

Who we are & what we do

We are an independent Crown Entity established under the Children's Commissioner Act 2003

Our monitoring team

- Undertake assessments of Child Youth and Family's performance across sites and residences to assess the quality of their service and what outcomes they are achieving for children
- Undertake 2 thematic reviews annually across a sample of CYF sites on aspects of performance
- Review CYF residences under the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention on Torture (OPCAT)
- Review s47* of the CYPF Act reports
- Oversee the Residence grievance process
- Investigate individual complaints

Our advocacy team

- Provide independent advice to select committees, Ministers, Government agencies, Crown entities on policy and legislation
- Raise awareness of children's issues with a focus on the needs of vulnerable children and young people
- Influence others to take action for children, and partner with agencies to achieve maximum impact for children – e.g. producing the Annual Child Poverty Monitor
- Co-ordinate the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC) monitoring group and liaise with Govt agencies on their UNCROC activity

Our other services

- We ensure children and young people are consulted and their views are included in our advice and activities.
- We maintain a "Child's Rights and Advice line" that provides both general and individual advocacy for children in certain circumstances.

How we add value

We function as an honest broker and use our influence to support outcomes for children and young people

Our work supports Government priorities including:

- Actively supporting the BPS targets for children & providing advice to government agencies on their work
- Supporting the Children's Action Plan through the Expert Advisory Group and championing the initiative to build on-going support and engagement
- Using our expertise to support officials to deliver on the Prime Minister's solutions to child poverty
- Providing expertise to the CYF Modernisation project, including consultation with children in care so their views inform the project.

Our core priorities

Children in care and youth justice

During your term 9000 children will be born each year "at risk" of abuse & neglect

5000 children per year will be in the care and youth justice system and 50% of those children will be Māori

Without change you can expect around 150,000 new notifications to CYF each year

The costs associated with child abuse will continue to be approx \$2billion each year

Our work can tell you what is happening in practice and about the quality of the services being provided by CYF to these children.

Vulnerable children

During your term approximately 15,000 babies will be born into poverty each year

Around 110,000 children per year will go without the basics NZers consider essential

160,000 of children will live in overcrowded housing each year

40,000 children will be hospitalised each year for preventable illnesses – with higher rates for Māori and Pacifica children

We can provide you with solutions and options to address these issues and offer support to officials as they implement initiatives to address these issues

Future opportunities

Our new enhanced monitoring approach has positioned us to provide a higher level view of CYF performance

Further invest in our monitoring function

- Further investment is needed to give us the resources required to provide appropriate independent oversight and assurance to Govt that your \$500M investment in CYF is achieving the outcomes you want for children.
- The Children's Action Plan presents both opportunities and risks and requires joined up actions to effectively meet the needs of vulnerable children. We recommend you review the Children's Commissioner Act 2003 to better align our monitoring activity so we can take a wider view across the care and protection system.
- Both legislative change and investment would allow us to provide a greater level of independent oversight across Government's programme of work for vulnerable children and would respond to the recommendations of the Broad Report.

Increase the participation of young people

- Modest investment would allow us to develop an on-request service for Government agencies that provides the views of young people to inform their policy and legislative development.
- Our consultation with government agencies indicates this service is needed and would be a valuable contribution to support their work.
- This service would assist Government to further implement UNCROC and be viewed positively by the UN Committee in their assessment of NZ's performance.

Our challenges

Our baseline has not increased in 5 yrs. All available savings have been implemented

We can only maintain our functions in 2014/15 by drawing down further on our limited reserves.

Without a baseline increase we will have to reduce our functions from 2015/16 onward, including reduced monitoring visits and advocacy advice.

* Where a child or young person is placed in the custody of the chief executive under section 39, 40 or 42 and is released within five days from that custody before being brought before the Court, a report is to be sent to the Children's Commissioner.

Our statutory activities and deliverables

Our Vision

- Aotearoa is a place where all children thrive

Our Outcomes

- Children in CYF and YJ care and very vulnerable children get the services, supports and resources they need to thrive.

Our Impacts

- Our reports and recommendations to CYF are agreed and implemented
- Our advocacy advice is valued and influences policy and legislation

Our Statutory Monitoring Function

- We assess the quality of CYF services to children under the CYPF Act
- Function as a National Preventative Mechanism under OPCAT

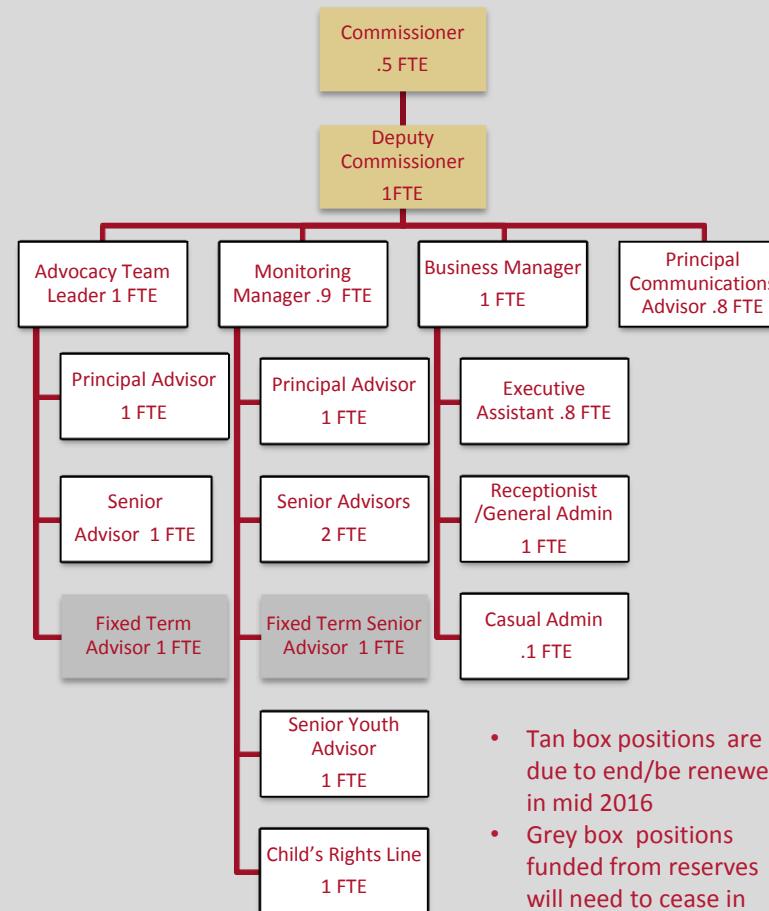
Our Statutory Advocacy Function

- Advocate and advise on the interests, rights and wellbeing of children across policy and legislation
- Raise awareness & monitor the application of UNCROC by the State



The Current Commissioner is Dr Russell Wills who works part time and maintains his pediatric practice in the Hawkes Bay.

He is supported by a Deputy Commissioner Dr Justine Cornwall



- Tan box positions are due to end/be renewed in mid 2016
- Grey box positions funded from reserves will need to cease in June 2015

Changes in the Office

Upcoming

- The Commissioner's term is due for renewal on 30 June 2016
- The appointment/re-appointment process for a new Commissioner will commence in Jan 2016

Current

- The Auckland Office closed on 19 September 2014 and all staff positions are consolidated to Wellington.
- The Wellington office moves to new premises in Dec 2014 due to lease expiring & will remain co-located with the Families Commission to save costs

Our budget position

2014/15 Budget	Amount
Crown Revenue	\$2,157,000
Other Revenue	\$ 49,000
Interest	\$ 15,000
Personnel	\$1,810,720
Operating	\$ 553,308
Total	\$2,364,028
Projected Deficit	\$ (143,028)

SAVINGS IMPLEMENTED – Overall savings of \$200,000 against the SOI Budget, with \$70,000 of savings against the baseline and the rest one-off savings
Accommodation costs have been reduced; no printed resources produced, no courier/post services, online white page listing only, reduced travel, limited training and development for staff

Keeping you informed

- You will be provided with quarterly reports on our activities and progress (2 in-depth and 2 summary)
- Throughout the year we will provide you with monitoring reports that outline our assessment of the performance of CYF sites and residences we review in the period
- The Commissioner and Deputy Commissioner anticipate meeting with you quarterly to discuss our activities and progress
- We operate a no surprises approach and will inform your office in advance of upcoming publications, speaking events, and issues that may raise media attention.