshed Youth Plan and ensuring a fit-for-purpose measurement framework was designed to best assess the efficacy of actions; and
  - 16.3 a longer timeline was required to understand the place of the Youth Plan in contributing to improved outcomes for young people, especially as COVID-19 recovery was no longer the central focus.

*Phase Two of the review informed the direction of the refreshed Youth Plan*

- 17 Phase Two included a mapping exercise and literature review with the purpose of orienting the Youth Plan in a wider context, establishing a unique angle, and guiding MYD, with support from MSD, to create the refreshed Youth Plan.
- 18 The mapping exercise collated existing CYWS work aiming to improve the lives of young people. It succeeded in:
- 18.1 ensuring new actions would avoid duplication with other government work; and
  - 18.2 discovering voice and leadership were least likely to be addressed by existing action plans or strategies (as only 4 percent of actions in the CYWS explicitly mentioned youth voice and participation), providing a unique opportunity for the Youth Plan to respond to young people.
- 19 The literature review collated the perspectives of young people. It examined the threats to wellbeing they reported most frequently and how these threats might affect different cohorts. Findings supported:
- 19.1 expanding the Youth Plan's priority cohorts to address several groups of young people who experience higher rates of marginalisation and

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- Transformative change: Government agencies work collaboratively with each other, the youth sector, communities, and rangatahi to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 for rangatahi.

inequity compared with the rest of the youth population, including: rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, disabled young people, young women, young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants), and young people living in the regions;

- 19.2 maintaining an intersectional lens acknowledging that individual young people occupy complex positions in society affected by their diverse, overlapping identities; and
  - 19.3 focusing on voice and leadership as protective factors for wellbeing and drivers of change, giving young people a sense of agency and empowerment over issues impacting their lives.
- 20 Further information on the mapping exercise and the literature review are attached as Appendices three and four.

### **The direction of the refreshed Youth Plan was informed by engagement with young people**

- 21 Targeted engagement with young people during Phase One of the review focused on understanding young people's reported views on the efficacy of the previous Youth Plan. Engagement included two intensive hui with MYD's Youth Advisory Group, a thematic analysis of Youth Parliament 2022, and engagement findings from the CYWS review. Complementary online hui were held with kaimahi from the youth sector. Young people suggested:
- 21.1 the four focus areas of the initial Youth Plan were interconnected, with wellbeing or hauora acting as a root system supporting branches of voice and leadership, which naturally lead to transformative change;<sup>3</sup>
  - 21.2 the focus on the selected priority groups was a positive step, but more groups could be considered for inclusion, especially those who report disproportionate threats to wellbeing; and
  - 21.3 embedding a Te Ao Māori lens could broaden concepts such as leadership, wellbeing, and success beyond homogenised definitions, which would benefit both rangatahi Māori and all young people.
- 22 Targeted engagement with young people was also conducted during Phase Two of the review to shape the development of the refreshed Youth Plan as it was being drafted. Engagement took place over three weeks, with input from 1,405 young people through an online survey and facilitated in-person and online hui. Primary findings suggested young people:
- 22.1 want their voices heard by government and want to interact in a multitude of ways including surveys, petitions, voting, and social media;

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<sup>3</sup> Suggestions from young people directly informed the design of the tree diagram presented in the Youth Plan strategic framework document.

- 22.2 see themselves as leaders (60.5 percent of young people) but are primarily prevented from taking leadership roles by lack of confidence/fear (42 percent) and lack of opportunities/support (33.3 percent);
  - 22.3 support equity of voice, including their perspectives being weighted alongside adult perspectives, and diverse or underrepresented groups being offered opportunity to speak;
  - 22.4 want to be involved in decision-making early and effectively, where they can see how their voices shape outcomes;
  - 22.5 want accessible channels to learn about government issues and provide their own contributions, with the government reaching out to them deliberately; and
  - 22.6 seek opportunities to develop their leadership abilities and hold effective positions alongside decision-makers.
- 23 A summary of our targeted engagement with young people is attached as Appendix five.

**The refreshed Youth Plan will focus on voice and leadership**

- 24 Youth voice and leadership are both known to be protective factors for wellbeing for young people. In line with the 'involved and empowered' outcome under the CYWS, prioritising youth voice and leadership provides a sense of agency for young people, supporting them to mitigate threats to their overall wellbeing and to create change at an individual level, as well as a collective.
- 25 Voice and leadership are forms of whai wāhitanga.<sup>4</sup> Young people should be seen as valued contributors and be given space to participate and assume agency.

*Young people define voice as opportunities for them to speak and be heard*

- 26 Through our targeted engagement, young people defined voice as opportunities for them to speak and be heard. The young people that were engaged with noted opportunities should be accessible, youth-friendly, and meaningful. They also noted opportunities should be offered to diverse cohorts of young people to ensure there is a broad perspective of voices being heard and embedded in decision-making processes.
- 27 The impact of youth voice is determined by the quality of listening by decision-makers, which includes the sharing of information at all stages of decision-making, closing feedback loops, being open and transparent about those decisions, and following through with what was discussed and agreed to with young people.

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<sup>4</sup> Acknowledging mana, whai wāhitanga recognises young people as valued contributors to society, giving them space to participate, assume agency and take responsibility. This definition is part of the Mana Taiohi framework used in the Youth Plan.

*Young people define leadership in diverse ways*

- 28 Through our targeted engagement, young people provided diverse definitions of leadership. Leadership could be about self-determination, having influence in communities and in decision-making processes, or about supporting and caring for others through collective action.
- 29 Across the wide spectrum, young people described the importance of finding their *turangawaewae*, their place to stand. Connection to *whakapapa*, *whānau*, community, and *whenua* all contribute to a rooted understanding of self from which leadership naturally grows. Young people noted that they should be supported in their individual journeys of finding their *turangawaewae* alongside opportunities to influence and take action.

**The Youth Plan addresses particular cohorts of young people**

*The Youth Plan is for all young people aged 12-24 years*

- 30 The Youth Plan supports young people aged 12-24 years. To ensure the Youth Plan meets the needs of this wide cohort, I propose to divide the cohort into two groups based on common development stages from adolescence to early adulthood: young people aged 12-17 years, and young people aged 18-24 years. This accounts for the cognitive, emotional, social, and physical development of young people while acknowledging that not every single young person develops or goes through certain milestones or transitions at the same time. Age, developmental stage, context, lived experience, and legal rights are all factors to be considered, which vary from one person to another.
- 31 These age ranges would serve as a general guide for government agencies, the youth sector, and community sector partners formulating actions for the Youth Plan. Broadly, the 12-17-year-old cohort is functioning in education environments, while the 18-24-year-old cohort is likely to be experiencing life transitions, including entering the workforce, further education, or moving out of home.

*The Youth Plan gives specific focus to seven priority cohorts*

- 32 Seven priority cohorts have been identified in the review as groups facing higher rates of marginalisation, inequity, and threats to wellbeing. They are: rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, disabled young people, young women, young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants), and young people living in the regions.
- 33 I acknowledge that these cohorts are not distinct categories, and many young people belong to multiple groups, with intersectional identities that result in unique experiences. Even within each cohort, individual experiences are diverse. However, there is still merit in defining the priority cohorts for the Youth Plan to ensure the actions are focused on those most in need and who face multiple challenges.

- 34 Labels such as 'ethnic' or 'rainbow' are necessary generalisations that capture broad trends, but I note that all young people within these groups do not share one common experience. The Youth Plan incorporates intersectional thinking in the strategic document and encourages government agencies, the youth sector, and community sector partners forming actions to adopt an intersectional approach to developing and implementing actions.

**Commitment to Te Ao Māori and upholding Te Tiriti o Waitangi is essential**

- 35 Actions should uphold The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi (te Tiriti), embedding the rights of Māori early in their design processes. Actions should work to transform systems, policies, and services, guided by rangatahi Māori through engagement to deliver solutions for rangatahi Māori. Engagement could also extend to whānau, iwi, and hapū, where appropriate, acknowledging rangatahi Māori within their wider cultural context.
- 36 The refreshed Youth Plan was informed by what we heard from rangatahi Māori in our targeted engagement as well as what came through existing literature. The refreshed Youth Plan also incorporated the engagement guidelines provided by Te Arawhiti and acknowledges the different starting points of engagement, from informing and consulting, to collaboration and empowerment.
- 37 The young people we engaged with suggested integration of bicultural concepts of wellbeing such as Hauora into the Youth Plan. They also suggested that mana motuhake, rangatiratanga, and models of collective leadership better encapsulate the ways many rangatahi Māori and other young people take up leadership roles in their communities. The refreshed Youth Plan endeavours to better reflect these ideas by including Hauora in the framing of outcome areas in the strategic document and by incorporating diverse models of leadership and success when measuring actions by utilising Mana Taiohi.
- 38 The Youth Plan advocates for the utilisation of Mana Taiohi, a youth development framework specifically designed for engagement with young people based on a set of guiding principles.<sup>5</sup> This youth development framework was informed by Te Ao Māori and is consistent with te Tiriti. Mana Taiohi, which was launched in October 2019, is the result of a review of the 2002 Youth Development Strategy of Aotearoa. It reflects calls for a kaupapa Māori and te Tiriti-based conceptualisation of youth development.
- 39 Mana Taiohi is now a leading framework across the youth sector and is already being utilised by a small number of government agencies to guide their approach to supporting young people across youth-focused mahi. Mana Taiohi is provided in the Youth Plan's strategic document to encourage government agencies, the youth sector, and community sector partners to

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<sup>5</sup> The guiding principles of Mana Taiohi include: whanaungatanga (relationships, kinship and a sense of family); manaakitanga (expressing kindness and respect for others, emphasising responsibility and reciprocity); whai wāhitanga (recognises young people as valued contributors to society, giving them space to participate, assume agency and take responsibility; and mātauranga (knowledge, wisdom, understanding and skill).



incorporate the framework and its guiding principles alongside their existing commitments to te Tiriti.

**The refreshed Youth Plan will be separated into three documents**

*The broad strategic framework document provides the foundation of the Youth Plan*

- 40 The broad strategic framework document (attached as Appendix one) explains the Youth Plan strategy and framework by laying out key focus areas, priority cohorts, and long-term aspirations. A set of actions criteria explains how actions can be designed to best achieve the outcomes of the Youth Plan. The criteria suggests including whai wāhitanga of young people, utilising Mana Taiohi in engagement, delivering actions through collaboration with government agencies, the youth sector, and community sector partners, and supporting the wider aims of the CYWS.
- 41 The strategic framework document also includes a kete of tools, intended for those designing and implementing actions. The kete includes approaches to selecting target cohorts, the Mana Taiohi framework, and engagement guidelines, linking to further information and resources.
- 42 The strategic framework document will be refreshed every five years. The longer timeline is intended to support meaningful implementation of actions prior to a review. Separating the rolling suite of actions from the strategic framework document allows the refreshed Youth Plan to respond to emerging needs without refreshing the strategic framework document as frequently.

*The rolling suite of actions will be adapted for the emerging needs of young people*

- 43 To achieve the aims of the Youth Plan, actions will be designed and undertaken by government agencies, the youth sector, and community sector partners. Whilst the initial suite of actions (attached as Appendix two) are already underway, I aim to continue ensuring new initiatives included in the rolling suite of actions are designed and delivered with participation from young people in the appropriate priority cohorts. Actions will be designed by agencies and discussed with MYD, and I will present them at the CYWS Ministerial Group meetings, where appropriate.
- 44 Responsibility for young people sits across government and as such there are a number of complementary action plans that often focus on particular needs of different cohorts of young people. It is important to note that the Youth Plan actions do not reflect all the work underway across government or the wider sector. Rather, the Youth Plan is just one mechanism to drive actions that give effect to the focus areas of youth voice and leadership to realise the overarching vision of the CYWS.
- 45 The initial suite of actions has a range of lead and supporting government agencies and crown entities, youth sector partners, and community sector partners, including: MYD, MSD, Office of the Children's Commissioner (who will transition to the Children and Young People's Commission as of 1 July 2023), Oranga Tamariki, Te Whatu Ora, Curative NZ, Ara Taiohi, Te Puni

Kōkiri, and the Health Promotion Agency. While initial actions are being led by a small number of government agencies, I would like to invite all Ministers to discuss the Youth Plan with their agencies and encourage them to consider what actions they could contribute to support the overall direction of the Youth Plan.

- 46 I intend to report back on the progress of the refreshed Youth Plan in 2024, including a more comprehensive list of actions, which may include proposals for new initiatives that have Budget implications. However, this paper does not assume new or additional funding will be made available.
- 47 MYD plays an important role in raising awareness of key issues that are important to young people. There is also an opportunity for MYD to take more of a leadership role in coordinating shared resources with other government agencies and, leading a key initiative that will have a significant impact on youth voice and leadership across government.

*The measurement framework will monitor the effectiveness of the Youth Plan*

- 48 The high-level measurement framework (attached as Appendix six) tests whether actions giving effect to the Youth Plan are practical, measurable, youth-centred, evidence-based, and achieving their intended outcomes. The measurement framework is intended to enable self-reporting and agencies are expected to build on its broad focus to create fit-for-purpose measures specific to individual actions. Whilst initial actions are either led or co-led by MYD or MSD, I expect other agencies who have specific actions within the Youth Plan's rolling suite of actions will also use the measurement framework to assess the progress of their own work, making adjustments where appropriate.
- 49 The Youth Plan Measurement Framework incorporates a Theory of Change that builds on international research for developing and implementing youth policy with a focus on youth voice, leadership, and wellbeing. The framework provides a clear intervention logic for the Youth Plan and measures how the rolling suite of actions will contribute to the key outcomes. The framework states that Youth Plan actions cumulatively contribute to outcomes and success is not attributable to discrete initiatives.
- 50 It is important to note that the high-level measurement framework provides a common foundation for how agencies would examine the effectiveness of their initiatives within the Youth Plan while complementing those agencies' existing indicators, and measures they already have in place for their individual actions, rather than replacing them. The high-level measurement framework is not designed to be a one-size fits all approach. The intent is to ensure there is a common understanding and solid foundation for how agencies could monitor youth voice and leadership within their individual actions that contribute to the overall strategic direction of the Youth Plan.

### **Progress will be monitored and reported to CYWS Ministers**

- 51 MYD, with support from MSD, will provide monitoring and oversight of the implementation of the Youth Plan actions, reporting back to me on a regular basis. I will present new actions at the CYWS Ministerial Group meetings, where appropriate.
- 52 The broad strategic framework document of the Youth Plan will be refreshed every five years, while the rolling suite of actions will be reviewed annually, and actions may be added when appropriate on an ongoing basis. Progress on actions and effectiveness in achieving key outcomes of the plan will be assessed using the measurement framework. This will involve MYD and MSD having regular conversations with relevant agencies and to gather information on progress of actions within the Youth Plan, where appropriate.

### **Financial Implications**

- 53 There are no financial implications for this paper. There may be Budget considerations when I report back on the progress of the rolling suite of actions in 2024, however, the implementation of this plan does not assume new or additional funding will be made available.

### **Population Implications**

- 54 The refreshed Youth Plan and suite of actions will impact various population groups, particularly the cohorts I have identified as a priority for the next iteration of the Youth Plan. I anticipate any advice on the progress of specific actions within the Youth Plan would include a detailed analysis on the impact of various population groups, including the use of the Child Impact Assessment tool.<sup>6</sup>

### **Human Rights**

- 55 Proposals in the Youth Plan are intended to uphold the rights of young people by empowering them and involving them in government work, which affects their lives. Officials will continue to have regard to consistency with the Human Rights Act 1983 and the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990 as specific initiatives within the Youth Plan progresses over time.

### **The Treaty of Waitangi/Te Tiriti o Waitangi Implications**

- 56 The Youth Plan will uphold te Tiriti. Aotearoa New Zealand is the only place where rangatahi Māori are tangata whenua and I acknowledge their unique place as a priority cohort. I anticipate any advice on the progress of specific actions within the Youth Plan impacting rangatahi Māori would give effect to te Tiriti and the need to engage not only with rangatahi Māori, but with their whānau, iwi, and hapū, where appropriate.

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<sup>6</sup> This tool has been developed to help government and non-government organisations to assess whether policy proposals will improve the wellbeing of children and young people and is publicly available on MSD's website.

## Consultation

- 57 The Departments of Corrections, Internal Affairs, and the Prime Minister and Cabinet (Child Wellbeing and Poverty Reduction Group), Electoral Commission, Ministries of Education, Housing and Urban Development, and Justice, Office of the Children's Commissioner, Oranga Tamariki (Ministry for Children), New Zealand Police, Sport New Zealand, Te Arawhiti (the Office for Māori Crown relations), Te Hiringa Mahara (Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission), Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry of Māori Development), Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand), Te Aka Whai Ora (Māori Health Authority), New Zealand Treasury, and Ministries for Disabled People (Whaikaha), Pacific Peoples, Women, and the Environment were consulted on this paper.

## Communications

- 58 I intend to publicly release the Youth Plan, which will be made available on MYD's website, following a visual design process. I also intend to issue a media release at the same time.
- 59 Subject to Cabinet endorsement of the Youth Plan, it will be translated into Te Reo Māori, and several accessible versions, including a New Zealand Sign Language (NZSL) video, audio version, easy-read version, large text version, and Braille.

## Proactive Release

- 60 I intend to release this paper subject to redactions consistent with the Official Information Act 1991 following the launch of the Youth Plan.

## Recommendations

The Minister for Youth recommends that the Committee:

- 1 **note** on 1 July 2020, Cabinet agreed to the *Youth Plan 2020-2022: Turning Voice into Action* and that a review of the Youth Plan be undertaken two years after its launch [SWC-20-MIN-0088 refers].
- 2 **note** on 1 July 2020, Cabinet invited the Minister for Youth to report back to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on findings following the review of the Youth Plan [SWC-20-MIN-0088 refers].
- 3 **note** the Youth Plan review process, including a mapping exercise, literature review, and targeted engagement, have informed the direction and scope of the refreshed Youth Plan.
- 4 **agree** to the strategic direction and approach of the refreshed Youth Plan (attached as Appendix one), which will focus on:
  - 4.1 the 'involved and empowered' outcome area of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy by focusing on supporting youth voice and leadership to inform government decisions on initiatives that impact young people;

- 4.2 an age group of 12-24-year-olds split into two cohorts (12-17-year-olds and 18-24-year-olds), which is based on common developmental stages of young people from adolescence to early adulthood but acknowledging that not every young person develops or goes through certain milestones or transitions at the same time; and
- 4.3 seven priority cohorts of young people who face higher rates of marginalisation, inequity, and threats to wellbeing when compared with the overall average: rangatahi Māori, Pacific young people, rainbow young people, disabled young people, young women, young people from ethnic communities (in particular, former refugees and recent migrants), and young people living in the regions.
- 5 **agree** to the initial suite of actions (attached as Appendix two), which will give effect to the aims of the Youth Plan.
- 6 **agree** to delegate to the Minister for Youth the authority to include new actions in the rolling suite of actions, following their agreement by relevant Ministers through the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy Ministerial Group (which is chaired by the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction).
- 7 **note** the refreshed Youth Plan will be divided into three interconnected documents, which include:
  - 7.1 an overarching strategic framework document that sets the vision and direction of the Youth Plan for the next five years (attached as Appendix one);
  - 7.2 a rolling suite of cross-government actions to give effect to the vision and strategic direction of the Youth Plan, which will be reviewed annually (attached as Appendix two); and
  - 7.3 a high-level measurement framework to guide how agencies will monitor the effectiveness of the rolling suite of actions, and to inform the development of any new actions that may require budget considerations (attached as Appendix six).
- 8 **note** subject to Cabinet agreement, I intend to publicly release the strategic direction framework document, initial suite of actions, and measurement framework.
- 9 **authorise** the Minister for Youth to make decisions about minor editorial changes, design changes, and translations to the refreshed Youth Plan without further Cabinet approval.
- 10 **invite** the Minister for Youth to report back in 2024 with a comprehensive rolling suite of actions to give effect to the Youth Plan, some of which may require Budget considerations.
- 11 **invite** Ministers to discuss the Youth Plan with their agencies and encourage them to consider what actions they could contribute to give effect to the Youth Plan.

Authorised for lodgement

Hon Willow-Jean Prime

Minister for Youth