

What have we heard from mokopuna about their aspirations for Budget 2026?

The Government should spend money on:

"Health because of not being able to get medical care, having to look after family because of ill or disabled family, missing school from bad health"



"Spend money for the support of kids that don't get fed at home"



"When one person struggles, the rest follows"



"[The Government] should put money towards things that will actually benefit us like food that is actually yum and not cheap tin food, warm clothes, it's freezing the moment...school supplies, a little chip in for rent, bills, doesn't matter how much as anything helps..."



"Shelter for those who need a home."



"Homes - making sure rentals are safe and actually taken care of"



"Lowering the prices of food, equipment, gas, transportation"



What does Budget 2026 mean for mokopuna?

On the afternoon of Budget Day, we've taken an initial quick look at Budget '26 to start to understand what is in it for mokopuna.

- Establishing a national specialist paediatric palliative care service
- Investing in Oranga Tamariki to better respond to reports of concern and support mokopuna with high and complex needs
- Providing more funding to implement recommendations from Dame Karen Poutasi's review on preventing child abuse

**Should help mokopuna
GROW UP SAFE & WELL**



- Continuation of the school lunch programme and other food security programmes such as the KickStart breakfast programme
- Funding for 1,800 to 2,250 new social houses and additional \$69 million for the Flexible Housing Fund
- Increase of \$50 per week for the the In-Work Tax Credit, impacting around 143,000 families

**Should help to ensure
THRIVING FAMILIES & WHĀNAU**



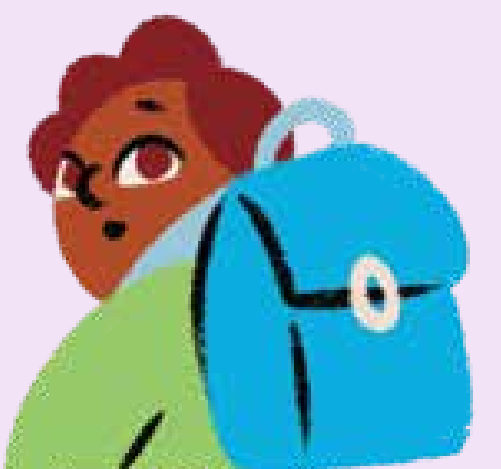
- ECE services will receive a 1.5 percent increase to their subsidy rates in July 2026

**Should help mokopuna have a
STRONG START IN LIFE**



- Additional \$2.1 billion for education
- Continued funding for the Child and Youth Mental Health Survey

**Should help mokopuna
VOICE AND PARTICIPATION**



Mokopuna have told us about the importance of government support so they have healthy food, safe housing, access to education and thriving mental wellbeing.

Budget 2026 has some wins for children, including children's rights to safety, but today's announcements still leave gaps for children facing the most disadvantage.

Some of the gaps include:

- Lack of targeted support to address inequities for mokopuna Māori, Pacific children, and disabled children, particularly concerning child poverty, social housing and transport costs.
- Reduction to social service contract funding, despite increasing demand pressures across the social sector.
- Limited focus on child and youth mental health and wellbeing in Budget 2026.
- Lack of investment in children's first 2,000 days.
- Not enough funding to remove barriers to education.