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

**View our Terms of Reference:**

<https://www.occ.org.nz/assets/Uploads/CMG-ToR-UPDATED-September-2019.pdf>

**CMG members:**

Children’s Rights Alliance 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 2020**

### **COVID-19**

Most significant to this quarter was the national ‘lockdown’ with restrictions to movement imposed by the government in order to curb and then eliminate rates of infection from the COVID-19 pandemic. While unable to meet in person during this time, the CMG met regularly via Zoom to share information about how children and young people were being impacted by the lockdown, what services were available to support children and young people, and resources to help children and the adults in their lives.

The CMG monitored government policy responses to welfare, education, family violence and health with a child rights lens. The CMG wrote to the DCE Children’s Convention Group during the lockdown to offer support, share information and to call for the government response to prioritise the wellbeing and rights of all children.

### **Reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child on COVID-19**

CMG members were invited to submit supplementary reports about the impact of COVID-19 on children’s rights in Aotearoa to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child in June 2020. The supplementary reports will inform the ‘List of Issues Prior to Reporting’ for New Zealand’s 6th periodic review under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

The Office of the Children’s Commissioner’s report focused on the broadening and deepening of inequities for children as a result of COVID-19. The Human Rights Commission’s report highlighted concerns about the use of the Parliamentary urgency process during the pandemic and how the COVID-19 recovery could be used as an opportunity to promote the Convention – including participation rights and the rights of tamariki under te Tiriti o Waitangi. The Children’s Rights Alliance Aotearoa report provided information about the pandemic’s impact on children, with a specific focus on inequities and differential experiences of COVID-19, children’s rights and economic recovery, violence and abuse affecting children and children’s mental health.

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

The OCC continued to meet regularly with MSD on behalf of the CMG (two times this quarter).