
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),
July-September 2017**

September marks one year since the fifth periodic review of New Zealand's progress in implementing the UN Convention on the rights of the Child (the Children's Convention).

Changes in personnel

Holly Walker, Principal Advisor at the OCC, started her maternity leave in August. Sarah Morris, part time Senior Advisor at the OCC with a special focus on the Children's Convention, is now the main contact for the UMG.

Engagement with Officials on Government coordination of Convention

As a signatory to the Children's Convention there is an expectation that New Zealand have a permanent coordination mechanism to implement the Convention at all levels across government. In July 2017, the UMG learned that the Deputy Chief Executives Social Sector Board - which since 2015 has operated as the Children's Convention permanent coordinating mechanism - had transitioned to a Social Investment Board. The Social Investment Board does not have a mandate to govern or implement the Children's Convention. As a result, since July 2017, there has not been a senior official group in place for the UMG to engage with on matters relating to UNCROC, and MSD have been covering most aspects of the coordinating mechanism. This change also means that the Terms of Engagement that the UMG have with Government is no longer valid and will need to be refreshed. It is likely that the governance of the Children's Convention will be picked up by a newly established International Human Rights Governance Group, chaired by the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Meanwhile, the UMG have continued to meet regularly with MSD (three times this quarter) and a group of social sector DCEs (once this quarter) to progress the development of new governance arrangements.

Engagement with Officials on Government work plan for children

In August, the UMG contributed to a 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. The workshop was attended by social sector General Managers. The second stage of this process is planned for October.

UMG first public reporting

The UMG's first public report will be published in November 2017. After that annual reports will be made in April of each year, beginning in April 2018.