
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) July-September 2019

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

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

The CMG met once this quarter with the Children's Convention Deputy Chief Executives Group (Chaired by the Ministry of Social Development) who are progressing the Children's Convention cross-agency government work programme. Topics of discussion at this meeting included updates on the cross-agency work programme; Oranga Tamariki's Hear Me See Me approach; and an update on progress related to the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure. The CMG has requested a formal response to the CMG's 'Are We Listening?' report from the DCEs group. MFAT confirmed at this meeting that the Government has accepted the invitation by the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child to move to a Simplified Reporting Process for New Zealand's next UNCRC review.

Children's Rights Symposium, 19-20 August

Members of the CMG played a key role in the delivery of a two-day children's rights symposium hosted by the Law School at Victoria University in Wellington. The symposium was an opportunity for academics, practitioners, government officials and members of the judiciary to learn and share knowledge about children's rights. International children's rights experts Professor Laura Lundy, Professor Ursula Kilkelly, Scottish Children's Commissioner Bruce Adamson and Justice Vui Clarence Nelson participated and shared their perspectives. The two days included sessions on principles and frameworks as well as the rights of children in specific contexts. A publication from the symposium will be developed in time.

CMG Terms of Reference update

The annual review of the [CMG's ToR](#) took place this quarter resulting in some minor changes to the text. The changes strengthen the group's commitments to Te Tiriti o Waitangi and to listening to children and considering their views in the CMG's work. The updated ToR also makes the Children's Commissioner's statutory mandate more explicit and updates ACYA's name to the 'Children's Rights Alliance Aotearoa'.

Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure

The CMG prepared a one-pager on why New Zealand should ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a Communications Procedure and met with MSD to continue to advocate for ratification.

Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

The Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy was launched this quarter by the Prime Minister. The CMG is pleased to see that one of the nine guiding principles is “Children and young people’s rights need to be respected and upheld”. The CMG will continue to support the delivery of the Strategy and to provide advice on how the rights of the child are adequately embedded and applied across all areas.