

30.9.2022

Cover letter to Productivity Commission

I was reading with interest your interim report on persistent disadvantage.

Thank you for your thoughtful and important enquiry.

I wanted to let you know about our work with children's wellbeing, as I think it addresses some concerns which add to this disadvantage.

Too many children in our community are subjected to the oppressive presence of family harm in their homes and yet this is seldom addressed in the educational system. It was to this end that we originally developed the programme Jade Speaks Up, aimed at children in years 5-8 (8-12 year olds)

This programme was the focus of a three year research pilot funded by ACC, which involved some 3,200 students, 100 teachers and social workers in schools and 18 schools around the country. I attach the summary of results from this study.

As a result of the popularity of this work with participating schools, we extended the approach to create a further programme, You Good? You Good! addressing anxiety and stress for the same age group. We are currently exploring extending its application to year 9 students as there are serious concerns about the mental wellbeing of students, exacerbated by the pandemic and social isolation that mandates and lock downs necessitated. I attach an overview of both programmes with this submission.

We have been working closely with Māori and Pacific educators as we have developed this work. We were supported by the NZ Society of Friends (Quakers) who gave us a small grant to support this collaborative approach. I also attach the report we wrote to give you a view of this approach.

It is a great relief to see yet another set of recommendations focused on the importance of interdepartmental collaboration. Work such as our own can too easily fall through the gaps when it comes to finding resources to support a wellbeing approach.

We would be pleased to talk with you more should you wish to investigate our work further. We trust that you will visit our website for a broader view of the work our small team is passionately involved in towards addressing child wellbeing. The earlier we can intervene in breaking cycles and providing self-care tools and strategies for children, the more we will make an impression on the ongoing disadvantage suffered by too many children in our country.

ELAINE DYER | Co-Developer

Jade Speaks Up Trust :

Putting child wellbeing at the heart of learning.

Email: elaine.dyer@jadespeaksup.co.nz

Phone: s9(2)(a)

You can find us here:

[Website](#)

[Facebook](#)