

Current status of and update on Work Programme items

| Work programme item | | Lead agency | update |
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| 1 | Review of the minimum age of criminal prosecution | Ministry of Justice | In 2006, proposed legislative changes to the minimum age of criminal prosecution were introduced to the House of Representatives as a Members Bill - Young Offenders (Serious Crimes) Bill. The Bill proposed lowering the age of criminal prosecution from 14 to 10 years of age. The Bill was considered by the Law and Order Select Committee in 2007; however, the proposed changes were not supported by the Select Committee and the Bill was voted down in the House. |
| 2 | Review of the upper age of the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act 1989 | Ministry of Social Development | The Review of the upper age of the Children, Young Persons, and their Families Act 1989 is complete. The Children, Young Persons and Their Families Amendment Bill (No 6) includes amendments to increase the upper age in the definition of a "young person" to include 17-year-olds. The Bill was reported back to Parliament on 11 August 2008. |
| 3 | Withdrawal of the Reservation on age-mixing in situations where young persons are deprived of their liberty | Ministry of Justice New Zealand Police Department of Corrections Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade | Cabinet considered a paper in July 2008, outlining the steps required before the reservation could be lifted. Work is continuing towards removal of the reservation, but this is unlikely to occur in the short to medium term. |
| 4 | Withdrawal of the Reservation on age-mixing in situations where young persons are deprived of their liberty: "Test of Best Interest" | Department of Corrections | The Department of Corrections has developed and implemented a test of Best Interests for young male offenders. |
| 5 | Withdrawal of the Reservation on children unlawfully in New Zealand | Ministry of Social Development Housing New Zealand Corporation Ministry of Education | Further consideration of social assistance, housing and education settings needs to occur before a decision can be made regarding New Zealand's compliance with this Article. |
| 6 | Withdrawal of Reservation on child labour | Department of Labour | Discussions are continuing with the International Labour Organisation to establish how New Zealand may be able to comply with ILO Convention 138 within our current legislative and policy frameworks. |
| 7 | Corporal punishment | Ministry of Social Development | Section 59 of the Crimes Act 1961 was repealed and substituted in 2007. |
| 8 | Review of policy practice and legislation | Ministry of Youth Development | The Ministry of Youth Development will brief the Minister of Youth Affairs on the upcoming report on UNCROC compliance to be released by the Office of the Children's Commissioner in November, prior to its release. |
| 9 | Reducing inequalities in social well-being | Ministry of Social Development | <i>The Social Report 2008</i> was published in August 2008. <i>The Social Report</i> is published annually. |
| 10 | Assistance to refugee children | Department of Labour | The Department of Labour and the Ministry of Social Development have provided information on work to support the resettlement of refugee children and young people as part of the draft periodic report. |
| 11 | Assessing the impact of economic reforms on children | Ministry of Social Development | An update of <i>Children and Young People: Indicators of Wellbeing in New Zealand</i> is complete and proposed for release in this paper. Information on child poverty is included in the draft periodic report. |
| 12 | "A World Fit for Children" | Ministry of Youth Development | Ministers were briefed on progress with "A World Fit For Children" priority areas in consultation with key UNCROC stakeholders in November 2007, prior to submission of a report to the United Nations. The Ministry of Youth Development supported two young people's participation as part of a New Zealand delegation at the "A World Fit for Children" high level plenary session in New York in December 2007. |

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| 13 | Assistance to child abuse victims | Ministry of Social Development | <p>Information on assistance to child abuse victims is provided as part of the draft periodic report. In addition, one of the actions in the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families Ongoing Programme of Action is the development of a work programme of child abuse (including child sexual abuse). The programme focuses on the prevention of child maltreatment. The priorities within the programme include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preventing neglect • getting the best contribution to prevention from the health, education and social service sectors • working with communities to keep children safe, secure and free from violence. <p>Emphasis within the programme is also given to monitoring child maltreatment and building knowledge about what works. Overall the programme focuses on the prevention of maltreatment both its first occurrence and its reoccurrence.</p> |
| 14 | Reservation on child labour: Department of Labour work programme | Department of Labour | The Department of Labour has made good progress on the Children's Employment Work Programme. This Work Programme, which is ongoing, includes a variety of activities to ensure children are not subject to exploitation in employment. Item 6 gives a specific update on the reservation on child labour. |
| 15 | Non-discrimination data request | Statistics New Zealand | Continuing work on 10-year work programme for the Programme of Official Social Statistics. Work is in progress to develop a reporting framework to improve the quality and co-ordination of indicators relating to non-discrimination. |
| 16 | Child health outcomes | Ministry of Health | The Ministry of Health provided the report: UN Convention on the Rights of the Child: Report Back on Indicators of Child and Youth Health to the Ministers of Health and Youth Affairs in June 2007. Information on child and adolescent health outcomes is included in the draft periodic report |
| 17 | Adolescent health outcomes | | |
| 18 | Adoption reform | Ministry of Justice | The Ministries of Justice and Youth Development have monitored adoption reform throughout the UNCROC Five-Year Work Programme 2004-2008 – proposals for adoption law reform are still to be progressed. |
| 19 | Addressing education disparities | Ministry of Education | Information is provided in the 2008 UNCROC periodic report on Ministry of Education measures for addressing education disparities. |
| 20 | Dissemination and training on children's rights | Ministry of Youth Development; Ministry of Justice | The Ministry of Youth Development completed development of an expanded UNCROC web resource in April 2007. The Ministry of Justice provided an update on its work in promoting and supporting the mainstreaming of rights considerations in policy development across government in March 2008. |
| 21 | Amendment of the Defence Act 1990 | New Zealand Defence Force | The Defence Act was amended in 2001 to clearly state that New Zealand Defence Force personnel under 18 years of age can not be deployed on active service. |
| 22 | Review of the age of voluntary recruitment | New Zealand Defence Force | The New Zealand Defence Force completed their review of the Government's position on raising the age of voluntary recruitment for the armed services and has identified good reasons to keep the age of recruitment at 17 years and implemented safeguards for under-18 year olds in relation to active service. |
| 23 | Information on the cadet forces | New Zealand Defence Force | Information on the recruitment activities undertaken by the armed forces with the cadet forces is included in the draft periodic report. |
| 24 | Information on assistance for refugee and migrant children | Department of Labour Ministry of Youth Development | New Zealand does not formally collect or disseminate information on refugee children who may have experienced armed conflict in their country of origin. All available information of interest to the UN |

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| | involved in hostilities | | Committee has been included in the draft periodic report. |
| 25 | Public dissemination of the initial report on the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers | Ministry of Youth Development | Information about New Zealand's initial report on the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers is available on the Ministry of Youth Development's website, as are the UN Committee's concluding observations and recommendations. |
| 26 | Training and dissemination on the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers | New Zealand Defence Force | Training modules on the law of armed conflict have been developed and are incorporated into all initial recruit and promotion training and are a mandatory component for all personnel deploying on operations. A comprehensive training package on the law of armed conflict and International Humanitarian Law, including UNCROC and the Optional Protocol on Child Soldiers has been developed for delivery to the NZ Cadet Forces. |
| 27 | Review of compliance with the Optional Protocol on the Sale of Children | Ministry of Justice | The Evidence Act was amended in 2007. Proposals for adoption law reform are still to be progressed. |
| 28 | Reporting requirement for youth suicide | Ministry of Youth Development Ministry of Health Ministry of Social Development | Information on youth suicide was provided as part of New Zealand's 2008 periodic report on compliance with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. |
| 29 | Placing Children at the Centre of Policy-Making | Ministry of Social Development | The government has reviewed the child impact assessments being undertaken in the United Kingdom. It is not yet clear, however, whether completing child impact assessments on all new New Zealand legislation and policy development would improve the interests of children. The Ministry of Social Development will continue to monitor the position in the light of overseas developments, and review this position if necessary. Ongoing work to "place children at the centre of policy-making" includes a pilot on the use of child impact assessments in local authorities. |