

Clearing the Fog: An Overview of Policy, Future Fit Project Stage, 1 October 2005

New Zealand has thirty-five government agencies, many of which are involved in policy work and activities that affect children and families. Because it can be difficult for social service agencies to get an overall sense of government policy, this report scanned and summarised key policies and translated them into a reader-friendly overview.

In total twenty key policy documents were examined to identify their contribution towards creating an effective system to support children, young people and families. A brief explanation of each policy was provided followed by an assessment of what progress had been made to turn policy into action. The policies related to issues such as child abuse and neglect, family violence, child poverty, education, health, youth offending, child rights and child and youth development.

Key findings from the report included the need for the government to continue to focus on workforce capacity building, the need for significant improvement in contracting and compliance processes, a continued need to improve relationships and coordination between the NGOs and better resourcing of the social services sector in general.

This report formed the first stage in a three stage project called *Future Fit: Christian Family Support Services in Aotearoa*. More detailed information on the policies covered in this report was provided in summary table format in a complementary report entitled *Future Fit: Policy Summaries*.