

## New Zealand's Sixth periodic report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child – NZCCSS Response

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<b>Organisation Name:</b>	New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS)
<b>Organisation description:</b>	<p>The New Zealand Council of Christian Social Services (NZCCSS) welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on New Zealand's Sixth periodic report to the United Nations (UN) Committee on the Rights of the Child.</p> <p>NZCCSS has six foundation members; the Anglican Care Network, Baptist Churches of New Zealand, Catholic Social Services, Presbyterian Support and the Methodist and Salvation Army Churches.</p> <p>Through this membership, NZCCSS represents over 250 organisations providing a range of social support services across Aotearoa. We believe in working to achieve a just and compassionate society for all, through our commitment to our faith and Te Tiriti o Waitangi. Further details on NZCCSS can be found on our website <a href="http://www.nzccss.org.nz">www.nzccss.org.nz</a></p>

## Submission and Recommendations

We support the kaupapa to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand meets its obligations to our tamariki and taiohi under UNCROc.

We remain concerned that progress towards enacting all aspects of UNCROc remains slow.

Our main points:

1. **Acknowledgement of work done to date**  
NZCCSS acknowledge the work done by successive governments to date and the commitment to both public reporting and engagement in this space.
2. **Areas of potential**
  - \* Ensure and legislate for active participation and the privileging of child and youth voice across government
  - \* Strengthen the rights of children to play, both in the community and in educational spaces
  - \* Acknowledge the impact of disability and work to remove barriers to accessing education – including where the disability relates to a learning need or mental health
3. **Areas of concern**
  - \* Develop and implement effective policy that acknowledges the different ages and stages across the lifespan – the current frameworks and policies in Aotearoa make little to no provision for differences in age or developmental needs
  - \* Require that the children and young persons workforce are well trained and supported to work alongside children and young people. This workforce needs to be able to access and complete qualifications specific to children - rather than homogenous qualifications that are too broad, leading to graduates that are lacking in knowledge and ability to work safely with children and young people
  - \* Insist that we are child centred in all that we do, rather than whānau-led approaches