

Introducing Mai World

About the Office of the Children's Commissioner

The 1.1 million children and young people under 18 make up 23% of New Zealanders.

The Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft and his office advocate for their interests, ensure their rights are upheld, and help them have a say on matters that affect them.

Mai World: Child and Youth Voices is a way to gather children and young people's views on a range of topics, to be heard by a range of audiences. Their voices can influence government and community decisions on issues that affect them.

Come and talk to us at school or directly contact us. We would like to be involved in the discussion as much as adults are.

Listen up

Hearing what children and young people think isn't just a nice thing to do. Every child has the right to have a say in matters that affect them, and to have their voice heard, under the United Nations Children's Convention.

Whose voices do we seek to include?

We want to hear from children and young people from many different walks of life, especially those whose voices are less likely to be heard unless we make efforts to connect with them.

We work with mainstream and alternate education providers, kōhanga reo and kura kaupapa throughout Aotearoa, as well as a wide range of community groups.

We welcome education providers and community groups who work with young people under 18 years old to become involved in future Mai World engagements.

How does Mai World help children and young people?

Children and young people can have genuine input into matters that affect them, and to receive feedback on how their views have influenced decisions. Schools and community groups can use Mai World to demonstrate children and young people's rights in action.

Being involved with Mai World engagements can help empower children and young people to advocate for their own interests in the future.

How does it work?

We use a range of methods including online in-school surveys, face to face and community engagement. Topics are relevant to current issues.

Online in-school surveys

- Easy for schools to implement, and for children to read and answer
- Gather views from a large number of children and young people, but with less depth to responses
- Take 5-15 minutes to read and complete
- Use best practice survey methods
- Background information provided for teachers on that particular issue.

Surveys like this are good. I think going to schools and showing them how their opinion is important is good too.

Register your school or community group at

www.surveymonkey.com/r/voicesreg



We always consider the potential impact on children and young people of reading and answering our survey questions, and support is available if we include topics that might be sensitive. For more information, see the ethics policy on our website.

- multi-choice questions always have an 'other' (open text) answer option
- we follow ethical guidelines and processes.

Face to face engagements

- A safe space to gain deeper understanding of children and young people's views and experiences.
- Take place at a school, or in a community setting where the participants feel comfortable.
- Fun and interactive for children and young people.

Being more involved with us Pasifika and Māori. Have listening sessions.

- Children and young people who may not be able to participate in an online written survey can still have their say.
- Content varies depending on the subject.
- The wellbeing, safety and mana of children and young people is always our first priority.

We value the taonga shared through kōrero and are committed to honouring the time and participation of the young people who take part in focus groups through providing a koha.

Community engagements

We have attended larger, child-focused events such as Polyfest and Ngā Manu Kōrero. We use a wide range of engagement methods to encourage children to share their views with us in an easy, fun, relaxed environment.

I would put better policies in place for people who are living in poverty. Living in poverty starts a cycle for future generations who grow up in poverty, to get a stronger economy we need to combat our issues with poverty.

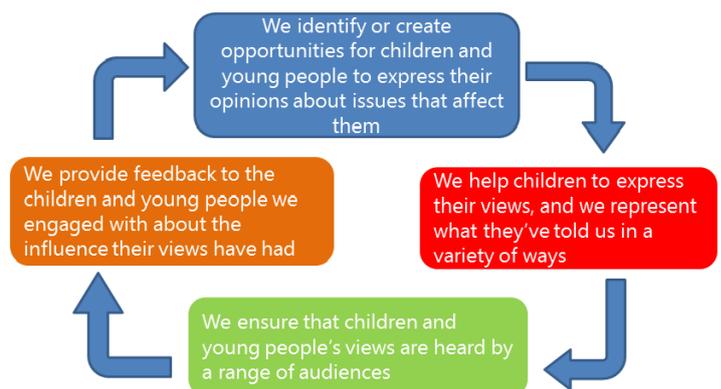
The ones that are actually going to live through it should have a say in who controls their future

Participation is voluntary and anonymous

Children and young people can choose not to answer a question or not be involved in our engagements. We make sure that individuals are not identified when we report back what we hear.

What happens with the results?

We analyse survey results and give them back to the schools/community groups in a combined format which does not identify any individual. We also explain how we use the data or quotes as part of a submission, for example advocating for a particular policy change. This helps children and young people see that their views are being taken seriously.



Based on the Lundy model of child participation by Professor Laura Lundy School of Education Queen's University, Belfast

Impact on government & community decisions

Children and young people's views guide our submissions on policy development and decisions affecting children and young people, and our own advocacy.

We also help other agencies consider the needs of children and young people when they are developing policy and designing services. To do this, we sometimes ask questions on behalf of other agencies.

Results from engagements are available on our website.

To find out more visit us at www.occ.org.nz or email voices@occ.org.nz