

## 2019 Budget

Overall, the Budget 2019 is no longer focussed on GDP, but on the Living Standards Framework involving four capital areas of focus: Natural capital, human capital, financial and physical capital and social capital.

The government, this year, has focused on five key priorities:

- Taking mental health seriously
- Improving child well-being
- Supporting Maori and Pasifika aspirations
- Building a productive nation
- Transforming the economy.

At first glance it's not easy to see where ECE fits in, but the bulk of recognition about the ECE Sector occurs under "Improving Child Well-being".

Under this key priority are:

- Addressing family and sexual violence
- Breaking the cycle for children in State care
- Improving child wellbeing through education and taking pressure off parents
- A fairer welfare system

Initiatives that are likely to have a direct or indirect influence on ECE include:

- \$15 million on Early Years Violence Prevention Sites
  - These sites will trial better ways to understand and implement changes that will meaningfully prevent and reduce the impact of family and sexual violence on children in the early years
- \$235.7 million on Cost Adjustment for Subsidies for Early Learning and Schools Operational Grant
  - This supports ECE services, kohanga reo and schools to maintain volume and quality; and limit the need to increase fees, reduce the breadth and depth of curriculum delivery, or deferral of maintenance.
  - The adjustment for ECE services is 1.8% increase on subsidy levels, effective 1<sup>st</sup> January 2020
- \$296.3 million to meet increasing demand in ECE and schooling
- \$6.9 million operating and \$1.7 million capital to improve quality in home-based ECE services by providing funding to tertiary providers to enable the existing educator workforce to upskill to a level 4 National Certificate in ECE
- \$19.7 million to improve the quality of the education system
  - By enabling review volumes by ERO and NZQA to be met
- \$29.6 million to meet population demand pressures for Learning Support
- \$217.3 million operating plus \$95 million capital to establish the proposed learning support co-ordinator role. This is for schools, but some ECE services may benefit from these new roles (unintentionally) if they are part of a CoL/Kahui Ako or clusters.

- \$47.6 million to support schools and ECE services to improve wellbeing through healthy eating and quality physical activity
  - Involves the provision of resource materials, health promotion staff, etc

While not part of the 2019 Budget package, in response to a question regarding the ECE teacher shortage from the ECC, Associate Minister Martin confirmed that the Ministry of Education were looking into the issue and that the Minister was keen to engage with the sector now that ECE Teachers are back on the Immigration Skills Shortage list.

We are pursuing the Ministry and Minister's office on this as a matter of urgency.