



He Mana tō ia Tamaiti
Every Child Counts

Every Child Counts convened the first ever Summit on Children and the Recession, on Wednesday 16 September 2009, at Te Karaiti Herenga Waka Marae, corner of Orly Rd and Waddon Place, Mangere.

Experts from around the country gathered at the Summit and worked in streams based around the following topics: Māori, Social Exclusion, Family Violence, Education, Housing, Health and the Early Years.

Participants in the Summit recommend the following actions are taken to alleviate child poverty:

1. Develop one strategic plan to promote innovation and productivity in the economy and equitable social redistribution that invests in children.
2. Set targets for the eradication of child poverty.
3. Invest in the development of families so that children and adults learn together.
4. Implement Child Impact Assessments to avoid unintended consequences from policies.
5. Prioritise the period from conception to 24 months of age.
6. Increase core benefit levels to reduce negative impacts on children and the economy.

Other specific recommendations include:

The Early Years

1. Extend paid parental leave to 12 months and include flexible provisions so this support can be accessed in different ways.
2. Ensure new parents are taught how to soothe a crying infant as part of the Never Shake a Baby Campaign.

3. Raise the quality of early childhood care and education for under 3 year olds by improving teacher training.
4. Prioritise the 0-3 year olds in teach education, social worker education, the family court and other organizations.

Health

1. Build on and broaden the Well Child Health Review, with the Prime Minister hosting a discussion on health in the conception to 24 month period.
2. Ensure that antenatal and postnatal education focus on child development.
3. Increase support for parenting education.
4. Reduce the cost of after-hours health care.
5. Invest in nutrition through food in schools.
6. Invest in social marketing that promotes a vision of the kind of nation we want to create, and the place of children in that.
7. Deliver universal, integrated services to families with children.

Māori

1. Develop a whole-of-whānau approach for funding and service delivery.
2. Ensure long-term investment that creates intergenerational change.
3. Promote collectivity
4. Sign up to the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and all clauses of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.
5. Direct funding to problem areas such as tobacco, alcohol and gambling.
6. Develop practical steps to encourage Māori into home ownership.

Education

1. Improve coordination and communication between all government agencies working with families and children.
2. Re-establish the Training Incentive Allowance.
3. Increase access to education for the children of over-stayers.
4. Fund education services for their role in parent support and education.
5. Review and plan for smoother transitions for children between home, early childhood services and schools.

6. Ensure equity of access to childcare support.

Social Exclusion

1. Invest in comprehensive improvements in maternal education to enable skills acquisition.
2. Facilitate school-to-work transitions with on the job training.
3. Ensure the full implementation of the recommendations from the Building Better Government Engagement process.

Family Violence

1. Extend and expand the “It’s Not OK” campaign to include bystanders and children.
2. Enable local solutions to local problems through the local initiatives fund – SKIP and the Community Action Fund.
3. Invest in sustained, long-term solutions to address violence.
4. Evaluate and support those programmes that are working.
5. Educate and train health and education professionals about family violence issues to ensure children are supported.
6. Reward and support collaboration between agencies, including schools, community and parents.

Housing

1. Create stability and healthy housing by using private landlords through tax rebates or dollar-for-dollar subsidies.
2. Establish local building societies that enable the building of good quality homes.
3. Ensure houses are built to meet standards that reduce energy consumption, are warm and healthy.

Summit Participants

Archdeacon Dr Hone Kaa, *Te Kahui Mana Ririki*

Anton Blank, *Te Kahui Mana Ririki*

Helen Harte, *Te Kahui Mana Ririki*

Ariana Paretutanganui-Tamati, *Te Kahui Mana Ririki*

Murray Edridge, *Chair Every Child Counts*

Deborah Morris-Travers, *Barnardos New Zealand*

Phil Abraham, *Save the Children New Zealand*

Megan Payne, *Barnardos New Zealand*

Diane Daly, *Barnardos New Zealand*

Cathy Kern, *Royal New Zealand Plunket Society*

Sandra Innes, *Royal New Zealand Plunket Society*

Barbara Lambourn, *UNICEF New Zealand*

Trisha Jones, *Lawyer for Child*

Sharon Clair, *Hui Taumata*

Dr Ian Hassall, *Former Children's Commissioner.*

Michael Fletcher, *Economist*

Trish Hunt, *Nurturing the Future Trust*

Wilson Irons, *Anglican Trust for Women and Children*

Dr Simon Rowley, *Brainwave Trust*

Lope Ginnen, *Brainwave Trust*

Tanya Harvey, *Auckland Kindergarten Association*

Jean Rockel, *School of Teaching, Learning & Development at the University of Auckland*

John McCarthy, *General Manager, Lifewise*

Helen Connors, *Clinical Advisor Midlands, Royal New Zealand Plunket Society*

Dr Nikki Turner, *Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) New Zealand*

Kathryn L. Franko. Ph.D, *The Liggins Institute*

Ann Voykovich, *Te Puna Whaiora Health Camp Services*

Nancy Naea, *Public Health Nurse, Auckland District Health Board*

Annie Ualesi, *Pacific Health, School of Population Health, Faculty of Medical and Health Sciences, University of Auckland*

Lynne McVicar, *Public Health Nurse, Auckland District Health Board*

Phil Palfrey, *Manurewa East School*

Dr Sarah Farquahar, *Early Childhood Council*

Charlotte Robertson

Suzanne Thom, *Manukau Family Literacy Programme*

Natalie Mackenzie, *Auckland Kindergarten Association*

Biff Waddel, *Williams Colenso High School & National Association of Teen Parents*

Dr Kuni Jenkins: *Professor and Dean of Undergraduate studies at Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi.*

Dr Toby Curtis: *Chair Te Arawa Lakes Trust.*

Elizabeth Clements

David Zussman, *Monte Cecilia Housing Trust*

Elaine Dyer, *Violence Free Waitakere*

Dr Cindy Kiro, *Centre for Public Health Research, Massey University*

Dr Grant Taylor MSc(Hons), DipClinPsych, FNZCCP, *Executive Director, 0800WHATSUP*

Brenda Hynes, *National Clinical Advisor (Nursing), Royal New Zealand Plunket Society (Inc)*

Beth Wood, *Child Advocate*

David Kenkel, *Unitec New Zealand*

Betty Iusitini Sio, *PISPP Head Office*

Ashna Storey, *shine**

Ngaikiha Tawhai, *National Trainer Māori for National Council of Independent Women's Refuges*

Brian Gardner, *National Manager, Tau Iwi Te Kupenga Whakaoti Mahi Patunga National Network of Stopping Violence Services (NNSVS)*

Liz Kinley, *Jigsaw*

Bob McCoskrie, *Family First*

Pat Watson, *Community Waitakere*

Lindsay Mitchell, *Economist*

Charles Waldegrave, *the Family Centre*

Alison Searle, *Child Advocacy Coordinator, Manukau City Council*

Gerard Pickwell, *Auckland City Mission*

Nicola MacDonald, *Māori SIDS: School of Population Health - Tamaki Campus*

Pam McCann, *FamilyWorks*

Mereana Pitman, *DOVE Hawkes Bay*

Ani Pitman, *Amokura FVPC*

Arihia Bennett, *Barnardos New Zealand*

Tau Huirama, *Jigsaw*

Georgina Wilkinson, *SAFE Network*

Tiaria Fletcher, *West Auckland Violence Essential Services*

Piripi McLean, *Child Advocate, South Auckland*

Frances Tahapehe, *Child Advocate, South Auckland*

Waitangi Wood, *Hapai Te Hauora Tapui (Māori Public Health)*

Denise Ewe, *Hapai Te Hauora Tapui (Māori Public Health)*

Rex Hewitt, *Senior Policy Advisor, Children, Young People and Families*

The following people observed the proceedings of the Summit:

Kate Frykberg, *Todd Foundation*

Georgina Ralston, *Todd Foundation*

John Angus, *Children's Commissioner*

Mereana Ruri, *Office of the Children's Commissioner*

Louisa Wall, *Office of the Children's Commissioner*

Maria Sommer, *Office of the Children's Commissioner*

Dr Jan Pryor, *Chief Families Commissioner, Families Commission*

Dr Marie Connolly, *Ministry of Social Development*

Fuimaono Tuiasau, *Ministry of Pacific Island Affairs*

Hoana Parangi, *Kaiwhakarite, Te Puni Kōkiri*

Andrew Riwahi Harding

Sa'o Tafao-Alofa

Lynda Murray, *Families Commission*

Marama Davidson, *Human Rights Commission*