

# FACT SHEET

## Youth Workers Workforce Development Project (YWWDP)

### *Issues that are of particular importance in Youth Work sector<sup>1</sup>*

- Funding - issues with salary levels, recruitment, retention, support and opportunities for professional development.
- Training - having accessible and transferable qualifications.
- Infrastructure - for example, the absence of a national code of ethics, complaints and disciplinary process, and formal networks for professional support and supervision.

### *Future Initiatives of YWWDP*

In April 2006 the project advisory group discussed the next steps of the project, which include looking at the key areas of involvement in local youth worker networks/collectives, professional supervision for youth workers, professional development for youth workers, study awards for youth work qualifications, and a code of ethics for youth workers.<sup>2</sup>

Working with other government agencies to explore:

- How they can collaborate to support the National Youth Workers Network.
- Support for funding supervision as part of youth workers contracts.
- Opportunities for stimulating demand for a better qualified, professional and supported youth work sector.
- Developing information to encourage greater participation in training.
- Opportunities to improve contracting processes.

Working with the youth work and education sector to:

- Increase opportunities to upgrade qualifications.
- Explore opportunities to map professional development and career pathways.
- Facilitate other initiatives that improve the safety and effectiveness of youth work practice.

---

<sup>1</sup> Information provided by a Ministry of Youth Development official in email correspondence March 24 2006.

<sup>2</sup> Information provided by a Ministry of Youth Development official in telephone correspondence May 22 2006.

## FACT SHEET

### Relevant Action Areas from Te Tahuhu - Improving Mental Health 2005-2015: The Second New Zealand Mental Health and Addiction Plan

Relevant priorities from Te Tahuhu<sup>3</sup>

- Building Mental Health Services
- Responsiveness
- Workforce and Culture for Recovery
- Primary Health Care
- Addiction<sup>4</sup>

**Promotion and Prevention** (this priority was not mentioned in Clearing the Fog, but is noted here as one action point relevant to children and family health).

**Action 1.4** is to develop and contribute to any activities<sup>5</sup> within community or other sectors that promote infant and family health.

Action: Over the next ten years DHBs will be required to show involvement in activities through their district annual plans and regional plans

#### ***Building Mental Health Services***

**Action 2.10** is to review and update the framework for child and youth mental health and addiction service provision (*New Futures*). The review will consider the needs of children of parents, whanau with mental illness, youth forensic, clarifying the responsibility for children and young people, maternal and infant mental health.<sup>6</sup>

Action: A new framework will be developed and implemented over five years. This will be led by the Ministry of Health and local, regional and national District Health Boards (DHBs).

**Action 2.11** aims to increase access to specialist mental health and addiction services for children and youth.<sup>7</sup>

Action: Agreed access targets will be implemented over the 10 year period. This will be led by the Ministry of Health and local DHBs.

**Action 2.12** is a recognition that the Ministry of Health will continue to contribute to projects, the relevant projects noted are; improving access to CYF clients to mental health and addiction services, Youth Offending Strategy and reducing family violence.<sup>8</sup>

Action: DHBs will demonstrate how they are contributing through District Annual Plans and the Ministry of Health will report on its contribution over the next 10 years.

---

<sup>3</sup> These priorities are outlined in 'Clearing the Fog Policy Summaries,' NZCCSS October 2005.

<sup>4</sup> 'Clearing the Fog Policy Summaries,' NZCCSS October 2005.

<sup>5</sup> Examples of activities to develop and contribute to are identified as Head Start and Family Violence Prevention.

<sup>6</sup> Draft Action Plan: Te Tahuhu-Improving Mental Health 2005-2015: The Second New Zealand Mental Health and Addiction Plan, Ministry of Health, March 2006.

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

**Action 2.13** aims to “implement initiatives to develop child/youth/whanau participation in service development and evaluation.”<sup>9</sup>

Action: Initiatives will be implemented over the next 10 years. This will be led by the Ministry of Health and local DHBs.

### ***Responsiveness***

**Action 3.17** Sets out to recognise the importance of family and whanau by implementing initiatives to “increase family and whanau participation in recovery, assessment and treatment, service planning, delivery and evaluation and workforce and leadership roles.”<sup>10</sup>

Actions:

- The development and support of family advisor positions will be continued over the next 3 years.
- DHBs will demonstrate initiatives to increase family and whanau participation in all the above listed areas in the next 3 years.
- Over the next 5 years training will be provided for mental health workers on effective work with family and whanau.

These actions will be led by local and regional DHBs and the Ministry of Health.

**Action 3.18** sets out to “recognise and respond to the specific needs of family and whanau.”<sup>11</sup>

Actions:

- In the next 3 years DHBs will audit case notes to check that family and whanau needs have been considered.
- Family and whanau satisfaction will be measured over the next 10 years.

These actions will be led by local DHBs.

### ***Workforce and Culture for Recovery***

**Action 4.4** is to finalise and implement mental health and addiction workforce development plans for groups, including NGOs and children and youth.

Actions:

- Develop and implement plans in the next 5 years.
- In years 3 - 10 review and evaluate plans.

These actions will be led by the Ministry of Health and local and regional DHBs.

### ***Addiction***

**Action 7.13** is to implement the Preventing and Minimising Gambling Harm: Strategic Plan 2004-2010. Noted is the need to develop culturally responsive problem gambling intervention services for young people.

Action: The Ministry of Health will report through quarterly contract reviews and the auditing process.

---

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Draft Action Plan: Te Tahuu-Improving Mental Health 2005-2015: The Second New Zealand Mental Health and Addiction Plan, Ministry of Health, March 2006

<sup>11</sup> Draft Action Plan: Te Tahuu-Improving Mental Health 2005-2015: The Second New Zealand Mental Health and Addiction Plan, Ministry of Health, March 2006.

# FACT SHEET

## Human Rights Commission – Te Kāhui Tika Tangata

### *Initiatives taken by the Human Rights Commission<sup>12</sup>*

The Human Rights Commission are currently promoting the New Zealand Action Plan for Human Rights to civil society and local governments. They are also putting in place specific programmes to monitor progress on implementation of recommendations in the Action Plan.

In developing the Action Plan, the Human Rights Commission and the Children's Commission agreed on the priorities identified for children and young people. These include the right of children and young people to be safe, to have their identity respected, to have an adequate standard of living and to participate in decisions that affect them.

The Human Rights Commission have integrated themes from the action plan into their Statement of Intent which has six themes; one of which is to ensure that "children and young people are safe, healthy, well educated and grow up confident in their own identity and knowing their rights and responsibilities."<sup>13</sup>

In the 2005/06 year, the Commission's activities under this theme involved working with key partners to ensure that the right to free education is realised in practice; and to promote human rights in schools and early childhood centres.

For the next three years the Commission is focusing specifically on the right to education. With the Office of the Children's Commissioner, Amnesty International (New Zealand), the New Zealand Peace Foundation and the Development Resource Centre, it is developing the concept of schools and early childhood centres as human rights communities. This concept involves schools and early childhood centres actively applying human rights standards to the way they treat each child and young person, each child and young person's family and each staff member; to how they educate; to what they teach and to how they are organised. It involves actively identifying and removing barriers to a child's successful participation.<sup>14</sup>

---

<sup>12</sup> Information provided by a Human Rights Commission official in telephone correspondence March 13 2006.

<sup>13</sup> Human Rights Commission, Statement of Intent 2005/2006, [www.hrc.co.nz](http://www.hrc.co.nz)

<sup>14</sup> Human Rights Commission, Statement of Intent 2006/2007, [www.hrc.co.nz](http://www.hrc.co.nz)

## FACT SHEET

### United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) Five-Year Work Programme 2004-2008

#### *Relevant areas within UNCROC*

Review of the minimum age of criminal prosecution: The UN is concerned about the minimum age in New Zealand for criminal prosecution being ten years of age for murder or manslaughter. It is also concerned with the adult justice system being used for children who have committed criminal offences.<sup>15</sup>

Review of the upper age of the Children Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989: The UN Committee recommends the Act includes all persons under the age of 18 years to bring it into line with UNCROC.<sup>16</sup>

Withdrawal of the reservation on age-mixing in prison: The UN Committee recommends that New Zealand withdraw the reservation on age-mixing in prison it made when it signed UNCROC, so that children who are incarcerated are not mixed with adults.

Corporal Punishment: Section 59 of the *Crimes Act 1961* justifies the use of force by parents or caregivers against children.<sup>17</sup>

*A World Fit for Children*: A plan of action entitled 'A World Fit for Children' was adopted at the UN General Assembly Special Session on Children in 2002. It aims to improve the wellbeing of children and promote and protect their rights. In 2003 the New Zealand Government decided *A World Fit for Children* would be best addressed through activities in New Zealand's agenda for children and the youth development strategy Aotearoa.<sup>18</sup>

Assistance to child abuse victims: The UN Committee recommended that New Zealand take action to expand programmes and services to support victims of abuse while ensuring that they are delivered in a child-sensitive way. Therefore to increase the number of preventative programmes and services aimed at reducing child abuse in homes, schools and institutions, while ensuring there are sufficient numbers of trained staff to provide services.

Addressing educational disparities: The UN Committee has expressed concern with poor enrolment and high drop out rates among children of different ethnic groups.

---

<sup>15</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Five-Year Work Programme, Ministry of Youth Development, September 2004.

<sup>16</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Five-Year Work Programme, Ministry of Youth Development, September 2004.

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child Five-Year Work Programme, Ministry of Youth Development, September 2004.

<sup>18</sup> For details on these policy documents refer to 'Clearing the Fog: An Overview of Policy,' October 2005, NZCCSS.

## ***Progress on implementing UNCROC***

### *Review of the minimum age of criminal prosecution*

- The Ministry of Justice has been working to improve confidence in the system through non-legislative changes before attempting to revise the age of prosecution. Changes include revising and reissuing guidance on how to deal with young offenders, supported by joint training of front-line staff in the Department of Child, Youth and Family and, especially, the New Zealand Police.<sup>19</sup>
- A survey of practitioners working with child offenders has been completed and information is being analysed to inform the final report to ministers.
- Legal opinion on possible amendments to the *Children, Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989* was sought. This will form part of the final report to the Ministers' of Justice and Youth Affairs that was due to government by 30 September 2005. The final report has been delayed due to the General Election, the Confidence and Supply agreement with New Zealand First and Ron Mark's Bill.<sup>20</sup>

*Review of the upper age of the Children Young Persons and Their Families Act 1989*  
The age will be reconsidered after the CYF Baseline Review evaluation in 2006.

### *Withdrawal of the reservation on age-mixing in prison*

The Department of Corrections has established additional youth offender units for young male offenders, which they say has made it easier to manage the young offender population and prevent age-mixing. Corrections are working on developing 'tests of best interests' to inform the placement of young offenders who are remanded or sentenced to imprisonment. Draft tests have been developed, and are designed to determine whether an 18 or 19 year old male prisoner should be placed in a Young Offender Unit or mainstream prison; and if a female prisoner under the age of 18 should be mixed with female prisoners aged 18 years or older.<sup>21</sup>

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry of Youth development in consultation with the Department of Corrections will work together to decide the steps required to remove New Zealand's reservation on age-mixing.

### *Corporal Punishment*

The Ministries of Justice, Social Development and Youth Development reported to the Government on options for the reform of section 59 in December 2005. Sue Bradford's Private Members Bill for the Repeal of Section 59 passed its first reading and the Justice and Electoral Select Committees are now in the process of considering public submissions. They are due to report back to Parliament on August 31 2006.<sup>22</sup>

### *A World Fit for Children*

MYD was developing a status report in consultation with NGOs to identify key priority areas in *A World Fit for Children*, initially due to be completed by the end of September 2005. Unfortunately it is not yet complete. The report is supposed to be updated annually for the five years of the UNCROC programme.

---

<sup>19</sup> Information provided by a Ministry of Youth Development official in email correspondence April 6 2006.

<sup>20</sup> Information provided by a Ministry of Youth Development official April 6 2006. An explanation of Ron Mark's Bill is provided later in this report as an issue to monitor.

<sup>21</sup> Information provided by a Ministry of Youth Development official in email correspondence April 6 2006.

<sup>22</sup> Section 59 will be discussed later in this report in 'Issues to Monitor'

MYD plans to hold a forum in July this year to discuss progress, opportunities and issues, to which NZCCSS will be invited.<sup>23</sup>

#### *Assistance to child abuse victims*

Initiatives aimed at physical and psychological recovery and social integration for child abuse victims include;

- The development of risk estimation tools for ensuring that victims receive appropriate support.
- Measures to assist child victims of family violence.
- Promoting internet safety via New Zealand's National Plan of Action against the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.
- MSD has identified the prevention of family violence, abuse and neglect of children as one of its priorities. Te Rito Strategy, the Ministerial Team and the Taskforce for Action on Violence within Families, seek to address the issue of family violence in New Zealand.
- The Ministry of Health has developed guidelines for the prevention and detection of family violence. Resources have been developed to enable GPs and Health Professionals to respond to family violence.
- FACS has provided funding for 45 child advocates in NGOs, they have also evaluated, trained and supported child advocates<sup>24</sup> and increased the funding for children's services.
- The Police run a Keeping Yourself Safe Programme which advises children what to do if they are at risk of being a victim or have been victimised.

#### *Addressing educational disparities*

The Ministry of Education and MYD will report on progress in addressing educational disparities from 2007.

---

<sup>23</sup> Information provided by a Ministry of Youth Development official in email correspondence April 6 2006.

<sup>24</sup> Child advocates are defined as specialist practitioners who will provide education and awareness for people who work with children affected by family violence they also monitor police and courts to ensure children are safe and provide specialist advice and consultation concerning children's needs. They also provide specialist assessment and referral for individual children if it is needed.