

Clearing the Fog: An Update of Policy, Future Fit Project Stage 3, July 2006

This report updates government policies related to children and families that were first outlined in the NZCCSS paper *Clearing the Fog: an Overview of Policy* (October 2005). Since the first report the Ministry of Social Development announced its intention to merge with the Department of Child, Youth and Family (CYF) effective from on 1 July 2006. This report briefly summarises the proposed new structure. It then updates recent changes to the benefit system through the Working for Families initiative and discusses the proposed changes under a new Single Core Benefit.

The updated policies are grouped under three headings; CYF, MSD and 'other agencies'. A range of initiatives are covered including CYF's Differential Responses Model, the activities of the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families, the Youth Workers Workforce Development project and MSD's NGO Capacity Building Project. We conclude by providing a snapshot of relevant recent legislation, including the *Young Offenders (Serious Crimes) Bill*.