



30 October 2023

Tēnā koe

On 29 September 2023, you emailed the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act), the following information:

- *Your agency's efforts to consult children or young people (25 or younger) in climate change and/or environmental policymaking.*
- *Your agency's efforts to partner with children or young people (25 or younger) in climate change and/or environmental policymaking.*
- *Your agency's efforts to act upon the advice of children or young people (25 or younger) in climate change and/or environmental policymaking.*
- *Your agency's past, current or future plans to increase the engagement of children and/or young people in climate change policymaking.*
- *Advisory positions currently or previously held by children and/or young people within your agency.*
- *The best practice model/framework you use for ensuring child and youth participation.*

You also sent the request to the Ministry of Youth Development (MYD). As MYD is a business unit within the Ministry, this letter responds to both requests.

There are a number of government agencies that have responsibilities for the environment, and policy relating to climate change and the environment. The Ministry does not lead on this work but has provided information in scope as follows.

For the sake of clarity, I will answer your questions in turn.

1. Your agency's efforts to consult children or young people (25 or younger) in climate change and/or environmental policymaking.

In early 2023, the Ministry and the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment ran a public consultation to inform development of an Equitable Transitions Strategy. The Strategy will help achieve a successful and well-

managed transition to a low-emissions and climate resilient future that is fair and inclusive.

Public consultation included workshops around the country and an online survey. Promotion of the consultation included promotion to schools and youth groups, with younger people being one of our priority target groups. This meant that we had some representation from young people at our in-person workshops. We also ran two separate online sessions – one focussed on young Pacific people and another for young Māori.

The feedback from young people was included in our engagement analysis, and all feedback is being considered in the preparation of a draft Strategy.

2. Your agency's efforts to partner with children or young people (25 or younger) in climate change and/or environmental policymaking.

The Hive

The Hive is delivered through a partnership between MYD and Curative NZ. It is a youth voice initiative which facilitates a meaningful two-way communication channel between young people and the government. Each year, approximately 15 young people from across Aotearoa are recruited to be part of The Hive as 'Hivers', serving a one-year tenure referred to as a 'season'.

Each cohort works to strengthen The Hive, by co-designing experiences and content for other young people to participate in. Each cohort is actively supported by the previous year's cohort.

The Hive provides development and capacity-building opportunities for Hivers, facilitates broad youth engagement with government agencies on policy projects and provides educational content to help young people better understand New Zealand's political system and how they can have their voices heard. At times, all seasons of The Hive have engaged in larger scale opportunities.

For more information about the Hive, you can visit their website at the link following link: thehive.nz.

You can read about some of The Hive-led consultations with children or young people in climate change and/or environmental policymaking, at the following links:

- thehive.nz/past-engagements/
- ccc-production-media.s3.ap-southeast-2.amazonaws.com/public/Inaia-tonu-nei-a-low-emissions-future-for-Aotearoa/The-Hive-post-campaign-analysis.pdf
- thehive.nz/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The-Hive-Emissions-Reduction-Plan-Report-Final-1.pdf

- <https://www.chilyouthwellbeing.govt.nz/resources/insights-rangatahi-climate-change-commissions-draft-report>

3. *Your agency's efforts to act upon the advice of children or young people (25 or younger) in climate change and/or environmental policymaking.*

4. *Your agency's past, current or future plans to increase the engagement of children and/or young people in climate change policymaking.*

We provide the following information in relation to questions 3 and 4:

Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action

The refreshed Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action (Youth Plan) was launched on 14 August 2023. It aims to embed youth voices and leadership in decision making across government and wider community. While coordinated by MYD, the Youth Plan is for all of government, the community and youth sectors, and tangata whenua. It outlines the importance of whai wāhitanga (youth participation) in decision-making processes, particularly those focused on the issues that matter most to, or most impact, young people.

The Youth Plan also sets out a range of tools agencies and organisations can use to support best practice engagement with young people. These include the engagement continuum, which outlines the different levels at which engagement can occur, and Mana Taiohi.

You can find more information about the Youth Plan and Mana Taiohi at the following links:

- www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-plan/youth-plan.html
- arataiohi.org.nz/mana-taiohi/

5. *Advisory positions currently or previously held by children and/or young people within your agency.*

There are a multitude of programs at the Ministry which include positions held by young people. Some of these include:

MYD Youth Advisory Group

In 2022, MYD established a Youth Advisory Group (YAG) consisting of a group of 20 diverse young people aged 18-24 years from across New Zealand. The YAG's purpose is to provide advice on specific projects that will help to embed youth voice and leadership in government and community decision-making and action, particularly on the issues young people care about most. A key focus of the YAG was supporting the review and refresh of the Youth Plan to ensure youth voice was central in shaping the new plan. This included co-

designing and facilitating in-person engagements with young people across Aotearoa as part of the refresh. The YAG's tenure ended in September 2023, after the launch of the Youth Plan.

Seven YAG alumni have recently had their tenure extended through to March 2024. The primary focus of this new iteration of the YAG is supporting the implementation of Youth Plan actions and assisting in the identification and development of potential new actions for inclusion under the Youth Plan.

You can find more information about the MYD YAG on MYD's website and social media channels:

- www.myd.govt.nz/young-people/youth-voice.html
- www.facebook.com/ministryofyouthdevelopment
- www.instagram.com/ministryyouthdevelopment/?hl=en

Partnership Fund Board

The Partnership Fund Board (PFB) was established in 2016 and ran to 2022. The PFB appointments were managed and facilitated by MYD. The PFB's role was to draw on its members' expertise and networks to generate new ideas and forge new partnerships with philanthropic organisations, business, iwi, government, and other funders to support quality youth development and/or youth enterprise opportunities for rangatahi.

From 2017, there were four dedicated youth roles on the Board which provided leadership opportunities for young people and enabled a forum for youth Board members to be at the decision-making table, seeking and developing proposals for quality youth engagement or development opportunities.

Welfare Expert Advisory Group

The Welfare Expert Advisory Group was set up in May 2018 to inform the Government's commitment to overhaul the welfare system. The Group undertook a comprehensive review of New Zealand's welfare system, which underpinned their February 2019 report, titled 'Whakamana Tangata: Restoring dignity to Social Security in New Zealand'. Their advice focused on priority areas for reform, reducing inequalities, and creating an inclusive environment for all New Zealanders within the system.

The group was made up of 11 members of various ages from diverse backgrounds. One of these members was Latayvia Tualasea Tautai, a young Pacific leader from Auckland. Latayvia's background involves leadership roles in her youth, and continued activity volunteering across organisations and as a youth leader in the Auckland region. Latayvia brought her experiences as a young person in New Zealand to this group, as well as lived experience of the welfare system, having grown up in a household with a parent receiving a main benefit.

6. *The best practice model/framework you use for ensuring child and youth participation.*

Youth Voices Toolkit

MYD has also recently refreshed its Youth participation resources – the ‘Youth Voices Toolkit’. The toolkit provides a range of resources that agencies and organisations can use to guide how they engage with young people. You can find more information about the Youth Voices Toolkit here: www.myd.govt.nz/resources-and-reports/youth-engagement-resources.html

Mana Taiohi

The Youth Plan advocates for best practice approaches, including the use of Mana Taiohi in work involving or affecting young people. Mana Taiohi is a principle-based framework, developed by Ara Taiohi, which guides the way people who work with young people work in New Zealand. Informed by Te Ao Māori, it focuses on the principle of mana and an additional eight principles which reflect the inherent mana young people have and how, through positive youth development, this mana can be enhanced.

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

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

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

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

If you are not satisfied with this response regarding young people and climate change in the Ministry, you have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or 0800 802 602.

Ngā mihi nui

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J.R.', with a small flourish at the end.

John Robertson
General Manager
Youth