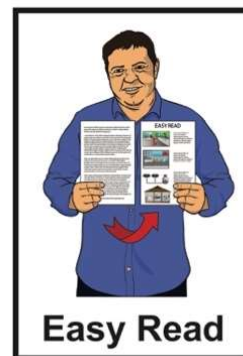




**Te Kāwanatanga  
o Aotearoa**  
New Zealand Government



# **Summary: Child and Youth Strategy 2024 to 2027**



**Published: July 2025**

## Before you start



This is a long document.



It can be hard for some people to read a document this long.



Some things you can do to make it easier are:

- read it a few pages at a time
- set aside some quiet time to look at it
- have someone read it with you to support you to understand it.



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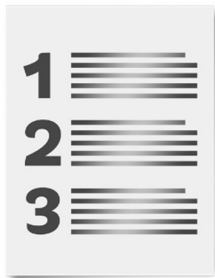
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## About this Easy Read

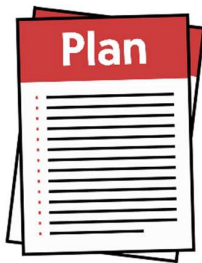


This Easy Read is a **summary** of a longer **strategy** called the **Child and Youth Strategy 2024 – 2027**.

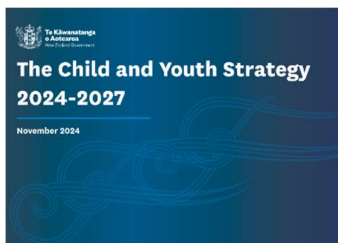


A **summary**:

- is shorter than the main strategy
- tells you the main ideas.



A **strategy** is a plan that tells everyone how the Government will do something important.



When you see the words **the strategy** in this Easy Read they mean the **Child and Youth Strategy 2024–2027**.



The strategy says what the Government is doing to make life better for **children and young people** in New Zealand.

In the strategy **children and young people** means people aged from 0 to 24 years old.



1 out of every 3 New Zealanders are children and young people.



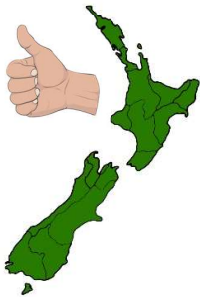
The strategy has:

- a **vision**
- 6 **outcomes**
- 3 **priorities.**

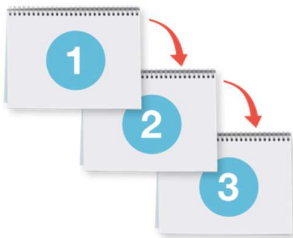




The **vision** is the main thing that the Government is working to do.



The vision in the strategy is for New Zealand to be the best place in the world for children and young people.



The **outcomes** are the things the Government wants the strategy to make happen.



They are how the Government will know if New Zealand is the best place in the world for children and young people.



The **priorities** are the main things the Government is going to do to make New Zealand the best place in the world for children and young people.



They are the things that should be done first.



The strategy will support the Government to make sure that every child and young person in New Zealand has what they need to be:



- happy
- healthy
- safe.

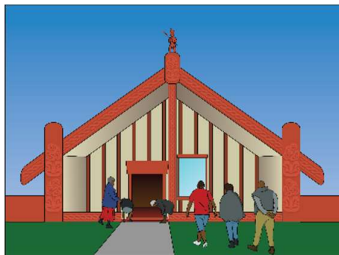




The Government is also doing other things to make life better for all New Zealanders.



These other things will also make life better for children and young people.



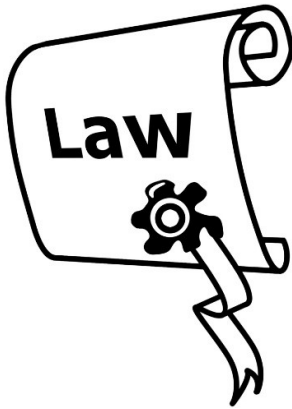
Children and young people are also supported by:

- their whānau / families
- their **communities**
- their iwi / tribes
- other organisations like schools.



**Communities** are groups of people who have something the same about them like all living in the same place.

## Why is the strategy important?



New Zealand has a law called the **Children's Act 2014**.

This law says the Government must have a strategy about how to make things better for children and young people.



Children are important for New Zealand:

- now
- in the future / years to come.



New Zealand is a better place when:

- the people who live here:
  - have skills like knowing how to do a job
  - get to go to school
  - are healthy
- families are doing well
- communities are doing well.

It is important that children and young people get to grow up:

- happy
- healthy.



A good start in life means children and young people can:

- lead happy lives
- do things to support their communities.



The Government already spends a lot of money on **services** for children and young people.



**Services** for children and young people are things they need like:

- schools
- doctors.



The strategy will support the Government to make good decisions about how it spends money on children and young people.

## What children and young people think



The Government talked to children and young people when it was writing the strategy.



Children and young people support the strategy.



Children and young people said they want their whānau / family to:

- love them
- be safe
- support them.





Children and young people also said they want:

- good relationships
- to feel good about who they are
- the basic things they need like:
  - food
  - warm clothes
- to be able to:
  - play sports
  - do fun things
- safe places to play



Children and young people also said they want support to:

- learn
- grow.



The Government also talked to people who **represent** children and young people when it was writing the strategy.



People who **represent** children and young people speak up about the things that children and young people:

- need
- want.



An example of a person who represents children and young people is the Chief Children's Commissioner.

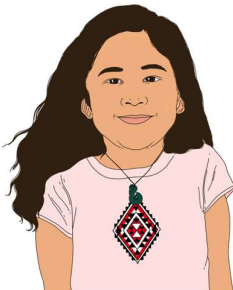


People who represent children and young people said the most important things the strategy should talk about were:

- supporting whānau / families to give children and young people a good start in life
- ending child **poverty**
- making sure children and young people get to say what they think about decisions that will affect them.







**Poverty** is when someone does not have enough money to pay for all the things they need like:

- food
- warm clothes
- a warm house.

People who represent children and young people also said the strategy should talk about children and young people who have higher needs like:

- Māori children and young people
- Pacific children and young people
- disabled children and young people
- children and young people who have been in **state care**.



**State care** is when the Government is in charge of looking after you.



The Ministry of Social Development website has more information about what:



- children and young people think
- the people who represent children and young people think.



This link will take you to the website:

<http://tiny.cc/x00d001>



The website is **not** in Easy Read.

# Outcomes

The strategy has 6 **outcomes**.

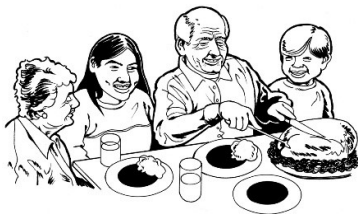


The **outcomes** are the things the Government wants the strategy to make happen.



Outcome 1 is for children and young people to be:

- loved
- safe
- **nurtured.**



**Nurtured** means being looked after by people who care about you.



Outcome 2 is for children and young people to have what they need.



Outcome 3 is for children and young people to be:

- happy
- healthy.



Outcome 4 is for children and young people to be:

- learning
- **developing.**



### **Developing** means:

- changing as you grow up
- learning to look after yourself
- making good relationships with other people.



Outcome 5 is for children and young people to be:

- **accepted**
- **respected**
- **connected.**





Being **accepted** means people like you as you are.

It means you do not have to change anything about yourself for people to like you.



Being **respected** means people:

- listen to you
- make sure you have **rights**.



**Rights** are things that everyone should:

- have
- be able to do.



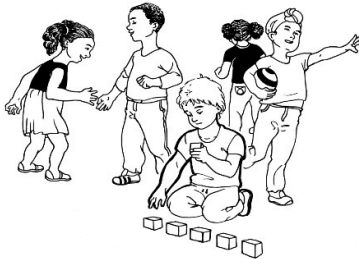
Being **connected** means you have good relationships with your:

- whānau / family
- friends
- community.

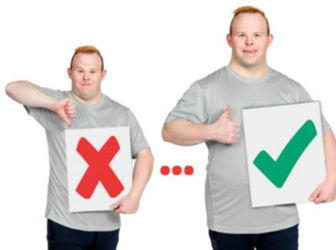


Outcome 6 is for children and young people to be:

- **involved**
- **empowered.**



Being **involved** means that you are a part of your community.



Being **empowered** means that you feel like you can make the world a better place.

## Priority 1: Supporting children and their whānau / families in the first 2 thousand days



Priority 1 is about providing support in the **first 2 thousand days** of life to:

- children
- their whānau / families.



The **first 2 thousand days** means from before a child is born until they turn 5.



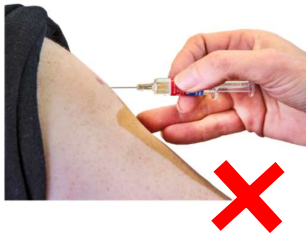
The first 2 thousand days have a big impact on what your life will be like in the future.





Right now not all children get the best start in life.

Here are some ways children do not have a good start in life:



- about 1 out of every 5 children who are 2 years old have not had all their **vaccinations**



- about 1 out of every 4 children do not get their **Before School Check** on time



- some people feel very unhappy when they are **pregnant**
- about 3 out of every 10 people do not have a **Lead Maternity Carer** in the first 3 months of being pregnant



- 1 out of every 5 children who are 5 years old have trouble with speaking.



**Vaccinations** are medicines that:

- stop you getting an illness like measles
- mean you get less sick if you get an illness like Covid.



A **Before School Check** checks that children are healthy before they start school.

It means children can get support if they have:

- health problems
- problems that make it harder for them to learn at school.



Being **pregnant** means you are going to have a baby.



A **Lead Maternity Carer** is a health professional who looks after a pregnant person like a:

- midwife
- doctor.



Some of the things government agencies are doing to support people in the first 2 thousand days are:

- supporting parents / carers to be the best parents / carers they can be
- making sure babies get good healthcare:
  - before they are born
  - after they are born
- making sure children get a good start in learning.





Having a good start supports children to:

- be healthy
- learn well
- be happy.



The Government is making sure people have support:

- when they are pregnant
- after they have given birth.



## Priority 2: Reducing child material hardship



By 2027 the Government wants 17 thousand fewer children and young people to be living in **material hardship** than in 2023.



Living in **material hardship** means not having the basics you need like not being able to:

- buy 2 pairs of shoes
- eat fresh vegetables often
- pay bills on time.





Living in material hardship can affect:

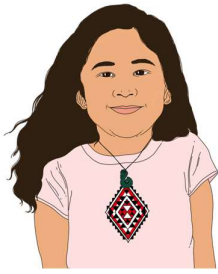
- how well children and young people do in school
- how healthy children and young people are
- how children and young people behave like if they do crimes.



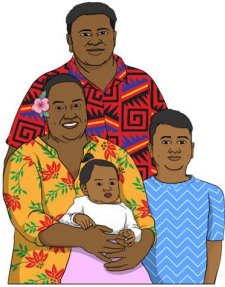
In 2022 – 2023 about 1 out of every 10 children and young people in New Zealand were living in material hardship.



Costs are going up so it is harder for whānau / families to pay for the basic things they need.



Some children and young people are more likely to live in material hardship than other children and young people like:



- Māori children and young people

- Pacific children and young people



- disabled children and young people

- children and young people who live with a disabled person



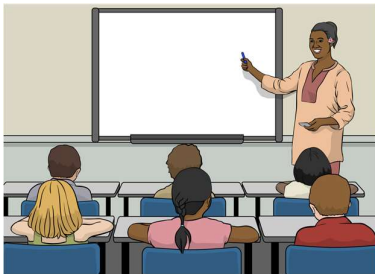
- children who live with only 1 parent.





Some of the things the Government is doing to support children living in material hardship are:

- supporting whānau / families to access:



- healthcare
- education
- jobs

- making sure whānau / families have more money by:



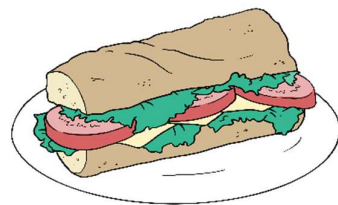
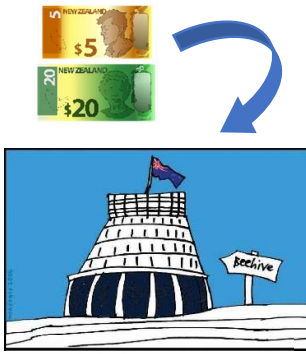
- letting them pay less **tax**
- supporting them to find jobs



- supporting whānau / families to find houses that are:

- **affordable**
- safe.





**Tax** is money you pay the Government.

The Government uses this money to pay for things everyone needs like:

- roads
- schools
- hospitals.

**Affordable** means something you can easily pay for.

The Government is also supporting children and young people living in material hardship by paying for school lunches for people who need them.

## Priority 3: Preventing child harm



The Government wants to make child harm less likely to happen.

Child harm is when children and young people are:

- **abused**
- **neglected.**



Being **abused** means being hurt:

- physically like being hit
- emotionally like being:
  - shouted at
  - called mean words.





Being **neglected** means not being given the things you need like:

- food
- warm clothes.



Every year 1000s of New Zealand children are harmed by people who should be looking after them.

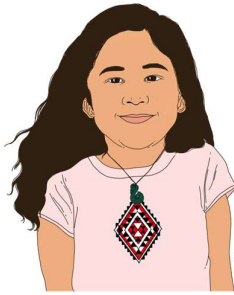


Some of the things that make child harm more likely to happen are:

- people not earning much money
- having to move house often
- drugs
- alcohol
- **mental health challenges**
- living in a community that does not have the things it needs.

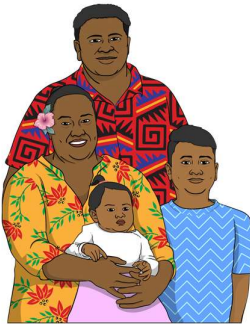
**Mental health challenges** are when people have trouble with their mind / feelings like:

- anxiety
- depression
- schizophrenia.



Some children and young people are more likely to be harmed than other children and young people like:

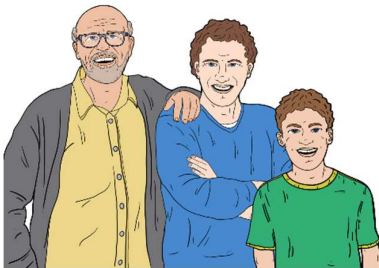
- Māori children and young people
- Pacific children and young people
- disabled children and young people
- children and young people whose whānau / families do not have much money.





Some of the things the Government is doing to stop child harm are:

- solving the problems that make child harm more likely like making sure whānau / families have:
  - food
  - housing
- supporting people to be good parents / carers
- giving extra support to people who are part of caring for children
- providing earlier support for children who are more likely to be harmed.



# Measuring success



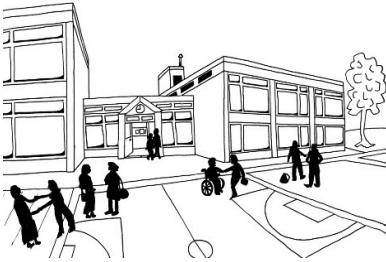
**Measuring success** means recording information that shows if the strategy is working.



The Government will know the strategy is working when:

- fewer children and young people are living in material hardship
- more children and young people live in affordable homes
- fewer whānau / families get **benefits**
- fewer children and young people are abused.





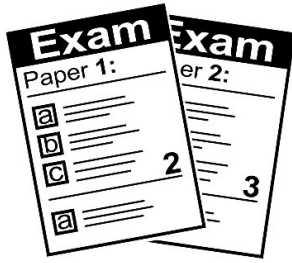
**Benefits** are money the Government gives you when:

- you do not have a job
- you do not get enough money from your job to live a good life.

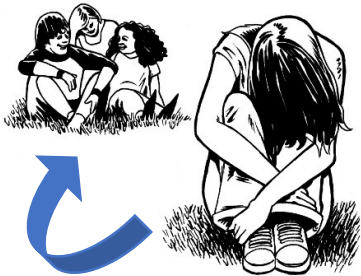
The Government will also know the strategy is working when:

- more students go to school most of the time
- more students pass **NCEA Level 2**
- pregnant people get better care
- fewer children and young people live in homes without enough food
- fewer children and young people do crimes.



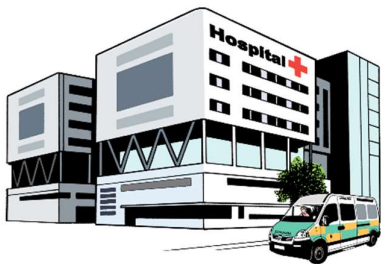


**NCEA Level 2** is an exam you do in secondary school.



The Government will also know the strategy is working when:

- children and young people have better mental health
- more children have all their vaccinations by the time they are 2 years old
- more parents say they are **cop**ing well with parenting
- fewer children need to go to hospital.



**Coping** means feeling like you can do something even if it is hard.

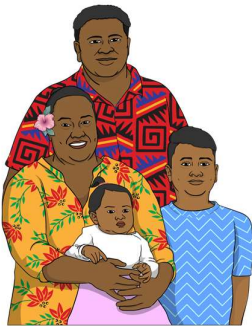


The Government will write a **Strategy Annual Report** every year.

The **Strategy Annual Report** will have information about if the strategy is working.



It will say if the strategy is working for all children and young people.



If it can the Strategy Annual Report will also say how well the strategy is working for:

- Māori children and young people
- Pacific children and young people
- disabled children and young people.



## How the Government will make the strategy happen

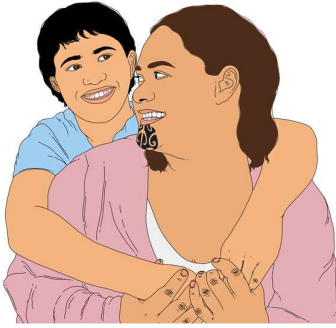


To make the things in the strategy happen the Government will work with:

- people who work with children and young people
- whānau / families
- communities.



The Government will pay for the services communities need.



The Government wants these people to have more of a say in what services / supports work best for them:



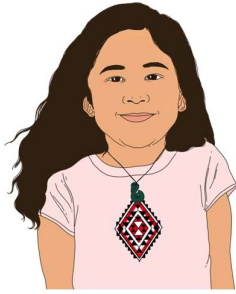
- children and young people
- Māori iwi / tribes
- communities.



The Government will make sure the work it does:



- includes te ao Māori / Māori ways of seeing the world
- includes ideas from different iwi / tribes
- learns from what things have been like for Māori in the past.



The Government is working on making better outcomes for:

- tamariki Māori / Māori children
- rangatahi Māori / Māori young people.

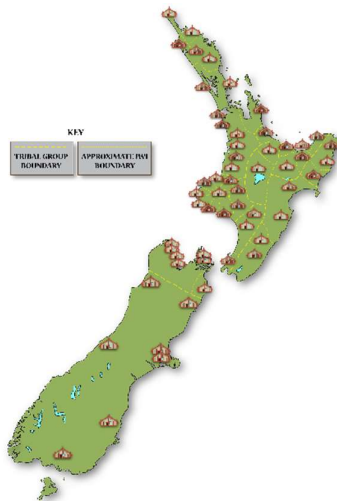


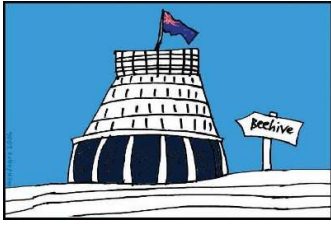
The Government does some of this work with **Pou Tangata | National Iwi Chairs Forum**.



**Pou Tangata | National Iwi Chairs Forum** is a group that:

- represents all the iwi / tribes in New Zealand
- works together on things that are important for all iwi / tribes.





Different parts of the Government are working together to make sure that all children and young people can:

- grow well
- succeed in life.



The **Minister for Child Poverty Reduction** is in charge of the strategy.



A **Minister** is a person in the Government who is in charge of something.



**Child poverty reduction** means making sure fewer children live in poverty.



Other Ministers are in charge of:

- paying for services for:
  - children and young people
  - their whānau / families
- running services for:
  - children and young people
  - their whānau / families.



The Minister for Child Poverty Reduction will work with these other Ministers to make sure the things in the strategy happen.

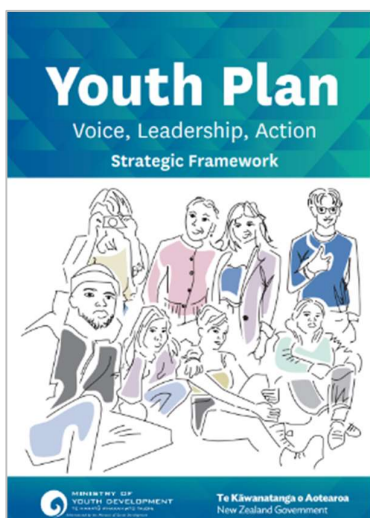


The Government will also think about the outcomes in the strategy when it is doing other work like work on the:

- **Oranga Tamariki Action Plan**
- **Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action.**

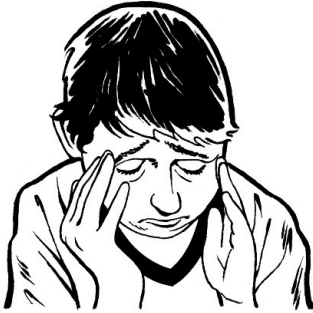


The **Oranga Tamariki Action Plan** tells the Government what to do to make things better for children and young people with the highest needs.



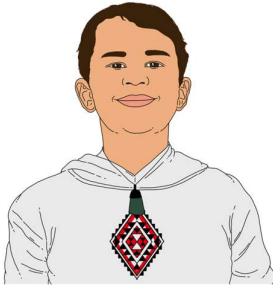
The **Youth Plan: Voice, Leadership, Action** tells the Government what to do to make things better for young people aged 12 to 24 years old.





Some groups of children and young people have worse outcomes:

- when they are children
- throughout their lives.



These groups of children and young people include:

- tamariki Māori / Māori children
- disabled children.



The work the Government does on the strategy will be for all children and young people.



The Government will make sure the work it does makes things better for groups of children and young people who have worse outcomes.

# Principles



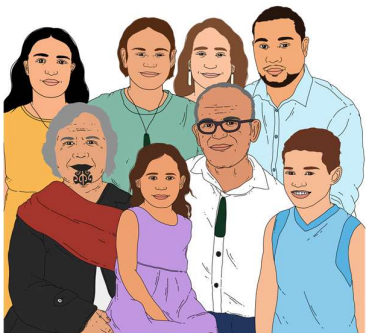
The Government said it would follow some **principles** as part of the strategy.



**Principles** are important ideas that support the Government to make good decisions.



The principles are all about how the Government will decide what to spend money on.



It is important to spend money on things that:

- whānau / families want and need
- communities want and need.



The Government should spend money to:

- stop bad things from happening to children and young people
- support children and young people who have the highest needs
- make things better in the future.



The Government should use its priorities to decide what to spend money on.



The Government should spend money to give everyone a good start in life.



Spending should be:

- **monitored**
- **evaluated.**



**Monitored** means checking what money is being spent on.



**Evaluated** means the Government should check if the spending led to the outcomes the Government wanted.



The Government should use **evidence** to decide what to spend money on.

**Evidence** is information that tells you that spending money will probably lead to a good outcome.



The Government should spend money in ways that:

- respect the rights of children and young people
- recognise that children and young people are important.



The Government should spend money in ways that let:

- communities be involved
- iwi / tribes be involved.



These groups should be involved in:

- making decisions
- running services.



## What can you do?



The **Children and Young People's Commission** website has more information about:

- the rights children and young people have
- what support is available for children and young people.



The **Children and Young People's Commission** speaks up for children and young people in New Zealand.



This link will take you to the website:

[www.manamokopuna.org.nz/rights/](http://www.manamokopuna.org.nz/rights/)



You can contact Oranga Tamariki |  
Ministry for Children if:

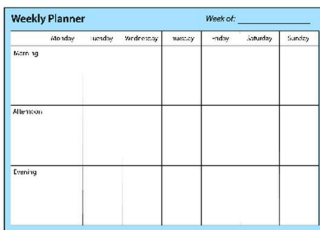


- you need support
- a child or young person you know needs support.



You can **phone** Oranga Tamariki |  
Ministry for Children on:

**0508 326 459**



You can phone Oranga Tamariki |  
Ministry for Children:

- on any day of the week
- at any time of the:
  - day
  - night.





You can **email** Oranga Tamariki |  
Ministry for Children at:

**contact@ot.govt.nz**



You can go to the Oranga Tamariki |  
Ministry for Children **website** at:

**www.orangatamariki.govt.  
nz/worried-about-a-child-tell-us/**



You can phone the Police if:

- you are in danger right now
- a child or young person is in danger right now.



You can phone the Police on:

**111**





The **Bullying Free NZ website** has more information about how to get support:

**[bullyingfree.nz/need-help-now/](http://bullyingfree.nz/need-help-now/)**



If you have ideas about how to make New Zealand a better place for children and young people you can **email:**

**[ChildYouthWellbeing@MSD.govt.nz](mailto:ChildYouthWellbeing@MSD.govt.nz)**



You can find more information about the strategy on the **Ministry of Social Development website:**

**<http://tiny.cc/x00d001>**



The website is **not** in Easy Read.



The **Ministry of Social Development** is the part of government that is in charge of things like:

- benefits
- supporting people to find jobs.





This information has been written by the New Zealand Government.



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