
The UNCROC Monitoring Group (UMG)

The UMG 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/UMG-TOR-adopted-May-2017.pdf>

UMG members:

Action for Children and Youth
Aotearoa

Save the Children NZ

UNICEF NZ

Human Rights Commission

Office of the Children's
Commissioner

Contact:

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

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**QUARTERLY ACTIVITY REPORT OF THE UNCROC MONITORING GROUP (UMG),
October-December 2017**

The swearing in of a new Government this quarter has seen changes to lines of accountability and Ministerial portfolios related to the work of the UMG as follows:

- Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern - Minister for Child Poverty Reduction
- Minister Carmel Sepuloni – Minister for Social Development and Disability Issues
- Minister Tracey Martin – Minister for Children
- Minister Peeni Henare – Minister for Youth Development.

Responsibility for coordinating the Government's obligations under UNCROC will remain within the Ministry of Social Development

Engagement with Officials on Government coordination of Convention

The UMG have continued to meet regularly with MSD (twice this quarter). The UMG met with a group of social sector DCEs on the 15th December 2017 to progress the development of new governance arrangements. Work is currently underway to refresh the Terms of Engagement between the UMG and the DCE group. The ambition is to have a final version agreed in the first quarter of 2018.

Engagement with Officials on Government work plan for children

In October, the UMG contributed to a second workshop facilitated by MSD to develop a cross-agency Government UNCROC work plan that considers the Urgent Concluding Observations of the Committee and the General Measures of Implementation. This process resulted in a draft proposal for a refreshed UNCROC workplan which UMG members provided feedback on in November. We understand the proposed workplan will be provided to the Minister in early 2018.

Child Impact Assessment

The UMG provided feedback on an updated version of the Child Impact Assessment tool in October-November. The CIA tool is currently being updated to enhance its usability. At a meeting with officials in late November, the OCC suggested that the CIA tool could be enhanced to be used as a broader impact assessment tool in line with the new Government's focus on developing and implementing strategies to reduce and mitigate the impacts of poverty (i.e. beyond setting poverty targets and measures alone).

UMG Public Report: *Getting it Right. The Children's Convention in Aotearoa.*

The UMG's first public report was launched on 13 November 2017 at the fourth Childhood Studies Colloquium in Aotearoa New Zealand held at Victoria University. The report and accompanying commentary piece by the Children's Commissioner Judge Andrew Becroft were well received and generated a substantial amount of media stories. To access the report visit: <http://www.occ.org.nz/publications/reports/getting-it-right-nov-2017/>. Plans are now underway to progress the April 2018 report.