

FACTSHEET 2

Child Protection Policy Advisory Service

Vulnerable Children's Act 2014

Child Protection Policy scope



Who does the Act apply to?

This Act covers all government agencies from the Ministries of Business, Innovation and Employment; Justice; Health; Education; Police; Social Development; and Te Puni Kokiri. Also included under the Act are District Health Boards and School Boards.

Other than those agencies identified above, the requirement to comply with this legislation by any other business, community or volunteer organisation is voluntary, unless they are contracted or funded by one of the above agencies to deliver children's services. It is expected that many will take part so that they are seen to hold the same high standards.

What obligations do these agencies and those they contract have under the Act?

All government agencies must have a child protection policy that is reviewed every three years. These agencies are also required to ensure that any contract or funding arrangement that they enter into must adopt a child protection policy if they involve the provision of services to children.

What must child protection policies contain?

The Act stipulates that child protection policies must be in written form and include information on the identification and reporting of child abuse and neglect. The Children's Action Plan is currently developing further guidelines regarding the content of a child protection policy.

How long do agencies and those they contract have to become compliant with the Act?

The Vulnerable Children's Act 2014 became legislation on 1st July 2014. Agencies are expected to become compliant 'as soon as is practicable'. The one exception to this is in regard to schools which have two years to become compliant with the Act.

Child Matters offers a policy advisory service to assist with your organisation's child protection policy at any stage from inception to implementation and beyond

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