



# SSPA Alert

SOCIAL SERVICE PROVIDERS AOTEAROA. 20 DECEMBER 2016

***SSPA Alert is to tell you about current events and seek your ideas and feedback.***

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## What's happening?

### **Children, Young Persons and Their Families (Oranga Tamariki) Legislation Bill**

A major Bill changing some of the fundamental aspects of the CYPF Act has been introduced to Parliament and is now being considered by Select Committee. The deadline for submissions is 15 February 2017.

The Bill is described as an “omnibus bill [that] covers a wide range of legislative reforms to support the new operating model for the Ministry for Vulnerable Children, Oranga Tamariki, and will establish the statutory framework required to create a more child-centred operating model to meet the needs of vulnerable children and young persons.”

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## The issues

Amongst other things, this Bill:

- Sets up the operating model for Oranga Tamariki, with the intention to make it a child-centred system
- Proposes an accountability structure to support the operating model
- Changes the principles and standards for the care and protection system
- States the position the Government is taking about outcomes for Māori children
- Makes changes to the youth justice system, including adding 17 year olds to the YJ jurisdiction
- Sets out the way the transition to independence service will run
- Provides the framework for information sharing about vulnerable children.

### **Whānau, hapū, iwi**

Currently the child's relationship with their whānau, hapū and iwi is prominently stated in the Principles: s5 (d) “the principle that, wherever possible, the relationship between a child or young person and his or her family, whānau, hapū, iwi, and family group should be maintained and strengthened”.

The Bill extends the Principles and prioritises the child as the centre of decision-making. References to whānau, hapū and iwi are placed alongside other considerations, such as the child's siblings and their connections to community networks. The Principles also state that “the mana and well-being of the child or young person are protected by recognising the whakapapa and whanaungatanga responsibilities of their whānau, hapū and iwi”. One of the regulatory impact statements (see link

below) provides useful background in the approach the Bill has with regard to Māori children and young people.

### **The Bill**

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/bill/government/2016/0224/latest/DLM7064516.html>

### **The regulatory impact statements**

<http://www.msd.govt.nz/about-msd-and-our-work/publications-resources/regulatory-impact-statements/regulatory-impact-statements-children-young-persons-and-their-families-oranga-tamariki-legislation-bill.html>

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## **What do you think?**

SSPA will present a submission on the Bill. Our submission will be informed by members' views and feedback based on a reading of the Bill and the supporting papers.

Please send your feedback to SSPA national manager Brenda Pilott at [manager@sspa.org.nz](mailto:manager@sspa.org.nz) **by the end of January.**

Your feedback will be treated in confidence – your name and organisation will not be referred to unless you request otherwise.

We will keep you informed of progress.