

Submission

Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy

PREPARED BY: Ashburton District Council
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ASHBURTON

SUBMITTED TO: Child and Youth Wellbeing Strategy
Department of the Prime Minister and
Cabinet
NZ Government
WELINGTON

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Introduction

1. Ashburton District Council welcomes the opportunity to submit on the Child Wellbeing Strategy – Proposed Outcomes Framework. This submission is being made on behalf of Mayor Donna Favel from the Ashburton District Council (Council).
2. Located between Selwyn and Timaru Districts respectively, more than 34,100¹ residents live in our district, with our main town of Ashburton accounting for 19,280 or 56% of residents. The rest of our residents live rurally or in smaller towns or villages.
3. Ashburton District is one of New Zealand’s fastest growing rural districts with a population increase of 22% since 2006 (approximately 2% pa). This period of rapid but consistent growth follows an earlier period of little to moderate growth. Recent growth has occurred in both urban and rural parts of the district and is considered to have been driven primarily by strong growth in the local rural economy.

Discussion

4. We support the intent of the proposed outcomes framework and applaud the vision of New Zealand being the best place in the world for children.
5. We understand that the framework has been developed as a result of feedback received from Hui’s held throughout New Zealand with key agencies and organisations, including Safer Ashburton. We acknowledge the collaborative approach undertaken to develop the framework.
6. We have not identified any gaps with the outcomes framework as it currently stands.
7. We believe that the true measures of success will come when the resourcing of both government and community agencies is adequate to carry out the required work to meet the outcomes.
8. We also applaud the recent announcement for a review on mental health support, particularly in regards to our young people.

Ashburton District Council thanks the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet for the opportunity to submit on the Child Wellbeing Strategy – Proposed Outcomes Framework.



DONNA FAVEL
Mayor

¹ Source: Statistics New Zealand Population Estimates 30 June 2017