



Shane Whitfield

Workforce Lead

Vulnerable Children's Action Plan, Christchurch

Sunday, August 14, 2016

(Room 3)

8:30 - 9:25 WS #146: Vulnerable Children

9:35 - 10:30 WS #156: Vulnerable Children (Repeated)

South GP Conference
and Medical Exhibition

August 2016



Children's Action Plan

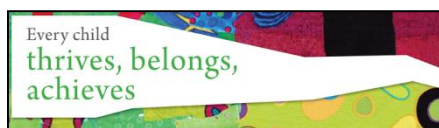
Identifying, Supporting and
Protecting Vulnerable Children



Children's Action Plan
He Taonga Te Tamariki
Identifying, Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable Children

Our past informing our future

The Green Paper



Almost 10,000 submissions received.

From children, young people, frontline workers, and NGOs.



The White Paper



White Paper is based on these submissions.

It contains what changes are needed to protect children from harm.



The Children's Action Plan



Implements the decisions made in the White Paper.

What did the Community ask for?

- Better sharing of information and communication.
- Concern about statutory responses
- Better identification and support for most vulnerable
- Higher levels for safety and competency of workforce
- Increased recognition that everyone needs to be responsible for keeping children safe.





Children's Action Plan
He Taonga Te Tamariki
Identifying, Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable Children

The Children's Action Plan taking the lead for vulnerable children

A safe, competent and well-connected
children's workforce, which identifies
vulnerable children early, and supports them
to be safe, thrive, achieve and belong.



A Children's Action Plan – for change

Key work streams from the Action Plan:

- A safe and competent workforce (*vetting and screening, child protection policies, core competencies*)
- Intensive cross-agency support (*Children's Teams*)
- Early identification & triaging (The Hub/ViKI/AISA)



Vulnerable Children Defined ...

“Vulnerable children are children who are at significant risk of harm to their wellbeing now and into the future, as a consequence of the environment in which they are raised, and in some cases, due to their own complex needs. Environmental factors that influence child vulnerability include not having their basic emotional, physical, social, developmental and/or cultural needs met at home or in the wider community.”



Source: Cabinet Social Policy Committee (2012:9) *White Paper for Vulnerable Children*. Wellington: Office of the Minister for Social Development.



The Vulnerable Children Act (2014)

- Signaled major changes in the way vulnerable children are identified, protected and nurtured.
- Introduced clear accountabilities and strong direction for the children's workforce.
- Is the biggest change since the Children, Young Persons and their Families Act was introduced in 1989.



The Children's Team Approach

- Child focused - The child at the centre of everything we do.
- Trans-disciplinary - Joined up support, intervening early.
- Strongly connected - Working together, sharing information.

Information Sharing

- The Vulnerable Children's Hub
- Vulnerable Kids Information system (ViKI)
- Approved Information Sharing Agreement (AISA)
 - - S.15 protects referrer from any action (good faith)
 - - Privacy Principle 11 (f)(ii) allows information to be shared

Children's Workforce

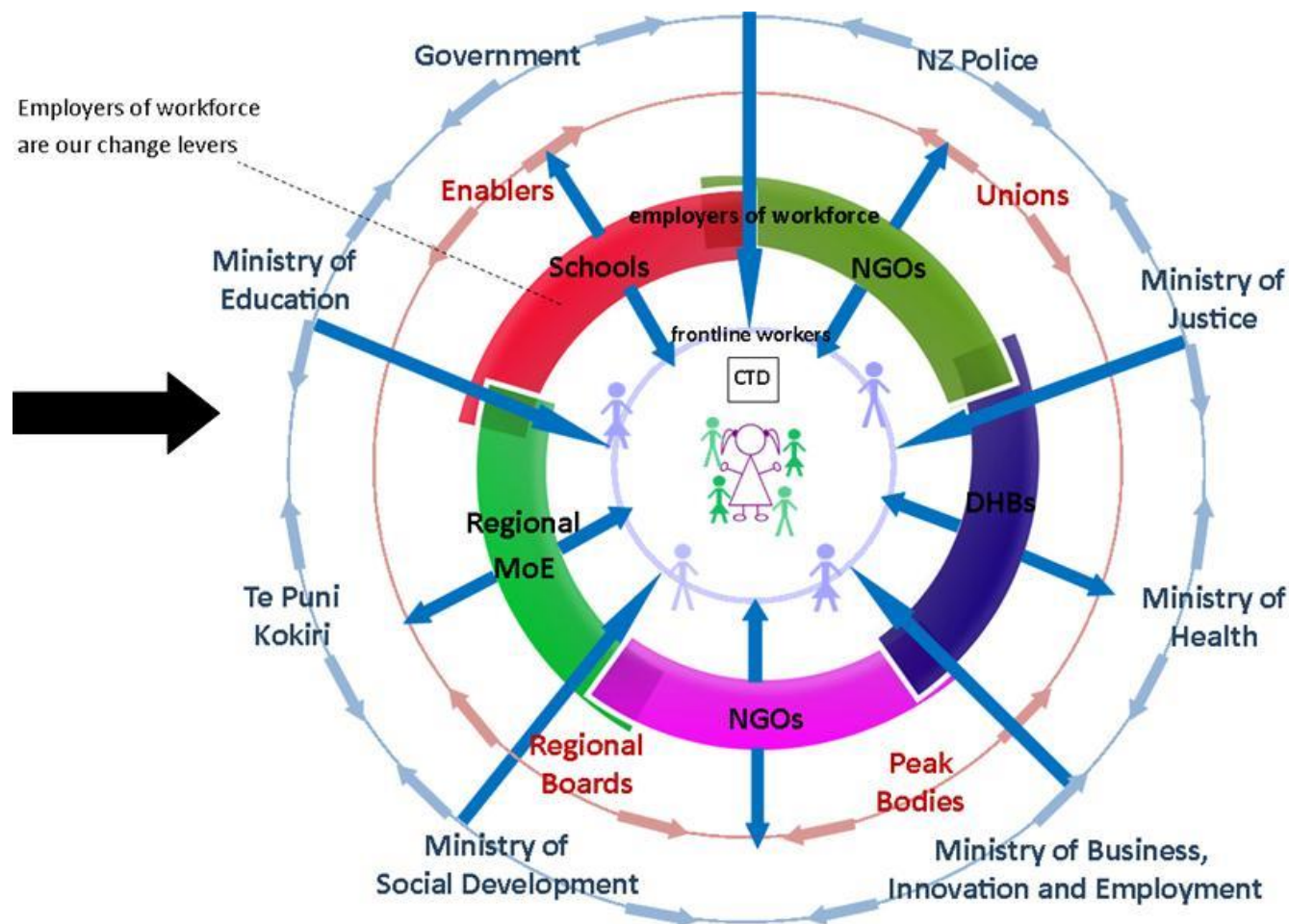


- Safety checking
- Child protection policy
- Core competencies



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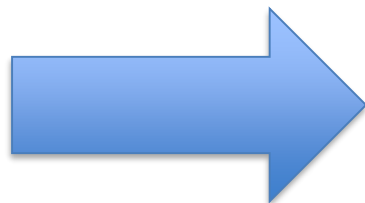




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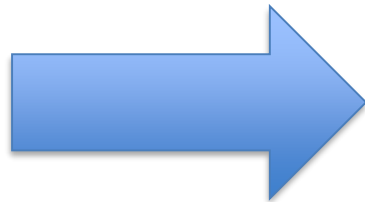
Identifying, Supporting and Protecting Vulnerable Children

Working in Silos



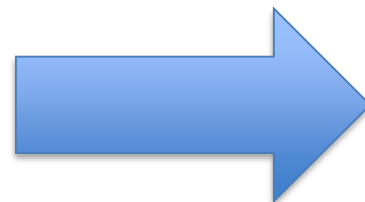
One children's workforce

One agency responsible



Shared responsibility

Individual competence



Collective competence

Service driven



Child centred

Children's Teams making the difference

Working better together leads to better results for the child:

- Earlier support and services
- The more in-depth, trans-disciplinary assessment provides more information about the child and what they need
- The mix of services wrapped around each child and their family/whānau changes and adapts, as their needs evolve





Investing in Children - Expert Panel Report

- Government's response for the future of care and protection and the system-wide transformation
- Focus on five core services:
 - prevention,
 - intensive intervention,
 - care support services,
 - transition support
 - youth justice service aimed at preventing reoffending.
- Supports what Children's Action Plan is already doing and strengthens and expands our approach.





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www.childrensactionplan.govt.nz

