



# A Special Focus on Children

BUILDING OUR FUTURE

MAY 2011

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## A whole-of-government approach

National wants to give all children the opportunity to succeed. We are taking action across government to improve life, particularly for vulnerable children.



### Social Services

National is confronting child abuse. We're encouraging New Zealand to debate how we nurture and protect children. Our **Green Paper on Children** will invite Kiwis to have their say, before forming a Children's Action Plan.

**Helping foster children get a Home for Life.** Support to help parents offer foster children a permanent home.



### Health

**More maternity support** with a focus on first-time mothers.

**24-hour Plunketline** fully funded.

**88% of under 2s fully immunised** – the most ever.

**Targeting rheumatic fever** in at-risk communities.



### Education

**3500 more places** in ECE in low-participation areas.

**National Standards** in reading, writing, and maths, and extra support in schools for those children who are falling behind.



### Justice

**Tougher sentences** for crimes against children. Household members who fail to report abuse will be held to account.

**Police safety orders** preventing family violence.

**More support** for child victims and witnesses in court.

## Protecting vulnerable children

National has introduced a wide range of programmes to better protect children:

- **CYF social workers** in main hospitals in every DHB.
- **\$15m** support for teen parents, the most ever.
- **Nationwide campaign** *Never Ever Shake a Baby*.
- **Independent Experts Forum** to identify the gaps vulnerable children fall through.
- **Multi-disciplinary meetings** before a child is discharged from hospital after non-accidental injuries.
- **First Response** pilot programme for early intervention.
- Overhauling the **\$29m Family Start** early intervention programme to focus on child abuse prevention, and make sure help reaches families who need it the most.

## NEXT STEPS: BUDGET 2011

**\$54.5 MILLION** extra over 4 years for **maternity services** with a focus on first-time mothers. Includes 54,000 more WellChild visits.

**\$550 MILLION** extra over 4 years to allow as many families as possible to access **early childhood education**.

**\$43.7 MILLION** to improve **services for 4500 children in state care** over 4 years.

**\$12 MILLION** over 4 years to help **reduce rheumatic fever** in vulnerable communities.

**\$8.8 MILLION** for **parenting support** through HIPPY parenting programmes.

**\$10.5 MILLION** to expand the current \$2 million **Family Violence Whanau Ora Fund**.