



13 DEC 2017

9(2)(a)



On 15 November 2017 you emailed the Ministry requesting, under the Official Information Act 1982, information regarding the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC).

On 28 November 2017 your request was partially transferred to the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki. The portion of your request that was transferred is as follows:

- *What policies, programmes, data collection are now in place to identify and address Child Prostitution.*
- *Given the role of Oranga Tamariki will MSD/OT take a lead role in future rather than the joint Police/Justice/MSD previous arrangement that had little or no accountability?*

The remainder of your questions will be answered in turn.

- *Please clarify the organisational structure that is responsible for implementing UNCROC.*

The cross-government work programme for implementing UNCROC is coordinated by the Ministry for Social Development. There are two groups responsible for implementation of UNCROC:

- A group of Social Sector Deputy Chief Executives who are the principle coordinating mechanism, and
- A group of General Managers and senior officials from key agencies.

Both groups meet with the UNCROC Monitoring Group (UMG) to progress the implementation of UNCROC.

- *Have any papers been sent to cabinet in response to the 5th UNCROC Concluding Observations?*
- *Has a work plan been established, as in previous years, to address the Concluding Observations, and if so has it been presented to UMG?*
- *If a work plan exists can you please provide a copy, as has previously been available to civil society for earlier reports (e.g. MSD Ltr to me 24.3.2015)?*

Work is underway to develop a work programme in response to the Concluding Observations made by the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child to New Zealand's Fifth Periodic report in 2016. As yet, no papers have been sent to Cabinet regarding this.

When a new work programme has been agreed to by Cabinet it will be made available on the Ministry website.

The UMG have met with senior officials to support the development of an UNCROC work programme. Further information on their engagement with the Government about UNCROC, including developing a work programme, may be found at: [www.occ.org.nz/childrens-rights-and-advice/uncroc/uncroc-role/](http://www.occ.org.nz/childrens-rights-and-advice/uncroc/uncroc-role/)

- *Can the MSD websites be upgraded, and if so within a month?*

The Ministry intends to have content about UNCROC updated on the website by the end of 2017.

- *Committee on the Rights of the Child: Optional Protocol on Communications: What information, under OIA, can be given, to show progress on this matter, originally raised in 2015 via 2nd UPR?*

This information is withheld under section 9(2)(f)(iv) of the Official Information Act as it is under active consideration. The release of this information is likely to prejudice the ability of government to consider advice and the wider public interest of effective government would not be served.

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 available to the wider public shortly. The Ministry will do this by publishing this letter on the Ministry of Social Development'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](mailto:OIA_Requests@msd.govt.nz).

If you are not satisfied with this response, 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](http://www.ombudsman.parliament.nz) or 0800 802 602.

Yours sincerely



James Poskitt

**General Manager Community & Families Policy**