

Children's Commissioner's top three priorities for his two-year term

Information sheet - July 2016

Judge Andrew Becroft has set out his key priority areas for his term as New Zealand's Children's Commissioner:

1. *Constructive input into the 'Investing In children' work and the re-design of the prevention, intervention and care system for our most vulnerable children.*

2. *Influencing the decision to include 17 year-olds in the youth justice system.*

3. *Achieving better outcomes for tamariki Māori by promoting better engagement and partnership with whānau, hapū and iwi.*

In addition there is plenty of business as usual for the Commissioner and his office. Plus a wide set of statutory functions and responsibilities, including:

- Monitoring Child, Youth and Family sites and residences and reporting on our findings and recommendations
- Promoting child-centred practice and policy
- Raising awareness of UNCROC and children's rights
- Listening to children and young people and making sure they have a say in things that matter to them
- Advocating for individuals via the office's Child Rights Advice Line
- Reporting to the Prime Minister on matters affecting children's rights
- Operating as a 'National Preventative Mechanism' under the provisions of the Crimes of Torture Act (1989)
- Making submissions to government consultation and select committee processes on matters related to child wellbeing
- Providing advice on improving child wellbeing to government agencies, for example, by participating on relevant working groups
- Providing advice as part of the Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology
- Increasing the public awareness of issues related to children's rights and welfare.



Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft represents the 1.1 million people in Aotearoa New Zealand under the age of 18, who make up 24 percent of the total population.

He advocates for their interests, ensures their rights are upheld, and helps them have a say on issues that affect them.

More information about the work of the Commissioner and his office at www.occ.org.nz