

House of Representatives

Supplementary Order Paper

Wednesday, 16 April 2014

Vulnerable Children Bill

Proposed amendments

Jacinda Ardern, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 9

In *clause 9* (page 10, lines 17 to 21), insert as *new subclause (2)*:

- (2) The plan must establish—
 - (a) criteria for the measurement of the numbers and proportion of children living in poverty; and
 - (b) periodic targets for reducing the numbers and proportion of children living in poverty; and
 - (c) indicators for the purpose of alleviating the socio-economic disadvantage of children living in poverty; and
 - (d) mechanisms for monitoring progress, implementing policies, and co-ordinating services.

Clause 131

In *clause 131*, *new section 386A(4)(b)*, replace “may” (page 87, line 9) with “must”, and replace “person.” (page 87, line 14) with “person; and”.

In *clause 131*, *new section 386A(4)*, after *paragraph (b)* (page 87, after line 14), insert:

- (c) must provide, or arrange for the provision of, appropriate accommodation.

In *clause 131*, *new section 386A(5)(b)* omit “obtain accommodation,” (page 87, line 18).

Clause 141

After *clause 141(2)* (page 95, after line 23), insert:

- (2A) In section 2(1), definition of **young person**, replace “17 years” with “18 years”.
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Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper seeks to amend the Vulnerable Children Bill in 3 respects. Firstly, the Bill establishes a Vulnerable Children’s Plan, but little guidance is given on the content of the plan. This Supplementary Order Paper amends *clause 9* of the bill to specifically require the Vulnerable Children’s Plan to include criteria for the measurement of child poverty, targets to reduce the number of children living in poverty, and indicators for the purpose of alleviating the socio-economic disadvantage of children living in poverty.

The Vulnerable Children Bill also sets out mechanisms for the Chief Executive of Child, Youth and Family to provide advice, and certain prescribed assistance for young people transitioning out of Child, Youth and Family’s care. This advice and assistance is not mandated, and those aged 17 years and older remain at risk of leaving care without appropriate support. This Supplementary Order Paper sets out that Chief Executive must provide, or ensure the provision of, accommodation for young people leaving the care of Child, Youth and Family. It also strengthens the obligations of the Chief Executive with regard to financial assistance.

Finally, the issue of young people transitioning from care at the age of 17 could also be in part resolved by extending the definition of young person in the Children, Young Persons, and Their Families Act 1989. This Supplementary Order Paper amends the definition of **young person** by replacing “17 years” with “18 years”. This would also bring New Zealand into alignment with its obligations under the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.
