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**The Children's Convention Monitoring Group (CMG)**

The CMG was formed in February 2011 to monitor how the Children's Convention (the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child) is being progressed in New Zealand.

**View our Terms of Reference:**

<http://www.occ.org.nz/assets/Uploads/CMG-ToR-UPDATED-May-2018-FINAL.pdf>

**CMG members:**

Action for Children and Youth  
Aotearoa

Save the Children NZ

UNICEF NZ

Human Rights Commission

Office of the Children's  
Commissioner (OCC)

**Contact:**

You can contact the CMG through the Office of the Children's Commissioner:

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**QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE CHILDREN'S CONVENTION MONITORING GROUP (CMG)  
April- June 2019****Public Reporting**

The third public report in the Getting it Right series '[Are we Listening? Children's participation rights in government policy](#)' was released on June 24<sup>th</sup> 2019.

The report briefly discusses what children's participation is and presents the benefits of considering children's views in policy. It then looks at how the government is currently considering children's views in policy development, and highlights opportunities where more can be done. Examples of some current government practice are included. The report ends with 10 ideas for strengthening children's participation in the policy process, to ensure policies are influenced and shaped by children, consistent with their rights.

**Engagement with Officials on Government coordination and implementation of the Children's Convention**

The OCC met with MSD twice this quarter. Topics of discussion included the invitation by the UN to move to a simplified reporting process for the UNCRC, advice to Ministers on acceding to the Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure, progress in the development of a child rights online learning tool and plans for the release of the CMG report.

**The CMG met with the Expert Mechanism for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).**

The CMG met with visiting representatives of the Expert Mechanism for UNDRIP on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2019. The CMG called for issues affecting the rights of tamariki and rangatahi Māori to be included as a specific focus area in the UNDRIP national plan of action for Aotearoa. The CMG also recommended that tamariki and rangatahi Māori participate in the process of developing the national plan of action.

**Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy**

The CMG continued to engage with the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) to provide advice on the development of the Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy to ensure the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child is adequately embedded and applied across all areas of the Strategy.