



21 October 2024

Tēnā koe

### **Official Information Act request**

Thank you for your request, which was transferred in part to the Ministry of Social Development (the Ministry) on 25 September from Oranga Tamariki.

I have considered your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Please find my decision on your request set out below.

As you have already noted, the Childrens Act 2014 (the Act) requires the Child and Youth Strategy (the Strategy) to be reviewed every three years. The most recent review was completed in August 2022, meaning the next review must be completed by August 2025.

Earlier this year, the Minister for Child Poverty Reduction (the Minister) directed that there be a refresh of the Strategy and agreed that this refresh, will serve as a review. The refreshed Strategy is expected to be published by the end of 2024. The Strategy will be reviewed again within three years, i.e. by the end of 2027.

The Minister advised Cabinet in May 2024 of her intention to refresh the Strategy and undertake targeted consultation. You can find a copy of the Cabinet minute on the Ministry website here: [www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2024/consultation-on-child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy/sou-24-min-0049-minute.pdf](http://www.msd.govt.nz/documents/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/information-releases/cabinet-papers/2024/consultation-on-child-and-youth-wellbeing-strategy/sou-24-min-0049-minute.pdf).

The Act states that the Strategy must identify the outcomes sought for children and young people, indicate the policies that the Government has implemented or intends to implement to achieve these outcomes, and identify how the outcomes will be measured and reported on through the annual report.

The legislation does not specify any particular requirements that must be met when reviewing the Strategy. It does, however, set out consultation requirements that must be met when changing the Strategy. In particular, the Act requires the responsible Minister to consult with children and/or their representatives, representatives of Māori, the Children and Young People's Commission and relevant Ministers.

I will be publishing this decision letter, with your personal details deleted, on the Ministry's website in due course.

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 my decision on your request regarding the Children's Act 2014, 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.

Ngā mihi nui

pp. 

Magnus O'Neill  
**General Manager**  
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