Is Child Wellbeing ready to take centre-stage? The New Zealand experience

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CHILDREN'S COMMISSION
Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018

Public Act 2018 No 57
Date of assent 20 December 2018
Commencement see section 2

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The Parliament of New Zealand enacts as follows:

1 Title
   This Act is the Child Poverty Reduction Act 2018.

2 Commencement
   This Act comes into force on the day after the date on which it receives the Royal assent.

Part 1
Preliminary provisions

3 Purpose of this Act
   The purpose of this Act is to help achieve a significant and sustained reduction in child poverty in New Zealand by provisions that—
   (a) encourage a focus by government and society on child poverty reduction:
   (b) facilitate political accountability against published targets:
   (c) require transparent reporting on levels of child poverty.

4 Overview of this Act
   To help achieve its purpose, this Act—
   (a) specifies and requires child poverty measures:
   (b) requires the setting of child poverty reduction targets:
   (c) requires reports relating to child poverty:
Sixteen potential focus areas for the child wellbeing strategy have been identified using evidence on what matters for child wellbeing and an assessment of areas where New Zealand is not doing well. Across all areas, there will be a focus on mitigating the effects of child poverty and socio-economic disadvantage. The focus areas have been linked to the domains they align most strongly with, but they also contribute to other domains.
Evidence of improvement

1. Evaluation of strategy
2. Implementation of strategy
3. Proving improvement in child wellbeing