

# Child Wellbeing Network Bulletin

October 2015

A regular e-bulletin from the Children Wellbeing Network published with the support of the Public Health Association of New Zealand.



CWN is an informal network of individuals and organisations committed to promoting the wellbeing of all children in New Zealand by keeping people in touch with current issues affecting children. Please note we do not advocate in our own right or necessarily represent the views of all our members.

Kia ora, greetings, and welcome to the October 2015 email bulletin for the Child Wellbeing Network (CWN) – sharing information and supporting each other to promote child wellbeing.

Spring has sprung, and the winds of change are in the air. This bulletin covers:

- proposed changes to the way children at risk of abuse and neglect are cared for and concerns that, consequently, there will be changes to the way their identity and relationships with whānau develop
- changes to the legislation that has protected children from drowning in swimming pools for almost 30 years
- changes to where children who live on the East Cape will go to school
- the effect of changes in the way children can access information – both an opening up through the digital world and a closing down (see the item on the banning of *Into the river* below).

In all of these changes care must be taken to ensure children's interests are taken into account and not subordinated to adult interests. That will require good information. The aim of the Child Wellbeing Network is to facilitate the sharing of information and ideas to help ensure changes to improve child wellbeing are informed by the knowledge and wisdom of a variety of people.

An excellent opportunity to jointly reflect on the changes there have been for children, both positive and negative, over the last five years is the [UNCROC reporting process](#). This is now in full swing and we would urge you to contribute if you can.

Spring also brings promise and there are several items in this bulletin that demonstrate the promise and hope of young people. Take a moment to: "see" the voice of those who are young, Māori and deaf; learn about how nurturing young people's creativity can turn their lives around; and find out about the work of students who have taken the time to collate a youth justice index to be a voice for the voiceless – those young people who are in custody.

Please let us know if you would like to contribute to the bulletin ([andrea@andreamjamison.co.nz](mailto:andrea@andreamjamison.co.nz)) or simply use the email group to seek and/or share information and ideas. And, as always, please feel free to pass this bulletin on or check out previous archived editions.

Enjoy the spring sun!

Ka kite ano!

## Children in the justice system

### Detention of girls

Child, Youth and Family is transferring girls from Auckland to secure youth justice facilities in Palmerston North and Christchurch to make way for boys. The policy change came to light after a 16-year-old Auckland girl spent four nights in a police cell after Child Youth and Family failed to find her a bed in a youth justice facility.

[Find out more.](#)

### Youth in custody index

A group of St Thomas of Canterbury College (Christchurch) high school students who created a detailed report on young people in custody in New Zealand say they wanted to be a voice for the voiceless.

The index was launched and endorsed by Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft. The students are calling for reflection on the quality of the youth justice spend, and the pathway of youth in custody including:

- the need for agencies to work and collaborate closely together in the interest of youth
- the quality of staff looking after youth – skills, experience, training
- the quality educational opportunities, support and transition resources, food, cultural and sporting activities.

[Find out more and see the index.](#)

[Listen to an interview with some of the students involved about the index.](#)