

DEPARTMENT OF CHILD, YOUTH AND FAMILY SERVICES



Profile as at December 2005

The Department of Child, Youth and Family Services

The Department of Child, Youth and Family Services (CYF) is a Department of the New Zealand Public Service in terms of Part II of the State Sector Act 1988. It operates under the Public Finance Act 1989 and has responsibilities set down under other relevant legislation.

Overview

CYF was formed in 1999 to improve outcomes for children and youth at risk. The Department works to ensure the delivery of a continuum of social services, providing assistance and support to groups at risk. Its roles range from ensuring safety where children and young people have been harmed or have offended, through to provision of specialist and rehabilitative services where these are needed.

Mandate

CYF works to improve the wellbeing of vulnerable children and young people within their families and whanau.

The Department delivers the following key services on behalf of the Government:

- information and education to promote public awareness of child abuse and neglect;
- statutory care and protection and youth justice services to children, young people and their families;
- development and funding of appropriate community services for at-risk youth and children;
- adoption services, and
- policy advice and services to the Minister of Social Development and Employment and the Government.

Vision

The Department's vision is:

“Safe children and young people in strong families and responsive communities: free from abuse, free from neglect and free from offending.”

The three themes that will drive the Department's efforts to achieve this vision over the next three years are:

- delivering the right services to the right clients in the right way;
- listening to vulnerable young children and young people; and
- working with others to deliver for clients.

Organisation

CYF has approximately 2500 staff – with more than 1300 social workers or specialist support staff such as psychologists, evidential interviewers and lawyers.

CYF has six functional groups (Service Development, Operations, Quality Assurance, Strategy and Planning, People and Capability and Organisational Services) reporting to the Chief Executive. The above group together with the Chief Social Worker, the Manager Communications and the Principal Advisor Governance constitutes the Executive Committee.

The organisation chart is attached.

CYF is organised around a nationwide network of four regions, 28 service delivery units and 55 service delivery locations. It is supported by National Office which is based in Wellington. The service delivery network provides a range of directly delivered services including:

- social work services
- coordination of family group conferences
- residential and care services
- adoption services

CYF manages five national residences, 60 family homes and more than 2000 caregivers.

CYF (either alone or with other departments) funds a network of community-based services. CYF has service agreements with a range of Māori, Pacific and community service providers.

Legislation

The Department's social work is based mainly on the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989 some of the most far-sighted and innovative legislation of its kind in the world.

This Act emphasises the role and responsibilities of families and communities and provides for family decision-making through statutory processes known as the family group conferences.

CYF also works under the following legislation:

- Adoption Act 1955
- Adult Adoption Information Act 1985
- Adoption (Intercountry) Act 1997
- Guardianship Act 1968, and
- The Social Worker Registration Act 2003.

The Social Worker Registration Act 2003 was passed into law on 9 April 2003. The broad purpose of the Act is to improve the professionalism of social work in New Zealand. In order to meet the requirements to become registered under the Act, a social worker is required to have social work qualification, and needs to pass social work competency assessment.

Dimensions

The appropriations sought in Vote Child, Youth and Family Services in 2005/06 total \$457.331 million (GST exclusive). This is intended to be spent as follows:

Departmental Appropriations

Total departmental appropriations (exclusive of capital contributions) are \$386.250 million. This is made up as follows:

- \$10.231 million (2.2% of the Vote) on policy advice and ministerial servicing
- \$9.526 million (2.1% of the Vote) on development and funding of community services
- \$6.044 million (1.3% of the Vote) on prevention services
- \$273.286 million (59.8% of the Vote) on care and protection services
- \$79.282 million (17.3% of the Vote) on youth justice services
- \$7.881 million (1.7% of the Vote) on adoption services.

Non-departmental Appropriations

- \$71.081 million (15.6% of the Vote) for services provided by other organisations in the areas of:
 - information and advice (\$928,000)
 - education and prevention services (\$8.201 million)
 - family wellbeing services (\$42.564 million)
 - counselling and rehabilitation services (\$10.470 million)
 - emergency and special purpose housing and associated services (\$900,000)
 - strengthening providers and communities (\$7.653 million).
- \$365,000 for other expenses relating to the Contingency and Innovation fund.

Website

The Department's website is: www.cyf.govt.nz.

