

# TEEN PREGNANCY AND PARENTING

## OUR POSITION

Becoming a parent at a young age brings some real challenges but with the right support teenager parents can achieve good outcomes. There are important steps we can take to provide greater support, choice and opportunity for teenage mothers and fathers.

## OUR GOAL

We need to build more deliberate connections to make better use of current resources and to provide teenage parents with supported alternatives that build on their aspirations. For any interventions to be effective, they need to work across the current influences in their lives, including with family and whānau.

## WHAT THE COMMISSION HAS DONE SO FAR

- 2008** Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting – An Overview
- 2011** Literature Review on Māori Teenage Pregnancy
- 2011** Statistical Analysis of Teenage Pregnancy by Region
- 2012** Safety of Subsequent Children: International literature review
- 2012** Safety of Subsequent Children: Māori children and whānau

## COMMISSION'S VIEW

- Life can be tough for teen parents, but with the right pathways and support they can do a great job.
- The support and services available to teen parents provide opportunities to invest in future generations.
- New Zealand has many elements of an effective system of support for teen parents, but there are some gaps.
- To better support teen parents we need a stronger emphasis on providing:
  - intensive support for transition to further education, training and employment
  - relationship education and ongoing contraceptive advice for two years after the birth
  - culturally appropriate support for Māori teen parents
  - well-connected networks focused specifically on helping teen parents
  - accessible support for teen fathers that engages them in parenting.

## REFERENCES

- 'Sexually Healthy Young People' in Improving the Transition – Reducing social and psychological morbidity during adolescence
- Consequences of Teenage Parenthood: Pathways which minimise the long term negative impacts of teenage childbearing: Final Report
- Resilience in Teenage Mothers: A follow-up study
- Families Commission (2009) Supporting Kiwi Dads: Role and needs of New Zealand fathers
- Young People, Pregnancy and Social Exclusion: A systematic synthesis of research evidence to identify effective, appropriate and promising approaches for prevention and support
- Investing in Wellbeing: An analytical framework
- Traditional Māori Parenting: An historical review of literature of traditional Māori child rearing practices in pre-European times
- Teen Parents and Benefit Receipt – Paper to the Welfare Working Group
- Growing Up in New Zealand: A longitudinal study of New Zealand children and their families. Report 1: Before we are born.
- Growing Up in New Zealand: A longitudinal study of New Zealand children and their families (2012) Report 2: Now we are born
- Teenage Pregnancy: Barriers to an integrated model for policy research
- Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting in New Zealand – a visual overview