

When budgeting for an engagement delivery, expenses would commonly include; contractor costs, venue hire, koha and stationery expenses. Engagements involving children and young people will also often require additional expenses specific to this age group. These include:

Travel

Children and young people need access to transport in order to be involved in an engagement. To enable children and young people to be involved, allow for a travel budget for all participants. Even if children are being taken to and from a venue by their parents or an adult they know, consider reimbursing travel expenses or providing a travel allowance.

Child and youth friendly resources

When conducting focus groups, advisory groups and in-depth interviews consider if budget will be required for purchasing or creating child and youth friendly resources to support the engagement. Resources are diverse and often specific to an engagement, but can include talking mats, information sheets, post its, playing cards, board games, balls, colouring pens, balloons, and other toys they can play with. The resources should be age appropriate.

Food

Since meetings with children and young people often take place straight after school, providing food (and water) is a relaxed way to build rapport with children and young people and supporting them to stay focussed. Remember to ask about any food allergies, intolerances or culturally specific requirements, and where appropriate opt for healthy food options.

Payment or koha for participation

Offering a payment or koha recognises children and young people's time is valuable and their participation in an engagement is appreciated. This is particularly relevant for methods that require a dedicated amount of time such as focus groups, advisory groups, child-led tours, and in-depth interviews. Payment or koha could be a voucher or a financial contribution. Consider on-going payments or koha for children and young people who meet regularly. Where necessary, discuss options and seek guidance from a host organisation.

Support to actively and positively participate

Children and young people may require follow-up support to address any issues that arise as a result of their involvement. Pastoral care is an integral part of every engagement with children and young people, and may need additional budget allocated if it is not provided by a host organisation.