
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), July-September 2018**Engagement with Officials on Government coordination of the Children’s Convention**

The OCC has continued to meet regularly with MSD on behalf of the CMG (two times this quarter). The CMG meeting with the Children’s Convention Deputy Chief Executives group also took place this quarter on 3rd July. The OCC met with the Parliamentary Counsel Office (PCO) to discuss the CMG’s recommendations around ensuring that legislation is consistent with, and incorporates, the rights outlined in the Children’s Convention.

Engagement with Officials on Government work programme for children

Cabinet agreed to the cross-agency Children’s Convention work programme this quarter. The progress of that work programme will be discussed at each joint meeting of the CMG and DCEs group (as well as other work underway to advance the rights of children and young people). The Minister for Children, Hon Tracey Martin, has been confirmed as responsible for the cross-agency Children’s Convention work programme and MSD will report directly to her on matters relating to the Children’s Convention.

CMG Terms of Reference

The CMG updated their terms of reference and published them on the OCC website this quarter, see <http://www.occ.org.nz/assets/Uploads/CMG-ToR-UPDATED-May-2018-FINAL.pdf>.

CMG Public Reporting

The CMG made a submission to the Children’s Independent Oversight Review in July. The submission advised the review panel to consider the importance of New Zealand’s obligations under the Children’s Convention and the relevant 2016 Concluding Observations from the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Communication around the Third Optional Protocol

The third Optional Protocol to the CRC on a Communications Procedure remains under consideration and MSD is undertaking further work with other agencies – primarily MoJ and MFAT - to understand the implications of ratifying.

Universal Periodic Review

Following on from the CMG’s contribution to the public consultations for the Universal Periodic Review hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, the OCC and ACYA made written submissions to the UPR in July. CMG members will participate in the in-country pre-session in the next quarter.